தமிழ்நாடு அரசுக் காப்பகம்

INDIAN INFORMATION



Issued Jan. 15, 1943
Weekly by the
Information Officer,
Govt. of India

VICEROY'S ADDRESS TO ASSOCIATED CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE



Men of a unit of the 26th Indian Division in Arakan watch a display given by the Pipe Band of the 16th Punjab Regiment. The band, led by Band-Major Ghulam Mumtaza, a Punjabi Mussalman from Rawalpindi, recently concluded a two months' tour of the Arakan Front and was welcomed by troops everywhere. The band originally belonged to the third battalion lost in the Malaya campaign, and was later transferred to one which recently completed two years in the Arakan.

Vol. 16 No. 152. INDIAN INFORMATION Jan. 15, 1945.

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

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

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

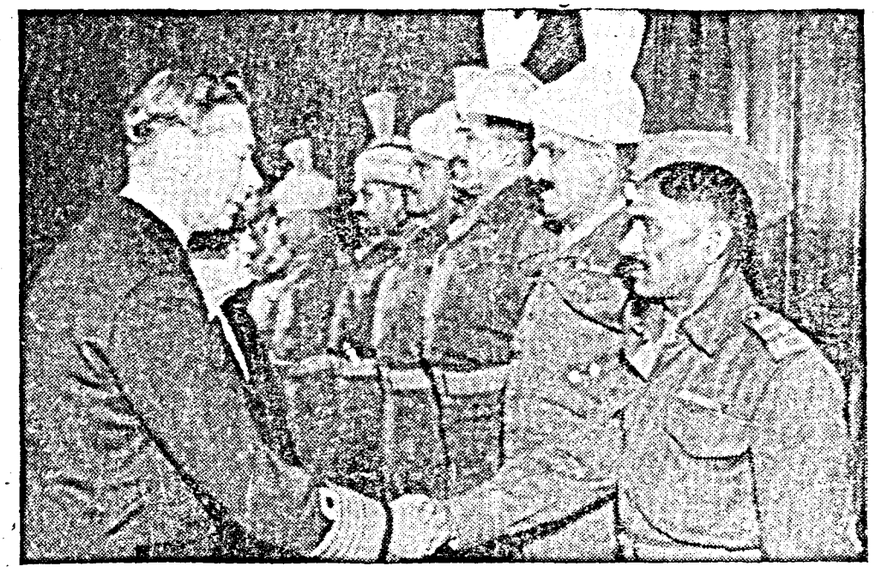
CONTRIBUTIONS:—Many MSS. are submitted to us which we regretfully return; since everything published in INDIAN INFORMATION emanates from an official source it follows that non-official contributions cannot be accepted.

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

MAIN CONTENTS

	Page
Viceroy's Address to Associated Chambers of Commerce	2
Hallett Hospital, Cawnpore, opened by Lord Wavell	14
Constitutional Reforms in Indian States: Viceroy's Speech at Hyderabad	16
Sir Ardeshir Dalal on India's Post-War Plans	20
Sir Archibald Rowlands: Finance Member-Designate	36
Inquiry Commission's Second Report on Bombay Docks Explosions	37
Sir M. Azizul Haque on Post-War Development of Indian Mercantile Marine	46
Afghan Military Mission's Visit to India	69

COVER PAGE: H. E. the Viceroy talking to an Indian trainee during his inspection of R.A.F. units stationed in Hyderabad.



The King greeting Indian soldiers during His Majesty's recent visit to the Islamic Cultural Centre, London.

H. M. THE KING'S GREETINGS TO ARMED FORCES IN INDIA

H. M. the King has sent the following telegram to the Commander-in-Chief in India, General Sir Claude Auchinleck:—

"Please convey to all ranks of the Armed Forces in India my sincere thanks for their good wishes for the New Year which I heartily reciprocate.—George R.I."

The King's telegram is in reply to the following message from the C.-in-C.:—

"General Sir Claude Auchinleck presents his humble duty and on behalf of all ranks of the Armed Forces in the India Command begs to offer Your Majesty his respectful greetings and good wishes during the coming year."

19236 9

Verified

THE VICEROY REVIEWS SITUATION IN INDIA

"IT is commonly said that our current and post-war problems can only be solved by a National Government, but the precise meaning of the term is seldom or never defined. I am afraid that to some a National Government may mean a government in which their own particular party is in power. I think of a National Government as one formed to meet a national crisis, in which none are for a party but all are for the State, to quote Macaulay's 'Lays of Ancient Rome'.

"I contend that we have such a Government now, a preponderantly Indian government, which in spite of all the criticism and abuse heaped on it is doing an essential job of work for India, and is doing it on the whole extremely well..... I think India should be grateful to her countrymen in the Government for the courage and skill they are showing. I here express to them my thanks for their work."



H.E. Lord Wavell

Thus said H.E. the Viceroy referring to the Indian political problem in his address to the Associated Chambers of Commerce, Calcutta, on December 14, 1944. His Excellency made a brief review of India's position and problems—financial, economic, transport and food—at the end of 1944. Here is the full text of the Viceroy's speech.

Your Excellency, Mr. President and Gentlemen,—

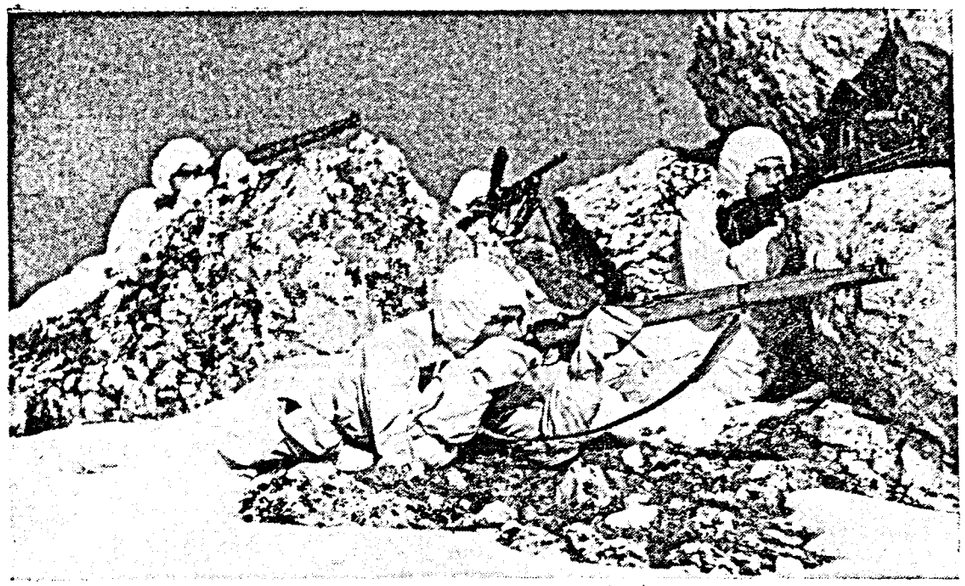
I thank you and the Associated Chambers of Commerce for your cordial welcome. I congratulate you, Mr. President, on the clear and thoughtful way in which you have dealt with India's current problems. I appreciate that you have handed to myself and to some of my colleagues in the Government, I will not say bouquets, but at least one or two pleasant little button-holes, which we shall be glad to accept and to wear.

My first year as Viceroy has been a strenuous one, and I am afraid I see little sign of the second being less so. My staff inform me that since taking over on October 20, 1943, I have spent the equivalent of nearly 20 weeks away from Delhi on tour, and have travelled well over 30,000 miles. I have visited all the Provinces at least once, and some of them two or three times.

I regret that in present conditions it is still impossible for me to make the Viceroy's usual winter stay of some weeks in Calcutta. My house is, as you know, occupied for war purposes; and the demands of wartime administration are so intense that it is not possible to be away long from the Centre at one time. I hope, however, that frequent short visits have enabled me to keep in touch with Calcutta and Bengal.

I join with the President in welcoming His Excellency, Mr. Casey, to his first meeting of the Associated Chambers. Mr. Casey has had a brilliant record in Australia, the United States and the Middle East; and the wide knowledge and experience he has gathered made him a most happy choice for the Governorship of Bengal during these difficult times. I am sure you have all realised the value of his energy and imagination in all branches of the administration.

I do not propose to say a great deal regarding the war, you can all see for yourselves how well that is going, and your President has given us a summary of its victorious course during the last year. I must say, however, that I notice with a little regret that he began with what he called "the almost incredible feats of the Russian armies". I yield to no one in my admiration of the Russian Army, which I have known well for many years, and of its achievements; but in this gathering don't let us be too modest about our own performances. I should like to put these in



Indian Lancers patrolling snow-capped mountains in Italy snipe at German positions. They are equipped with snow suits which greatly help to prevent detection by the enemy.

the foreground, and in the present tense rather than in the past. Surely, if there ever was a feat of arms which might be called incredible, it was the landing on the Normandy coast, the great victory over the flower of the German Army, and the liberation of the whole of France and Belgium in such a surprisingly short time.

I have read much of war, and have seen a little, and I am certain that this will go down to history as one of the very greatest military achievements of all time. And in that achievement the British Fleet, the British Air Force and the British and Canadian Land Forces played an outstanding part. We do not yet know the respective shares in planning this great battle, nor is there any need that we should. It was a combined British, Dominion and American plan; and surely must have been the finest piece of detailed planning in military history. It was staged from British soil and British ports; and in the subsequent fighting the British forces took their full share. That they should have been able to do so and to overcome such grim defences and such grim foes, and to attack with such vigour after five years hard fighting is a tribute to the endurance of the British race, and its steadfast power to overcome danger or disaster.

In Italy, too, British and Indian arms have put up and are putting up a fine performance. Progress may seem slow; but it must be realised that, just at the moment when another assault on a grand scale would probably have broken the German line altogether, General (now Field Marshal) Alexander, whose well-deserved promotion we all welcome, had to send a number of divisions for the landing in the south of France. In spite of this a steady advance has gone on in most difficult country. In this Mediterranean theatre, Indian troops have played a great part. I will read you an extract from a letter of General McCreery, who has succeeded General Leese in the command of the 8th Army. I know General McCreery well, and he is certainly not one who distributes praise lightly. The extract from his letter reads as follows:

"The Indian divisions are fighting magnificently, and the latest division to greatly distinguish itself is the 10th Indian Division. Unfortunately, I have never served in India, so it is rather curious that when I was commanding a Corps I had at one time all three Indian divisions under my command, and I am now filled with an admiration for the Indian soldier. Their fighting spirit, skill and endurance are outstanding. Fortunately although we had a very wet October, the health of the troops is still excellent, and everything will be done to look after them as well as possible during this second trying Italian winter."



A Mahratta gun post in a cave in Italy.

To continue the tale of our own exploits, British and Indian. On the eastern frontier of India we have won the greatest land victory as yet achieved over the Japanese forces and have established complete supremacy over them. This also was an Allied success, in which British, Indians, Americans, Africans and Chinese took part; but the great bulk of the victorious army was Indian.

On the Burma Front

I am glad to remember that during the sombre events of 1942 in Malaya and Burma, I strenuously maintained that the supremacy of the British and Indian soldier over the Japanese would soon be vindicated, given adequate training in jungle fighting. I am sorry to see that in some parts of the American Press there is still a tendency to decry the fighting qualities of the Indian troops. I am quite sure it does not represent general American opinion, certainly not that of those who have fought alongside them.

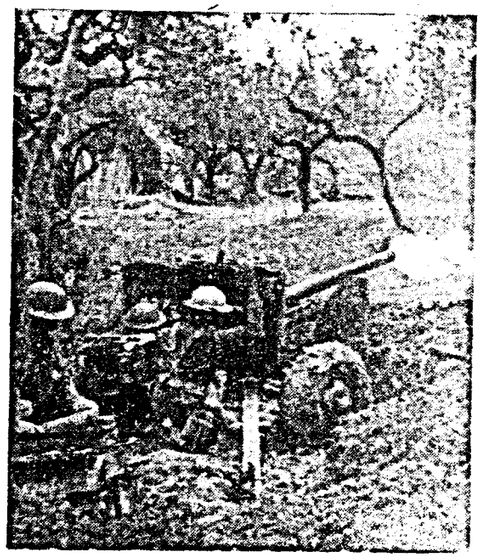
In this victory over the Japanese on our Eastern frontier, not only the fighting services in India, but the Railways and Industry, and labour in the mines and in the factories have all had a share. Praise is due to the people of Assam, and particularly to the Naga tribesmen, for their loyalty and steadiness in a time of hardship and adversity.

On other aspects of the war in 1944, our success over the U-boat menace, the great victories of the Americans and Australians in the South-West Pacific, the Russian advances, and the elimination of the Germans from the Balkans, I do not propose to speak. When the end of the war will come, no one can yet say with certainty; it depends on the factor of national morale; that of the Germans at least must be near the breaking point, and that of the Japanese considerably shaken.

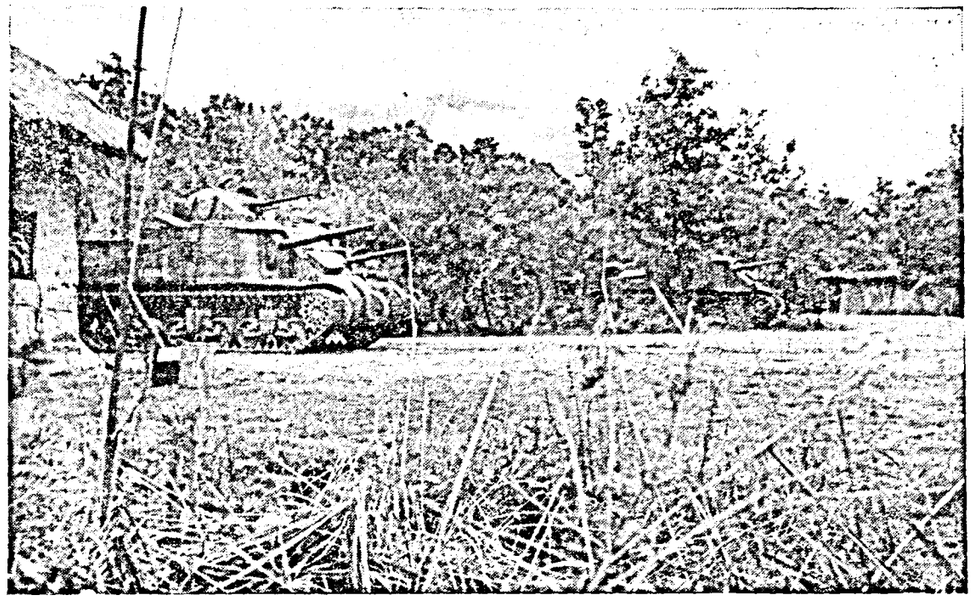
Amenities for Troops

You will have noticed the visit of Lord Munster to ascertain the needs of the troops in India in the matter of amenities. It will be most valuable. I am sure you will realise that there is no suggestion that India has not done her best to look after the troops who have been defending her frontiers. It is simply that there has not been enough of everything to go round, and for many years India has had a low priority; on a world view, it was right that the Indian front should wait while the maximum effort was made on the Western front.

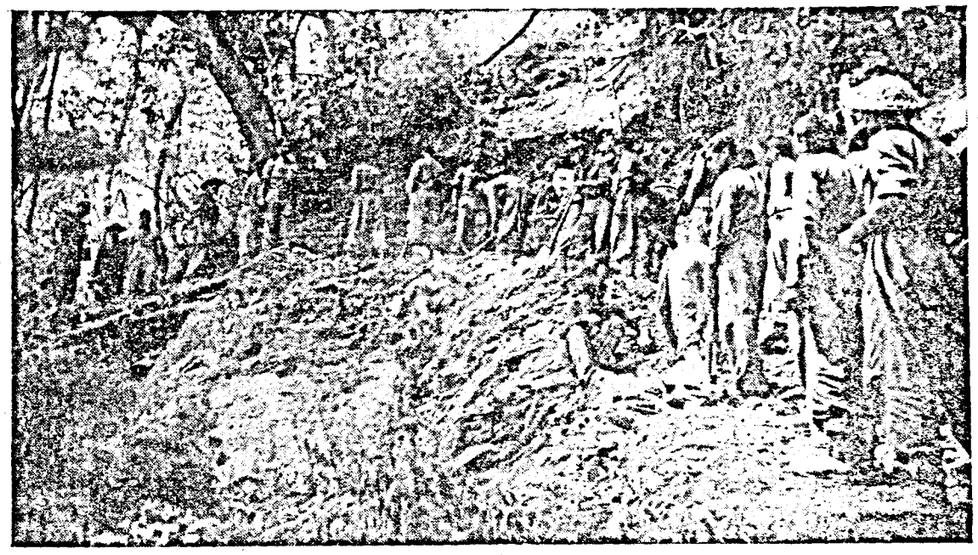
It is not that we did not represent our needs and ask for improvement; it was just that the personnel and the things we wanted were not available. Now that the position has improved, and victory is close in the Western theatre, Lord



Gunfire by the 5th Mahrattas in Italy prepares the way for an assault by the infantry. The Mahrattas have distinguished themselves in the Italian fighting, one battle being named the Mahrattas Ridge battle in their honour.



Tanks go into action on the Burma Front. (Below) Indian Sappers making a mule track along a ridge during the advance on Tiddim Road.



Munster's visit has been made to ascertain at first hand what can be done to improve the amenities for troops and the medical and nursing services. Both the Commander-in-Chief and myself are deeply interested in these improvements, and have continuously endeavoured to make the most of India's resources. Lord Munster coming from England has naturally concerned himself mainly with the needs of the British troops fighting so far from their homes; but he is also representing to His Majesty's Government the requirements of Indian troops both here and in the Middle East.

India's Wartime Economy

In his speech your President put post-war problems first and dealt with our wartime economy later. I propose to reverse this order; since, however important our post-war problems may be, the year of our greatest economic strain and effort may still lie ahead. The end of the war in the West will be indeed a mighty triumph over the powers of evil, but it will not be the end; not until the Japanese are finally and utterly defeated, can there be any peace for India or for the world. And to defeat Japan as rapidly and thoroughly as possible, India must be the base for more warships, more divisions, more air squadrons.

The great war crisis for India came when Japan attacked Pearl Harbour and Malaya, and she had to execute a sudden "about turn" from West to East. That brought the dislocating strain of a violent unexpected jerk, as damaging to a nation's economy as it is to the human frame. Now that we are already taking the strain, with all our muscles of production, supply, finance and transport braced, it is easier to support some additional burden, heavy though the total load will be, than it was to withstand the original abrupt shock.

Our wartime economic measures have been criticised as "too little and too late"; and it is easy to say that we should have foreseen all our earlier. Accurate foresight is rare in human affairs; and even where it exists cannot always be translated into action. That was a shrewd fable of the Greeks that Cassandra who had the gift of true prophecy had also the curse of never being believed. We have now, however, fair warning of our additional burden, can measure the stress it will cause, and make ready to take it. It will of course fall on those of our economic sinews which are already subject to strain—the sinews of finance, food, coal and transport. We may examine briefly how far we are prepared to withstand any additional burden on these.

I was glad to hear your President say that we had met with a great measure of success during 1944 in our efforts to hold the inflationary threat. It is men of Commerce who should be able to judge this shrewdly; and a tribute from them is satisfactory. But the strictest watch is necessary to hold off the danger; and the continued co-operation of the commercial community is essential. I have never found the word "inflation" very satisfactory; and would prefer to compare our financial danger with another national danger which we have to face in this country.

You have probably heard something of a calamity which is threatening the fields in parts of Northern India, that of water-logging, due to excessive seepage of water out of the irrigation canals. It has become a very serious danger indeed in parts of the Punjab, and measures on a large scale have become necessary to combat it. The process of monetary inflation is similar. To support the war and all the war projects, more and more money has had to be poured into the financial channels. If all the residue of that money after it has done its war work, could be brought back into its parent stream by its investment in Government loans, no harm would be done. Unfortunately a considerable proportion of it seeps away out of the proper channels, and just as this overflow in the Punjab raises the whole water level with disastrous results, so in the financial parallel the overflow of money raises the price-level, also often with disastrous results.

Commodity Controls

Various measures are being taken in the Punjab to combat the danger. One that would obviously be effective would be to line all the canals with cement or some imporous material to prevent the leakage of any water not absolutely necessary to irrigate the fields; this, however, is a very lengthy and expensive process, and can only be done to a limited extent. An alternative solution under trial is to pump back the water out of the soil by a very large number of small tube-wells. Our financial remedies are similar. We try to line our channels with various forms of controls, but these can never be entirely effective; and we have also a most valuable remedy in a large number of small savings with which to pump the excess of currency back into Government loans. I ask the heads of our great business houses to do everything possible to encourage lending to Government and especially the Small Savings campaign.

We realise that the commodity controls which we have gradually introduced have caused extra work and inconvenience to honest traders. The Member for Industries and Civil Supplies and his staff will always be glad to receive suggestions

from the public and from trade and industrial organisations. But until "we are built like angels not men", as Kipling says in one of his verses, we must have controls. We shall continue to strengthen and improve them, but we have to feel our way step by step; since if there is one certain lesson I have learned from experience of the direction of both military and civil affairs, it is that it is courting grave risks to go beyond one's administrative capacity.

Price Control

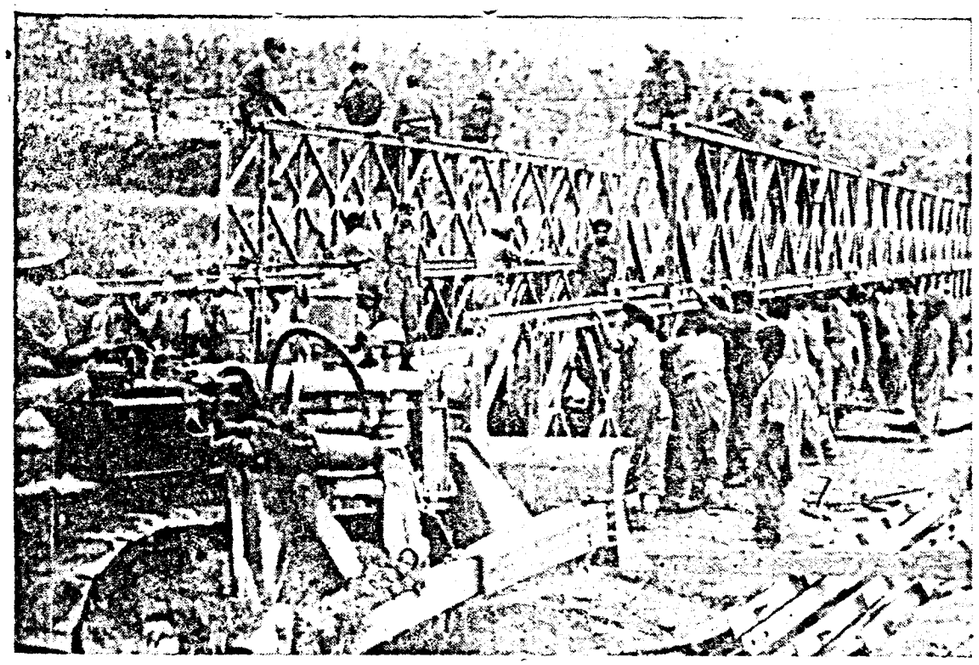
We never cease trying by all means in our power to increase the supply of consumer goods available to the trade and to the public. In our water-logging parallel, this is roughly the equivalent of finding more thirsty unirrigated land to soak up the excess of water.

Generally the situation report on our financial front during 1944 is that we have not only held our own, but have gained some ground in the matter of price control. But the increasing needs of the war against Japan, which is likely to reach its peak in 1945, mean that there will be an increased flow of financial irrigation and that our defences against water-logging must be strengthened.

The great Latin satirist Juvenal wrote of the miseries of having served up to one "Crambe repetita", twice-cooked cabbage. The food problem has been debated in such detail in so many places that I will try not to weary you here with much repetition of the stale cabbage of stock arguments, though I am afraid I have no caviare, asparagus or other delicacy to serve in its place.

I was glad to hear your appreciation of the work done by the Food Department, and I take this opportunity of saying that I think that the Food Member and his staff have done a very fine job of work during 1944. As is inevitable, in such a difficult task, they get more hard words than kind ones, and they will be grateful for your recognition. I think they deserve a bouquet, not a mere button-hole. I may add that I have been told by them of the help they have received from large employers of labour and from the members of these Chambers of Commerce.

I agree with you that the complaints about the quality of grains supplied to deficit Provinces have often been well-founded and require the attention of both the Central and Provincial Gov-



Bombay Sappers build a new 150 ft. long bridge across Chukka Lui, a stream on the Burma border. It took them only a few hours to finish the job. The old bridge had been destroyed by the Japs in retreat



Madrassi gunners in the Imphal area.

ernments. These defects of quality have sometimes been aggravated by inadequate storage arrangements. I am trying to have both these defects remedied. Some progress has been made, but there is much more still to be done.

During the critical period of 1943, Provincial Governments had to concentrate mainly on foodgrains. Man may be able to live by bread alone, but he will surely not be healthy on it; and I am glad to see that they are now trying to improve the supply and distribution of milk, fish, meat, eggs, poultry and other perishable goods. I know that it is the fashion to attribute the shortage of these articles mainly to the Army, who are sometimes pilloried almost as if they were cattle-lifters, nest-egg robbers, chicken thieves, and fish poachers. I would say on the contrary, as an almost entirely unprejudiced observer, that the Army is doing much to show us civilians how to increase our supply of these articles of diet. The Army's dairy farms have long been a model, and they are now setting up poultry and vegetable farms and refrigerating plant on a large scale.

The food problem is by no means solved and will be with us for some years after the war. But there are grounds for far greater confidence than a year ago; and with the co-operation of the public I hope that all will be well. Bengal is in a much happier position, convalescent at least if not wholly recovered; and at present our anxieties are more in the south of India. Now that imports of wheat are arriving at a steady rate and in satisfactory quantity, it is rice shortage that is our main trouble, and you are well aware of the difficulty in inducing rice-eating populations to consume wheat or other grains. I hope therefore that Provincial Governments will do their best to persuade all their people who are, so to speak, bilingual in wheat and rice to eat wheat only; and that those who use rice only as a luxury—and there are many such, British and Indians—will forego rice so as to make more available for those who cannot do without it.

As has already been announced, it should not be necessary, in view of the position in Bengal, for the Central Government to accept any longer the entire liability for the feeding of Calcutta. This does not mean of course that they will not be concerned to assure full supplies for Calcutta; but it will probably be unnecessary to draw all these supplies from outside Bengal. It would obviously be wrong and wasteful to transport much needed rice from outside Bengal to Calcutta, while the Bengal Government held large stocks.



Senior Army Officers are given instruction in Japanese methods of warfare at a Tactical Training School in India. Picture shows flame-throwing bren carriers ("Wasps") in action during an attack.

It was on our transportation system more severely than on anything else that the sudden jerk of our "about turn" at the end of 1941 fell. We had been facing west, quite fairly comfortably; and had been exporting locomotives, rolling stock and track to Iraq and elsewhere, while our railway workshops were urged to make munitions and undertake other war work. I can remember that not long after I became Commander-in-Chief in India in July 1941, I explained to a conference of the railway chiefs the need for this and the great help it had been to the Middle East. So that it was through their virtue not through their fault that the railways were caught not fully prepared. The difficulties of the sudden reversal caused by the Japanese attack were accentuated by the poorness of the communications in the threatened part of India.

I can assure you that a comprehensive programme to improve the capacity of the railways is in hand. Large numbers of broad and metre gauge locomotives have been ordered, and many have been received. Very large orders have been placed both in India and abroad for wagons. The entire capacity of India for fabricating railway material is fully employed, and the fabricators—who are, I understand, mostly constituents of the Chambers represented at the meeting—can help by expediting the work as much as possible.

Phone and Radio Links

Nearly 20,000 miles of new telephone and telegraph line have been added to the Railway network, and radio-communication between Headquarters and Divisions has been introduced. Additional running staffs have been trained; and in the railway workshops maintenance has been given the highest priority, to the exclusion where necessary of war work.

This programme should produce substantial results next year. In the meantime we are doing our best under the priority system to see that essential goods are moved without undue delay.

I am aware of the difficult conditions of passenger travel. The fact, however, that the number of passengers travelling has increased by about 20 million a month, or 36 per cent., since the early part of 1942—and this in spite of a "travel only when you must" campaign—shows that the conditions do not deter passengers. It is a little difficult to believe that all these journeys are absolutely essential.

In view of the shortage of coal and the requirements of the Army for coaching stock—not that the Army travels in any greater comfort than the general public, judging from what I sometimes hear in leave camps that I visit—any rapid improvement is impossible. But the Railways are doing their best. I will take this opportunity to thank all railwaymen for their fine service in the war. I was glad recently at Lahore to see some of them at work and shall hope to visit other railway centres.

Coal Position

The coal position has, as Mr. Mealing indicated, been a considerable headache to the Government of India throughout the past year. I need not enter into the causes, nor detail the steps which are being taken to remedy them, as I think they are well-known to you.

It is an inappropriate phrase, but I think it is true that the outlook is less black than it was. Production throughout 1944, though below our target, has been greater, month by month, than the corresponding figures for 1943. We have succeeded in obtaining a considerable amount of machinery for open-cut working; and I trust that there will be a real improvement during the early months of 1945. In fact, to use two more cliches wholly inappropriate to coal mining, though we are not yet out of the wood we are beginning to see daylight.

I have paid two short visits to the coalfields and have seen something of the conditions. It is doubtful if the mining industry will ever be stable or contented until a real effort is made to establish a permanent labour force in good conditions. The suspension of the ban on women working under ground—which the Government of India sanctioned temporarily and with extreme reluctance—was necessitated mainly by the tendency of the labour to migrate. The miner has a hard and sometimes a dangerous life, and the counter-attractions of surface work in which his wife could take part and earn a wage were too much for him. If we are to produce all the coal we need for industrial development after the war, it must be worth a man's while to become a whole-time miner; even after the ban on women working below ground has been re-imposed.

Post-War Problems

So much for India's current economic problems. From the brief review you have had of them by your President from his commercial angle and by myself from my official point of view, I trust you will have gathered confidence in our ability to keep the economic front stable, and in fact to strengthen it, until Japan is beaten. If so, India will be in a very favourable position to face the problems of the post-war world.

Her land has not been devastated; her losses in personnel have been comparatively light, even if we reckon the deaths in the Bengal famine as war casualties, these war losses have been more than balanced, taking a purely utilitarian point of view, by the numbers of her people who have received technical training as a result of the war; financially she has become a creditor instead of a debtor country. In terms of property, of manpower, and of money, India has gained during the war years rather than lost. Look for a moment at our great Eastern neighbour, China; with half her country occupied by a ruthless invader, her ports seized, her railways torn up, her population reduced by war and famine, her prices at a fantastic level of inflation.

Consider Great Britain, with one out of every three houses destroyed or damaged, more than 11½ million tons of shipping sunk (the very life-blood of an Island State); more than one quarter of a million lives already lost out of a population of 45 million; her great accumulated wealth gone with the wind and enormous debts piled up, her people paying willingly—almost cheerfully—a scale of taxation unparalleled in history.

If you look on these two nations, you will realise what sacrifices they have made to free the world from the valley of the shadow of evil, from the greatest menace that civilisation has faced since the days of Genghiz Khan and Timurlane. Look at Russia, with the enemy at one time almost within sight of her capital, with her most fertile fields and most valuable sources of industry at one time in enemy occupation, with a large proportion of her population at the mercy of the enemy—a merciless mercy. These countries, even when they seemed beaten to their knees, faced the perils of war undaunted, and will face the perils of peace with the same courage.

Post-War Planning

India should both give thanks that the efforts of these nations have saved her from experiencing the devastation of war, which she—almost alone of great peoples—has not felt for so many years; and should determine to use wisely the marvellous opportunity thus given her for development to a higher standard of living and progress.

I do not propose to enter into details of our post-war planning. As men of business, you will realize the possibilities and the difficulties. I will deal only with two broad aspects—the relations between agriculture and industry and the financial problems.

Before doing so I should like to supplement what your President has said to welcome the appointment of Sir Ardeshir Dalal. The Government of India has been fortunate indeed to secure the services of one who is not only a most distinguished industrialist but has experience as an administrator both of rural and of urban India. I am sure that we all appreciate the sacrifices he has made in taking on this very arduous work; and wish him all success in his efforts for the progress of India.

Agriculture and Industry

Though it does not arise directly out of Mr. Mealing's address, I should like to make a few remarks on the relative importance of agriculture and industry in the post-war development of India. I feel that there may be a tendency in our plans to stress industrial advance at the expense of agriculture. There is some reason for this. Industrialisation shows quicker and more obvious results, enriches a country and enables it to spend more, both on luxuries and on social services, such as health, education and communications. Also, I am afraid, men of business have more influence than farmers in the direction of State affairs. But industrial expansion should not, and must not in India be accomplished at the expense of agriculture, which is still the employment of about three quarters of the ever-rising population. It is essential that in your post-war organisation the Indian farmer should be assured of prices for his produce that will both improve his own standard of living and will encourage him to produce the additional food needed for the proper nutrition of the existing population and of its normal growth.

If you read economic history, you should also take warning of the miseries caused to many for the profit of a few by too rapid and uncontrolled industrialisation. In Great Britain, one hundred years ago, the conditions produced by the industrial revolution were deplorable. I read some time ago a description of the manufacturing slums of the Victorian era, which painted the evils of the period with a ghastly pen; we are still recovering from the damage caused to the health and well-being of our working population by the neglect of the sanitary, nutritive and housing conditions during that era.

Russia is another example of rapid industrialisation, where although the mistakes and cruelties of the Victorian period in England were avoided, and the workers were given reasonably good conditions, there was a very great loss of human life, to be counted in millions, partly through loss of balance between agriculture and industry.

India cannot go back to the spinning wheel, and must develop her industry, but she should consider well these and other examples of the price that may be paid in human health and life for too hasty or too greedy industrialisation.

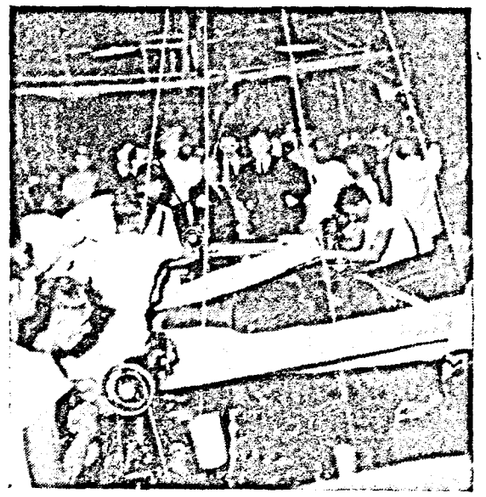
The financing of progress such as India must make is a very complex problem. One fact is inescapable. If you want progress and India not only wants it but must have it—you have got to pay for it. No financial jugglery can produce for a nation in the long run greater wealth than that with which it has been endowed by nature in resources of minerals and such like, or which the skill, enterprise and hard work of its population have earned. It is the business of a nation's financial advisers to see that its wealth is fully mobilised, wisely used and so distributed as to benefit the greatest possible number of the population. They cannot create additional permanent wealth; though they can by a bold financial policy make for a limited period overdrafts on the annual income of the Government to finance projects which will eventually increase the national wealth and enable the overdrafts to be repaid.

By their policy of taxation the heads of the Government can prevent the profits of industry becoming concentrated in the hands of the few and from being used for luxury rather than to finance further progress. But they have no magician's wands, no sleek rabbits of sudden additional wealth in the hat. The prosaic tools of their trade are income-tax tables, slide-rules and books of financial regulations. Hard work, hard sober thinking and sound judgment are the qualities by which they obtain results, not conjuring tricks.

The Immediate Difficulty

In the old canons of so-called orthodox finance the budget had to be balanced from year to year. This is the view of monetary stability that Dickens put into the mouth of his famous character, Mr. Micawber: "Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure nineteen pounds, nineteen shillings and six pence, result happiness. Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure, twenty pounds and six pence, result misery.". But I understand that Mr. Micawber's views are no longer wholly accepted by financial experts. They now admit the soundness of planning for five, ten or even fifteen years ahead. But remember this, if you are going to plan ahead, you must have confidence in the stability of your Government for at least that number of years; and you must realise that the bill has got to be paid some time.

Our immediate difficulty in planning is to estimate what sums are likely to be available in the period after the war. There is a natural tendency on the part of Provinces to seek information from the Centre on the amount they may expect to be allotted to them from Central Revenues; and an equally natural reluctance on the part of the Centre to commit itself to



H. E. the Viceroy watches men at work in the Cossipore jute tent factory during his recent visit to Calcutta.

definite figures when there are so many uncertain and incalculable factors. We will do what we can to give guidance to the Provinces; but for the immediate future our system of planning must be to see what we require for each of our many needs: for improvements in agriculture, for developments in industry, for the betterment of health, for the advance of education, for the increase of communications, and so on. This is the method on which we are working; we have already a plan for Education, a plan for roads, and shall shortly have a plan for Public Health, when the Bhore Committee reports. We have many hydro-electric and irrigation projects in hand. Once we have seen the total bill, we can—when we have recovered from the shock—begin to allot priorities, and make a long-term blue-print for Indian progress.

Technical Training

One direction, however, in which it seems to me that we can make progress at once, without waiting for peace or for blue-print, is in training the many technicians and experts India will require—in farming, in engineering, in electricity, in chemistry, in fisheries, in building, and so forth. It has been very patently brought home to me even in a year's experience as Viceroy, how woefully short India is not only in persons trained in the applied sciences but in institutions and facilities for training them. I hope that young India will apply its abilities

and energies towards these practical branches which will be of such value to India; and possibly a little less to the profession of the law, in which I understand India is already quite reasonably well staffed.

One uncertain factor in the finance of post-war planning is, as you will realise, the scale of post-war taxation. India may be a poor country, but I do not believe she is unbearably bowed down at the present by war taxation. I hope that when the war against Japan is over, India will decide to declare war—relentless, unremitting war, with the whole nation united—against the savage enemies of peace; poverty, disease, dirt, ignorance. If so, she will have to maintain a war scale of taxation.

Before I leave this subject of post-war development, I will mention very briefly two points. The first, which was mentioned by your President, is the matter of sterling balances. I share his entire confidence that these debts will be honoured. But that does not of course mean to say that India will at once after the war receive a payment of so many hundred millions in cash. She could not spend such a sum in the international market if she did. The manner of payment of international debts incurred during the war will require much discussion and negotiation. I am quite confident that in these negotiations, the value and magnitude of India's contribution to the Allied war effort will be recognised; that her needs will be considered; and that the manner of liquidation will be arranged to meet her planned development. I do not see that political considerations need affect the settlement.

The Political Problem

The other matter on which I should like to say a very few words is the relations between British and Indians in business. As I said here last year, I believe there is a cordial spirit of co-operation towards Indian business at present in Great Britain; and the sooner that representatives get together the better. I am therefore sorry that it has not yet been possible for the projected visit of Indian industrialists to the United Kingdom to be carried out. I hope that it will not be delayed much longer.

From the foregoing very brief summary of India's position and problems at the end of 1944, I will try to draw one or two conclusions.

Firstly, we are still in the turmoil of a world at war, an angry world in which there is no place for unrealities. We are winning the war but we have not yet won it and there can be no relaxation of the war effort. In fact India may have to play an even more important and perhaps even more onerous role in 1945. The more closely we concentrate on this our primary task, the more quickly shall we come to peace. Everything else must still be subordinate to our war effort.

But peace will not and certainly should not bring for India any relaxation of effort. We shall have beaten off the external powers of evil, we have still many internal evils to lessen or remove and very much constructive work to do, in order to bring the peoples of India to a proper standard of living and India herself to her proper position in the world, as keeper of the peace and as a leader of prosperity, thought and learning in the East.

Viceroy's Advice

I have given you some reasons to conclude that the war has strengthened rather than weakened India and has given her the greatest opportunity she has ever had, if.....

If—and this is of course a crucial if—India can solve her political problems and present a united front to what will be, for at least some years to come, a stern, difficult, troubled world. If she is still tossing with the fever of political faction, or if her political doctors decide that she must undergo a major surgical operation such as Pakistan, she may miss the opportunity that is hers to take, but can be taken only by a nation at health within itself and fit for a struggle that will test every nerve and sinew—the struggle for greater well-being and greater happiness in this great land.

Whatever the future constitution may be, the events of the past 30 years have shown us that it must provide adequately for the defence of the country; and Indian leaders will do well to consider this closely.

If I may be permitted to assume for the moment the role of medical adviser to political India, my advice would be something like this: "I do not believe that your condition calls for a serious operation, I should certainly try all other possible remedies first. But I do not think that that 'Quit India' mixture or those *Satyagraha* pills have done you much good. I should suggest your leaving off medicines altogether, and you may find that you are not as ill as you think. Perhaps some fresh air and work in the fields would do you good."

In other words, I do not believe that there are now real differences in principle between India and Britain, or that the communal problem, difficult though it is, is insoluble. But also I do not believe that we can solve our problems by mutual recriminations and by harping on past grievances and mistakes. Our best hope lies in working together, without trying to lay down detailed conditions or to decide everything before we begin work.

To return to the medical metaphor for a moment, I think the first requirement for a return to health is a faith cure, a belief in the good intentions of the British people and in their genuine desire for a settlement and for the welfare and self-government of the Indian people. I can certainly assure you that I should not be here if I did not believe in those.

National Government

It is commonly said that our current and post-war problems can only be solved by a National Government, but the precise meaning of the term is seldom or never defined. I am afraid that to some a National Government may mean a government in which their own particular party is in power. I think of a National Government as one formed to meet a national crisis in which "none are for a party but all are for the State" to quote Macaulay's "Lays of Ancient Rome."

I contend that we have such a Government now, a preponderantly Indian government, which in spite of all the criticism and abuse heaped on it is doing an essential job of work for India, and is doing it on the whole extremely well. It is making the mistakes, it is showing the shortcomings, inevitable in carrying out a very complex task of administration in difficult times. But it is accomplishing the main tasks: it is supporting our war effort to the entire satisfaction of the military commanders; and it is making a genuine and not unfruitful attempt to look ahead and prepare for post-war conditions. I think India should be grateful to her countrymen in the Government for the courage and skill they are showing. I here express to them my thanks for their work.

This does not mean to say that some other National Government—national by my definition, but based on the support of the main political parties—might not be more serviceable to India's needs. Not because such a Government would necessarily be more efficient than the present government, but because the efforts we have to make, now and in the future, demand considerable sacrifices. The average man is not willing to surrender comfort and income for the benefit of those poorer than himself or of future generations, unless he is coerced by a dictatorship, or led by those in whom he has great confidence. If it were possible to form such a National Government during the war, it would quite clearly and quite definitely have to function under the existing Constitution, no material change of which is possible during the war. And its primary task would have to be support of the war effort, not by mere lip-service which is useless, but sincerely and whole-heartedly.

It is now once more fashionable to demand a move by His Majesty's Government "to solve the deadlock." But remember that His Majesty's Government has made two attempts in the last decade. The first was the Constitution Act of 1935—a complete constitution based on years of discussion and research. I agree with Mr. Mealing that had that Act been worked in the right spirit, it would have carried us far, in fact I think we should now be near the goal. The second attempt was the draft declaration propounded by Sir Stafford Cripps. Both attempts failed.

After the second failure, His Majesty's Government said they could do no more and that India herself must make a constructive suggestion. No such suggestion has yet emerged; and the recent discussion between Mr. Gandhi and Mr. Jinnah shows how intractable the communal problem still is. I am glad to see that prominent Indians are undertaking further discussion of the problem.

The previous rejections of their offers must naturally make His Majesty's Government chary of a further advance until they feel that the spirit of compromise and co-operation is real. But their desire for a solution remains perfectly genuine; and I have tried to indicate lines on which progress might be attempted, if the Indian leaders desire it.

Gentlemen, I am afraid I have detained you unduly. I hope I have been able to give you on the whole a favourable impression—in all but the political field—of the progress of our affairs during 1944 and of our prospects for 1945. I will conclude in the words of one of the greatest war leaders and statesmen of all time, Abraham Lincoln:

"The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise with the occasion."

TEHERAN'S HOSPITALITY TO INDIAN TROOPS

Indian residents of Teheran have formed an Indian Troops' Welfare Committee to arrange entertainments for Indian soldiers.

Weekly parties for Indian troops at the members' homes or at the Y.M.C.A. are planned and an extensive programme of entertainments has been arranged.

NEED FOR TRAINED NURSES: VICEROY'S APPEAL

Hallett Hospital Opened at Cawnpore

Opening the Hallett Hospital at Cawnpore on December 16, last, H.E. the Viceroy said:

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,—

My wife and I are very glad to have been able to come to Cawnpore for this occasion. We only wish our stay in your great and rising city, which has done so much work for the armed forces, could have been longer. I remember that on the last occasion when I came here, as Commander-in-Chief, I opened some new laboratories for scientific research on problems of military equipment. Today I open another example of the progress and enterprise of Cawnpore, this time in the interests of peace rather than of war. In the intervening period I have myself, rather regretfully, been converted from the purposes of war to those of peace.

I do not propose to re-congratulate all those whom H.E. the Governor has already congratulated. It is quite obvious that much hard work and devotion has gone to the making of this fine building, which will greatly enhance the reputation of its young architect, Mr. Sharma. I will simply felicitate Cawnpore on obtaining this great addition to its civic needs; and I am sure that Cawnpore recognises with gratitude the initiative and energy of H.E. the Governor and of other able citizens, which has resulted in this project being so rapidly and effectively executed.

Industrialization: A Warning

Make no mistake though. Hospitals, even the best and largest, are to some extent a confession of weakness. They mean that we have failed to control public health at its source. You will have noticed that there is no complacency in the Governor's speech and that he and his Government recognise how very much there is to be done in the field of public health, medical education, medicine and nursing. Many projects are under preparation, to control malaria, to improve sanitation and water supplies, to found maternity clinics and to develop preventive measures of all kinds.

Science is making new discoveries in preventive medicine every day and we must not be content in India with less than the latest



Lord Wavell visits the operation theatre of the Hallett Hospital, Cawnpore. The hospital was recently opened by His Excellency.



Lady Wavell being shown round the Hospital.

and best. There is an immense amount of work to be done, and I am glad to see that your Government in this Province is planning on broad lines and is under no delusions as to the magnitude of the task. But ultimate success will depend on public support, on public insistence, and on public willingness to submit to the taxation necessary to meet the cost.

The great plans which are afoot for the further industrialization of India, which I warmly welcome, have grave dangers. Industrial development, unless you are very careful, means slums; and slums mean disease and misery. We know this only too well from our early experiences of the industrialization of England a hundred years or so ago. I hope that your Improvement Trust in Cawnpore will receive all possible public support in its essential work. The best efforts of Public Health experts can be set at naught by bad housing conditions, such as exist already in parts of Cawnpore today. Your population has probably doubled during the war, and the public health problems common to all great Indian cities must have been greatly accentuated.

The infantile mortality rate in Cawnpore in 1943 was over 350 per 1,000 live births. This is much above the urban rate for the United Provinces as a whole which is 209, and the rate for the urban and rural areas of the Province taken together which is about 135. In Australia, the comparable rate is under 40 and in the United Kingdom under 60. These are terrible facts which reflect credit on none and discredit on many, past and present. But they are facts which must be faced; and no good citizen should be unaware of them or indifferent to the need of improvement. If you really want improvement and insist on it, it will be forthcoming. It will be expensive; but nothing is so expensive and ruinous to a nation as disease, dirt and misery which can be avoided.

A Lesson for India

I have put these remarks on prevention of disease in the front line of my address because the subject is of such vital importance. I will now return to your new hospital, which is to cure such disease as cannot be prevented. In speaking of it and of its mission to heal the sick, I propose to confine myself to one subject, that of nursing, the improvement of which I regard as of vital importance to India. As I have told you, we suffered untold miseries in England when we turned to industrialization without proper care for the health of our workers, and our experience should be a warning to India.

The story of the birth of a nursing service in England has also a lesson for India. It is mainly the story of a great and noble woman. When your Governor laid the foundation stone of this hospital last year, he mentioned the name of Florence Nightingale. Though her history may be familiar to many of you, it will bear retelling. She was born in 1820 and grew up in a well-to-do old-fashioned English family. She was expected to lead the quiet domestic life of a well-bred girl in the prosperous 19th century; to marry some young squire and to raise a large family. But from early days she showed an interest, which at that time was considered odd and almost unnatural, in nursing and the alleviation of pain. Nursing was still regarded in England as a menial employment for which neither training nor intelligence was required. But Florence Nightingale was far ahead of her time. In spite of her parents' opposition, she missed no opportunity of visiting hospitals, of undergoing training and of fitting herself for what she felt to be her vocation. By 1854 when the Crimean War broke out, she had unique knowledge and experience; and this fact happened to be known to the Secretary of State for War, who was a friend of her family. When the British medical arrangements in the Crimea broke down, the Government appealed to her and at seven days' notice she set sail for the Crimea with a band of women whom she had persuaded to assist with the nursing in the great military hospital at Scutari.

A National Heroine

After long struggles in the most appalling conditions she achieved a large measure of reform, saved many lives, and earned the gratitude of the whole army. She returned home to England to find herself a national heroine. But the only form of recognition she would accept, apart from a brooch presented to her by Queen Victoria, was the formation of a Nightingale Fund to found a School of Nursing.

The achievements of Florence Nightingale were due first to a refusal to accept as inevitable the standards that prevailed round her. Dirt and disease did not make her shrug her shoulders, they roused her anger. "I do well to be angry" was the burden of her reports from the Crimea. And secondly she would not admit defeat. When she was told by the highest authority that "it cannot be done," she used to reply quietly "But it must be done;" and it was.

This great woman founded the profession of nursing in England and broke through much prejudice and ignorance and indifference to do

it. It can hardly be denied that there is the same fine work to be done in India. This new hospital of yours will never be a complete success without an adequate and assured supply of educated, trained and devoted nurses. Nurses, many of them British, have done and are doing splendid and selfless work in hospitals all over India: but there is always a shortage, always a strain, always more work than the staff can handle. In so far as any social system makes it difficult for women to be educated or to take up humanitarian work like nursing, that system surely stands condemned. Many appeals have already been made for Indian women to join the nursing profession: and I and my wife shall continue to appeal. I know that it will need pioneers among Indian women, brave enterprising spirits, like Florence Nightingale, to bring about the change we should all like to see.

Public Health Problems

You will forgive me I am sure for not having confined my remarks to the compliments and congratulations which are richly deserved. The dark side of the picture is too serious to be disregarded and it does no good to conceal the truth. A strong committee under the chairmanship of Sir Joseph Bhore is now examining the problems of medical relief and public health, and when its report is received early next year we shall have a full and authoritative statement of India's needs. But these needs will not be met unless public opinion demands that they should be, and is prepared to pay the cost. In the general attitude towards public health problems I should like to see in India more of the "divine discontent" that was in Florence Nightingale.

My wife and I are most grateful to you for your reception of us here today. This hospital, called by the name of one who has devoted a long career to the service of India, is a worthy first instalment towards the war on disease that I am sure this great city will continue to wage. I have great pleasure in declaring open the Hallett Hospital; and in asking you all, whatever your creed, to join with me to invoke a blessing on the work for humanity of this hospital, and of all who will work in it, doctors, nurses, and other staff.

The caption for the picture appearing on page 2 of the cover of "Indian Information" dated October 1, 1944, should read, "H. E. the Viceroy inspecting an Assam Regiment during his visit to Assam."

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS IN INDIAN STATES

Viceroy's Speech at Hyderabad

REPLYING to H.E.H. the Nizam's speech at the State Banquet at Hyderabad on December 9, last, H.E. the Viceroy said:

Your Exalted Highness, Your Highnesses, Ladies and Gentlemen,—I thank Your Exalted Highness for the cordial manner in which you have proposed the health of my wife and myself, and you, ladies and gentlemen, for the way in which you have received it.

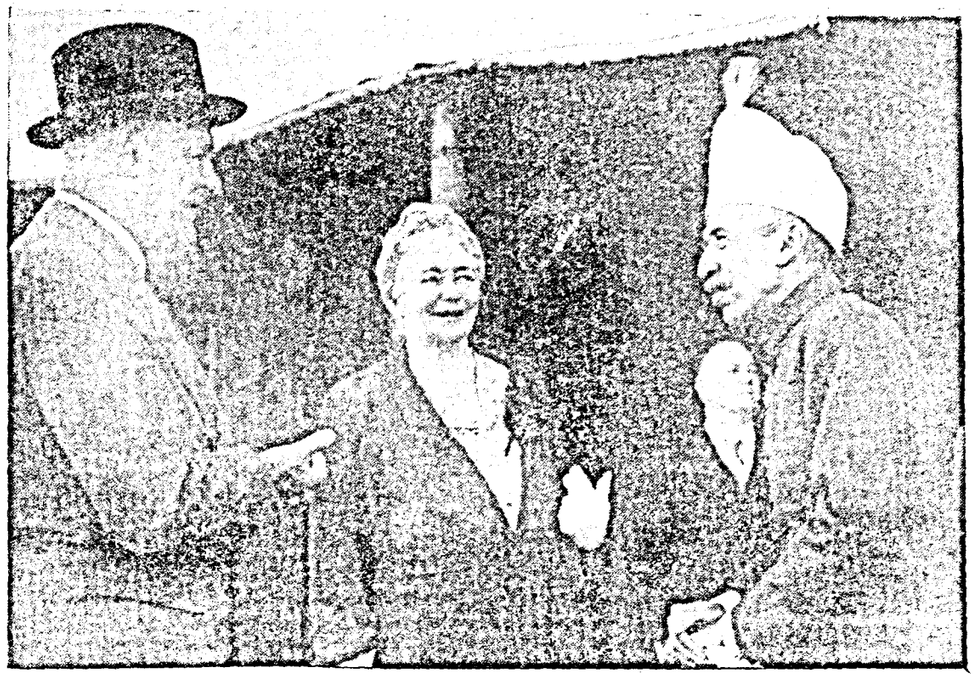
My wife and I have long looked forward to visiting this historic State and making Your Exalted Highness' acquaintance in person. Our first impression of your fine capital has not belied our expectations, and those responsible for its development are to be congratulated on the success they have achieved in creating a modern town of magnificent wide thoroughfares and stately buildings out of an old Moghul City, without destroying the evidences of its historic past.

Tribute to Hyderabad's War Effort

The war must inevitably be an ever present background to all our thoughts, even at a social function like this. It has rightly been described by Your Exalted Highness as one of the most terrible wars in history, how terrible only those who have been through the scenes of devastation caused by it can fully judge. In this fight against totalitarian domination Your Exalted Highness has never faltered even in the darkest days, and my distinguished predecessor has already placed on record his deep appreciation of the part played by Your Exalted Highness not only in mobilising to the utmost for the prosecution of the war all the resources of this great State, but also in inspiring your people with belief in the justice of the Allied cause and confidence in its eventual triumph.

I myself also, in December, last year, had the pleasure of writing to tell Your Exalted Highness how greatly I valued the efforts of yourself and of Hyderabad in the prosecution of the war. The survey which Your Exalted Highness has just given of the multifarious contributions to the war effort of yourself and of your State amply justifies these tributes.

It has given me great satisfaction to hear that plans for post-war reconstruction have already been taken in hand for the future well-being of the people of this State. For it is



Their Excellencies Lord and Lady Wavell photographed with His Exalted Highness the Nizam of Hyderabad and Berar.

essential that every Government should be prepared in advance to meet the restoration of peace conditions. A very difficult period of economic readjustment is bound to follow, and wise planning, combined with the provision of funds *now*, when money is plentiful, will do much to ease the period of transition.

The Government of India are making extensive preparations to deal with the many vital problems which lie ahead; and I can assure Your Exalted Highness that I shall do my best to see that the fullest co-operation and help possible is extended to the States. The achievement of an agreement between the Government of Madras and Your Exalted Highness' Government over the Tungabhadra irrigation scheme is a great step forward, and shows the mutual advantage of co-ordinating Hyderabad schemes with those of her neighbouring administrations.

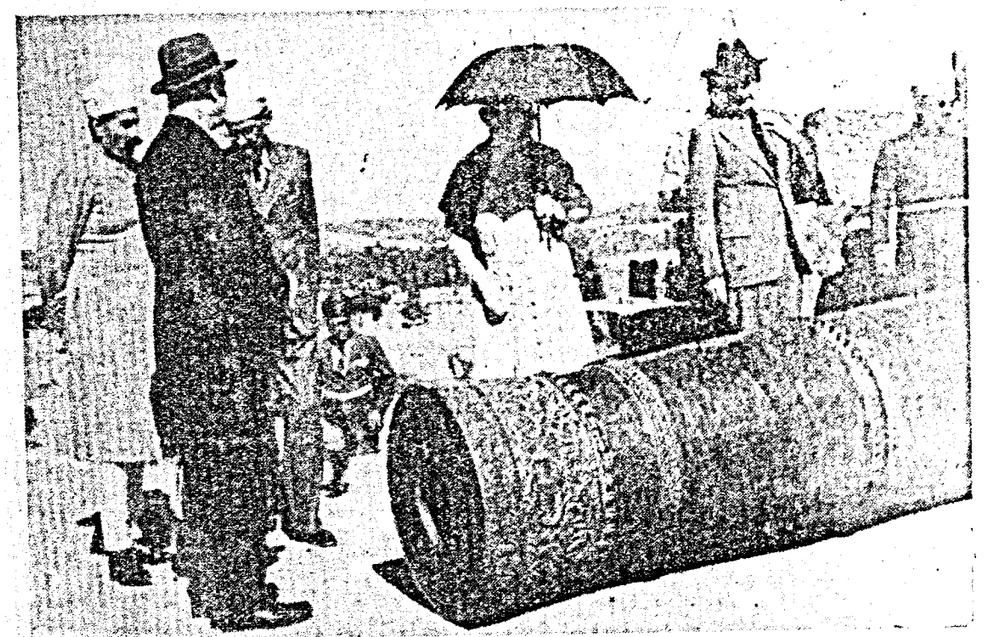
As you know, the feeding of India's ever-increasing population is one of the most pressing problems which has confronted me ever since I assumed my present office. Thanks to the co-operation of the Provinces and States in working the basic plan, the rapid extension of rationing, the success of the "Grow More Food" campaign, and imports from overseas, the position has much improved during the past year; but food must remain a source of anxiety to the whole of India, not only while war-time conditions continue to interfere with transport, but also for some years to come, until international co-operation has brought back food production and distribution to normal in all countries of the world. It is most important therefore that no administration in this country should relax its efforts to widen the field of rationing and to increase the production of foodgrains.

I appreciate what Hyderabad has already done in this most important field, but while congratulating the State administration on the measure of success they have achieved to date would urge them to make even greater efforts in future, not only in the interests of their own people, but also to bring some relief to their less fortunate fellow countrymen in the deficit areas beyond the State's frontiers.

I was interested to hear of the good use which Hyderabad has made, and proposes to



During their stay in Hyderabad, Lord and Lady Wavell visited the Osmania University. Picture shows Their Excellencies with the Pro-chancellor and the Vice-chancellor of the University.



The Viceroy's tour programme also included a visit to the historic fort at Golconda. Their Excellencies inspect one of the famous bronze guns of Aurangzeb called "Fateh Raibhar" (guide of victory).

make, of the large increase, which the war has brought to the State's annual income. The aboriginal education scheme to which Your Exalted Highness has referred will, I trust, help to raise the standard of living amongst a class of the population whose interests are often neglected. I also commend the five-year plan to provide free primary education in every village of more than 1,000 inhabitants. If India is to derive the full benefit of post-war developments, her sons and daughters must possess at least the rudiments of education.

Constitutional Reforms

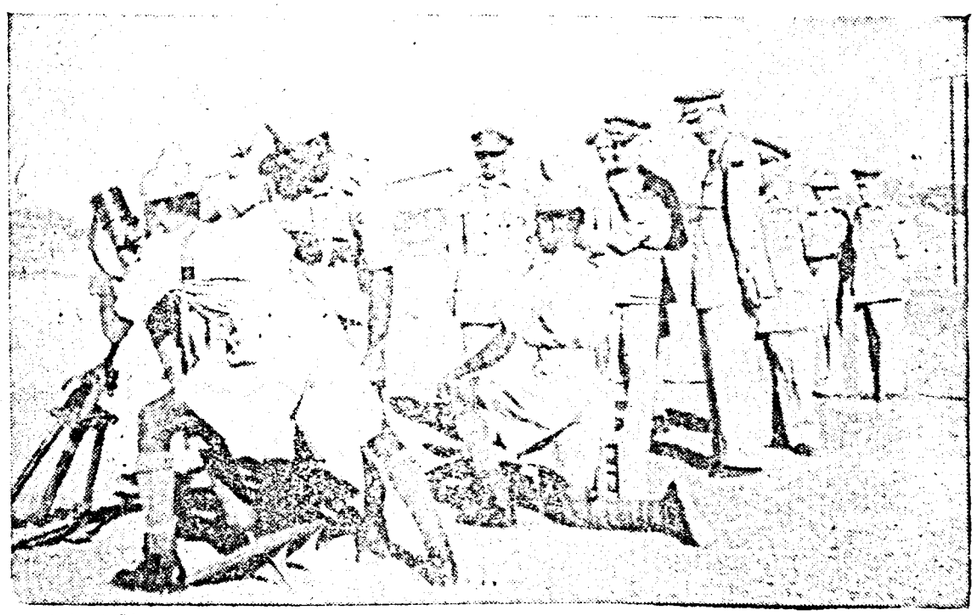
I congratulate this State on the steps which its Government have taken to counter financial inflation. I shall be interested to see to what extent the compulsory savings scheme which has recently been introduced by Your Exalted Highness' Government succeeds in filling the gap caused by the absence of any regular system of income-tax in the State.

Your Exalted Highness has referred to the Reforms announced in 1939 on which your Government have been at work. It gives me pleasure to learn that Advisory Committees in association with the various Departments of your Government have been set up and have started their duties, and I feel assured that the laws which you have passed for the promotion of local bodies to assist in the administration of the country will bear fruit in the enhanced contentment and prosperity of the people of your State.

I have been informed also that Your Exalted Highness recently issued a *firman* to your jagirdars urging the necessity of their residing in and taking a personal interest in the administration of their jagirs and doing something for their people. No advice could have been more timely, for in these days no persons in a privileged position can hope to remain so, without rendering some service to those from whom they draw their livelihood.

This is neither the time nor the place for me to speculate on the possible constitutional developments in India after the war, but it is obvious that if the Indian States are to play their proper part in the future Indian polity, they must develop healthy and vigorous constitutional governments in their own territories. In such a development, it would be fitting if Hyderabad as the premier State gave the lead.

Ladies and gentlemen, I now ask you to rise and drink the health of His Exalted Highness the Nizam of Hyderabad and Berar, and to wish him many more years of health and happiness as Ruler over his State.



H.E. the Viceroy inspecting a mortar company of H.E.H. the Nizam's Regular Forces.

SIR ARDESHIR DALAL ON INDIA'S POST-WAR PLANS

Discussions at Calcutta and Patna

THE HON'BLE SIR ARDESHIR DALAL, Member for Planning and Development, Government of India, recently visited Bengal and Bihar to acquaint himself at first hand with the plans of the Provincial Governments and to acquaint the Provinces with the views of the Central Government and the directions in which they may expect advice and assistance from the Centre. Lt.-Gen. Sir Thomas Hutton, Secretary, Planning and Development Department accompanied the Development Member. Sir Ardeshir has already visited the United Provinces, the Punjab and Bombay.

The Second Report of the Reconstruction Committee of Council on Post-War Planning, which indicates the general views of the Government of India on the subject of planning in all the Departments of Government, formed the basis of discussions. The Report is meant to afford guidance both to the Central Government as well as to the Provinces. At the same time it has been made clear in the Report that there is no intention to encroach on Provincial Autonomy. Decisions on general questions of policy affecting more than one Province are to be arrived at by mutual consultation and agreement.

Sir Ardeshir has not only had discussions but he has also met committees of chambers of commerce and industrialists. His discussions with officials have been mainly to help the Provincial Governments to lay the foundations of planning in earnest for the future and to formulate a definite five-year development plan as the first stage.

Aid to Provinces

After meeting its own requirements, the Central Government has indicated that it would be prepared to help the different Provinces out of its surplus revenues for the first effective post-war five-year period, roughly on the basis of population. But before that is done, it expects the Provinces to mobilise their own resources to the fullest extent possible. The U.P. and Bombay Governments have already submitted their plans and those Provinces who have not are expected to do so by the middle of January. So far as the States are concerned there are outstanding constitutional and financial issues to be settled but the States themselves are very keen to come into line with the Government of India.

The Committee of the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce met Sir Ardeshir Dalal at a



Sir Ardeshir Dalal

conference held at the Chamber premises on December 15.

Mr. J. K. Mitter, President of the Chamber, welcomed Sir Ardeshir Dalal to the Chamber and assured him that so far as the Chamber was concerned it would to the best of its capacities always extend to him the co-operation that he might require in his great task of planning for the future economic development of India. Sir Ardeshir thanked Mr. Mitter for the welcome and for the assurance of co-operation which, he added, he prized most.

Co-ordination of Plans

Discussion then proceeded on the basis of a note prepared by the Committee and a copy of which had been submitted to the Hon'ble Member beforehand. In regard to the machinery of planning, the Hon'ble Member pointed out that he was very much conscious of the need for an effective co-ordination of the plans of the Centre, provinces and State governments but as yet the Central Government were not in a position to know what exactly the plans of the various provincial governments and States were. Some of the provinces had already submitted their plans and those who had not were expected to do so by the middle of January.

So far as exclusively central subjects were concerned there was no question of co-ordination. But in regard to Provincial subjects, he was confident, it would be possible to come to some sort of understanding by mutual goodwill and agreement. He particularly mentioned the possibility of setting up some such machinery as the Regional Damodar Valley Authority on the lines of the Tennessey Valley Authority. So far as the States were concerned, there were outstanding constitutional and financial issues to be settled but the States themselves were very keen to come into line with the Government of India. Proceeding the Hon'ble Member pointed out that there was no intention to resort to any coercion as the provinces themselves would require large financial assistance from the Centre.

Sir Ardeshir also agreed with the Chamber that it was necessary for the Centre to give guidance to the provinces in regard to the general structure of the Plan and the order of priority in which the various schemes should be taken up.

Long-term Project

In regard to the question as to whether the Government proposed to set up a machinery like a Purchasing Mission in foreign countries to negotiate on behalf of the Indian industrialists for the import of capital goods, Sir Ardeshir pointed out that it was the intention of the Government to set up organisations in the U.K. and the U.S.A. for acting as liaison between the Indian industrialists and the foreign manufacturers of machineries. He stated that industrialists in India could negotiate directly for the purchase of their capital requirements but the assistance of Government organisation would be available to them if they might need it. He also gave an assurance that there would not be any bar in placing orders anywhere the machinery might be available but drew attention to a possible difficulty on account of exchange.

On questions as to the necessity of a comprehensive survey of the geological and mineral resources of India, Sir Ardeshir pointed out that the Geological Survey had not hitherto devoted sufficient attention to the mining and development side, and that it was his intention to double the staff of the Survey immediately and to quadruple it in five years, and especially to develop the mining and utilisation side. He added, however, that this was a long-term project.

Replying to the complaints made by the Chamber in regard to import of consumer goods, Sir Ardeshir said that the subject did not directly concern him but in so far as he had been able to ascertain such imports were allowed only to supplement shortage in local supply and to mitigate hardships to consumers.

BENGAL AND POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION

Addressing a Press Conference in Calcutta on December 16, Sir Ardeshir Dalal said:

The Second Report on Reconstruction Planning, which has been issued and is available to the Press and the public, will provide a great deal of information. By a coincidence, there will be a broadcast by me tonight (see page 23), which also deals with some of the problems of Planning in a general way. I shall, therefore, confine myself mainly to the special problems of Bengal.

In the matter of Planning, this Province is unfortunately handicapped by the famine and its aftermath in the shape of epidemics and general ill-health. It is also handicapped by the fact that the war is nearer this Province than to most other parts of India, and its problems are correspondingly more insistent. There is also a great scarcity of suitably qualified staff.

Owing to these reasons, it has not been possible for Bengal to formulate as yet a definite five-year Plan. But an adequate organisation has been set up, a number of schemes dealing with almost all the aspects of administration are being considered; and I have no doubt that a definite Plan will soon be formulated.

A Comparison

Compared with most of the Provinces which have improved their financial position during the war, Bengal has incurred a serious deficit. That imposes a very grave handicap on it. After meeting its own requirements, the Central Government is prepared to help the different Provinces out of its surplus revenues for the first effective post-war five-year period, roughly on the basis of population. But before that is done, it expects the Provinces to mobilise their own resources to the fullest extent possible. In spite of the financial difficulties under which this Province is now labouring, I have little doubt that if its large potential resources are properly developed, it would get out of its present difficulties and embark upon an era of prosperity. In order to enable it to do so, it is necessary for it to lay the foundations by planning in earnest for the future, with sole regard to the economic uplift and well-being of all its people.

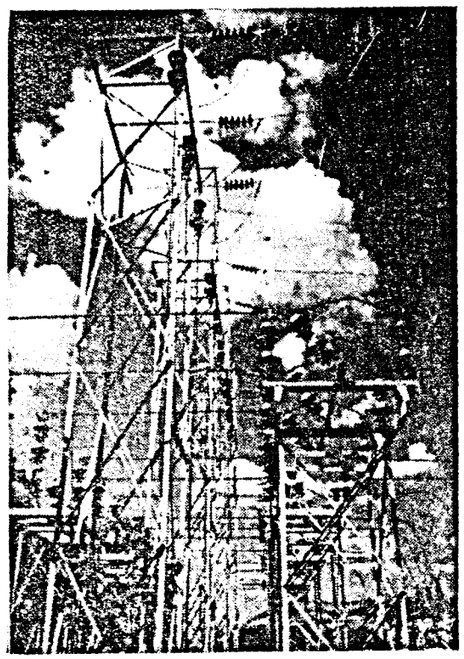
STATE CONTROL OF INDUSTRIES

Bihar's Development Plans

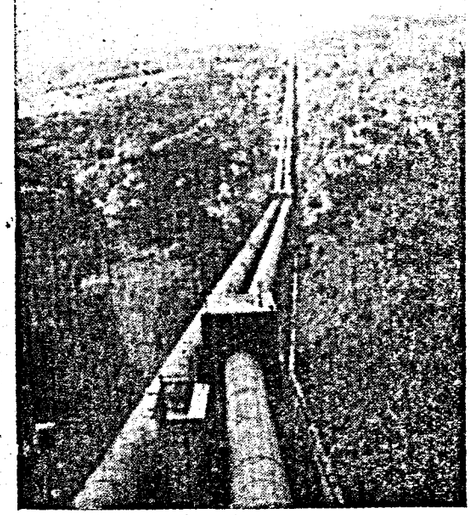
Sir Ardeshir Dalal, who was on a three-day visit to Patna to acquaint himself with the development plans of the Bihar Government, flew over the Sone Valley and Rehand river on December 18 when several sites for dams for a large hydro-electric power development scheme were shown to him by Sir William Stampe.

Three Provinces and several Indian States, it is understood, are interested in the project which is proposed to be taken over as a regional scheme on the lines of the T.V.A.

Sir Ardeshir Dalal had discussions with the Advisers and heads of departments on the development plans of the Bihar Government. Later he discussed the general question of planning and development with the Committee of the Bihar Chamber of Commerce. He said that it was the definite policy of the Government of India to industrialise the country at a rapid



A close-up of the beat-ending structure o. a high tension line.



Hydel Development forms an important feature of India's post-war industrial plans. Picture shows high grade steel pipes bringing water for an Indian hydro-electric system from the catchment area.

pace. In industrial development, he added, private enterprise had a large part to play, but the profit motive must be harnessed to the country's good. The measure and the nature of control that the State might exercise would depend on particular industries and their circumstances.

"Industries like munitions and ordnance factories," Sir Ardeshir said, "will always be owned by Government. Some industries which are required in national interest but which industrialists are not ready to take up because they are not sufficiently remunerative will have to be owned by Government. There may be other industries of great importance beyond the scope of private industrialists which may be owned by Government. Future public utility industries like the electric supply, tramways and telephones, may be wholly or partially nationalised. Rigid control will have to be exercised over basic industries, particularly those controlling scarce natural resources or tending to be monopolistic. In general, Government will exercise greater control over industries in the future, but in view of the large industrialisation of the country, the scope for private initiative and enterprise will not be restricted but may even be enlarged."

On the question of protection, Sir Ardeshir stated that it was his opinion that such conditions as pre-existence of an industry suffering from acute competition, the possession of raw materials within the country, etc., as laid down by the Tariff Commission, might have to be relaxed. The appointment of a permanent Tariff Board was being considered and it was proposed that it might be so devised as to avoid delays as occurred in the past in the grant of protection to industries.

Replying to a question, the Planning Member said that it was the intention of Government to manufacture machinery for various industries within the country so as to avoid dependence on foreign countries for industrial equipment, and that several panels were being projected to consider the question of manufacturing such machinery, including power machinery and electrical equipment.

In answer to another question, Sir Ardeshir stated that the Government of India were considering the possibility of bringing some important minerals, like mica and coal, under Central control so as to conserve natural resources of the country.

Planning for a sub-continent like India, Sir Ardeshir continued, was not a short-term job. It would require long time and great patience. Steps were already being taken to send out Indians for foreign training and to expand the existing educational and technical institutions. The Geological Survey was being expanded. It was proposed to appoint a committee to consider the question of establishing a central high-grade technological institute. The establishment of an all-India agricultural college and medical centre were also being considered.

Bihar's Progress

Interviewed in Patna, Sir Ardeshir Dalal said that he has had meetings with H.E. the Governor and Officers of the Bihar Government regarding post-war planning.

Bihar, according to Sir Ardeshir, has made very good progress in the preparation of its plans and that in some respects, e.g., industrial planning, it is ahead of other Provinces. A five-year plan has not yet been made out, because of uncertainty regarding the financial position and the measure of assistance to be expected from the Government of India. As this point has been further clarified, the Bihar Government is expected to prepare its five-year plan within about a month.

OBJECTIVES AND PROBLEMS OF POST-WAR PLANNING

THE idea of planned economic development as applied to a whole country has been gradually gaining ground during the last quarter of a century. Though it has found its fullest expression in Russia, it is not confined to Socialist or Fascist countries only. President Roosevelt's New Deal and the well-known Tennessee Valley Development are partial expression of the same idea. A modern war is a completely planned and controlled direction of a country's economy towards the supreme purpose of defeating the enemy. It has familiarised us, through its various controls, with the technique of planned economic development, which should be of the utmost value in planning for peace.

The concept of a planned economy for the whole of India first took shape with the National Planning Committee. But it was the Bombay Plan which laid before the country

By the Hon'ble Sir Ardeshir Dalal, Member for Planning and Development, Government of India

(A broadcast from the Delhi station of A.I.R. on December 16.)

in clear and precise terms the nature and compass of the problem, the objectives to be aimed at, the targets to be achieved and the method of achievement. It fired the imagination of the whole country and made it "planning-conscious". It revealed the magnitude of the problem and made the country think for the first time in terms of thousands of crores. It drew the attention of the Government to the urgency and scope of the problem and stimulated it into action. If it has done nothing else, for this alone it deserves the gratitude of the country.

The Bombay Plan does not seek to make the rich richer and the poor poorer. Its sole object is to remove the dire poverty under which the country is groaning; to raise the purchasing power of the people, and to treble the national income during a period of 15 years. For that purpose, it seeks to provide adequate food, clothing, housing, education, sanitation and medical relief. Out of the total amount of Rs. 10,000 crores, nearly 40 per cent is to be devoted towards these objects. It aims at an

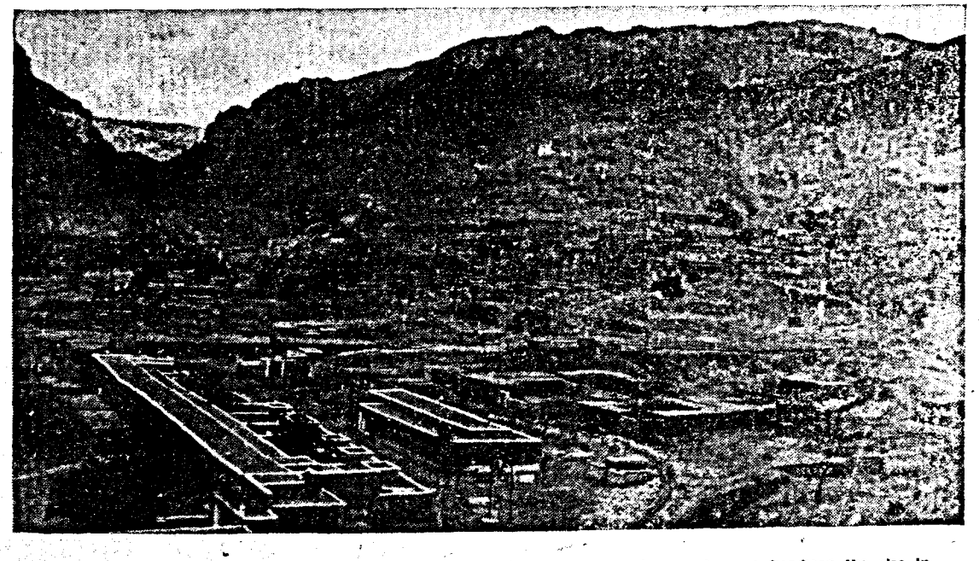
increase of 130 per cent in the output of agriculture but a fivefold increase in the output of industry, because the present unbalanced economy of the country, which is weighted heavily with agriculture, has to be redressed.

Industrialisation

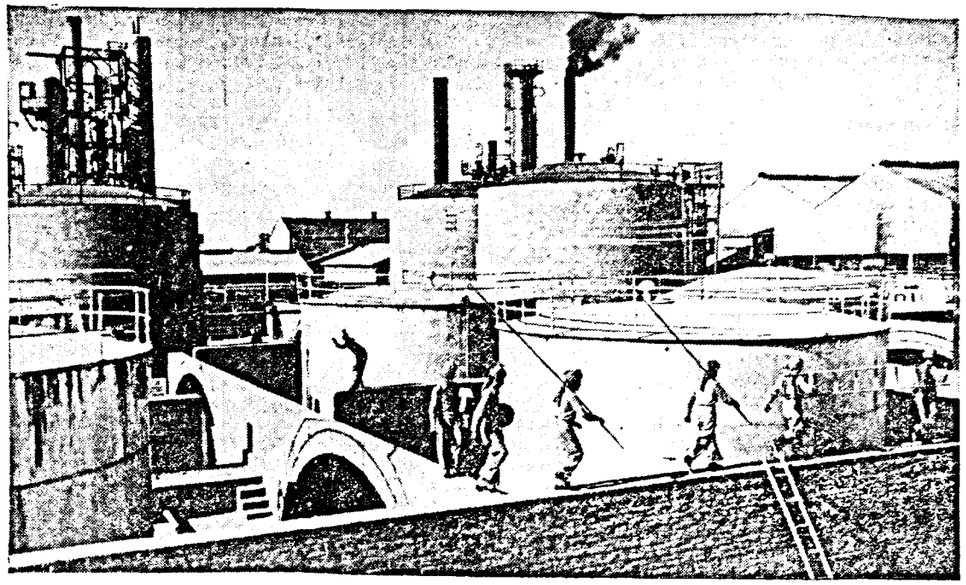
Without industries, no country can ever hope to attain prosperity or a high stage of civilisation. Without industries, it cannot acquire the wealth which is necessary to provide the various social amenities, such as decent housing, medical relief, education, etc. The last war showed, and the present war has emphasised the fact, that no country, which is not highly developed industrially, has a political future. It cannot achieve independence, and, if achieved, cannot hope to retain it without a high industrial potential which is convertible to war potential in an emergency. Until India is fully and thoroughly industrialised, there is no hope of its economic salvation and, I am inclined to believe, also of its political salvation.

The objectives of the Government Plan are the same as those of the Bombay Plan, but Government have not adopted that Plan, or any other Plan, in all its details. In fact, the authors of the Bombay Plan do not claim to give a detailed blue-print. They have said that they have merely put forward a statement of the objectives to be kept in mind and the essential lines on which development should proceed as a basis for discussion. The Plan which Government is considering must necessarily deal with greater details and with more concrete facts and figures. All constructive suggestions, from whatever source they come, will be examined by the Government. There seems to be a somewhat widely prevalent idea, encouraged perhaps by the emergence of a number of so-called Plans recently, that an economic plan for the ordered development of a sub-continent like India is something which can be produced within a few weeks in a cut and dried form. The experience of the National Planning Committee should have served to dispel this illusion. The preparation of a plan for the whole of India, with its numerous Provinces and States and in all its many-sided activities, is a very long and arduous task.

The authors of the Bombay Plan, including myself, thought, and still think, that a national government is necessary for the full working of the plan. When it is in full working, the Plan will involve control of imports and exports, issue of capital, location of factories, employment of capital, credit, dividends, planning of crops, holding of land, etc. It may involve rationing of consumption and interference with the established habits of the people. All this restraint and interference can only be carried out successfully by a Government which feels that it has the full support of the people behind it, because the people realise that it is to their ultimate benefit. But circumstances being what they are, what is the alternative at present? Even in nationalist circles the feeling is now growing that it is not possible to sit with folded hands and do nothing until a national government comes into power.



The Khewra salt mine (Punjab). A striking feature of India's economy in recent years has been the rise in her output of minerals, important among which are coal and iron—signs of growing industrialisation.

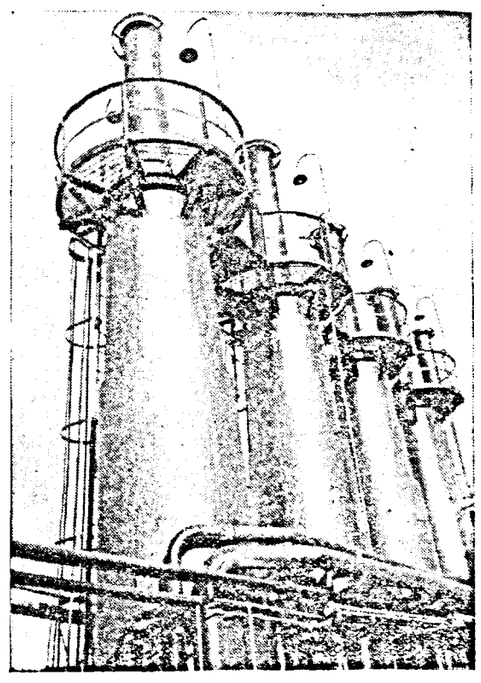


Process tanks of an Indian oil refinery.

Preliminary Measures

The war is nearing its end. Every country is planning for the future, and most of them are far in advance of us. The termination of the war, which will throw millions out of employment and dry up the vast purchasing power which has been created, will produce a serious, if not explosive, situation if we are not prepared for it. The short-term plan for the resettlement of demobilised soldiers, the disposal of war materials, and meeting the economic situation that will be created on the termination of hostilities, must be ready in time. Our long-term plans for post-war development must be started.

A number of preliminary measures, such as the training of technical and other personnel which will be required in hundreds of thousands, must be begun at once. Our educational, scientific and technological institutions should be expanded and new ones created. A beginning should be made with proper exploitation of our mineral and power resources. Our Geological



Heaters of a lubricating oil refinery plant constructed in India.

Survey requires to be immediately and largely expanded. In politics there is no vacuum, and if a national government cannot be formed to carry on this work, it has got to be carried out by some other agency if a national disaster is to be prevented.

There are certain important constitutional issues connected with planning which have aroused considerable interest. We are planning on the basis of the existing constitution for the whole of India, because it is not possible to plan on any other basis and it is not possible to state what the future constitution of India will be. There is little doubt, however, that whatever the shape of the future constitution and whatever measure of autonomy the future Provinces or States may enjoy, they will all benefit by the measures of economic progress and development contemplated by Government. It is not the intention to encroach on Provincial autonomy. At the same time, the experience of other countries has shown that for purposes of economic development, the different provinces or states have to come together to formulate a common policy in the general interest of the whole.

Road Plan

In spite of the pre-occupations of the war, a great deal of progress in planning has so far been made, both at the Centre as well as in the Provinces. At the Centre, we have the Sargent Plan on Education which aims at providing free and compulsory education to both boys and girls from the age of 6 to 14, together with adequate provision for high school, technical and university education.

A Road Plan which aims at providing 400,000 miles of roads and trackways at a cost of Rs. 450 crores is also prepared.

Considerable attention has been devoted to the question of development of power, and a Central Technical Power Board has been formed, the object of which is to regulate and develop the production of electrical power and to advise the various Provinces and States who may require their assistance.

An Irrigation and Waterways Board is under contemplation for regulating the development of irrigation, waterways and inland navigation throughout India. A number of very important irrigation-*cum*-hydel projects are proposed to be taken up, particularly in the Punjab and the U.P., and the model of T.V.A. may be adopted in the case of one or two of them which concern a number of Provinces and States.

A Railway Development Plan has been prepared by the Department concerned and is under consideration by Government. Road and Rail Transport are to be co-ordinated.

A Plan for the development of Civil Aviation has been prepared.

Development of Agriculture

A Committee of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research has prepared a Plan for the development of agriculture, which aims at increasing the output of agriculture by 50 per cent in 10 years and a hundred per cent in 15 years at an estimated cost of roughly a thousand crores.

Plans have also been prepared for the development of forests and fisheries.

The Provinces and many of the major States are similarly engaged in preparing their own plans. The U.P. has prepared a rough draft of five-year plan for Rs. 120 crores, and Bombay for Rs. 50 crores. Besides their own resources, the Provinces may expect financial aid from the Centre from their post-war surplus revenues, roughly on the basis of population.

The real bottle-neck will not be finance, but the availability of technical personnel and capital equipment. Plans are already under way for deputing as large a number of Indian students as foreign institutions can accommodate for technical training. It is proposed to double the superior staff of the Geological Survey as early as possible and to quadruple it within a space of five years.

Capital for the development of industries will be forthcoming primarily from private industrialists. Twenty-nine Panels are being established for considering the development and expansion of almost all the important industries, especially those dealing with power, engineering and the manufacture of machinery. The Provinces have also been asked to set up Industries Committees of their own. The proposals of the Provincial Committees will be co-ordinated with those of the Panels so as to ensure adequate industrial development in all regions and not to concentrate industries in those areas in which they are already crowded. Instructions will be given to the Panels to lay down targets for the development of different industries for a five-year period in the first instance.

While industries, such as Munitions, will be entirely owned and managed by Government, they will also take up the ownership and management of other industries which they consider essential in the national interests but for which private capital is not forthcoming. Government may further take over the ownership and control of certain large-scale industries of great national importance beyond the resources of individual capitalists, as well as industries which control scarce natural resources or which are likely to become monopolistic. There may, besides, be a case fo State ownership, or participation and control, of public utility undertakings, especially those which may be developed hereafter. Government have not yet come to a final decision on all these important issues.

An Appeal

Planning has only just begun. The statistical basis for planning in India is almost entirely lacking. Nevertheless, when the picture is more clearly developed, both at the Centre and in the Provinces it will be possible to lay down an integrated plan with definite targets which it will be the aim of the Government to work up to. This aim can only be achieved through public co-operation and goodwill, which are more vitally necessary in this case than in the case of any other activity of the Government.

May I conclude by earnestly appealing to all for such co-operation and goodwill in our efforts which are solely directed to the eradication of the curse of poverty in India and the improvement of its standards of living.

SCIENTIFIC CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

The Government of India have constituted a Scientific Consultative Committee with the following personnel, under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Member for Planning and Development:

Non-officials: Sir C. V. Raman, F.R.S., Sir Jnan Ghosh, Prof. Megnad Saha, F.R.S., Dr. Nazir Ahmad, Col Sir Ramnath Chopra.

Officials: The Master General of the Ordnance, the Vice-Chairman of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research or the Agricultural Commissioner to the Government of India, the Director General, I.M.S., the Director, Geological Survey, the Director, Scientific and Industrial Research.

The functions of the committee will be to advise the Government of India on all general questions of policy relating to research throughout India and on any special matters relating to research which may be specifically referred to it.

PLANNING ECONOMIC UPLIFT OF PEOPLE

An Appeal to Economists

THE Hon'ble Sir Ardeshir Dalal, Member for Planning and Development, Government of India, in his inaugural address at the 27th Session of the Indian Economic Conference held in Delhi on December 30, 1944, said:

I am grateful to you, Mr. Chairman, and Members of the Reception Committee, for having given me this opportunity to meet the members of the Indian Economic Association and other delegates to this, the 27th Session of the Indian Economic Conference. I particularly value it as the task with which I am confronted is primarily economic—to plan the economic uplift of the masses of our people—and the advice, assistance and co-operation of economists is of the utmost value to me in my work.

Whatever opinion one might hold of the theories of Karl Marx, his views on the class struggle, or the ultimate destiny of society, there can be little doubt that he, more than anyone else, is responsible for the concept of history as a dynamic evolution motivated by economic forces. Whether socialism will succeed capitalism in the long run, just as the capitalistic system suceeded the feudal, or whether technocracy or a managerial society will take its place, there is little doubt that the struggles and convulsions of the modern world are, at root, due to economic causes.

The last world war was due to that factor, and the present titanic struggle has the same origin. In the opinion of many, there will be no finality to these conflicts until the whole world settles down to a state of stable equilibrium in the economic sphere, or, in the language of Marx, the antithesis is resolved into a synthesis. What the nature of that equilibrium or synthesis will be, I will not be presumptuous enough to prophesy.

In our own country, the jealousies, strife and discord which are hampering our progress at every stage, can ultimately be traced to the same economic roots, although on the surface they may appear to be caused by religious or communal or other differences. If the economic condition of the Muslims and the backward classes can be bettered, I feel that a great deal of the present stress and strain through which we are passing will be relieved, and we shall be enabled to march together on the road to social and political progress.

The slump of the thirties and after showed more clearly than any theoretical teaching could have done, the importance of understanding the economic aspects of the community's life, and it also showed the interdependence of the world economies, whether they belonged to the West or the East, the agricultural countries or the industrial countries. One aspect which added to the world interest in economic matters was the progress of Soviet Russia under a system of planned economy. At a time when production, incomes and employment were falling in different parts of the world, we had a vast country where production, incomes and employment were recording a steady and indeed a phenomenal increase.

The explanation lay largely in the fact that whereas in the rest of the world there was very little economic planning at the time, in Soviet Russia the whole economic life of the country was conducted on a planned basis by the Government. Before the war, other countries, particularly Germany and Italy, had also embarked upon economic planning on their own lines, and in the United States, President Roosevelt's New Deal and the notable experiment of the T.V.A. provide instances of economic planning on democratic lines.

The present war has provided conclusive evidence of the value of understanding and planning the economy of a country. What has been done for the purpose of winning the war, the lessons that have been learnt, can be put to good use for planning for the happiness and progress of the world in peace.

With this recognition of the importance of economy has also come an increasing appreciation of the work of economists and a growing recognition of the role they are legitimately entitled to play in shaping the policy and guiding the life of the country. Yours, gentlemen, is not a very old science; but, rightly employed, it can render invaluable service to better the conditions of life of the vast masses of the people of this world. Economic planning in some form or another has definitely come to stay, and with it the economist has acquired a recognised place in the shaping of public policy.

Per Capita Income

Turning to our own country, all that I have been saying so far with regard to the importance of both economics and economists apply with even stronger force here. The vast masses of the people of this country have long had a standard of life which is appreciably below that of the peoples of the rest of the civilised world. The per capita national income of this country is but a fraction of the per capita income in countries like the United States or the United Kingdom. Food consumption is in many cases below the levels considered as minimum by nutritional experts; consumption of cloth is only 16 yards per head per year, while conditions of housing, both in urban and rural areas, are most unsatisfactory. The availability of the essential services like education, medicine, sanitation, public health, etc., is of such a low order of magnitude that it might lead some to question our claim to be a civilised nation.

It has been estimated in terms of pre-war prices that the ensuring of the quantum of food, clothing, housing and services considered as the barest minimum for civilised existence, would involve a cost of Rs. 74 per capita, while the actual per capita income of the country, which of course does not take into account any inequality in distribution, is only Rs. 65. Obviously, the present position should cause disquiet to any person who is interested in the welfare of this country. Our existing production of goods and services is not sufficient, even if it were distributed on an arithmetically equal basis, to give everyone in this country the basic minimum for civilised existence.

Under the circumstances, it is imperative that every possible attempt should be made to increase our production of goods and services and also take steps to ensure that the increased production is so distributed that no one in the country gets less than a reasonable minimum of goods and services. "This is an object about which there can be no quarrel and about which there 's, in fact, no quarrel. There is also no controversy about the thesis that if such an increase were to be brought about, it cannot be left to the free and spontaneous working of the normal economic factors in the country. Enough time has been given to the free and spontaneous operation of these factors, and the results do not warrant the conclusion that they will deliver the goods.

National Planning Committee

Economic planning of the Nation's economy, the ordered and guided development of various aspects of our economic activity with a definite objective is absolutely essential. Non-official organisations and prominent individuals have been considering this problem and have outlined proposals for a planned development of India's economy. Credit is due to the National Planning Committee who definitely put the idea of economic planning on the Indian map and did so much spade work for outlining its detailed application to the country's economy.

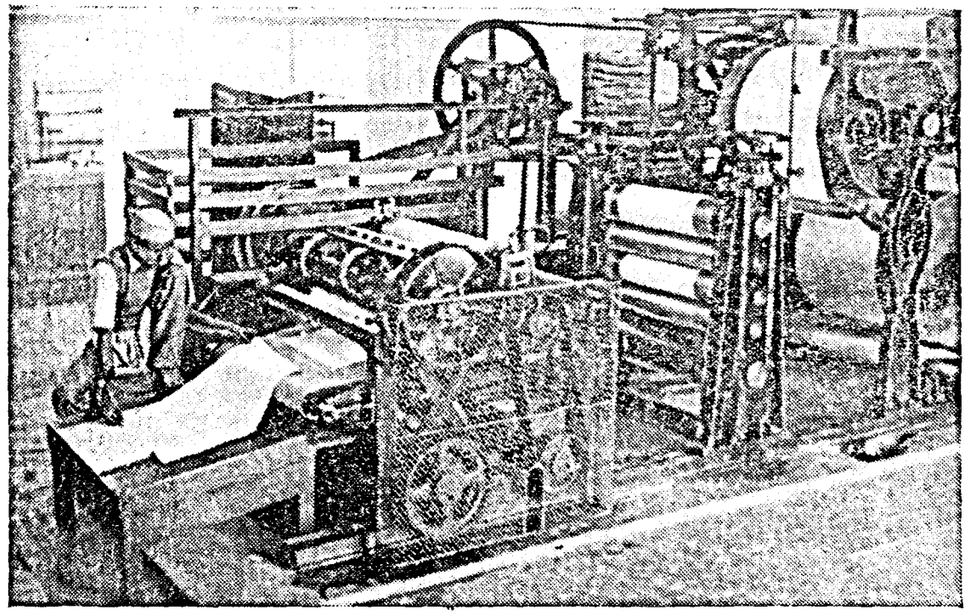
Then, you have the Bombay Plan which, for the first time, defined the objectives in clear and precise terms, laid down the targets and outlined the methods for achieving them. It drew world-wide attention and did a great deal to stimulate Government into action. This has been followed by the People's Plan and a number of other Plans. I am glad to see from your programme that you are going to hold one sitting for the purpose of discussing the planned development of India's economy, and I need hardly say that I am looking forward with keen interest to your discussion on the subject.

Government Plan

As you know, the Government of India have been considering the subject of economic planning for the last two years, and most of you must have seen the two Reports which have been issued by the Reconstruction Committee of the Executive Council on this matter. From the point of view of professional economists, a criticism has been levelled against these Reports that they do not provide a plan for the ordered development of the country, inasmuch as they do not indicate the overall target in respect of increase in national income which it is intended to achieve during the given period. I had made reference to this point in my recent address to the General Policy Committee in Bombay.

In a country with totalitarian economy, like Russia, it would be possible for the Government to lay down an *a priori* target for a certain period and then set to work all the agencies of Government at its control to achieve it with a reasonable prospect of success. We know that in the case of Russia, such success was achieved, but it was done by the most rigid regimentation of every aspect of the country's life and at the cost of acute tribulation to a large number of people accompanied with serious loss of life.

Neither this Government, nor even a National Government, I feel, would attempt to do so in a country like India. To my mind, it is neither feasible nor desirable. What the Government can do, however, is to make a survey of all its resources in men, materials and money, estimate to what extent it is possible to employ them for as large an improvement in the economic life as is feasible within the limitations set by the political, social and other conditions of India, and thus arrive at a reasonable target to be achieved within a given period of time. That is what the Government is now doing. It is trying to consider in detail the extent to which it is possible to obtain an increasing output of goods and services under the various heads of production, and to determine the targets separately for the different branches of the country's economy. On this foundation, it is possible to put forward an overall target in terms of the country's income.



Dry end of a paper machine showing the stack of calenders and the rotary cutter which cuts the continuous sheet as it comes from the machine.

Government is, therefore attempting to obtain from the Provinces and some of the major States an idea of their requirements and the means at their disposal. It has already framed, or is in the process of framing, plans for the Central subjects. It must not be forgotten that provincial autonomy exists in a majority of subjects, including even industrial development, and that the major States are autonomous in these matters. The Government has, therefore, to proceed cautiously and try to achieve what is possible through goodwill and persuasion. Individual targets have already been laid down in a number of cases. A thousand-crore plan for the development of agriculture, prepared by a Committee of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, aims at doubling the output of agriculture in a space of 15 years.

Development of Industries

In the case of industries, a number of panels to deal with individual industries, or allied groups of indusries, are being formed, and these panels will be assigned targets for the development of the particular industries. In the case of communications, the target is to construct 400,000 miles of roads within a period of 10 years. The Sargent Plan of Education aims at free and compulsory education from the age of 6 to 14 for the whole country within a period of 40 years. Government is awaiting the report of the Bhore Committee on the subject of public health and sanitation. When these and other materials are collected, it would be possible to build up an all-India plan.

In this work of planning and development, gentlemen, I rely a good deal upon co-operation and help from you, the professional economists of the country. A great deal of research work has to be done into the various aspects of the country's economic life, not only for facilitating the formulation of proposals for planning, but also for watching the progress and making readjustments from time to time to ensure the success of the plan. Then again, even elementary data relating to some aspects of the country's economy are not readily available; and as far as statistics are concerned, not only are there substantial inaccuracies in the material we have got, but there are also large gaps even in such statistical material as has been so far collected in the country. Then again, there will be many problems of policy on which the trained analytical judgment of the professional economists will be of the greatest value to Government in the formulation and execution of their detailed proposals.

For all these things, I rely on your co-operation and goodwill. We have already got a Consultative Committee of Economists for the Government of India, and they have been doing very useful work. I propose to have, in addition to this large committee, a small sub-committee of non-official economists who will meet more frequently—perhaps, once a month—and give me their advice.

Government is also considering the question of a closer association with the Indian Statistical Institute which has performed such yeoman service in the field of Indian statistics and which, I hope, will have many more years of fruitful work in the service of planning and economic development in this country. We are also thinking of locating in Delhi a National Institute of Economic Research which will be an autonomous body, mainly non-official in its composition and management but having at its disposal funds provided by Government which will be utilised for carrying out systematic, scientific and impartial research surveys into various problems connected with the task of planning and economic development in India.

Finally, I would like to repeat once again my sense of pleasure in having been given this opportunity to be in your midst. The subjects you have selected for discussion are all of the greatest topical interest and well worth discussion at the hands of your Association. It now only remains for me, gentlemen, to inaugurate this Conference and wish it a succesful and fruitful session.

WAR INJURIES COMPENSATION INSURANCE ACT AMENDED

Under the War Injuries (Compensation Insurance) Amendment Ordinance, promulgated on December 18, the scheme for giving compensation to workers sustaining war injuries has been extended to all Residency and Administered areas and to French establishments in India, said a Press Note issued by the Labour Department, Government of India, on December 18.

It added: It has been found that the amount of premium received from small employers is less than even the cost of issuing a policy. The amending Ordinance, therefore, exempts all employers whose wage bill is less than Rs. 1,500 per quarter from liabilities of the War Injuries (Compensation Insurance) Act. The workers of such employers will, however, receive compensation from the General Insurance Fund. The amending Ordinance is also intended to simplify the caluculation of final premium payable by an employer and to avoid small individual adjustments against advance premiums already received.

The minimum for advance premiums has now been fixed at Rs. 8. This is to ensure that every policy pays at least the cost of its issue and of general administration

REGISTRATION OF POST-WAR REQUIREMENTS OF CAPITAL GOODS

AT the meeting of the Industries Policy Committee held at Bombay on October 26, 1944, the Hon'ble Member for Planning and Development outlined the arrangements contemplated by the Government of India for registration of post-war requirements of capital goods. Government have now finalised these arrangements and have addressed Chambers of Commerce and Industrial Associations on the subject.

It is understood that industrialists in other countries are already, in expectation of an early ending of the war, placing orders for their post-war requirements of capital goods for rehabilitation and expansion of industry. It is, therefore, desirable that Indian industrialists should lose no time in booking their orders, and the Government of India are anxious to render all possible assistance in enabling Indian industry to obtain its requirements.

With this end in view, it has been decided that firms who have placed or intend to place orders for post-war requirements of capital goods from overseas should be called upon to register their orders with Government. The definition of the term "capital goods" for the purposes of this scheme, has been based on the Import Trade Control Schedule, and has been explained in detail in the letter to Chambers of Commerce and Industrial Associations. Orders for goods which are expected to be shipped before July 1, 1945, need not be registered; for such goods import licences should be applied for in the ordinary way. All orders for capital goods which are likely to be shipped after that date should however be registered, except that it is not necessary to register orders for machine tools of an estimated f.o.b. value of less than Rs. 10,000, and for other capital goods of an estimated value of less than Rs. 25,000.

Chief Controller of Imports

The Chief Controller of Imports has been appointed as the authority to whom applications for registration should be addressed. He will work under the direction of a Committee composed of representatives of the Commerce, Supply, Industries and Civil Supplies, and Planning and Development Departments; representatives of other Departments of Government will be co-opted to the Committee as and when necessary. Forms of application for registration may be obtained either from the Office of the Chief Controller of Imports or from the office of any Import Trade Controller. Where orders have already been placed, the applications should be made as soon as possible; otherwise an application should be submitted when the applicant has estimated his requirements and is intending to place a firm order. Applicants will be informed as soon as possible whether Government agree to registration or have any objections or questions to raise.

Priority Grading

If no objection or question is raised within three months of the date of receipt of the application in the office of the Chief Controller of Imports, applicants will be entitled to assume that registration has been accepted. The Chief Controller of Imports will in any case accept registration of orders which were placed on and accepted by the suppliers before December 23, 1944. When registration is accepted, a certificate will be issued and the importer will be expected to place his order, if he has not already done so. He will then be required to inform the Chief Controller of Imports within six months of the acceptance of registration whether his order has been accepted by the supplier. If no such information is received or if the importer has not applied for an extension of the period, he will be informed that it is proposed to cancel the registration. Orders considered deserving of priority will, wherever it is possible to do so by arrangement with the manufacturing country, be given a priority grading.

Import Licences

It is probable that some form of important control will continue for some time after the war and that import licences will therefore be necessary. Import licences for capital goods falling within the scope of the registration scheme which are not expected to be shipped before July 1, 1945, will be granted only when orders have been registered with the Chief Controller of Imports and have been accepted by the suppliers, the fact of such acceptance having been duly reported to the Chief Controller of Imports. When import licences have been granted, Government will afford assistance in procurement and in shipment of the goods, where necessary and possible.

It is expected that foreign exchange other than currencies of the sterling area countries will continue to be scarce for some time and it will be necessary to ensure that the available

foreign exchange resources are utilised to the best advantage of the country. U.S. dollars, Canadian dollars and Swiss francs are likely to be in particularly short supply. Applicants who desire to purchase capital goods from outside the sterling area should therefore explain in their applications the necessity and urgency of doing so in order to enable Government to assign the necessary priority for exchange.

Indian Trade Commissioner's Suggestion

"If India is to wait for new machinery, the chances of getting something really worthwhile in the near future seem to me very remote indeed," says a report received from the Government of India's Trade Commissioner in New York.

The Trade Commissioner suggests that India's plan or programme of industrial rehabilitation and new development be translated immediately in terms of a list of types of machinery required.

Wages and cost of production in the U.S. are high and it should not be assumed that machinery and equipment of good quality cannot be obtained cheaper elsewhere, provided it is available elsewhere by the time India requires delivery. Large quantities of used surplus equipment are likely to come into the market in the post-war period. "It will be second-hand in the sense it has been used but it will be in first-class trim and will represent the latest in scientific development."

Industrialists and manufacturers in the U.S.A., it appears, find business so brisk that they are most reluctant to take time out for furnishing technical details on the off chance of orders materialising after a delay of three or six months. They are not interested in that kind of business when capital goods can be sold in the country at attractive prices, so to say, over the counter.

The Trade Commissioner points out that there is a big home demand in prospect for U.S. industrialists and manufacturers after the war, while there is also good solid business obtainable with Russia, China, and the South and Central American Republics. "Therefore, for such of our requirements of capital goods as we intend to obtain from this country, we must come here for spot purchases." Major categories of equipment already ordered by other countries include: power and communications equipment, transportation, building construction, manufacturing, agriculture, mining and petroleum, lumbering, wood-work and paper, and scientific apparatus.

CENTRAL CONTROL OVER MINERAL DEVELOPMENT

Questions relating to the role of the Central Government in mineral development and the extent to which the Centre should exercise control over this development were discussed on December 12, last, in New Delhi at the meeting of the Advisory Committee of the Utilization Branch of the Geological Survey of India. The Hon'ble Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Labour Member, Government of India, presided.

The discussion was based on the statement of policy recorded in the Second Report on Reconstruction which says: "As a planned and uniform policy will be more and more necessary in future, it is proposed to make, in so far as the constitution allows, a beginning in this direction by bringing under Central control all minerals of strategic or key industry importance. The steps necessary to give effect to this policy are under consideration."

The general trend of discussion at the meeting was in favour of Central control through a comprehensive Act with a number of Acts concerning specific minerals.

Discussing the Report of the Metals Committee of the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research on "possibilities of treatment of raw ores in India before export" the Committee agreed that information should be collected regarding the production and export of essential minerals. The Director of the Geological Survey of India was requested to examine and report on the possibilities of some other important minerals in India and also to take steps to co-ordinate and encourage research on mineral matters in consultation with non-official geologists and Universities.

RAW JUTE PRICES TO BE SUPPORTED

The Government of India have decided to set up at once in Calcutta a Jute Purchasing Panel which will be charged with the duty of buying on behalf of the Central Government raw jute to an extent which will support the jute market at a figure not below the guaranteed minimum prices, notified in the Department of Commerce Notification dated April 5, 1944, said a Press Communique issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on December 5.

"DISTRIBUTION OF INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY IN INDIA IS EXTREMELY UNEVEN"

"THE problem of industrial location has to be viewed from several angles. From the limited standpoint of each industry the dominant consideration must always be to secure the maximum efficiency of production and distribution. Indeed, no industry can prosper unless it is located at a place chosen from this point of view. Experience shows, however, that if industrial location is governed by this consideration alone, it may easily give rise to a variety of social and economic evils, such as excessive congestion in particular localities, concentration in vulnerable areas and wide disparities in the living standards of different sections of the population.

"Modern industrial communities which have suffered from these evils have begun to feel the need for some kind of regional planning of industry, which would aim not merely at maximum efficiency of production and distribution but also at an optimum distribution of industrial activity based on broader economic, social and strategical considerations."

Thus observes a Memorandum of the office of the Economic Adviser to the Government of India on "The Location of Industry in India". This Memorandum is intended only to serve as a basis of discussion by the concerned Policy Committees on Post-War Planning and is not to be regarded as expressing the views of the Government of India or of any of its Departments.

Distribution of Industrial Activity

On the whole, the Memorandum observes, the distribution of industrial activity in India is extremely uneven. In 1939, as much as 52 per cent of the total number of factory workers in India were found in only two provinces, namely, Bengal and Bombay. The economy of this country, it says, "is already heavily unbalanced as a result of its excessive dependence on agriculture and the disadvantages arising from this fact are further aggravated by this uneven distribution of industry. If India were highly industrialised, this excessive concentration of industry would not have perhaps been such a serious matter, but when the total number of factory workers is less than 1 per cent of the total population, the concentration of 52 per cent of this small number in two provinces reduces the share of other provinces to an even more insignificant figure as compared with their population. The wide disparities in the standards of living in different parts of India are at least partly due to the differences in the degree of industrial development." In recent years, however, the Memorandum states, as a result of various factors there has been a gradual dispersal of industries to new centres. The tendency towards dispersal is most marked in the case of the cotton textile mill industry.

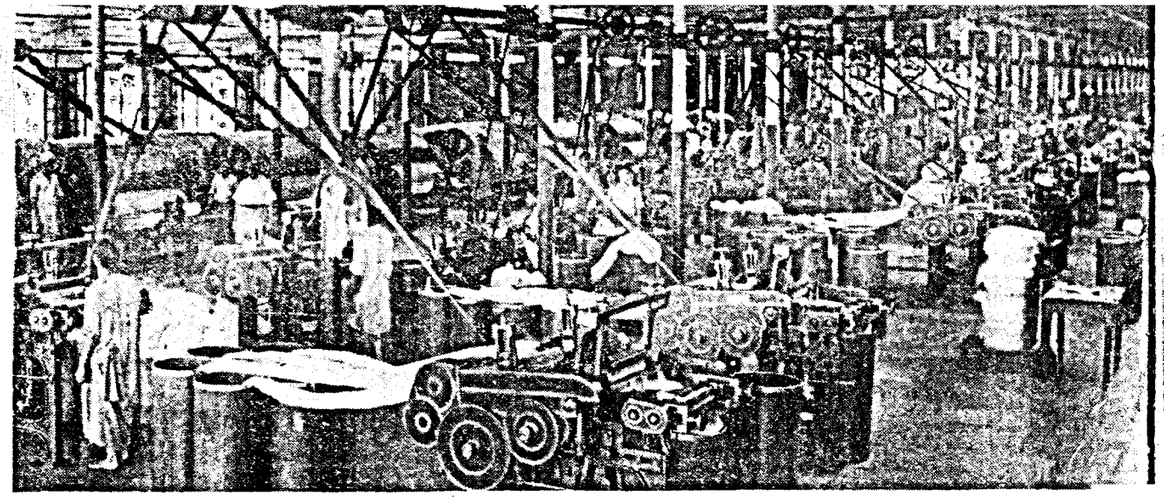
In Indian States

According to the Memorandum, there has been a pronounced tendency for new enterprises to be attracted to Indian States owing partly to various inducements offered by the States' Governments and partly to the relatively low level of rents and wages there. The possibility of escaping the incidence of high taxation in British India is an additional inducement. If the increase in factory employment can be taken as an index of industrial expansion, nearly 33 per cent of the total expansion between 1921 and 1939 took place in the States, particularly Hyderabad, Mysore, Baroda, Kashmir and Central India States. The rate of expansion in the States was also higher than in British India.

In 1921 as well as in 1939, observes the Memorandum, not only was industry unevenly distributed absolutely but also in relation to the distribution of population. The most conspicuous examples were Bengal and Bombay which, with 15 and 5 per cent of the population respectively contained 29 and 23 per cent of the total number of industrial workers in the latter year. All other provinces except the smaller areas of Baluchistan, Ajmer-Merwara, Delhi and Coorg possessed smaller shares of the industrial population than would be justified on the basis of their shares in the total population. But the dispersal trend already referred to, the Memorandum explains, was in operation in Bengal and Bombay during the years herein mentioned. During these years, while the share of Bengal in the total number of industrial workers declined from 35 to 29 per cent and that of Bombay (including Sind) from 25 to 24 per cent, Madras increased its share from 8 to 10 per cent, U.P. from 6 to 8 per cent and Punjab from 3 to 4 per cent.

What should be the policy of the State in regard to industrial location?

The Memorandum enunciates a two-fold objective of national policy; a planned development of industrial towns and a more even



Spinning wool in a big Dhariwal Mill noted for its wool products.

distribution of industry as between regions in order to secure a balanced development of the country as a whole. During the last two decades, the population of most of the industrial towns in India has increased by leaps and bounds and the Memorandum states that if India's industrialisation is to be accompanied by a further concentration in such towns, the benefits resulting from industrialisation will be largely nullified by the tremendous social cost which the nation will incur in the form of slums, disease, congestion, accidents and a general deterioration of mental and physical health. Direct State control may also be necessary to prevent an excessive concentration of industry and population in vulnerable areas.

The Second Objective

With regard to the second objective, the Memorandum makes it clear that in a country like India it will be extremely dangerous for the State to arrogate to itself the right to determine the location of individual undertakings. The successful conduct of industry from the business point of view is of primary importance if India is to achieve the desired industrial progress. At the same time, considerable stress has been laid on the need for taking direct measures for encouraging the industrial progress of backward areas, e.g., the development of internal communications and power resources, the creation of suitable financial institutions for mobilising the capital resources in such areas and special assistance to the particular industries suited to such areas. The Memorandum gives a detailed account of the work done by the Special Areas Commissioners in Great Britain and advocates similar measures for encouraging the dispersal of industry into the countryside.

The Memorandum pleads for a proper co-ordination between house-building and road-building on the one hand and industrial development on the other. "In the absence of proper planning in this respect," it states, "we may discover when it is too late (as other countries, e.g. Great Britain have done) that a large part of our investments in housing and roads could have been turned to a much better account if it had been duly co-ordinated with our programme of industrial development." While it deprecates the further growth of some of the existing towns, it makes out a plea for increased urbanisation of the population through a planned dispersal of industrial activity, on the ground that it will be impracticable to provide many of the modern services and amenities on an efficient scale except in towns of an optimum size. "As an instrument of urbanisation, therefore, dispersal of industry can be the starting point of a great deal of social and material improvement in the country."

The Memorandum finally examines the locational trends in certain selected industries like cotton textiles, jute, silk, woollen, iron and steel, general engineering, sugar, match, paper, leather, chemical, glass, soap, cement and electrical power industries.

INCREASE IN LIFE INSURANCE BUSINESS IN 1943

Value of New Policies Exceeds Rs. 72 Crores

THE total number of insurers registered under the Insurance Act, 1938 (excluding those whose certificates of registration have been cancelled) up to September 30, 1944, was 323, of which 228 insurers were constituted in India. Most of the Indian insurers carry on life insurance business only. They are 156 in number, and of the remaining 72 insurers, 35 carry on life insurance along with other insurance business and 37 carry on insurance business other than life.

Of the 228 Indian insurers, 88 have their head offices in the Bombay Presidency, 54 in Bengal, 36 in the Madras Presidency, 17 in the Punjab, 14 in Delhi, 8 in the United Provinces, 4 in the Central Provinces, 3 in Sind, 2 in Bihar, and 1 each in Assam and Ajmer-Merwara.

New Life Insurance

The total new life insurance business effected during 1943 amounted to 2,96,000 policies insuring a sum of Rs. 72,12,00,000 and yielding an annual premium income of Rs. 3,97,00,000 as compared with 1,99,000 policies insuring a sum of Rs. 42,83,00,000 and yielding an annual premium income of Rs. 2,22,00,000 in 1942 according to the Indian Insurance Year Book for 1944. Of this, new business done by Indian insurers amounted to 2,83,000 policies insuring a sum of Rs. 62,94,00,000 and having a premium income of Rs. 3,48,00,000 as compared with 1,69,000 policies insuring a sum of Rs. 36,47,00,000 and having a premium income of Rs. 1,91,00,000 in the previous year.

The total life insurance business effected in India and remaining in force at the end of 1943 amounted to 18,21,000 policies insuring a total sum of Rs. 3,68,73,00,000 and having a premium income of Rs. 19,07,00,000 as compared with 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 at the end of 1942. Of this, the share of Indian insurers was represented by 16,28,000 policies insuring a sum of Rs. 2,94,08,00,000 and having a premium income of Rs. 14,84,00,000 as compared with 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 in the previous year.

The total new sums insured by Indian life offices in 1943 amounted to Rs. 65,24,00,000 as compared with Rs. 37,89,00,000 in the previous year.

The total business remaining in force at the end of the year was Rs. 3,10,95,00,000 as compared with Rs. 2,66,60,00,000 at the end of the previous year.

The life insurance funds increased by Rs. 2,29,00,000 and amounted to Rs 84,23,00,000 at the end of the year. The rate of interest earned on the life funds during the year after deductions of income-tax at source was 3.88 per cent, as compared with 3.94 per cent. in the previous year. The total expenses of management expressed as a percentage of the premium income during the year worked out to 27.9 per cent., as compared with 26.7 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 1943 amounted to Rs. 2,30,00,000 yielding an annual premium income of Rs. 14,00,000, as compared with Rs. 1,42,00,000 yielding an annual premium income of Rs. 8,00,000 in the preceding year. The total sums insured remaining in force at the end of 1943 amounted to Rs. 16,87,00,000 having a premium income of Rs. 64,00,000, as compared with Rs. 15,92,00,000 having a premium income of Rs. 59,00,000 in the previous year.

Non-Life Business

The net Indian premium income of all insurers under insurance business other than life insurance during 1943 was Rs. 7,63,00,000 as compared with Rs. 7,38,00,000 in 1942. Of this the Indian insurers' share was Rs. 2,89,00,000, as compared with Rs. 2,06,00,000 in the previous year. The Indian insurers received Rs. 1,66,00,000 (Rs. 1,09,00,000) from Fire Rs. 73,00,000 (Rs. 61,00,000) from Marine, and Rs. 50,00,000 (Rs. 36,00,000) from miscellaneous insurance business. The non-Indian insurers received Rs. 1,81,00,000 (Rs. 1,38,00,000) from Fire, Rs. 2,07,00,000 (Rs. 3,26,00,000) from Marine and Rs. 86,00,000 from miscellaneous insurance business.

Some Indian insurers transact non-life insurance business outside India also. These insurers had a net premium income of Rs. 1,10,00,000 in 1943 (as compared with Rs. 1,14,00,000 in 1942) from business outside India.

Provident Societies

On September 30, 1944, there were in existence 141 provident societies which had made at least the initial deposit under the Act. The total new business effected by these societies during 1943 was 14,100 policies insuring a sum of Rs. 57,29,000, as compared with 11,600 policies insuring a sum of Rs. 37,34,000 in 1942. The total

business remaining in force at the end of 1943 amounted to 63,500 policies insuring a total sum of Rs. 1,78,03,000, as compared with 58,700 policies insuring a total sum of Rs. 1,59,75,000 at the end of the previous year.

Life insurance funds of these societies increased by Rs. 2,23,000 during the year under review to Rs. 55,47,000 at the end of 1943. The net rate of interest realised by the societies was 3.4 per cent. About 34 per cent of the societies, which submitted their accounts for the year 1943, had their renewal expense ratios in excess of 50 per cent. The life funds of 19 societies were negative.

The Year Book contains interesting observations on many insurance problems of topical importance, such as rate of interest, lapse experience, lessons to be learnt from the Bombay Docks Explosion in April 1944, dividend policy, issuing of insurance shares at a premium and the relative merits of short and long term endowment policies. A number of thought provoking suggestions, intended for the concerted action of the interests concerned, have been made on each of these problems.

Finally, the Book devotes a considerable portion to problems which are likely to face the Insurance Industry in post-war India.

On the subject of the rate of interest, the Report points out that, on the basis of the ruling rate at present and what could be expected to prevail during the years to come, even a rate of 3½ per cent. is, if anything, on the highside. Premium rates should, in its opinion, be recalculated at a rate of interest of 3 per cent. or even less.

The Report observes that there has been a comparatively better lapse experience for 1943; but it warns against any feeling of complacency on that account.

Referring to the Bombay Docks disaster, it enumerates a few of the lessons taught by the unfortunate event. The first is, in its opinion, that persons and property of any value should be insured.

The report urges the adoption of a policy of extreme caution in the declaration of dividends on capital and advises insurers, particularly those recently established, "to show a stern face towards any pressure put on them to strain their resources by dividend declaration before they have obtained a position of considerable strength by building up strong reserves by a continuous transfer of profits."

It deplores the practice, adopted by some newly floated insurers, of issuing shares at a premium.

Discussing at great length the advantages of a long-term endowment insurance or a whole life policy as against a short-term endowment policy, the Report is of the opinion that everyone should "insure under a class of policy which would give for the premium, he could afford, the maximum insurance cover representing the loss to his dependants on his death, which is estimated at not less than three years' earnings."

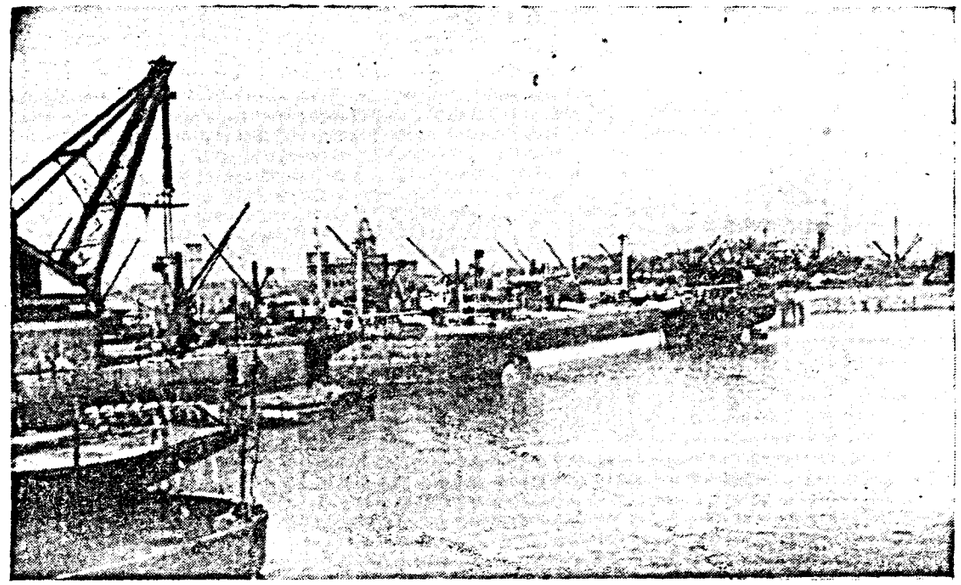
On the future of insurance, the Report says: "In a complex world of today and more so of tomorrow, commerce and industry cannot thrive but for the security that insurance gives..... It therefore behoves persons and institutions in charge thereof to evolve a concrete plan for so developing this service as would enable it to acquire strength, so that it may play the better the role it would be called upon to perform in the post-war India."

SIR ARCHIBALD ROWLANDS



Finance Member Designate

His Majesty the King has been pleased to approve the appointment of Sir Archibald Rowlands, K.C.B., M.B.E., at present Adviser to the Viceroy on War Administration, to be a Member of the Governor-General's Executive Council in succession to the Hon'ble Sir Jeremy Raisman, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., whose tenure of office expires in April 1945, said a Communique issued from the Viceroy's House on December 21, 1944.



Work at the Bombay docks which were wrecked in April last year by the explosions has been resumed. Picture shows bustle of shipping traffic in the port.

INQUIRY COMMISSION'S SECOND REPORT ON BOMBAY DOCKS EXPLOSIONS

A DRAMATIC story of the events that followed the first explosion in the Bombay docks on April 14, 1944, highlighted by the heroic effort of fire-fighters, troops and other personnel to save a desperate situation, is unfolded in the second report of the Commission of Inquiry.

This report deals with the adequacy of the action taken after the disaster, that is, up to about 10.30 a.m. on April 15, when the two principal objectives were considered to have been attained. These were (1) the prevention of the spread of the fires to Alexandra Dock involving the explosives and ammunition in that dock, and (2) the prevention of the spread of the fires across Mahomedali Road involving the whole city of Bombay. Other important objectives there were, but all of them revolved round these two.

The second explosion—the first one has been dealt with in the first report (published in the October 1 issue of *Indian Information*)—the product of No. 4 hold of S.S. *Fort Stikine*, cast upwards to a height of not less than 3,000 feet many tons of explosives and incendiary material. Burning explosives and incendiary material fell over a wide area, which extended beyond a radius of 900 yards from the place of explosion. In a westerly direction 900 yards was substantially exceeded; the explosion carried fires beyond the G.I.P. Railway into the residential area.

One of the most damaging effects of the second explosion was the fracture of the 24-inch water main in Frere Road by a piece of metal at least 22 feet long, and the complete blocking of Frere Road by fires, debris and dislodged tramway wires.

Fires in houses and godowns did not in many cases manifest themselves at once, since pieces of red hot metal or burning incendiaries, which pierced buildings, took some time before they set the houses on fire so as to be externally visible; as a result fresh fires appeared to break out suddenly at various times after the second explosion, contributing much towards causing a spate of alarms and scares of sabotage.

The statement of Lieut.-Col. P. S. Whitehead (who was officiating as Area Commander) is typical of the evidence of many officers of all services who were in Bombay at 4.6 p.m. on April 14 (when the first explosion occurred) and who had no previous knowledge of any fire in the docks. Col. Whitehead said he was in his office at Colaba when he heard an explosion which shook the building. He saw a column of smoke in the direction of the town. Accompanied by Major Russell, he went in a car towards the column of smoke and, on arrival at the junction of Frere Road and Carnac Road, found the Victoria Dock area enveloped in smoke with fires also burning west of Frere Road, tram wires down, much debris about, and blackened and injured men coming out of Victoria Dock.

He went some distance into the dock area to see what the trouble was, but almost at once appreciated that military help would be required, so went to a phone in the B.B. and C.I. goods yard entrance and ordered out two companies of the East Yorks Bn. to report to him at the entrance to Victoria Dock. He then returned towards Victoria Dock, where he met Col. Day, Col. Bartholomew (injured) and several police officers from whom he endeavoured to ascertain the situation but could get little information

American Aid

The immediate reaction of the U.S. Armed Forces was to render assistance, and this was typical of their actions throughout the disaster, and can be summarised in the words of Major R. B. Farrow:

"We decided that since it was a British port we should not do anything on our own initiative, but we should place ourselves in British charge. So our men and trucks were put under their command.... At first we proceeded ourselves as individuals down to the area to help, that is between the first and second explosions, as immediately after the explosion there was no organisation."

All the hospitals, public and private, military and civil, Indian, American and European, and all the various auxiliary and voluntary services "got down to the job" at once, so that by the time the first casualties started coming in, the hospitals were ready for them. The very small proportion of deaths in hospital of patients brought in alive after the explosions is in great measure due to the fact that the ambulances and lorries pressed into this service picked them up so quickly and the hospitals were ready for them.

A feature that stands out is the "amazing co-operation" of all ranks of all services in the operations. To quote Lieut.-Col. B. S. James, Officer Commanding, Transit Camp: "You could see all—the American Negro, the British sailor and the British tommy, the Indian troops and American sergeants—working together as one group of men without any kind of distinction. On one occasion I happened to know an American Negro sergeant, Sergeant Patton. I said, 'Look here, I want here 12 men', and walked along, and by the time I returned there 12 men were there. I looked at them and they were all willing to serve under this Negro American sergeant. The party consisted of two or three American troops, two Negroes, two naval ratings, two Jaipur State guards and a couple of British tommies. They were all perfectly co-operating... It was magnificent. Nobody asked who was the senior. They went on with the job."

The Fire Tasks

Setting out the fire tasks as they in fact existed, the Commission declares that these tasks were not necessarily the same as those which were considered to exist by those senior officers of the various services who, after the explosions, were endeavouring from Police Headquarters to gain control over the efforts already being made in the fire area. Five principal dangers were present, and the task involved was to avert these dangers:

(1) The danger of the fire spreading into Alexandra Dock in which there were three ships with explosives and ammunition on board, one ship filled with petrol moored alongside the sea wall at No. 18 berth, and five sheds, namely, Nos. 6, 5, 3, 2 and 15, filled with category 'C' explosives.

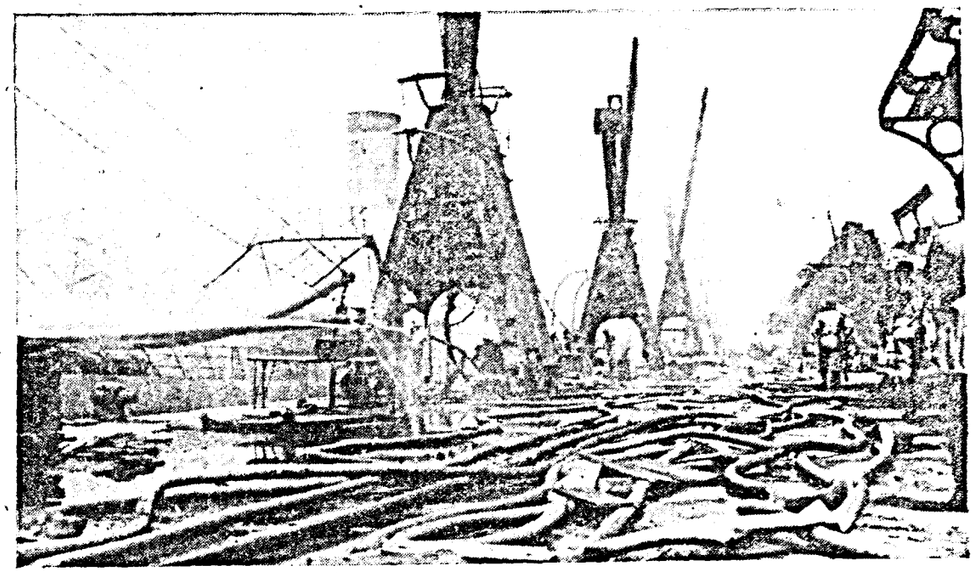
(2) The danger of the fire spreading westwards across Mahomedali Road and involving the city of Bombay.

(3) The danger of the fire spreading from Prince's Dock or from the godown area or from Wadi Bunder Goods Depot and involving the oil area.

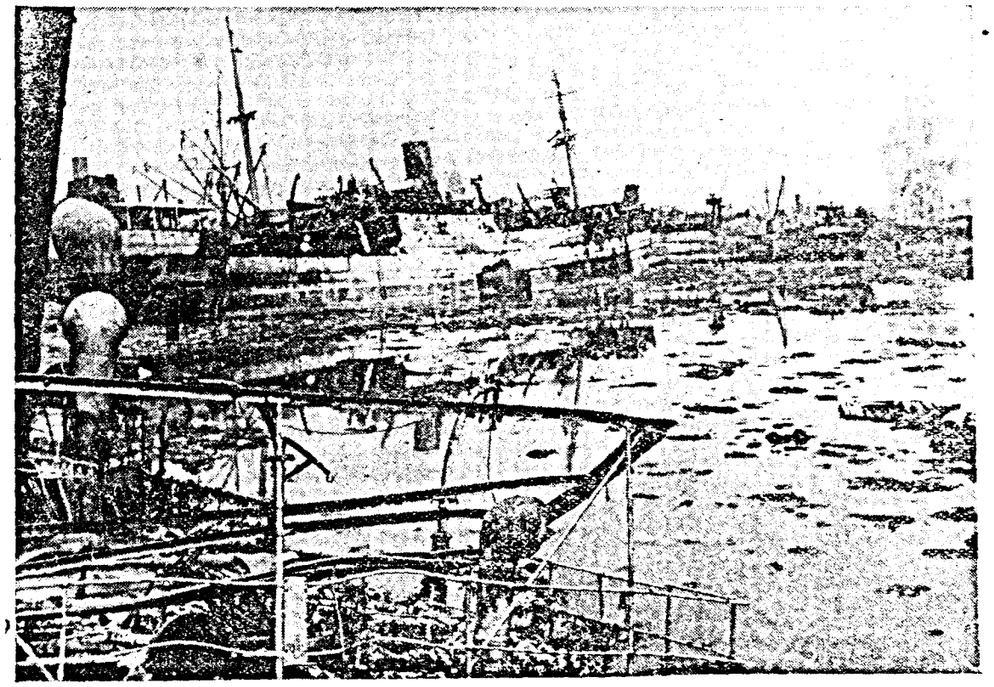
(4) The danger of the fire spreading to ships and sheds in Prince's Dock and Victoria Dock, involving loss of valuable ships and stores not either destroyed or set on fire by the explosions.

(5) The danger of the fire spreading in the godown area, involving the destruction of large quantities of foodstuffs and stores contained in this area.

Tasks Nos. 1 and 2 were those demanding priority, but says the Commission, it should not be understood that any of the tasks ought to have been regarded as isolated from each other. The whole task was a composite one in which the degrees of danger and priority varied from time to time. It demanded constant reconsideration of values and risks to meet a situation which was constantly changing as the spread of the fire in certain areas and the check of it in others altered the relative urgency of the task and the risk in each particular area.



Fires raged for days and millions of gallons of water were poured into blazing ships.



Ships were tossed like toys, and litter from dock buildings was strewn along the entire waterfront.

During the whole period covered by this report, no organised fire-fighting was undertaken in Prince's and Victoria Docks. Except for some commendable "free-lance" fire-fighting, fires continued to spread unchecked on board the ships and in the sheds, thereby destroying much property valuable in itself and, in many cases, of great importance to the war effort. Nearly every part of Prince's and Victoria Docks was accessible after 9-30 p.m. on April 14 and the Commission sees no reason why fire-fighting and salvage on an organised basis should not have taken place in these docks. Why, then, with manpower available, was so little done? The salient reason, according to the Commission, was that incorrect deductions were drawn from early appreciations of the situation. The Commission accepts as entirely accurate the appreciation of naval and military officers who either entered or attempted to enter Victoria Dock between the first and second explosions and soon after the latter. At that time, in the language of Col. Day, Deputy Director of Ordnance Services: "Victoria Dock was beyond any practicable human aid, as it was impossible to get in immediate touch with anyone in Victoria Dock and work in Victoria Dock was highly dangerous."

This and similar appreciations made by responsible officers and the great apprehension of many in authority that the fires might spread to Alexandra Dock led to dispositions of strength and resources at the time, and the early assembling of men in the vicinity of Carnac Roundabout, which provided no aid for Prince's or Victoria Docks.

Possible Courses of Action

Discussing the possible courses of action that might have been taken to meet the situation, the Commission observes that except in hostile attack no one had designed any measures to deal with such an occasion as might arise from a serious explosion in the docks. "The legal powers of the Fortress Commander and the Commissioner of Police given under the Defence of India Rules were hedged about by restrictions which prevented them from becoming operative, and the wide powers of the A.R.P. Controller were only legally exercisable in the case of 'hostile attack'." That being the position, there were three possible courses of action: either (1) for martial law to be promulgated, or (2) by legislative enactment or notification under the Emergency Powers for the law as it existed to be changed; or (3) for the Civil Power to continue to function and call in the assistance of the fighting services.

The promulgation of martial law always brings in its train great civil apprehension and the Commission does not suggest that this was an occasion on which martial law ought to have been promulgated.

As for changing the law in order to set up either a Civil Controller or a Supreme Commander, as this had not been done in advance, it could not in fact have been done after the emergency had arisen and before the services and units had arrived in the fire area and independently undertaken individual tasks.

There remains the continuance of the Civil Power, defective in the sense that it was disjointed. It comprised such authorities as the Bombay Municipality, the Bombay Port Trust and the Civil Police; and although the Bombay Government could give orders to the police, it had no command over either of the other two authorities, unless in the case of the Municipality it exercised its powers under Section 518 of the Municipal Act or unless in the case of either of them the requisite power had been provided by the exercise of the legislative function. "In law the occasion was a municipal occasion, and by analogy with English law was so regarded by senior and experienced naval officers."

Pumps not Called Out

The Commission goes on to say that evidence brings out the point that until he was superseded either by direct orders from the Municipal Commissioner or by the intervention of the Government of Bombay, the Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade was operationally in command of all the fire-fighting. The evidence of the Chief Officer is that he never considered the calling out of the trailer pumps in private hands such as mills and factories, nor did anyone else, which, considering the number of civilian officials who must have known of these pumps, seems somewhat remarkable, observes the Commission.

The Commission asserts that there was in law nothing to prevent an Emergency Order being made by Government under the Defence of India Rules to call out the pumps compulsorily, although, on the evidence before it, the Commission has little hesitation in stating that if the call for volunteers had been made over the telephonic broadcast, a substantial number of pumps with their crews would have been sent out voluntarily.

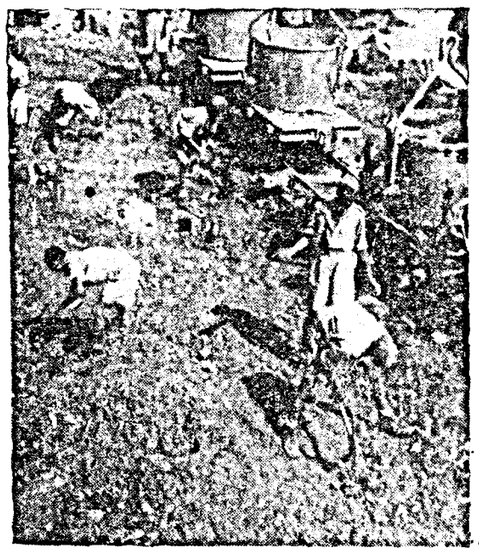
In conclusion the Commission says that all were taken by surprise and no one had made any preparation or had thought in advance of how to deal with such a difficult task on such a large scale. The action taken was an improvised remedy to meet an unprecedented and unexpected emergency. But its criticism should not be allowed, declares the Commission, to detract from its high appreciation of the magnificent individual and collective effort of many thousands of the citizens of Bombay and men and women of all services and in every walk of life in the face of a great and common danger.

Government's Resolution on Bombay Explosions Report

HERE is the resolution of the War Transport Department, Government of India, on the Inquiry Commission's second report on Bombay explosions:

In Resolution No. 8-P (29)/44 dated May 2, 1944, the Governor General in Council appointed a Commission of Inquiry with the Hon'ble the Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court as President, to inquire into and report on the causes of the fire and explosions in the Bombay Docks on April 14, 1944, and into the adequacy of the action taken before, during and after the disaster. The first report of the Commission covering events and action taken up to the first explosion was published on September 12, 1944, together with a Government Resolution on it. Their second report which deals with action taken after the explosions is now published.

The fire tasks as they, in fact, existed as a result of the explosions are set out in Chapter VI of the report. The Government of India agree that the two paramount tasks demanding priority were the prevention of the fire spreading into Alexandra Dock and westwards across Mahomed Ali Road, into the city. These were in fact the two tasks on which the local authorities concentrated all their resources and which they successfully accomplished. Any failure to accomplish these tasks would probably have, on the one hand, put the whole port out of commission and, on the other, paralysed Bombay as an industrial centre and an operational base for many months. That the prime necessities of the situation were grasped and dealt with by the authorities on the spot is a matter for profound gratification.



Rajputs clearing debris at the docks.



Sikhs of a Field Company of Indian Engineers install cranes by the dockside.

Prince's and Victoria Docks

In dealing with Prince's and Victoria Docks, the Commission have stated that "nearly every part of Prince's and Victoria Docks was accessible after 9-30 p.m. (21.30 hours) on April 14," and that "there was no reason why fire fighting and salvage on an organised basis should not have taken place in these Docks." In paragraph 109, they have expressed the opinion that the degree of damage done to ships could have been considerably modified and a great deal of valuable material saved from many of the sheds, "if energetic action had been taken to do organised fire fighting in the Prince's and Victoria Docks after 7 p.m. (19.00 hours) on April 14." If all the A.R.P. pumps had been mobilised on the evening of April 14, if more attention could have been paid to these docks, and if the necessary personnel and direction could have been provided, the degree of damage actually caused would undoubtedly have been mitigated; but in considering this aspect of the matter the following facts must be borne in mind. The conference called by His Excellency the Governor at 8 p.m. (20 hours) on April 14 clearly

came to the decision to concentrate upon the prevention of the fire spreading across Mahomed Ali Road. The Commission have themselves taken the view that the danger of the fire spreading further westward into the city was not over before 10-30 a.m. on April 15. In view of the paramount importance of saving the city, the concentration of the regular fire services on that object up to that time was, therefore clearly justified. That the conference did not further decide upon action in Prince's and Victoria Docks area appears to have been governed by the urgency of the main problem and the absence of information regarding the situation in these docks, where, as the Commission have pointed out in para 93 of their report, the visibility for some time after the explosions was almost nil.

Lack of Liaison

Though some Naval parties and some individual officers and volunteers went into these docks and did excellent and commendable work in fire fighting and saving lives, it does not appear that any of them were able to contact the fire brigade services, and the Commission attribute the major share of the responsibility for the abandonment of Prince's and Victoria Docks to this lack of liaison between the heads of the fire brigade services and the fighting services. As regards the former it must be remembered that the ranks of the senior officers of the fire brigade services had been seriously depleted and the difficulty of appreciating the position in the night, with the main street and many side streets blocked, and with visibility rendered poor by dense clouds of smoke, was very great. Decisions had to be taken quickly and on insufficient data and it was not possible, in the circumstances, to get a clear idea of all that was practicable in the way of fire fighting.

Admittedly trailer pumps in private possession which might have been of great assistance in fighting fires in Victoria and Prince's Docks were not all called out. At the time of the explosions, neither the Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade nor the Municipal Commissioner had power to requisition the equipment and personnel of any private or public body, but a call for aid would undoubtedly have met with a willing response, although their effective use might have been hampered by the casualties in the supervisory ranks of the Fire Brigade. The fact was that all the remaining fire fighting resources of the Fire Brigade were concentrated on the two major tasks, and in the stress of the circumstances existing during the night of April 14, the possibility of obtaining these private pumps was not envisaged and the desirability of such a course was consequently not considered. In all the circumstances set out above and in the absence of a supreme co-ordinating authority, this omission can be extenuated when set against the difficulties with which the fire fighting authorities were contending in dealing with the two major tasks.

The Commission in paragraph 114 of their report have stated that the root of the trouble lay in the absence of a "Supreme Authority who could issue operational orders which it was too late to set up after the emergency had occurred," and have expressed the view that if there had been set up in advance of the emergency a recognised centre of control with a commander vested with supreme powers and known in advance to all the fighting and civil services, the manpower and resources available could have been more effectively employed. The Government of India accept the view that there is need, in an emergency of the character referred to, of one authority with power to co-ordinate and control the activities of the different services, civil and military, in all major ports, so as to ensure that the available resources are used to the best advantage, and they have already taken action in that regard.

The Governor General in Council wishes fully to endorse the view expressed by the Commission in the concluding paragraph of their report that the criticism contained therein "must not be allowed to detract from our high appreciation of the magnificent individual and collective effort of many thousands of the citizens of Bombay and men and women of all Services and in every walk of life and in every class of the community in the face of a great and common danger," and to acknowledge with gratitude the services of all those who worked so unitedly and with such a fine sense of civic responsibility in a successful endeavour to save the port and the city.

In conclusion the Governor General in Council desires to express his thanks to the President and Members of the Commission for their lucid report and for their valuable suggestions.

MR. F. C. BOURNE TO ACT AS GOVERNOR OF C. P. & BERAR

A Communique issued from the Viceroy's House on December 28 stated:

His Excellency Sir Henry Twynam, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., Governor of the Central Provinces and Berar, will take four months' leave during the summer of 1945. His Majesty the King has been pleased to approve that during his absence Mr. Frederick Chalmers Bourne, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., should act as Governor of the Central Provinces and Berar.

His Exalted Highness the Nizam of Hyderabad and Berar has been consulted in regard to this appointment.

"BUSINESS AS USUAL" AT BOMBAY DOCKS

Quietly and without ceremony Bombay's Victoria Dock, which was drained for reconstruction after the explosion last April, has been refilled and is once again capable of receiving ships and handling cargoes.

The climax in a hard-fought campaign against time and weather to meet the clamant needs of a country at war has thus been reached, writes an Indian Army Observer.

At high tide in the grey dawn army engineers and a few officials watched the opening of high level sluices in one of the dock gates to admit the sea—more than six months after disastrous fires and explosions had put the dock completely out of commission.

Water cascaded in at about 30,000 tons an hour—an apparently impressive amount but in fact carefully calculated to avoid risks and the possible effect of sudden pressure on the patched-up ships lying stranded on the muddy bottom.

Scientific Planning of Work

The success of the operations during the week which followed the first flow of water into the dock was due to the scientific planning and staff work of the army engineers detailed to put the dock back into commission in the shortest possible time. They had worked out the closest calculations of how and when each ship would float clear of the mud.

The whole operation had to be timed to a nicety, depending on the levels of spring and neap tides, if it was to be a success.

For days before water was admitted mud on the dock bottom was softened by pressure pumps forcing air through the mud underneath the stranded hulks. The result of all this planning and preparation was that each ship came up easily and floated free of mud at the expected time.

By good fortune a high wind on the first day resulted in a higher and longer tide than usual and consequently more water than was anticipated. The first ship, of about 500 tons, a pumping barge and a lighter came up on this first tide and by the next day all seven battered ships were afloat.

By the end of a week all ships were riding easily, the floating caissons at the dock entrances had been removed and each hulk had been taken out by tugs to an anchorage nearly five miles off-shore.

The delicate operation was over. Everyone breathed freely. The dock was cleared of shipping and was once again ready to handle the freight of the sea. It was as if someone had taken down the old notice, "Closed for alterations," and hung up the sign "Business as usual."

NOTABLE IMPROVEMENTS

Some of the more notable improvements which have been made at Bombay docks as a result of the reconstruction work which became necessary after the explosions and fire last April can now be disclosed.

Reconstruction led to the redesigning of much of the area adjacent to Victoria Dock. There is now a network of six miles of railtrack, 20 acres of newly-paved area and over a million sq. feet of shedding, both new and reconstructed, the former being built from locally available materials.

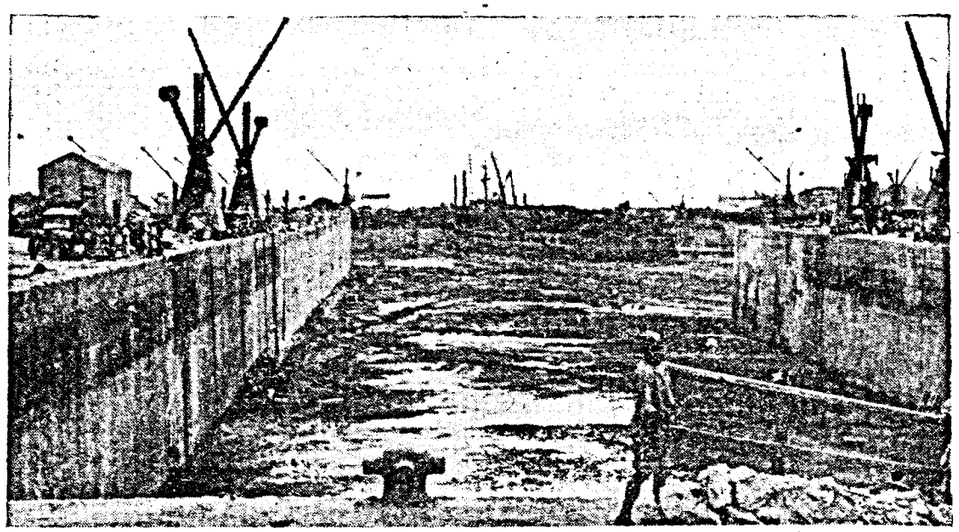
Three Swing Bridges

There will be three swing bridges—one to be completely rebuilt—new sea water fire mains all around both docks, oil pipe lines, four new subterranean fire pumping units, a restored hydraulic pumping station and 87 cranes, several of which have been partly rebuilt from metal on the site.

The whole of the vast organisation necessary has been maintained by five big workshops, making small tools and parts required to keep the mechanical plant going, and two very large stores organisations which handled immense quantities of material. As much as 10,000 tons of cement and 40,000 tons of stone and sand were used and 5,000 cubic feet of oxy-acetylene was consumed in one month.

HOW SERVICES HELPED IN RECONSTRUCTION WORK

Working under conditions as perilous as those of any battlefront, at breakneck speed and with hastily improvised equipment, men of the armed forces gave a remarkable display of co-operation and efficiency when they set to repairing the havoc wrought by the Bombay Docks disaster.

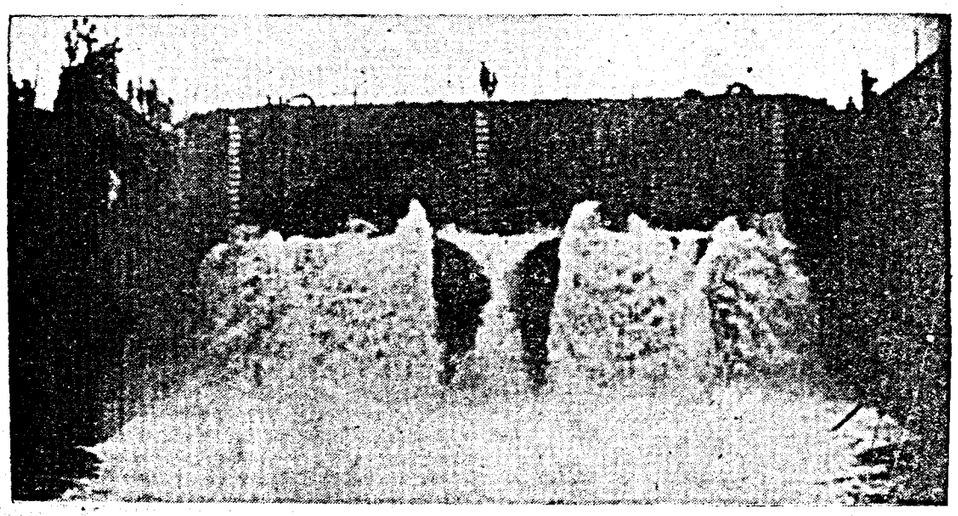


The dock emptied and cleared of wreckage. In the background is a damaged ship

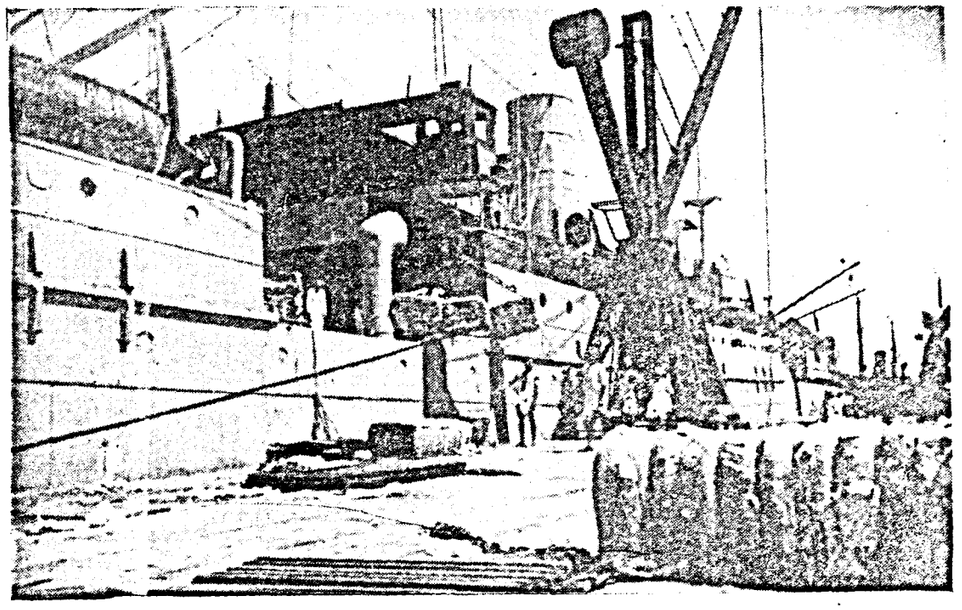
The services worked together in a great scheme of co-operation and mutual aid. The Royal Engineers supplied the demolition equipment, the R.I.A.S.C. the vehicles and the R.E.M.F. and I.E.M.E. the welders, cutters and drivers; the labour came from the Salvage Corps, the U.S. Army and the reinforcement camps.

A general survey of the damage was made by the Commander, Royal Engineers, and a plan of operations drawn up. Each company was allotted its sphere. The various tasks had their priorities.

Thirty R.E.M.E. and I.E.M.E. welding and cutting squads, mobile and self-contained,



Repairs to the dock were quickly completed and it was refilled through sluices.



Big ships are once again using the reconstructed berths.

took on the herculean job of cutting out the great mass of tangled metal strewn fantastically over a wide area. Although many of these men were trainees they were to take responsibilities normally borne only by expert demolition squads.

One difficulty was to provide sufficient gas to keep the welders going. The Indian Oxygen Company, of Bombay, came to the rescue and a central pool was established on which the welding squads drew with their own trucks twice daily.

Without Precedent

Many of the demolition jobs were without precedent and demanded the highest ingenuity. In one place half a ship was lying on the wharf, its forecastle extending over the dock, while the overhanging portion was supported by a floating jib men working in the fierce heat inside —often in gasmasks since the stench from the smouldering warehouses was overpowering— slowly cut through the ship's plates in such a way that the breakaway of the forecastle from the rest of the vessel would be gradual.

It was three weeks before the final cut was made and the overhanging forecastle floated out, its bulkhead closed, into the docks. That done, the rest of the ship had to be cut away from the railway trucks, tracks and loco with which it was hopelessly entangled.

The stern half of a ship perched atop a godown on Frere Road provided another tough job. The part that jutted out over the road had to be cut away so that traffic could pass. Working inside and below only partially supported above, army welders faced death by crushing at any moment. But the job was done.

Looking back now, as the Bombay dock area throbs with life again, the army has every reason to be proud of the way it acquitted itself.

WAR RISKS (GOODS) INSURANCE

The Central Government has decided that the rate of premium payable under any policy issued under the War Risks (Goods) Insurance Scheme, in respect of goods liable to compulsory insurance, shall be reduced from one anna and three pies per month or part of a month for each complete sum of one hundred rupees in the present quarter to one anna for the quarter ending March 1945, said a Press Note issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on December 15.

DEVELOPMENT OF INDIAN MERCANTILE MARINE

Sir M. Azizul Haque's Speech at Bombay

AN indication of the lines on which India's Mercantile Marine might develop in the post-war period was given by the Hon'ble Sir M. Azizul Haque, Commerce Member of the Government of India, in his speech at the first meeting of the Policy Committee on Shipping which met in Bombay on December 7.

Sir Azizul Haque said the meeting had been convened so that on the basis of exploratory discussions with the members of the Committee a definite post-war shipping policy might be enunciated. The memorandum, circulated to the members, gave the lines on which the Department was considering the question and they would work out details in the light of the present discussions. He was anxious that in a matter like shipping they should formulate the policy as early as possible. In formulating that policy, he said, they had to consider in detail the financial, administrative and other technical aspects. He was anxious to receive from the Committee as much lead and light as possible, because the members were not only interested in the subject but were actively connected with the different phases of the shipping question. The memorandum, he added, only indicated the lines on which further action might be helpful.

The Memorandum

The memorandum said: "For a country of its size, the length of its coastline and its strategic position athwart one of the world's main sea routes, India possesses a distressingly small number of deep-sea ships which at the outbreak of war stood at no more than 30 with a total of less than 150,000 tons gross. India's weakness in this respect has long been recognised, and the Government of India are pledged to a policy of assisting in the development of an Indian mercantile marine. So far, however, the action taken to implement this undertaking has been limited to the establishment of the *Dufferin* for the training of executive officers, the provision of special facilities for the training of marine engineers and to using Government's good offices to promote a settlement between the Indian and British companies operating on the coast with regard to the division of the available trade between them.



Sir M. Azizul Haque.

"The vulnerability of India's position has been revealed by the stress of wartime conditions, but by no circumstances more glaringly than by her inability to find adequate shipping from her own resources to provide for the transport of the food supplies required by her. The rectification of this state of affairs should be one of the immediate post-war objectives, not only for commercial reasons but also because the development of the Royal Indian Navy necessarily implies the concurrent development of the merchant navy.

"The acquisition of an adequate share in the world's carrying trade should be the aim of our post-war shipping policy, and to this end steps should be taken to secure for Indian shipping—

"(i) an increased share of the coastal trade, including trade with Ceylon and Burma. (The present share is estimated at between 20-30 per cent);

"(ii) a substantial share in the near trades, *e.g.*, Persian Gulf, East Africa, Malaya and the Dutch East Indies; and

"(iii) a fair share in the Eastern trades, especially those trades of which Japanese shipping will have been dispossessed;

"(iv) a fair share also in the trade between India, on the one hand, and the U.K., the Continent of Europe and North America on the other.

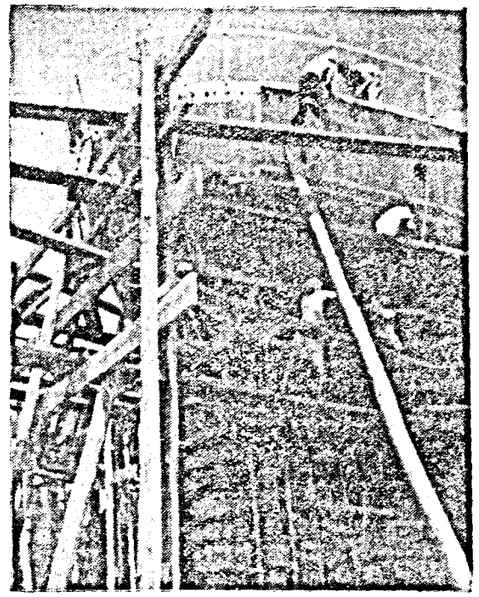
"(v) In order to give maximum relief to the railways, a number of steps have been taken to ensure the fullest utilization of country craft and to prevent wasteful competition between country craft and steamers. As India may have to look to all forms of transport to sustain her economy in the post-war era, the continued development of country craft will have to be considered. Co-ordination of steamer and country craft services is an essential part of this development subject to due regard being paid to the different needs served by steamers and country craft."

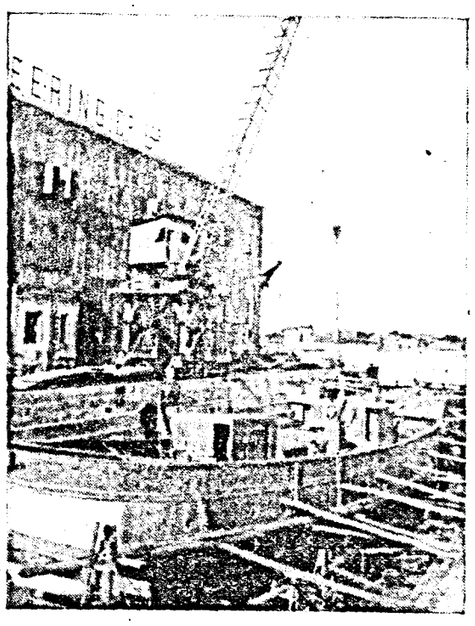
A Step in the Right Direction

The members of the Committee expressed general agreement with the memorandum presented by the Department and emphasised that Indian shipping in the post-war period must carry a good share of the maritime trade.

The new vision of national shipping, Mr. Walchand Hirachand said, was a courageous step in the right direction. He, however, emphasised that the national mercantile marine must be owned and run by Indians and they should see that nothing was agreed to at the peace conference which would militate against that ideal.

Sir C. P. Ramaswami Iyer (Travancore and Cochin) and Mr. S. M. Mukerjee (Baroda) offered co-operation and assistance on behalf of their States. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Iyer added that in building up national shipping they must be guided by a spirit of international or commonwealth co-operation, but at the same time they must insist that the coastline of India and the commercial and other possibilities and the past history of India's importance in shipping would be borne in mind in dealing with the proportion which might be allotted to India from the point of view of the mercantile marine of the future. He welcomed the importance given to country craft in the memorandum. Mr. Mukerjee suggested that inland river transport should also be encouraged. He





A vessel under construction in an Indian shipyard. (Below) A trawler nearing completion.

said that facilities should be given for shipbuilding and the future policy based on zonal agreements.

Mr. K. C. Neogy, M.L.A. (Central), Mr. N. Das (Bengal) and Mr. E. W. Perry (Bombay) took part in the discussions.

Sir Azizul Haque, in his concluding remarks, thanked the members of the committee for the helpful discussion and said they had met to collaborate. The whole question, he said, had to be considered from the point of view of the future Government of the country. The future of shipping would depend on whatever line they took today, India in the past had played an important part in shipping. They had built ships for centuries past and they must consider the future with that background.

Importance of Country Craft

Without minimising the importance of the country craft, the Commerce Member said, they should not forget the importance of modern steam ships. They had talent for building country craft; they must create talent for shipbuilding according to modern ideas. Otherwise, he said, they would be in difficulty and foreign assistance would be necessary. They must ensure that India had technical talent to build and to man the ships in the future.

Referring to international commitments, Sir Azizul Haque explained that India was not committed to any international agreement. They had only expressed readiness to co-operate and had made it clear that India was not going to be isolated. In the light of the discussions and the decisions that might be reached at subsequent meetings, he added, they would work out the details of India's post-war shipping policy.

PRICES OF SECOND-HAND CARS REVISED

The maximum prices at which second-hand motor cars may be sold have been revised by Government with effect from January 1, 1945, said a Press Note issued by the War Transport Department, Government of India, on December 22.

It added: These prices were fixed in April last under the Used Motor Vehicles Control Order 1944, and the revised schedule ("Gazette of India," December 23, 1944), provides for the depreciation which has since occurred.

PAPER CONTROL (ECONOMY) ORDER, 1944

Concession for Companies

THE Government of India in the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies have decided that companies incorporated in British India or elsewhere may, with effect from January 1, 1945, consume for the purpose of forms, registers and other items of stationery, paper to the extent of 50 per cent of the quantity of paper consumed by them in 1943.

The effect of this concession will be that companies of the kind stated above will be able to place during any quarter after December 31 1944, orders with their printers for printed stationery or with their stationers for such items of stationery as do not require to be printed on provided the consumption of paper is up to the extent of one-fourth of 50 per cent of their consumption in 1943. The concession allowed to the companies will, in the ordinary course, be passed on to the printers and the stationers concerned. Up to now companies were entitled to use in any quarter paper to the extent of only one-fourth of 30 per cent of their consumption in 1943.

Companies affected by the relaxation are urged to economise in the use of paper in every possible way, for instance, use of thinner substances of paper for account-books, letters, etc., use of the smallest possible size necessary for a particular purpose, and the use of old records for keeping of office-copies, etc.

MARKING OF PRICES

By an amendment issued to the Paper Price Control Order, 1944, the Government of India have made it obligatory that every manufacturer of paper shall, with effect from February 1, 1945, affix to all paper and board despatched by him one label or two labels giving particulars of size, weight, name of the variety of paper or board, and the price per ream and per quire in the case of paper and per gross and per sheet in the case of board, determined in accordance with the provisions of that Order.

The sale by any person of any paper or board which does not bear a label or labels containing the particulars specified above, is prohibited after April 30, 1945.

Every dealer is required after April 30, 1945, to show to any purchaser or prospective purchaser the label or labels affixed to the outer packing of the paper offered for sale.

PRICES OF DAILY NEWSPAPERS

THE Government of India in the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies have, by a notification published in a Gazette of India Extraordinary issued on December 20, fixed with effect from January 1, 1945, the following maximum prices per issue of daily newspapers:

Where the newspaper is published on all days of the week:

Total number of pages in the issues of one calendar week	Maximum price per copy
Not less than 56	2 annas
Less than 56 but not less than 42	1½ annas
Less than 42 but not less than 28	1 anna
Less than 28	¾ anna

Where the newspaper is not published on one or two days of the week:—

Total number of pages in the issues of one calendar week	Maximum price per copy
Not less than 48	2 annas
Less than 48 but not less than 36	1½ annas
Less than 36 but not less than 24	1 anna
Less than 24	¾ anna

REDUCTION IN ADVERTISING SPACE

More Reading Matter for Public

Under the Newspaper Control Order, 1944, up to 50 per cent of the total space in a daily newspaper can be used for advertising matter. To provide more reading matter for the public the Government of India in the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies have amended the Order so as to reduce by 5 per cent, with effect from January 1, 1945, the maximum space which can be used for advertising matter.

The maximum space for advertising matter in the case of newspapers and periodicals published at intervals of less than a month has been reduced similarly from 55 per cent to 50 per cent of the total space, with effect from the same date.

Increased Newsprint Ration

It has also been decided that, with effect from January 1, 1945, the present one-third temporary general increase allowed in the newsprint ration of all newspapers should be raised to a 50 per cent increase. Every stockholding newspaper will be entitled from that date to consume every month one-half extra ration over and above its basic quota. Similarly newspapers and periodicals holding valid purchase permits will be entitled from that date to purchase from dealers a quantity of newsprint 50 per cent in excess of the quantity specified in the permit.

Purchase permits of newsprint for the period subsequent to December, 1944, will cover a period of six months—January|June, 1945. All newspapers holding purchase permits for this period can acquire their six months' ration at a time. Instructions have been issued to newsprint dealers accordingly.

DISPLAY OF NEWS POSTERS

The Government of India have decided to allow the display of posters relating to any news, provided they are printed on newsprint, which has previously been printed on completely on both sides, said a Press Note issued by the Industries and Civil Supplies Department, Government of India, on January 4.

DID YOU KNOW THAT—

There exists an organisation, independent of the Raiway Board and of any Railway Administration, which is concerned exclusively with the safety of the public travelling over the 42,000 miles of India's railways. It is called the Government Railway Inspectorate; and its duties include the inspection, prior to opening to the public, of all new lines and new works on existing lines, the periodical inspection of all open lines, and the holding of inquiries into accidents.

*

The yellow glare of sunlight observed on hot-weather afternoons in the Gangetic plain is due to dust with which the whole lower atmosphere is surcharged under the influence of strong westerly winds.

*

Before the war meteorologists in India had only two weather charts each day on which to base their forecasts to aviators; today they have additional skeleton weather charts every three hours.

*

The heaviest rainfall actually measured in India in any one year was 905 inches at Cherrapunji in 1861.

PRICES FIXED FOR ENGLISH CROCKERY, PLAYING CARDS, CIGARETTES AND BOOKS

HERE are the latest notifications issued by the Government of India under the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance relating to the sale of plain white crockery made in England, playing cards, books, magazines, pamphlets, periodicals or other publications, except newspapers, etc.:

English Crockery

The Central Government have fixed the maximum wholesale and retail selling prices of plain white crockery made in England. The items of crockery include all the requirements of a sideboard such as soup plates, flat plates, flash dishes, sauce boats, egg cups, fruit saucers, cream jugs, sugar bowls, coffee pots, tea pots, and breakfast, coffee and tea cups and saucers.

A "full" plate (10") or a soup plate will cost annas 15; a "half" plate (9") will cost annas 14; and a "quarter" plate (7") will cost annas 9. The prices of tea pots (any shape) of sizes ¾ to 2¼ pints range from Rs. 3-8 to Rs. 5-13 each. A tea cup and saucer will cost annas 15-6 and breakfast cup and saucer Rs. 1-2.

In the case of complete tea and coffee sets a discount of 20 per cent and in the case of dinner sets a discount of 10 per cent is to be allowed on the wholesale and retail prices. Dealers in specified hill stations may charge 5 per cent extra over the maximum prices.

According to the price fixed, a dinner set of English plain white crockery (for six persons) will cost about Rs. 13 for 18 pieces; while a tea set (for six persons) complete with sugar bowl and milk jug will cost about Rs. 10 for 15 pieces.

The wholesalers' issue prices have been fixed per dozen. All wholesale and retail dealers of English plain white crockery have been directed to mark or exhibit prominently in their shops the prices as fixed by the Central Government.

*

Playing Cards

The Central Government have fixed the maximum wholesale and retail prices chargeable by a dealer in respect of Bicycle Seconds No. 808 and Great Mogul No. 533 brands of playing cards. The retail prices for these brands have been fixed at annas 14 and annas 12-6 per pack respectively. The wholesale and retail prices chargeable in respect of Caravan brand playing cards have been revised, the latter being annas 9-6 per pack.

*

"Statesman" Cigarettes

The Central Government have fixed the maximum selling prices chargeable by a dealer or producer in respect of "Statesman" cigarettes in tins of 50, manufactured by Messrs. Maple Tobacco Co. (India), Ltd., at Rs. 22-11 (wholesale) per thousand cigarettes, and Rs. 1-6 (retail) per tin of 50 cigarettes.

*

Books

The Government of India have issued the following directions regarding the maximum price which a dealer may charge for any book, magazine, pamphlet, periodical or other publication, except a newspaper:

A. In the case of an Indian publication, the maximum price chargeable shall be the publisher's price: provided that where the dealer's place of business is more than 50 miles from any place where the publisher has a place of business or a sales agent or a local representative, the dealer may charge in addition a sum just sufficient to cover freight from the nearest of such places, but not exceeding 6¼ per cent of the publisher's price; and if he does so, he must show the additional charge separately in the cash memo.

This order does not apply to the publications of Messrs. Williams Collins Sons and Company, Ltd., Bombay.

B. In the case of any United Kingdom publications, the maximum price chargeable shall be the publisher's price converted into Indian currency:

(1) at the rate of 13 annas to the shilling, if it is a work of fiction published in the Colonial Edition;

(ii) at the rate of Re. 1 to the shilling, if it is any other type of book; and

(iii) at the rate of Rs. 1-4 to the shilling, if it is any other type of publication, such as a magazine.

C. In the case of any American publication, the maximum price chargeable shall be the publisher's price converted into Indian currency:

(i) at the rate of Rs. 5 to the Dollar, if it is a book; and

(ii) at the rate of Rs. 6 to the Dollar, if it is any other type of publication.

It will be permissible for a dealer, whose place of business is a hill station (listed in a Notification published on June 10, 1944) to charge, in the case of United Kingdom or American publications, 5 per cent more than the publisher's price converted into Indian currency: at the rates given above.

Marking of Prices

The Controller General of Civil Supplies has directed every publisher to mark on each copy (not on the dust-cover) of any book, pamphlet, magazine, periodical, or other publication issued by him, the retail sale price of it, or if the copy is not intended for sale, the word "gratis". Every dealer has been directed to mark on each copy of any book, pamphlet, magazine, periodical or other publication kept by him for sale, the retail sale price of it, if the publisher has omitted to mark it or if the price marked by the publisher is expressed otherwise than in Indian currency.

No publisher shall alter, efface or destroy markings, except for the purpose of marking a revised price sanctioned by the Controller General, while no dealer shall alter, efface or destroy any markings made by him or the publisher. Markings have to be made in print or by rubber stamp but dealers are pemitted to make them in ink. These directions do not apply to newspapers or to publications intended to be sold second-hand.

SURPLUS WAR PROFITS REFUNDED

General Motors Set an Example

A sum of about Rs. 27 lakhs has been refunded to the Central Government by General Motors India, Ltd., out of the profits made by them on the contract for the supply of military chassis.

It is learnt that the total output of General Motors had greatly exceeded the estimated figures and the rate of profits was in consequence higher than what was anticipated. Realising that there should be no undue profits on war orders, the concern agreed to assist Government in their anti-inflationary measures by refunding the profits made by them in excess of their original estimates.

BETTER DISTRIBUTION OF EXISTING STOCKS

Hoarding Ordinance Amended

FURTHER amendments to the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance are announced in a Gazette of India Extraordinary, published on December 13. These amendments are based on experience gained in the working of the Ordinance during the last eight months. The effect of the more important of these may be summarised as follows:

1. Where an article is sold at an unreasonable price, in addition to the salesman, the dealer or producer and the manager or other person in charge of the business shall also hereafter be liable to prosecution unless they can prove that they exercised due diligence to prevent such contravention.

2. Manufacturers will not now be able to inflate their costs of production by paying unreasonable prices for the component parts or raw materials going into the manufacture of the finished article. Only that price of the component parts or raw materials as conforms to the provisions of the Ordinance will hereafter be taken into account in determining the cost of production of the finished article.

Summary Trials

3. The intention that summary trials shall be the rule rather than the exception has been made clear in the Ordinance. This is to ensure that trials are disposed of speedily and the complainants and the witnesses are not put to serious inconvenience by protracted hearings. There is also no limit now on the fines which Presidency Magistrates or specially empowered first class magistrates can impose for contravention of the provisions of the Ordinance.

4. The Controller General is given the power to prohibit sales with a view to effecting better distribution of existing stocks in the country. The factors that may be included in working out landed costs have also now been clarified.

RAW HIDE PRICES

By an amendment published in the *Gazette of India* on December 16, the notified prices of raw buff hides have been made applicable also to hides of standard lower than those required for the production of No. 2 Sole Leather.

INDIA RECEIVES PENICILLIN SUPPLIES FROM AMERICA

Control Board Formed

A CONSIDERABLE portion of the penicillin quota allotted to India has already arrived from America and is available in Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Delhi and Karachi.

In conformity with the American authorities' stipulation that all use of it must be under strict Government control and to ensure that available supplies are equitably distributed throughout the country, and reach patients to whom its administration is justified, the Government of India have set up a Committee of five members, known as the Central Penicillin Control Board, with the Director-General, Indian Medical Service, as its Chairman.

The Board has been empowered to issue, from time to time, control rules and regulations with which every importer of penicillin in India must comply.

Unusual Healing Properties

The unusual healing properties of Penicillin have caught the imagination of the medical profession, and often supply of this drug is requested for the treatment of indefinite cases where everything else has been tried and found to have had no results. One of the objects of the measures of control is to prevent this use of such a valuable drug. Its use is also at present prohibited in venereal diseases.

It is as necessary with penicillin as with sulphonamide to know the nature of the infection to be treated. While some bacteria are extraordinarily susceptible to it, others are completely unaffected, and to use penicillin in an effort to eliminate them is a complete waste of valuable material. There are three groups of bacteria against which both the sulphonamides and penicillin are effective, with some important individual differences, and these account for most of the infections in which penicillin has been used.

The Board has published a pamphlet, "Publication No. 1", in which full details are given about the dosage and mode of administration and the diseases in which penicillin is indicated and contra-indicated. Copies of this pamphlet have already been supplied to the heads of Government Medical Departments in the Provinces and States.

Penicillin, in the first instance, will be supplied only to approved institutions who are authorised to use it by the Board. Any stock remaining over each month, after the various Provinces and States have absorbed as much as they require, will be sold by importers direct to medical practitioners and non-Government institutions subject to the following conditions:

Every request for supply of penicillin must emanate from a medical practitioner and should be accompanied by a certificate, which should be signed by an Administrative Medical Officer, i.e., a Surgeon-General, Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, Residency or Agency Surgeon or any of the "assessors" nominated by him for the purpose. These assessors ordinarily will be surgeons or specialists who have access to a suitable bacteriological laboratory.

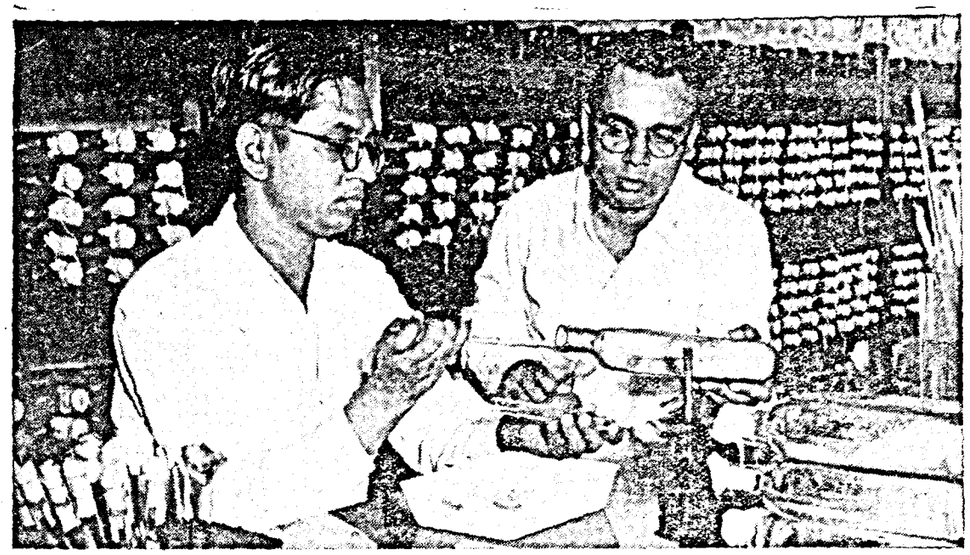
Penicillin Chart

In order to judge whether the use of penicillin is justified the "assessors" will require particulars of the case which must include the diagnosis of the case, bacteriological findings, the doses, the mode in which penicillin is proposed to be administered and also the quantity required. If the assessors are satisfied, they will sign a certificate that the case is suitable for penicillin treatment stating how much penicillin is to be issued. The importer on receipt of such a certificate will issue the amount of penicillin prescribed thereon. It is incumbent on every medical practitioner or institution obtaining penicillin to submit a case report through the Government Assessor on the prescribed Penicillin Chart, copies of which have been distributed to Provincial and State medical authorities.

PENICILLIN IS JUNGLE LIFE-SAVER

His leg shattered by a burst from a Jap machine-gun which he had planned to silence, a Scots captain, aided by his Indian orderly, dragged himself through the dense jungle of the Chindwin valley to safety. As the hours slipped by his condition worsened. Far ahead of medical attention Capt. J. A. McKay, aged 22, of 7, Montpelier-rd., Edinburgh, serving with an Indian infantry regiment at present engaged in operations on the Chindwin front, realised that he was facing the possibility of being a life cripple.

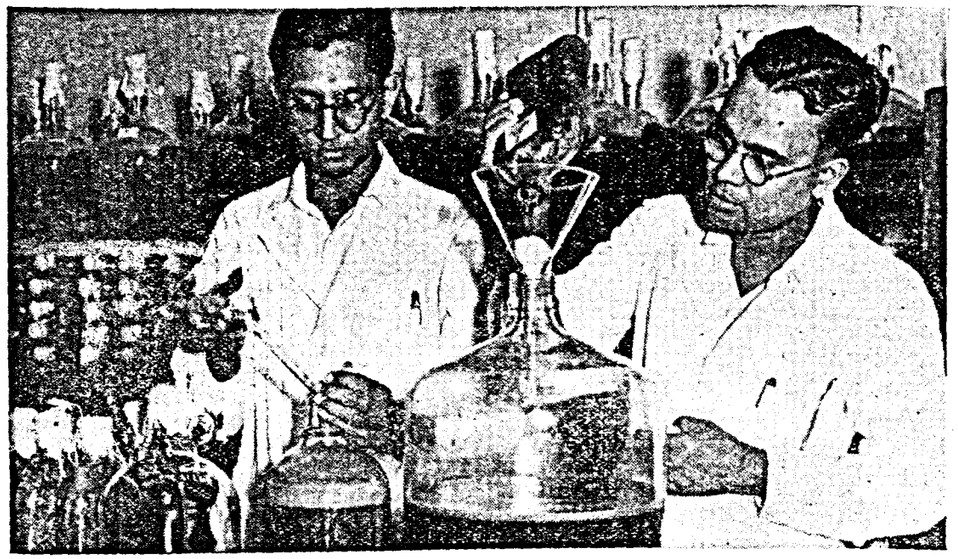
His boot had been blown off and his foot badly shattered; already, exposed as it was to the mud and dust of the jungle track, the wound was showing signs of secondary infection. Amputation appeared inevitable.



Experimental work on Penicillin production is being carried out at the Haffkine Institute, Bombay, to evolve a process for its manufacture on a commercial scale. The factors involved in its production—the different methods of growing the mould, suitability of different strains for these purposes, combination of media where the mould is to be grown and methods of processing the culture fluid to obtain penicillin in a form suitable for administration by injection—are being studied. Picture shows Dr. Ganapati of the Haffkine Institute sowing the mould, penicillin notatum, into culture flasks. In the background are tiers of flasks in which the mould is cultured. After ten days' incubation at 24 degrees C. each bottle contains about 10 to 15 thousands units of penicillin. It takes the contents of about a hundred of these bottles (after processing) to produce enough penicillin of good quality to treat one single case. (Below, Col. 1) The Director of the Institute (standing) and an Assistant Director study specimens of penicillin mould. (Col. 2) Centrifuging the culture fluid from which penicillin is obtained.







Gathering the culture fluid of penicillin from the flask in which the mould has incubated for ten days.

Agonised, he bore with great fortitude his three gaping leg wounds through the three miles to base. Arriving at company headquarters within 24 hours of the action he had been shipped across the river, where for the first time he received medical attention. His field dressing was removed from his foot. His wound had developed gangrene; he was still 36 hours from the nearest casualty clearing station. The journey at that time was 30 miles by porter, 16 more by motor ambulance. But the dark cloud of a crippled future was to be dispelled. Unknown to forward troops penicillin, the wonder drug which is one of the war's greatest discoveries, was waiting for the wounded.

An immediate operation—three hourly injections of penicillin—and the worst was over.

DESPATCH OF PARCELS FOR WAR .. PRISONERS

With immediate effect the restrictions against the despatch of parcels for prisoners of war in Germany has been withdrawn. Next of kin and permit parcels for prisoners of war in Germany may now be posted in the usual way.

JODHPUR RULER VISITS INDIAN TROOPS IN ITALY

Honorary Air Commodore H. H. the Maharaja of Jodhpur recently visited an Indian division in Italy and spent a few hours with Indian troops in the field.

Accompanied by his Military Secretary His Highness arrived at divisional H.Q. in a Fifth Army car and lunched with the divisional commander. When he later visited British and Indian troops in a forward area he was in the uniform of an Air Commodore.

Visiting men of a Mahratta machine-gun battalion, commanded by an Indian C.O., he shook hands with V.C.O.s and paused for a chat with them. He also saw the men at mortar drill.

Moving along the road to Faenza the Maharaja inspected a guard of honour of British and Indian sappers and met some of the officers and men. Afterwards he visited a main dressing station.

STORAGE OF IMPORTED FOODGRAINS

Central Government's Scheme

DETAILS are now available of the progress made in the Central Food Department's scheme to provide storage for imported grain at the main ports, and in provinces for grain acquired under the Government's Basic Food Plans. The total Central storage capacity, at present existing or in sight, is 220,000 tons. Allowing for turnover, every three months this storage could accommodate Central imported reserves amounting to nearly one million tons in a year.

In Bombay, a site has been acquired for godowns of a capacity of about 30,000 tons and construction is likely to be completed within three months. In addition, private owners of land will be assisted to build godowns for lease to Central Government up to a capacity of 20,000 tons.

In Calcutta, the godowns at Ramkristopur of a storage capacity of 40,000 tons are to be leased from private merchants.

In South India, the Food Department are arranging to put up at Coimbatore and Vizagapatam military types of sheds of a total capacity of 30,000 tons.

At Karachi the Food Department already have storage capacity for 200,000 tons.

Storage in Surplus Areas

To prevent deterioration, imported foodgrains should be turned over steadily, and it is stated that one of the responsibilities of Regional Food Commissioners will be to maintain a high standard of quality in the grain stored in Central depots.

It has been recognised that reserves should also be built up in the producing areas, as in the Punjab and Sind where climatic conditions are ideal for keeping grain in good condition for long periods, if stored in bulk. Storage bins with a total capacity of about 12,000 tons have already been acquired at Shamli in the U.P. It is also likely that the Delhi Administration will erect some sheds as well as standard bulk storage depots, for their grain. But the Central Government's immediate object is to encourage provincial governments to erect temporary "transit" depots for a part of the grain, as near as possible to railway stations. It is expected that these depots will not only greatly ease transportation and avoid damage by weather to grain kept in the open, but will assist procurement which last year had frequently to be slowed down for lack of storage. A programme has been worked out for the construction of such depots for 30,000 tons of grain in the Punjab and 25,000 tons in Sind.

In Orissa, where lack of godown accommodation in 1943 seriously hindered procurement, storage for 13,000 tons will be constructed and in the Eastern States for 25,000 tons.

The Assam Government have already completed storage depots of a capacity of 10,000 tons and are contemplating construction of an additional 10,000 tons.

In addition to new godowns with a total capacity of 10,000 tons in the C.P., the Provincial Government are likely to build godowns for another 15,000 tons.

Progress by Provincial and State Governments themselves in the construction of improved storage accommodation, has been most marked in Bombay, Hyderabad, Mysore, Travancore, Cochin, Madras and Bengal. The Central Food Department are assisting Provincial and State administrations in obtaining priority materials and by advice on construction, stacking, and fumigation and other aspects of efficient storage.

It is realised that after Government have completed the construction or acquisition of storage for Central depots at ports and in surplus producing areas, they will have to turn their attention to storage requirements in deficit areas and rationed towns. Meanwhile deficit areas are being encouraged to report their requirements and bring their problems to the Central Food Department for advice.

SCIENCE TO AID MANUFACTURE OF PROCESSED FOOD

To utilise the best scientific talent of the country in the manufacture of processed food, the Central Food Department is shortly establishing a panel of scientists under the chairmanship of Sir S. S. Bhatnagar.

Expert advice will thus always be available to the Food Department on current improvements and future development of the food industry.

In addition there will soon be a fully equipped laboratory at the service of the Food Department where samples would be kept and tests performed under the supervision of trained personnel. The laboratory will be under the supervision of Dr. B. C. Guha who is at present touring U.S.A. to acquaint himself with recent developments in dehydration.

CROP SURVEYS IN PUNJAB AND U. P.

The first large-scale crop surveys of their magnitude to be attempted in India or in any other country were carried out during the last season in the Punjab and the United Provinces—at the instance of the Government of India.

In the Punjab, by sampling 108 out of a total of 9 million acres under wheat for experimental crop-cutting, the net outturn of the crop for the Province was estimated at 3,448,700 tons with a sampling error of just over one per cent. The official estimate, under the old and unscientific method, was 3,277,000 tons—in defect by 171,700 tons. The cost of the survey barely exceeded Rs. 1,000 per district!

The Government of India, it is understood, propose to extend the scheme to principal crops in all provinces where area statistics are known.

The scheme, which was devised by the statistician to the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research and carried out by the Department of Agriculture, Punjab, had the twofold objective of estimating the yield of wheat per acre and the total outturn and of evolving a large-scale sample technique for forming a reliable estimate of yield. It was conducted in 27 out of the 29 districts of the Province, excluding Lyallpur and Simla.

The plan adopted for the survey was based on the principle of random stratified sampling with tehsils as the strata, a village as the primary unit of sampling within a stratum, a field as the unit of sampling within a village and a plot 66" x 33" as the ultimate unit of sampling within a field. Uniformity of practice was obtained by central training of the senior staff concerned in all the details of the experiment, and also by central selection of the 748 villages (about 2 per cent of the total number available) used for the scheme.

These were, for each district of the province, proportionate in number to the area under wheat, but equally distributed amongst the tehsils of the district, and at random within each tehsil. Within each village, three fields were selected (since previous experimentation had shown little difference between the variation between villages and that between the fields of a village, and practical considerations of time, labour and cost counselled concentration of fields within a village), and within each field one plot of 1|20th of the field (the variation between plots in a field being less than that attributed to either source just mentioned). Selection of the fields in villages and of the plot in each field was by use of random numbers supplied by the Centre, which was able to check the processes. Harvesting, threshing, winnowing and weighing normally were completed in one day.

The final estimate includes adjustments for "driage", owing to the divergence of this procedure, necessary for accuracy and speed, from the general practice which allows a week or two for drying between harvest and threshing, and also for the different yields of wheat sown pure or mixed with other crops.



Indian farm labourers harvesting paddy.

PROCESSED FOOD IN POST-WAR INDIA

Will the Indian food manufacturing industry survive the war? Competent observers are of the opinion that although the industry is in its infancy in India to-day, it has a great post-war future, as the demand for biscuits, butter, condiments, cordials, jams, marmalades, sauces, vanaspati and a large variety of other foodstuffs is bound to increase after the war. The ability to withstand foreign competition, however depends in a large measure on industrialists making adequate use of the facilities offered them during wartime. Sound hygiene is the basis of pure food production and for the first time strict standards in food manufacture are being enforced to meet Government requirements, under the supervision and guidance of a highly technical Directorate of Inspection, but it will be ultimately for the industry to see whether in the years of peace, they will retain and benefit by the lessons learned or revert to the lower standards of a few years ago.

The functions of the Food Inspection Directorate are advisory, supervisory and preventive in character. Composed of highly trained men, each an expert in his own sphere, either hygienist, food technologist or analytical chemist, this new organisation will act as a neutral Inspectorate between the Q.M.G. and the Food Department to secure the best interests of both. Foodstuffs manufactured under the continuous supervision of the officers of the Inspection Directorate will be accepted by the defence authorities without question as having conformed to approved specifications. Having won the confidence of the authorities in wartime, in peace such goods should capture the civilian market as being the best by every test.

MANUFACTURE OF FOOD YEAST IN INDIA

It is authoritatively learnt that the Central Food Department is examining the possibility of promoting the establishment of a factory for manufacturing food yeast in India. An Indian engineer with technical qualifications has been placed on special duty and his report on the prospects of the proposed factory is likely to be ready shortly.

Food yeast is one of those products in which an essential constituent of diet is provided in a concentrated form. Yeast is actually a minute plant which can grow on any carbohydrate and, if it consumes enough of the latter, can also absorb nitrogen and convert it into proteins and B vitamins, items so essential for health. One such carbohydrate is molasses, a product of sugar which is normally thrown away. Scientific experiments carried out show that yeast enhances the value of proteins already present in a person's diet and it is ideally suited to meet some of the most serious deficiencies of tropical diets. It can easily be added to any liquid food—soup, milk, sauces—or mixed with flour for bread. Beneficial results have been achieved when it has been added to the diet of children, aged people and sufferers from vitamin B deficiency.

STEPS TO INCREASE FOOD PRODUCTION

The Government of India, it is learnt, have advised Provincial and State Governments to take steps to reduce the acreage under linseed and to replace it by food crops.

In 1943-44, the acreage under linseed was appreciably reduced in Bengal, Bihar and Hyderabad, but the Central Provinces and Berar, the United Provinces and Bhopal showed an increase.

It is pointed out that linseed is mostly kept at present for hoarding, in the hope that there will be a big demand for it for export after the war and prices will go up. In normal times India exported 200,000 tons but in the existing conditions the exports will not be more than one-third of that quantity. It is, therefore, considered undesirable that a large area should be under linseed cultivation when there is a shortage of foodgrains in the country.

SUCCESS OF ANTI-LOCUST OPERATIONS

An international locust control party established on the Indo-Persian frontier with aeroplanes for dusting poison on any locust swarms from India at the time of the periodical westward migration, had no work to do and was disbanded. This is one of the highlights of a report by the Imperial Entomologist surveying locust control in 1943-44.

India was completely free of swarms from the middle of November, 1943, to the middle of March, 1944. Then, an invasion from the vast deserts of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan and Arabia where locust control had been less effective, coinciding with favourable climatic conditions, led to heavy breeding in Western Baluchistan, Southern Afghanistan and Persia; and ultimately to an invasion of the desert areas of Sind, Rajputana and Bahawalpur in June and July and to extensive breeding over a wide area. Rainfall on an unprecedented scale that assisted the *Kharif* crop also favoured breeding, but the efforts of the Provinces and States concerned, co-ordinated by the Central Government's anti-locust staff, repeated last year's success and saved the bumper *Kharif* crop from any appreciable damage.

War Department's Help

Indeed, so successful have anti-locust operations proved during the present cycle (which began in 1940) that persons who failed to remember the heavy damage to crops and the consequent famine and large-scale remissions in revenue which marked the last cycle (1926-31) are inclined to under-rate the locust menace, while inhabitants of the Punjab and United Provinces are unaware that a locust cycle is in progress!

"That is the greatest tribute to the joint efforts of the local administrations and Central Government during this cycle," says the Report. "Such spectacular results have been possible chiefly due to the Co-ordinated Scheme initiated by the Government of India in 1942."

The Report mentions the help rendered by the War Department (in loaning further motor transport and providing necessary railway priorities for the movement of locust equipment), the Bikaner Ganga Risala—Camel Corps, equipped with wireless sets, tents, water tanks, etc., which helped to survey remote parts of the desert—and Air Headquarters which loaned two aeroplanes for reconnoitring deserts to locate breeding areas.



Young locust hoppers on the march.

In the spring of 1944, at the request of the International Middle East Locust Organisation, the Government of India took over the entire responsibility for locust control work in Persian Mekran. At the requests of the Governments concerned India is sending delegations to Persia and Oman to combat locust breeding in those areas.

Rs. 2,00,000 FOR Y.W.C.A.

H. E. the Viceroy has sanctioned a grant of Rs. 2,00,000 from his War Purposes Fund to the National Committee of the Y.W.C.A., India, Burma and Ceylon, for its amenities service for Uniformed women.

DR. S. K. BANERJI ON METEOROLOGY'S ROLE IN INDIA'S POST-WAR DEVELOPMENT

THE part that meteorology can play in the post-war development of India was emphasised by Dr. S. K. Banerji, the newly appointed Director-General of Observatories, in an interview.

Although wartime expansion of the meteorological service has been designed to meet the increased requirements of the fighting services, it has also resulted in improved weather service to civil interests. It is hoped in the future to utilise the organisation as now developed for the issue of countrywide weather bulletins to the farmer to help him to regulate sowing, harvesting and storage operations, and to prepare against adverse weather. The project provides for the supply of forecasts for individual agricultural divisions or districts, designed to meet the particular needs of each district.

The relation of weather to agricultural operations and agricultural production is a branch of meteorology which has been studied intensively in India since 1932, when an Agricultural Meteorology Branch was organised under the auspices of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. Special instruments have been developed in this Branch for measuring with precision the various meteorological factors which affect plants. Apart from the effect of various elements like high or low temperatures, high winds or untimely rain on plant growth, measurements are made of the special climatic conditions prevailing *within* crops, as distinct from conditions outside in the open air.

The Imperial Council of Agricultural Research has recently sanctioned a scheme for coordinated crop and weather observations at a network of agricultural farms in India. At these stations systematic observations of the weather factors and of the growth and yield of important crops will be recorded side by side according to a common plan and collected by the Agricultural Meteorologist at Poona for analysis. There is also a scheme for phenological observations, observations of dates of flowering, etc., of selected types of plants. These developments will enable the Agricultural Meteorology Branch to advise the weather forecaster regarding the critical periods in the growth of a crop during which warnings of weather would be particularly useful. The preparation of a crop calendar based on replies to a detailed questionnaire is also in progress.



Dr. S. K. Banerji.

Dr Banerji spoke enthusiastically of the contribution that better understanding of climate and weather can make to India's general development. The daily weather reports collected by telegraph and through the radio from the department's network of observatories throughout the country, the weather charts and the warnings of storm, flood or frost to the public, to aviators, shipping and agriculture, and to railways and irrigation and administrative authorities, discharge a vital task.

Dr. Banerji is the first Indian Director-General of Observatories. He was formerly Professor of Applied Mathematics in the University of Calcutta, and made many contributions to Physics; he investigated the aerial waves generated by impact, and in this connection developed a new instrument called ballistic phonometer. After joining the Indian Meteorological Department, he made several contributions on the electricity of thunder clouds. His contribution on the depth of earthquake focus is regarded as a fundamental one, and his memoirs on microseisms associated with disturbed weather in the Indian seas opened out a practical method of detecting disturbed weather over the seas. He developed a method of recording the electric currents flowing over the surface of the earth and his memoirs constitute the only observations available in India of this phenomenon.

LABOUR POPULATION IN ASSAM TEA GARDENS

Working of Tea Districts Emigrant Labour Act

THE labour population in Assam tea gardens rose from 11,55,147 in 1941-42 to 11,75,431 in 1942-43, according to the latest Report (separate publication of the Report has been stopped due to reasons of paper economy) on the working of the Tea Districts Emigrant Labour Act which deals with the year ended September 1943.

This population consisted of 598,655 adults and 576,776 children. The number of new emigrants who arrived during the year was 58,040.

The Report says that recruiting prospects were satisfactory throughout the year. The increase in recruitment was mainly due to the employment of the Indian Tea Association labour on the defence projects in Assam. As against 13,000 souls in the previous year 59,224 souls were recruited during the year under review from the Provinces of Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, the United Provinces, the Central Provinces, and Madras, all controlled emigration areas. From the Presidency of Bombay, which is still an uncontrolled emigration area, 1,337 souls were recruited as against 537 in the previous year.

Earnings of Labour

The average monthly cash earnings of men, women and children settled on tea gardens in Assam Valley were Rs. 8-10-4, Rs. 6-15-4 and Rs. 5-4-2 respectively as compared with Rs. 8-11-5, Rs. 7-2-10 and Rs. 5-4-4 in the previous year. The corresponding figures for the Surma Valley were Rs. 7-4-3, Rs. 5-7-2 and Rs. 3-8-6 as against Rs. 6-15-0, Rs. 5-7-1 and Rs. 2-11-0. The earnings of settled labourers were, as usual, higher than those of *Faltu* or *Basti* labourers, because the former are given more work by way of ticca which adds to their earnings.

Free grazing of cattle, supply of firewood, free housing and medical attendance, maternity benefits, etc. are among the concessions mentioned in the Report, besides some special concessions given to labourers to meet war conditions. To make available rice to labourers at concession rates, some gardens had to buy rice at a high level of Rs. 35 per maund and resell it at the rate of Rs. 5 per maund.

To ensure the supply of other articles of food, the tea industry was granted a fixed quota of all commodities imported by Government agents of the Province, and the Circles of the Branch Associations of the Indian Tea Association were made responsible for taking it over and distributing it fairly among all participating concerns. Besides the free issue of cloth at Puja times in some gardens many concerns imported cloth on their own account and issued it sometimes at cost price but more usually at substantially reduced rates to their labour. Arrangements were also made to take over a quota of standard cloth but imports were delayed owing to transport difficulties.

The Report mentions the existence, in some gardens, of rent-free houses with corrugated iron roofs and ventilators at the top. Coolie lines mostly consisted of thatched houses with small yards in front and small plots of land for growing vegetables.

Birth and Death Rates

During the year under review the birth rate was 30.64 against 25.42 deaths per thousand as compared with 33.90 births and 19.21 deaths per thousand in the previous year. There were 457 tea garden schools with 19,786 pupils on the rolls against 55 schools with 19,031 pupils in the previous year.

The tea estate labourers held 173,505 acres of garden lands without the right of occupancy. They also held 26,057 acres of Government land and 17,891 acres of land belonging to private persons.

The Report further mentions an increase in sickness incidence which the industry had to face during the year. This is stated to be due to the arrival of nearly 30,000 refugees from Burma who had travelled on foot over an unhealthy region, the poor physical state of some of the emigrants and the malnutrition of labour due to shortage of fresh food.

In all 16,553 souls were repatriated to their villages through the same organisations by which they had originally been recruited to Assam.

The Nandgaon Darbar have contributed Rs. 1,001 to H. E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund, earmarked for the benefit of the Royal Indian Navy Benevolent Association. His Excellency has gratefully accepted the gift.

REPORT ON MAURITIUS LABOUR DISTURBANCES

Royal Commission's Recommendations

"THE master problem of Mauritius is the necessity for a reorientation of all classes towards their common problem, a reorientation which should be guided, encouraged, inspired and, where necessary, enforced by the action of Government," says the Report of the Royal Commission of Enquiry on the disturbances which occurred in North Mauritius on September 27, 1943, when the police opened fire on a mob of sugar estate labourers which had refused to disperse and had stoned them.

Three persons (a man, a woman and a lad of 12 years) were killed, and 16 persons (men and women) were wounded: Fourteen policemen received slight, and two officers severe, injuries.

The Hon'ble Sydney Moody, C.M.G., O.B.E., was Chairman of the Commission, the other members being the Hon'ble Dr. Edgar Laurent, C.M.G., M.D., Lic-es-Sc., D.T.M. and H. (Paris), the Hon'ble Abdoollatif Mahomed Osman, His Honour Mr. Justice Georges Espitalier-Noel, and His Honour Mr. Rampersad Neerunjun.

The Commission point out that during the last decade a change has taken place in the attitude of the labourers, and certain employers have found it difficult to reconcile themselves to this change. Some employers fail to appreciate the labourers' claim to a higher standard of living, their new sense of non-economic values and their rising demand for leisure and better conditions of employment, but on the contrary, still believe in cheap labour of low standard and forget the human side of the problems of industry.

Housing Conditions

Whilst the Commission were enquiring, two estates, taking advantage of the absence of several labourers without leave for a few days, following the Hindu New Year, made use of their legal right of dismissal to "clean-up" their camps of so-called undesirable leaders. Some employers have not displayed that interest in the general welfare and in the personal problems of their labourers which might have been expected of them.

Housing and sanitary conditions, water supply, hospital accommodation and treatment (on all of which the Commission have made recommendations for betterment) have remained, in some cases, much the same as they were when the 1937 Commission (of Enquiry into Unrest on the Sugar Estates) drew attention to these matters. Contact has not been maintained with the men and, when made, has not always been sympathetic. Insistence on legal rights, sometimes, with intimidation in view, has been the line frequently followed. Unjustified abuse has not been unknown.

The labourers are poor, ignorant and of a low physical standard. Most of them are illiterate and they are certainly not sufficiently enlightened to understand the aims and principles of trade unionism with the result that all but two of the 17 Agricultural Labourers, Industrial Associations which were established under the Industrial Associations legislation have died and one, at least, of the two survivors is not a genuine Industrial Association as conceived by the legislator.

"The simple truth of the matter is that the workmen had not been properly organised in an industrial association. The result was that the gap which existed in 1937 between employers and workmen, far from being bridged, gradually widened.

"But the Commission believe that enough goodwill exists in responsible quarters, including employers and workmen, to leaven the lump. There are enlightened managers who understand the art of 'man-management' and who are anxious to see an improvement in the economic and social conditions of their workmen. Although the vast majority of the workmen are ignorant and easily misled, they are shrewd enough to know their own interests; they have shown themselves capable of combining for economic purposes in co-operative societies and they would respond to sympathetic treatment. Finally, there is a growing public opinion which in the interests of the social peace of the Island as a whole will insist on the creation and maintenance of such industrial conditions as will avoid the periodic recurrence of industrial disputes."

The Recommendations

The Commission recommend that the machinery of collective bargaining as set by the Industrial Associations Ordinance, 1938, with slight modifications in the light of experience gained, might be given another trial. "More direct representation should be secured in the future: this will certainly require the careful selection and arduous training of a certain number of workmen, but will ultimately give a greater guarantee that any agreement reached will be fulfilled."

The formation of Regional Industrial Committees and a Central Committee of Workmen's Representatives is also recommended along with the establishment of Conciliation Boards and an Arbitration Tribunal to which in the event of conciliation failing the parties could, by agreement, and with the approval of the Governor, refer their dispute.

"In special circumstances and whenever the Governor shall deem it expedient in the public interest so to do, the Governor shall have the power to order the parties to submit their dispute to the Arbitration Tribunal for decision. Any award by the Arbitration Tribunal would be final and binding upon both parties."

The Commission point out that the monthly paid labourer should normally enjoy the following advantages over the daily paid labourer: (a) housing; (b) medical attention; (c) animal sheds, fodder and fuel; (d) payment of usual salary on estate holidays; (e) land for cultivation; (f) annual gratuity and comment:

"We are by no means satisfied that all the above amenities were allowed by all employers to their monthly paid labourers. Making due allowance for the economic advantages which these labourers may have enjoyed and which add to their nominal wages, we consider that their real wages were unduly low and that this economic grievance was the primary cause of the whole trouble."

The Commission have, therefore, recommended the creation of a Wages Board on which employers and workers should be represented, which would sit in perpetual session and to which representations should be made by labourers, employers and the Director of Labour, for whom a more appropriate designation would be "Labour Commissioner".

Reorganisation of Department

Reorganisation of the Department is suggested. At present the department is called upon to undertake extraneous work such as the administration of the Poor Law. The department controls 15 infirmaries and poor houses, administers a laundry, a tailor's shop and a hospital establishment.

The Commission recommend that the Poor Law administration should be separated from the Labour Department and that, while it may continue to be administratively convenient for the Director of Labour to be responsible in the last resort, some officer with executive powers should be appointed to take charge of Poor Law work. Labour Inspectors, who should pass a suitable examination before appointment, should reside at a convenient centre in the area for which they are responsible. Consideration might also be given to the appointment of a Female Inspector to deal with the problems of female workers.

Again, the Director of Labour is also the Head of the Information Office, which at one time employed propagandists to explain, among other things, to the labourers the economic situation due to the war and to convey to them that they could themselves improve their condition if they would work more hours in a week.

"We consider that the functions of the Labour Department should not be confused with those of the Information Office; they should be made clear to all concerned... This would prove beneficial not only to labour officers, employers and labourers, but also to those members of the public who often through ignorance openly criticise the Labour Department."

The establishment of a Central Statistical Bureau, which would be responsible for the collation and interpretation of statistical information collected by various Departments is strongly recommended.

Lack of Contact with the People

The Commission say they gained the impression that there is insufficient contact between the administration and the people administered. In this Colony there is no District Administration and at present no properly organised District Health Service. Generally speaking, magistrates, teachers, engineers and labour inspectors do not live among the people whom they administer. Apart from priests, who cannot be regarded as civil servants, almost the only officers of Government who live on the spot are police officers. District Magistrates, who visit their Courts twice a week, on Mondays and Thursdays, "arriving between 10 a.m. and 10-30 a.m. and staying exceptionally until 4 p.m.", devote some of their time to chamber work which includes the hearing of complaints from members of the public. It is, therefore, impossible for them to acquire the local knowledge and influence which are indispensable to sympathetic administration.

"A conspicuous gap in the administration of Mauritius is the absence of responsible Government officers in the field, well acquainted with the mind and policy of the Government, and able to co-ordinate the activities of the departmental officers... A sense of frustration exists among the humbler sections of the population, owing to their feeling that they cannot make their complaints heard. If complaints or grievances arise, they should be promptly attended to by a responsible officer on the spot."

The Commission have also recommended the reorganisation of the Police Force. The standard can be raised by careful selection, by training, by introducing the best superior direction which can be made available and by sending local officers overseas for special training. During the disturbances on September 27, "the Police Officers could not speak directly to the people. They did not understand what the crowd were shouting. Interpreters were necessary. The Senior Police Officers hardly knew what a *baitka* (meeting place for Indians) was. They could not be certain whether the people assembled, or some of them, were praying or not. In short, they were unfamiliar with the language, religion and customs of the people whom they wished to persuade and perhaps to coerce."

Need to Raise Standard of Living

Finally, the Commission emphasise that the urgent problem is to raise the standard of living and the quality of the population.

"It is now fully recognised, both at home and in this Colony, that the problem will only yield to a direct attack. His Majesty's Government made this recognition in the Colonial Development and Welfare Act, 1940, in respect of all colonial territories. The direct attack has already begun in this colony. The reform of the educational system is beginning. A start has already been made on improving the health conditions in the Island. But more things remain to be done.

"A steady, sustained and concentrated effort will be necessary in order to restore to health and vigour the administrative and political organs of Mauritius. Without the active cooperation and participation of the people, through their accredited leaders and representatives Government alone can achieve little. But the progress already made is a good augury for the future."

LABOUR RECRUITMENT CONTROL ORDER

The Labour Recruitment Control Order issued by the Government of India is designed to regulate the recruitment of labour from certain controlled districts in Bengal, Bihar and the Central Provinces and Berar.

The Order requires contractors and employers of labour to obtain licences for recruiting labour from controlled districts for work outside the controlled districts. All works or employments within the controlled districts are exempted from taking out licences.

The Order came into force on December 18, 1944, and is expected to improve the labour supply position in the collieries.

NEW NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES RULES

More Facilities for Investors

Rules made by the Government of India under the Post Office National Savings Certificates Ordinance, 1944, replacing the old National Savings Certificates Rules issued in September, 1943, and introducing several new privileges for the benefit of the investors, are published in the *Gazette of India* isued on December 8.

Minors can now invest and deal independently in National Savings Certificates, and, where purchases are made on their behalf, the purchaser can nominate the person who may operate on the Certificates. Charitable bodies of the nature of Trusts which were formerly debarred from investing in these Certificates can now invest up to Rs. 20,000.

Limit of Joint Holdings

The limit of joint holdings has been raised from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 10,000 and Provident Funds recognised by Commissioners of Income-tax for income-tax exemption can invest their funds without limit. Investors can encash their Certificates at any Post Office in India by obtaining an identity slip from the office of issue or registration, and Certificates can also be used in payment of Government and Indian State dues with the permission of the Provincial Government or the State concerned.

For those who are able to save only in small amounts through Savings Stamps a new Rs. 5 Certificate encashable after 18 months is being introduced and for the convenience of investors who invest the maximum amount of Rs. 5,000 Certificate will also be available. Gifts of National Savings Certificates can be made by using an attractive "Gift Folder", which can be obtained (free of charge) at a Post Office.

TELEGRAMS TO GREECE

Telegraphic communication with the mainland of Greece has been opened with immediate effect and is restricted to British and Greek Government telegrams in code, cypher or plain language (confined to English and French), and Press telegrams. Telegrams other than those specified above are not permitted, said a Press Note issued by the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, on December 7.

COSTING OF WAR CONTRACTS: FINANCE MEMBER'S TRIBUTE TO ACCOUNTANTS

THE third meeting of the Advisory Panel of Accountants attached to the Finance Department (Supply) opened in Bombay on December 12 with the following message from the Hon'ble Sir Jeremy Raisman, Finance Member, Government of India:

"It is now just two years since your last meeting. How changed is the general outlook now. We were then on the threshold of a period of intense Government buying activity. The Japanese successes in the Far East and the losses of important sources of supply to the United Nations had emphasised the importance of India as a supply base. The pressure on the country's economy imposed by the urgent necessity to provide supplies first to overseas theatres of war, and then to repel the Japanese invader from our Eastern frontiers, has been severe, and the last two years have been years of great strain.

Procurement Policies

"Nevertheless the policies which we evolved during these early years of the war in the sphere of procurement have stood the test and I think we may claim that we have achieved, broadly speaking, our object of determining prices for our supplies in such a way as to yield a return which is fair and reasonable whether judged from the point of view of Government or of the producer.

"In this achievement, costing, whether technical precosting, or post-costing, has played an increasingly important part. Our own staff of expert Cost Accounts Officers has increased from 12 in December 1942, to 22 at the present time. In all their operations they have been guided by the principles which we established, with your aid in the first three years of war. But this is not all. For we are indebted not only to this Panel for its guidance and support in such matters but also to your profession as a whole for valuable practical aid in the actual costing of contracts. In terms of value, practising accountants have investigated 48.13 per cent of the total contracts costed by the Supply Finance Department. Thus if we claim on the whole to have achieved our object we would wish also to acknowledge with gratitude your share in this happy result.

"As procurement principles and policies have become established it has been natural for Government to have had fewer problems to refer to you. He would be a bold man who would claim, however, that the worst is over. Nevertheless even if there may be little lightening of the supply load in the immediate future the time cannot now be very far ahead when demands for war supplies will cease. We shall then be faced with the problem of terminating our war contracts, of settling our obligations to our contractors and of clearing their workshops of unwanted materials.

Need for Careful Planning

"We shall want to do this in a businesslike manner and with the utmost possible expedition so that they may be free to devote their energies to the production of much needed goods for the civil market. All this will need most careful planning and we are anxious to establish a machinery which will be satisfactory to all. I am glad to note that this problem is down on the agenda for your consideration and I have no doubt that, with your advice, and with that co-operation and assistance which your profession has so willingly afforded us in the past, we shall be successful in establishing as sound principles and policies for the termination of contracts as for their execution. I wish you every success in your deliberations."

The Panel of Accountants consists of Sir Shapoorji Billimoria of M/s S. B. Billimoria and Co., Bombay, (President), Mr. W. J. Younie of M/s Price Waterhouse Peat and Co., Calcutta (Vice-President), Mr. B. J. Whitby of M/s A. F. Ferguson and Co., Bombay, Mr. B. K. S. Aiyar of M/s K. S. Aiyar and Co. Bombay, Mr. G. Basu of M/s G. Basu and Co. Calcutta, Mr. D. Mitchell of M/s Lovelock and Lewes, Calcutta, Mr. Cyril Gill of M/s Fraser and Ross, Madras, Mr. M. D. Darbari of M/s M. D. Darbari and Co. Calcutta, R. B. Pandit Balak Ram Pandya of M/s Basant Ram and Sons, Lahore, and Mr. C. W. Lloyd of M/s Ford, Rhodes and Parks, Bombay.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO GOVERNMENT LOANS

During the four weeks ended December 2, 1944, Rs. 44¾ crores were invested in Central Government Loans of which Rs. 16 crores represent subscriptions to the 3 per cent Victory Loan, 1957, and Rs. 28¾ crores other loans on sale through the Reserve Bank, said a Press Note issued by the Finance Department, Government of India, on December 11.

INQUIRY INTO BOMBAY POSTAL STAFF'S COMPLAINTS

Committee's Terms of Reference

A PRESS Note issued by the Posts and Air Department, Government of India, on December 10 stated:

The Committee of Inquiry appointed by the Government of India following certain representations received from the Postmen's Union and the Post Office Lower Grade Staff Unions of Bombay and Poona will examine the demands of the Unions with special reference to:

(1) the pay, allowances and conditions of service of the staff concerned with due reference to those of similar staff serving under the Central and Provincial Governments and in the local public utility services;

(2) the increase in the cost of living for the staff since the outbreak of war;

(3) any evidence available to show the total income requirements of a family in order to maintain itself on a reasonable standard taking into account the local prices, house rent and present conditions of living;

(4) the extent to which the staff are now indebted. The effect of the war on their contributions to the General Provident Fund and Life Insurance or other forms of savings will also be taken into account;

(5) the effect of the war in increasing employment in the families and dependents of the staff;

(6) the effect of the war in regard to accelerated promotion for the staff and other members of their families.

The inquiry will be limited to the postmen and lower grade staff principally of Bombay and Poona, but the Committee may indicate to what extent its findings are of general application.

The Committee consists of: Mr. Krishna Prasada, Postmaster-General, Bombay (Chairman); Mr. R. S. Nimbkar, Labour Welfare Adviser to the Government of India; Mr. A. Qadir, Deputy Financial Adviser, Communications; and Mr. V. G. Dalvi, Representative of the Unions.

POSTAL SERVICE TO FRANCE AND BELGIUM

Air mail letters and post cards for those parts of France to which mail communication is available are now accepted by Post Offices in India, subject to the same restrictions as are applicable to surface mails for those places. Such articles will be carried by air only up to England and thence onwards by surface route.

*

The air mail articles for France should bear the superscription "India-England". The rates of air mail postage will be as follows:

For Letters: Re. 1-2 per ½ oz. or part thereof, in addition to ordinary postage.

For Post Cards: Eight annas per post card, inclusive or ordinary postage.

A blue air mail label should be affixed to the top left-hand corner of all air mail correspondence.

*

Mail communication with Belgium has been resumed with effect from December 11 under the following conditions:

(i) The service is for the present restricted to non-illustrated post cards on personal or business matters. Post cards on business matters should be confined to exchange of facts and information.

(ii) The service is available to all parts of Belgium but post cards for the area east of Hasselt, Liege, Bastogne will be held by the Belgian Post Office until delivery is possible.

*

The air letter service from civilians in India will also be available for writing to members of the Forces overseas, as detailed below:

Central Mediterranean Force, British Forces in Iceland, British Liberation Army, Brimand, Forces in Gibraltar, Middle East Force, Persia and Iraq Force and West African Force.

The postage on air letters from civilians, whether addressed to civilans or Forces abroad, will be six annas per air letter. The concessional rate of four annas is applicable only to air letters posted by members of the Forces.

RS. 79 CRORES RAILWAY EXPENDITURE APPROVED

The Railway Standing Finance Committee met on December 18 and 19, 1944, Mr. Zahid Husain, C.I.E., Financial Commissioner of Railways, presiding, and approved a programme of Capital and Depreciation Fund Expenditure for 1945-46, of Rs. 79 crores (Rs. 21 crores from Capital and Rs. 58 crores from the Depreciation Fund), of which Rs. 11¼ crores was for Open Line works, Rs. 63½ crores for rolling stock, about Rs. 2¼ crores for the purchase of branch lines, and the balance for machinery and increase in Stores balances.

The lines the purchase of which has been approved in 1945-46 are: the Jacobabad-Kashmore Railway, a narrow gauge line of 76 miles in Upper Sind; the Podanur-Pollachi Railway, a metre gauge line of 24 miles owned by the Coimbatore District Board (Madras Presidency); and the Dibru Sadiya Railway System, a metre gauge line of 95 miles which is owned and managed by the Assam Railways and Trading Co., Ltd., a company of British domicile and sterling capital. Negotiations for the purchase of the last named have just concluded and await ratification by the stockholders. The purchase will take effect from April 1, 1945.

Of the expenditure on works about Rs. 1½ crores is on new works, and the balance is divided almost equally between track renewals and works in progress. The track renewals are mostly on the E.I., G.I.P., B. and A. and N.W. Railways, and the important works in progress are quadrupling of Saktigarh to Sitarampur and doubling of certain other sections on the E.I. Railway, the remodelling of the Asansol yard, and the remodelling of certain workshops.

The Committee also approved the proposal to purchase the Hoshiarpur Doab Branch Railways with effect from April 1, 1946, at an estimated cost of about Rs. 80 lakhs.

MR. THOMAS HOBART ELLIS

The Governor-General has appointed Mr. Thomas Hobart Ellis, I.C.S., District and Sessions Judge, to be an Additional Judge of the Calcutta High Court for six months with effect from November 16, 1944.

WHY TRAVEL ON FOOTBOARDS OF TRAINS IS BANNED

That six months in prison is better than six seconds under an engine is the principle underlying the new Defence of India Rule prohibiting travel in any part of a train not intended for passengers and making such travellers liable to be removed from the train and to fine and imprisonment for a period up to six months.

The abnormal increase in passenger traffic, combined with the reduction in train services forced upon the Railway authorities by the coal position, has resulted not only in the overcrowding of carriages but in a considerable number of passengers attempting to travel on footboards and even on roofs and buffers and other parts of trains not intended for their use. This practice is clearly against the public interest not only because it results in delays to trains but because it is fraught with grave danger to those resorting to it.

The object of the authorities is not to arrest and prosecute such unauthorised travellers with a view to punishing them in the retributive sense, but chiefly to save potential offenders from the consequences of their rash actions.

CENTRAL ADVISORY BOARD OF EDUCATION

The following persons have been nominated by the Government of India in consultation with the Crown Representative to represent the Indian States on the Central Advisory Board of Education in India:

Nawab Sir Mahdi Yar Jung Bahadur, M.A. (Oxon), Education Member, H.E.H. the Nizam's Government; Sachivottama Sir C. P. Ramaswamy Aiyar, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., LL.D., Dewan of Travancore; Mr. J. Appaji Gowda, B.A., Minister of Education, Mysore; Dr. Mohan Sinha Mehta, M.A., Ph.D., LL.B., Bar-at-Law, Dewan of Banswara; Sir B. N. Rau, C.I.E., B.A. (Cantab), I.C.S. (Retd.), Prime Minister, Kashmir.

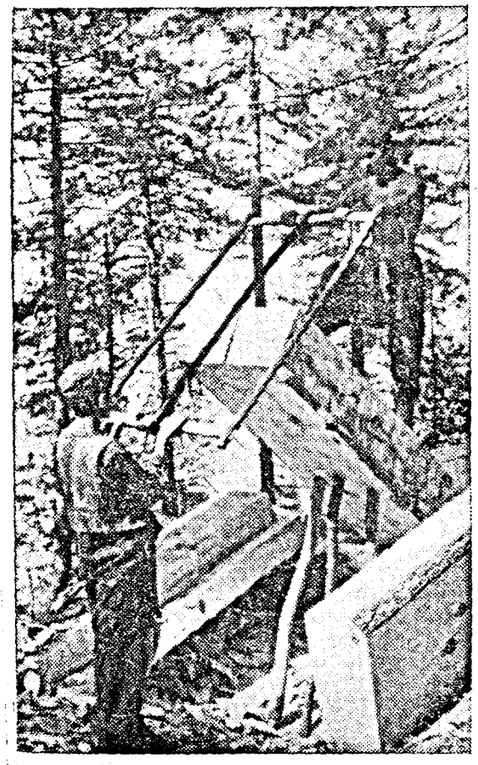
The Sirohi Darbar have contributed Rs. 12,000 to H. E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund out of which Rs. 1,000 have been earmarked for the Royal Indian Navy Benevolent Association.

LUMBERMEN OF INDIAN FORESTRY COMPANIES

INDIAN timber, with its infinite variety of uses, has come into its own in this war. The Army depends to a great extent on the work of forestry companies, another branch of the army engineering services.

These companies were raised for the primary purpose of producing timber for bridges and boats. But considerable use is made of wood for quarry-staging stone-crushing chutes, road-making, machinery-mountings, storage bins and building and sanitary purposes. Many bridges in forward areas are made entirely of timber, even to their foundations, writes an Indian Army Observer.

In a forest just inside Burma I saw a forestry company selecting and felling trees, logging and hand-sawing them and transporting the logs by light railway to the mill where they are prepared, loaded and despatched.



Workmen sawing timber in a forest in N.-W.F.P.

There is no waste. Odd pieces of timber are used for revetting, shelves, racks, furniture and fuel. The one problem which this company has not solved is how to dispose of the mountains of sawdust. One suggestion is that it should be compressed in cakes for use as a kind of firebrick. But this suggestion has so far not been adopted and a prize of Rs. 5 offered by the C.O. is still open for anyone with a bright idea.

The 250 officers and men of this unit, with additional local labour, are with few exceptions woodmen to the core. Four of the officers came out of Burma two years ago through the very spot on which they are now working. Two of them—one is the C.O.—worked for the Bombay Burmah Trading Corporation supervising the cutting of timber. Fifteen years ago they toiled in the same area in which they are now engaged together. Many of the company are Punchis from Jammu. They have been recruited by one of their officers, who has spent years on timber work in India.

CONDITIONING PLYWOOD

In India, as in the United Kingdom, the great need to build seasoning kilns to season wood for the many uses which the war demands of timber is widely recognised.

The Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, has designed a simple chamber (described in Indian Forest Leaflet No. 65) for the conditioning of finished plywood. The drying room is fitted with steam pipes below the floor and the sheets of plywood are stacked vertically on trolleys above it. There are inlets for fresh air and outlet chimneys for exhausting the moist air from the room.

It is estimated that freshly manufactured plywood will take 24 hours to condition and during this period its moisture content will decrease from about 20 per cent to 8 per cent.

FOODGRAIN SUPPLIES TO CALCUTTA

The Standing Food Advisory Committee met in New Delhi on December 15, the Hon'ble Sir J. P. Srivastava, Food Member, presiding, and approved *nem con* the decision of the Central Government regarding foodgrain supplies to Calcutta during 1945. Those who attended the meeting were Messrs. A. N. Chattopadhaya, Govind Deshmukh, Mahomed Ismail Khan, Kamaluddin Ahmed, E. C. Gwilt, Neelakanta Das, N. K. Das, Mohd. Padshah and S. K. Roy Chaudhary.



H.E. General Sir Claude Auchinleck talking to Lt.-Gen. Muhammad Umar Khan (Centre) Chief of the General Staff, Afghan Army. On the left is Lt.-Gen. Sir A. Hook, Director of Medical Services, India Command.

AFGHAN MILITARY MISSION'S VISIT TO INDIA

HEADED by Lt.-General Muhammad Umar Khan, Chief of the General Staff, Afghan Army, an Afghan Military Mission recently arrived in New Delhi to tour India for several weeks and see something of the country's vast war effort.

Among those who greeted the Mission on arrival at the railway station were Sirdar Mohd. Shafi Khan, Royal Afghan Consul General in India; Brigadier B. P. T. O'Brien, O.B.E., M.C., Deputy Director, Military Intelligence (representing G.H.Q. (I)); Col. C. W. Bennett, H.Q., U.S.F.; Lt.-Col. H. L. Peavy, H.Q., U.S.F.; Lt.-Col. L. E. Wilson, Allies Liaison Officer; and Mr. T. E. Brownsdon, External Affairs Department.

"I hope our visit and tour will prove very successful and interesting," said Lt.-General Muhammad Umar Khan, replying to a personal message of welcome from the C.-in-C. in India, General Sir Claude Auchinleck.

The members of the Mission, who are the guests of the Government of India, are representative of all branches of the Afghan Army and Air Force. With Lt.-Gen. Muhammad Umar Khan are Brigadier Muhammad Arif Khan (Infantry), Col. Muhammad Ali Khan (Signals), Major Abdur Razak Khan (Afghan Air Force), Major Abdul Ghaffar Khan (Cavalry), and Major Muhammad Nasim Khan (Artillery). The Mission is accompanied by Col. A. S. Lancaster, O.B.E., Military Attache, Kabul, Lt. Col. M. W. R. Umfreville (Allies Liaison Section), Major F. E. Fox, American Military Attache, Kabul, and Capt. A. Razak, Interpreter.

Who's Who in Mission

Lt.-Gen. Muhammad Umar Khan was first appointed Chief of Staff, Afghan Army, in 1924. Two years later he led an Afghan Mission to Russia and was afterwards Afghan Military Attache in Berlin. In 1932, he attended the Disarmament Conference in Geneva and in 1935, he was the Afghan Representative on the League of Nations Disarmament Committee. On his return to Aghanistan in 1938 he was reappointed Chief of the General Staff

Brig. Muhammad Arif Khan completed his military training in Turkey in 1938. In the following year he became Director of Military Training at the Afghan Ministry of Defence and in 1940 was appointed Chief of Staff, Kabul Army Corps. He was given command this year of a brigade in the same Corps. Brig. Muhammad Arif Khan is related by marriage to the Afghan Royal Family.

Col. Muhammad Ali Khan, who is a Signals officer, is an instructor at the Military School, Kabul. Major Abdur Razak Khan, an officer of the Afghan Air Force, was trained in Italy as a pilot and, just before the present war, by the R.A.F. at Karachi.

Major Abdul Ghaffar Khan received his army education at the Military College, Ankara, and is now an instructor at the Military College, Kabul. Major Muhammad Nasim Khan, who was also trained in Turkey, is an instructor in the Inspector-General's Branch of the Ministry of Defence

The Mission has come to India to study Indian Army methods. The tour, which will last several weeks, will include visits to various military establishments, war production factories, service training centres, R.I.N. ships, I.A.F. installations and airfields. The Mission will also visit formations of the U.S.A. Forces and hopes to visit forward areas of the 14th Army.

MISSION MEETS SERVICE CHIEFS

Members of the Mission while in New Delhi paid a formal call on the Viceroy, Lord Wavell, on December 8 and then visited General Headquarters, India Command. They had interviews with heads of Services of both India and South East Asia Commands and later lunched with the C.-in-C.

Among the guests at the luncheon party were Lt.-Gen. Sir John des R. Swayne, Chief of the General Staff; Air Vice-Marshal M. Thomas, Air Officer Commanding, India; Maj.-Gen. R. M. M. Lockhart, Deputy Chief of the General Staff, and Sir Olaf Caroe, Secretary, External Affairs Department.

The Mission, headed by Lt.-Gen. Muhammad Umar Khan also met principal staff officers of



Air Vice-Marshal M. Thomas (left) Air Officer Commanding, India Command, with Major Abdur Razak Khan (centre) of the Afghan Air Force, and Major Fox, U.S. Military Attache, Kabul.

India Command at tea in the library at General Headquarters.

The Mission visited the 6th Rajputana Rifles Regimental Centre near Delhi on December 9. On arrival the members were greeted by Maj.-Gen. R. A. B. Freeland, commanding Delhi District; Brig. H. U. Richards, commanding Delhi Area; and Col. E. R. Ridley, commanding the centre.

Guard of Honour

A guard of honour was provided by the 1st (Wellesley's) Battalion of the 6th Rajputana Rifles. Officers of the Regiment were introduced to the members of the Mission, who also met many veterans of the 1st. and 4th (Outram's) battalions of the Regiment who had served in Eritrea, Syria, Libya, Tunisia and in Italy during the present war. The Mission lunched with officers of the Regiment.

In the evening, Lt.-Gen. Sir John des R. Swayne entertained some of the members of the mission to dinner. Others were the guests of the Foreign Secretary, Sir Olaf Caroe.

"THE INDIAN ARMY REVIEW"

OFFICERS of the Indian Army now have a new monthly journal, *The Indian Army Review*.

Introducing the journal the Commander-in-Chief in India, General Sir Claude Auchinleck, says: "I have felt that there is a gap in the publications now being produced by the Inter-Services Public Relations Directorate and by the Welfare Directorate. *The Indian Army Review* will, I hope, fill this gap by giving officers and others information about Indian Army affairs which will be of value and interest to them. It will also, I trust, help them to keep themselves abreast of the problems which will face India's Army in the future.

"One of the aims of this publication is to publish articles and letters of general interest, written by soldiers for soldiers. I ask all of you, therefore, who are interested in questions of future composition, organisation and responsibilities of the Indian Army to send your views to the editor and take full advantage of the facilities offered to you for this purpose by the *Review*."

The first issue contains service notes, a commentary on Indian Army Orders and Army Instructions, a newsletter, pages of pictures and a wide variety of topics of interest to service readers.



Lt.-Gen. Sir Alexander Hood.

WAR OFFICE MEDICAL CHIEF IN INDIA

The importance of army medical services in India and South East Asia Commands in relation to the role which India must play as a base for operations against the Japs is reflected in the visit of Lieut.-Gen. Sir Alexander Hood, Director General, Army Medical Services, at the War Office.

This visit follows shortly after one to London by Lieut.-Gen. Gordon Wilson, Director of Medical Services in India, when a full discussion on all aspects of the medical services took place.

During his stay in this theatre of operations Sir Alexander Hood will visit base medical installations and will also go to the Burma Front to see for himself how the medical services are functioning there.

His tour is expected to last about six weeks, during which time he will discuss and consider any further steps which can be taken to ensure the efficiency of the military medical services.

While in Delhi he was the guest of the C.-in-C. in India, General Sir Claude Auchinleck. He met many of the Indian Princes and also members of the Afghan Military Mission who are on a visit to India.

AIR CHIEF VISITS I.A.F. SQUADRONS ON BURMA FRONT

AIR Vice-Marshal M. Thomas, Air Officer Commanding, India Command, recently made a rapid informal tour of I.A.F. squadrons serving on the Burma Front.

In Assam the Air Officer Commanding visited a reconnaissance squadron which has been operating over Japanese-occupied Burma for many months. This was his second visit to the squadron since he arrived in India in March.

The A.O.C. inspected the squadron's war room maintenance facilities, photographic, signals, and transport sections and domestic camps and discussed with the officers and airmen their problems. He was the officers' guest of honour at dinner and was interested to hear at first hand the story of F/O. A. M. Kapur of Lahore, one of the squadron's pilots who only a few days before had crash-landed in the North Kabaw Valley and walked for three days and two nights through dense jungle before contacting our forward troops.

Captured Japanese Sword

The A.O.C. was also keenly interested in a captured Japanese sword which the 20th Indian Division had recently presented to the squadron as a token of their thanks for the help given by the squadron to them during their victorious fight against the enemy in the Imphal-Tamu road area.

Engraved on a silver plaque are the words: "Japanese Officer's sword, 51st Regiment. Captured in the Battle of Manipur by the 20th Indian Division and presented to this I.A.F. squadron in grateful recognition of the great help always so readily and courageously given by their pilots and ground crews."

The sword is slightly curved and its blade, of fine tempered steel, is 28 inches long. The hilt is of shark skin and the scabbard of metal covered with brown leather. It is probably an heirloom of a Sumarai family.

At an airfield in the Arakan, the A.O.C. visited a briefing room and chatted with the pilots. He talked with the airmen about their life in the service enquiring after their health and the news they had received from home.

At another airfield Air Vice-Marshal Thomas visited a squadron which recently returned to this front from the North-West Frontier. Speaking to pilots who had just returned from a reconnaissance sortie, the A.O.C. emphasised the importance of carrying jungle-kit in case of force-landing behind the enemy lines.

WEST AFRICANS' GIFT TO I.A.F. SQUADRON

A Jap carbine has been presented to an I.A.F. Hurribomber squadron operating in the Arakan as a concrete expression of thanks for its support of West African troops.

On the butt of the carbine, which is kept in the squadron's armoury, is inscribed: "From the Sierra Leone Regiment, R.W.A.F.F., in appreciation of grand support on November 23, 1944."

SPECIAL AIR CLASSES IN SCHOOLS

Pre-entry training facilities for the Indian Air Force are to be afforded to certain public and secondary schools by the formation of "special air classes." The primary object of these classes is to encourage air-mindedness among secondary school students as an initial step towards attracting them to a flying career.

It is proposed, in the first place, to limit the scheme to a small number of schools in provincial capitals and Indian States, and, if the results are encouraging to extend it to one school in each principal city in India.

Wing Commander Narendra, one of the earliest and most experienced members of the I.A.F., has been appointed head of the Pre-Entry Training Section of Air Headquarters, India, which is responsible for this scheme at schools and the Indian Air Training Corps at universities. His extensive knowledge of training in the I.A.F. will be invaluable in his new post.

I.A.F. VOLUNTEER RESERVE

I.A.F. officers who are undergoing flying training on the cessation of hostilities will be able to complete their training, according to an Air Force Order issued recently.

They will have to qualify at each stage of their training to normal I.A.F. standards and undertake, before the end of training, to serve in the I.A.F. Volunteer Reserve after termination of their war service.



Wing Commander Mehar Singh.

NEW I.A.F. WING COMMANDERS

THREE new Indian Air Force Wing Commanders figure in the latest list of officer-appointments.

Squadron Leader Mehar Singh, D.S.O., the first I.A.F. officer to win that decoration, Squadron Leader Hem Choudhuri, who until a few months ago commanded an I.A.F. squadron on operations, and Squadron Leader Narendra, one of the earlier members of the I.A.F., are given the acting rank of Wing Commander.

Among seven I.A.F. officers appointed to the rank of Squadron Leader is Flight Lieutenant R. Rajaram, a pilot who has been doing well over the Burma battlefields. Flight Lieutenant J. M. Engineer, one of the four Engineer brothers who are all pilots in the I.A.F., is also appointed to senior rank. Both have been given command of squadrons.

Other officers appointed to the rank of Squadron Leader are Flight Lieutenants R. H. D. Singh, H. Raza, S. D. Singh, E. Pinto and H. N. Mansukhani.

The average age of these seven squadron leaders is only 26, the oldest being 30.

The following are appointed to the rank of Flight Lieutenant: Flying Officers J. C. Verma, D.F.C., E. N. Ullah, O. P. Mehra, H. C. Dewan, M. A. Rahman, M. L. Misra, H. Moolgavkar, A. Lodhie, P. Chuckerbutty, M. Akhtar, G. S. Singh and C. Satyanarayana.

Wing Commander Mehar Singh, D.S.O., has been appointed Deputy President of No. 7 G.H.Q. Officers Selection Board, Dehra Dun.

This appointment emphasises the importance Air Headquarters attaches to employing Indian Officers of wide and recent operational experience in the task of selecting young Indians for commissions in the Indian Air Force. Wing Commander Mehar Singh's extensive knowledge of flying will be an invaluable asset to the Board, which is principally concerned with selection for the I.A.F.

"Fine Leadership"

Wing Commander Mehar Singh, who is 29, is one of the I.A.F.'s most experienced operational pilots and leaders. Until recently he commanded a fighter reconnaissance squadron in the Arakan. He was awarded the D.S.O. in March this year, the first I.A.F. officer to be so honoured. The citation praised his "fine leadership and high example".

He was born at Lyallpur, Punjab, in 1915 and educated at Khalsa School, Lyallpur, and the Punjab University. A first-rate athlete at college, he decided to make flying his career. He was trained at Cranwell and joined the I.A.F. in 1936.

He has flown on operations on both the North-West and Eastern Frontiers of India and has piloted many types of modern aircraft —from single-engined fighters to multi-engined transport aircraft.

W/Cdr. Hem Choudhri

Wing Commander Hem Choudhuri has been posted to Air Headquarters, India, for duty with the Directorate of Resettlement. His new appointment is of considerable importance to the I.A.F., as he will be actively concerned in the planning of resettlement in civil life of those I.A.F. personnel who may be released from the Service after the war. Before joining the I.A.F., he was with a well-known commercial firm and his wide experience in Service and civilian life will be invaluable in his new sphere of activity.

Son of a distinguished barrister, W.C. Hem Choudhuri was educated in Calcutta, London and Cambridge. He was called to the Bar in 1931 and later went into business. During the first Burma campaign he was with a Coast Defence Flight. Until a few months ago, he commanded a Vultee Vengeance dive-bomber squadron on the Burma border. His two brothers are in the Army.



Air Vice-Marshal Thomas (left) with Wing Commander Mukerjee

W/CDR. S. MUKERJEE APPOINTED TO STAFF POST

Wing Commander S. Mukerjee, who in August 1943 was the first I.A.F. officer to be given command of an Air Force station, has given up his command at R.A.F. Station, Kohat, on transfer to a staff appointment at Air Headquarters, India. Wing Commander Aspy Engineer, D.F.C., has succeeded to the command of the Kohat Station.

Wing Commander Mukerjee who is 33, was the first officer to be commissioned in the Indian Air Force. He was educated in Calcutta and England and received his air force training at Cranwell.

Wing Commander Engineer

Wing Commander Engineer, who is 32, was also one of the earliest members of the I.A.F. He first caught the public eye in 1929 by flying a Tiger Moth aircraft from India to England and back. For this he was awarded the Aga Khan Prize which was offered for the first Indian to fly from India to England.

In 1943, Wing Commander Engineer won the D.F.C. for his exploits in operations on the North-West Frontier, and he has also been mentioned in despatches. He has recently been employed in a senior staff post at Air Headquarters and now returns for a spell of active command.

VICTORY IN WAR AGAINST JAPAN ASSURED

"COMPLETE victory in the war against Japan has already been assured just so soon as the immense task of concentrating all our power in the vast areas of the Far East can be undertaken."

So said Brigadier I. S. Jehu in a talk, reviewing the course of the war in 1944, broadcast from the New Delhi studios of All India Radio on December 31.

The unqualified triumph of the 14th Army in driving back the Japs from the plain of Imphal, he said, allied to the land, sea and air successes in the Pacific, had put the sailors, soldiers and airmen of the United Nations on the top of the Japs.

"The sacrifices of blood, endurance and material still called for cannot make 1945 a happy new year but the promise of 1944 has guaranteed happier new years for the future if we keep at it with all our strength. The past year has seen in the East remarkable progress in preparation for the day when we shall be able to concentrate everything against the Japs.

Japs in Full Retreat

"In our own theatre, while Allied sea power is again becoming dominant in the Indian Ocean and the Bay of Bengal, and the Eastern Air Command has conquered the skies over Burma, the Allied land forces have shattered the Japs into full retreat from India's Eastern Frontier.

"Underestimating the progress made in numbers, training and equipment, and the potentialities of air supply now at the disposal of the new South East Asia Command, the Japs counter-attacked savagely in the Arakan. Following failure there they then committed, with small reference to other developments, the major part of their land forces to an all-out offensive against Manipur and Assam.

"Had the drive to Imphal, Kohima and Dimapur succeeded, the enemy might well have counted on the campaign by the Chinese and the Chindits in Northern Burma withering like a severed branch. As it was the enemy was soundly beaten, thrown out of India; and is still being pushed further and further into the heart of Burma."



Maj.-Gen. N. G. Hind, Commander, Sind District, talking to Sepoy Mir Badshah.

M.M. FOR PATHAN SEPOYS WHO RESCUED COMRADES

TWO Pathan sepoys of the 12th Frontier Force Regiment who rescued two comrades and killed four Japs in the Arakan have been awarded the M.M.

Sepoy Mir Badshah, of Pagdara village, tehsil Jamrud. N.-W.F.P., received his decoration from Major-General N. G. Hind, Commander, Sind District, at a parade at Karachi. His companion was Sepoy Maqbula, of Passani village, Mattani, Peshawar.

While their company was patrolling near Buthidaung, eight Japs managed to penetrate their camp from behind and capture two men. Sepoy Mir Badshah and Sepoy Maqbula advanced to within 300 yards of the enemy and four Japs were killed by the covering fire of Sepoy Maqbula and the remainder of the company.

Sepoy Mir Badshah, firing his rifle as he advanced, shouted to the two prisoners, who were now inadequately guarded, to stop. They escaped and were able to return to the company's position.

Mir Badshah followed the other four Japs for another 300 yards, and shot them all. From the two bodies which he could reach, he brought back 50 rounds of ammunition, a grenade and rifle equipment.

SIXTH GURKHA RIFLES' RECORD IN BURMA

WITHIN four months' fighting on the Burma Front a battalion of the 6th Gurkha Rifles has won two V.C.s, a Silver Star awarded by Gen. Stilwell, three M.C.s, one I.O.M., four I.D.S.M.s, and ten M.M.s, a record of which these great fighters are justly proud.

This is the battalion in which two Victoria Crosses, those of Capt. Michael Allmand and Rifleman Tulbahadur Pun, were won in the same action at Mogaung. The battalion forms part of the Third Indian Division, known only too well to the Japs as the formidable Chindits.

The battalion received its baptism of fire in March, when, as part of the 77th Brigade, it carried out a successful skirmish at Nansiang, in the Mawlu area. A Jap machine-gun opened out on the leading Gurkha platoon from 20 yards' range and in the swift action that followed the enemy gun was silenced and the survivors of its crew fled.

Within 24 hours the battalion was taking part in a sweep towards a block put down and held by the South Staffordshire Regiment at Henu, a village four miles further south. It was in this engagement that Jemadar Bhagtir Gurung won the M.C.; his platoon ran into a Jap party making its way down a *nullah*; whereupon the Jemadar led his Gurkhas, kukris drawn, against the enemy—not a Jap escaped.

During a night march a party stumbled into a convoy of Jap lorries. Surprise was mutual but our men got the better of the encounter; two lorries were destroyed and only one rifleman was killed.

British Comrades' Admiration

During a long association with a unit of the South Staffordshire Regiment, the Gurkhas of this battalion have won the full admiration of their British comrades. In many an action in the lonely jungles of Northern Burma, Tommy Atkins and "Johnny" Gurkha have fought side by side, each dealing out his own brand of disaster and death to the Japs.

The South Staffs were there when Havildar Bhimlal Gurung, firing a medium machine-gun with devastating effect, stood to his post throughout a long battle. Later, in close hand to hand encounters, he did further damage with hand grenades.

This action, possibly more than any other, impressed the British troops who came into action with "Johnny" Gurkha.

U. S. GENERAL'S TRIBUTE TO INDIAN SOLDIERS

"ONE of the most encouraging developments of the war in the South East Asia Command is the splendid fighting qualities displayed by the Indian Army in its battles with the Japanese."

So says Lieut.-Gen. Raymond A. Wheeler, American Deputy Supreme Commander, South East Asia Command, in a statement in which he pays tribute to the part played by the men of the Indian Army in the recent successes in Burma.

"I have been closely associated with the Indian Army in India, Assam and Burma for over three years," says Lt.-Gen. Wheeler. "While initiating the construction of the Ledo Road and as Commanding General, Services of Supply, C.B.I. Theatre, I had many Indian Service troops and guard units under my command.

"Superb Discipline"

"These Indian troops performed their duties in an excellent manner and were loyal and faithful to the Americans with whom they served. The administration and discipline of these units was superb.

"The record of the fighting qualities of the Indian Army speaks for itself. During the past monsoon season Indian troops kept the pressure on the Japanese and carried the fight to them under severe weather conditions and over rugged terrain.

"Their dogged determination helped throw the enemy out of India and back into Burma. The magnificent campaigns of the Indian Divisions down the Tiddim Road and across the Chindwin River, coupled with the accomplishments of the Indian supply units, is one of the major factors contributing to the success of the present Burma drive.

"The Indian Army has proven itself to be an excellent member of the Allied American, British, Chinese, Indian, East African and West African team in this theatre."

MEWAR STATE INFANTRY

After three and a half years abroad approximately 900 officers and men of the Mewar State Infantry arrived at Bombay recently.

Most of their service has been spent in the Middle East, where they have been on garrison duty.

MOST DECORATED BATTALION

A battalion of the 8th Punjab Regiment serving with the Eighth Indian Division has the distinction of being the most decorated in Italy.

In less than a year, which marked some of the bitterest fighting, its awards have included one V.C., one D.S.O., four I.O.M.s, five M.C.s, eleven I.D.S.M.s and nine "mentions."

C.-IN-C. CONGRATULATES "DOUBLE V.C." BATTALION

The Sixth Gurkha Rifles has been congratulated by the Commander-in-Chief in India on the unique honour achieved by one of its battalions in winning two V.C.s in one action.

In a message to the Commandant of the regimental training centre the C.-in-C. says: "I know that all ranks of the Indian Army are proud and glad to feel that they share in the honour that has been done to the regiment and that they will be tremendously inspired and encouraged by the imperishable story of Capt. Allmand's self-sacrifice and matchless bravery. They will I know join with me in asking you to convey our deep sympathy to his relatives in the great loss they have sustained."

In another message congratulating Rifleman Tulbahadur Pun, who won the V.C. in the same action as Capt. Allmand, the C.-in-C. says: "I am sure that the whole Indian Army will join me in this and that Tulbahadur's magnificent initiative and determination to defeat the enemy will be an inspiration to many to follow his fine example."

GENERAL AUCHINLECK'S MESSAGE TO TROOPS IN ITALY

In a telegram to Lt.-Gen. Mark Clark, C.-in-C., Allied Armies in Italy, General Sir Claude Auchinleck, C.-in-C., India, sent his good wishes to the troops in Italy and expressed the hope that in the New Year all their ventures would be victorious. India was proud to have her divisions serving under Lt.-Gen. Clark in Italy, he added.

In reply, Lt.-Gen. Clark expressed his appreciation of the C.-in-C.'s message and said he was confident that the Indian divisions in Italy would uphold their record.

ENGLISH WOMAN WHO LED NAGA WARRIORS AGAINST THE JAPS



Miss U. V. Graham Bower

IN a rough *basha* on a solitary hilltop in the Naga country, a hard two days' march from the nearest white habitation at Hafiong, lives a 30-year-old London woman who has organised Naga tribesmen against the Japs, established a network of observation posts through the North Cachar hills and supplied the 14th Army with one of its most valuable intelligence sources.

The stranger-than-fiction story of this remarkable woman—some have called her a "female Lawrence"—has now been told by SEAC, the 14th Army troops' newspaper.

Her name is Ursula V. Graham Bower. She is the daughter of Commander J. G. Bower, D.S.O., submarine officer and pioneer airman, and her brother is a captain in the Marines.

For six years she has lived alone among the Nagas, studying them, taking photographs, collecting material for a book.

In 1942 when the Japs came up into Naga country the tribesmen were reputed to be rather shy of British influence. To-day, thanks to Miss Bower's firm organisation, they are 100 per cent loyal.

When the Japs were reported to be within 15 miles of her hilltop *basha* headquarters and she was advised to come out she replied with a request for 30 more rifles and the signal: "I am going forward to find out what is happening."

She threw out a screen of observation posts and made ready a system of warning by beacon and runner so that the army should know from which direction the raid towards the vital Assam railway was coming.

A Great Organiser

Her *basha* headquarters became the focus of much intensive military activity, a concentration point for mules, weapons, ammunition and food.

While a great organiser and able to withstand the most arduous marches, this remarkable woman does not give the impression of being a "tough" type. Her manner is charming, her voice pleasant and her appearance wholly feminine.

Her mother describes her as "an extraordinary girl, part literary dreamer and part eager explorer who finds it impossible to sit still."

Wherever she goes to-day she is accompanied by two armed Naga tribesmen, her faithful bodyguard.

NEW YEAR GREETINGS TO SEAMEN

"May next Christmas find you sailing on a peaceful sea at your ports, home and family free from the enemy's threat, and may the understanding and comradeship which have grown up between us during the war endure firmly in the days to come." Thus observes the British Minister of War Transport in a Christmas and New Year's message to "officers and men of Merchant Ships, wherever they may be working in the cause of the United Nations." This message is sent "on behalf of those at home in the United Kingdom."

On behalf of the Merchant Navy, he has also sent his thanks to all those who have helped to provide welfare and entertainment to seamen in ports throughout the world.

ALL-INDIAN BRIGADE IN ACTION AGAINST JAPS

For the first time in the history of the Indian Army, what is virtually an all-Indian brigade, led by Indian commanding officers, has been in action against the enemy and has given a good account of itself in operations.

This brigade, forming part of the 25th Indian Division, is on the Burma front and was recently visited by the Supreme Allied Commander, Lord Louis Mountbatten.

It consists of battalions of the 19th Hyderabad Regiment under the command of Lt.-Col. K. S. Thimayya, the 10th Baluch Regiment under the command of Lt.-Col. Sen and the 2nd Punjab Regiment under the command of Lt.-Col. Thorat.

In the absence of the regular Brigadier, this brigade has been led by Lt.-Col. Thimayya, under whom it has met with marked success. Lord Louis Mountbatten recently paid tribute to the fine leadership of the officiating brigade commander and the splendid spirit of his men and expressed his pleasure at having within South East Asia Command an Indian brigade which has played such an important role in the offensive against the Japanese.

BIKANER RULER ON BURMA FRONT

Arriving on the Burma front by air, the Maharaja of Bikaner inspected the Bijay Bikaner battery of an Indian Mountain Artillery regiment and talked to officers and men, most of whom come from his State.

The Maharaja spent the night at a battery H.Q. in a tent. He appeared on the parade ground while the morning mist was still on the hills.

During the inspection His Highness was accompanied by a senior gunner officer of an Indian division.

Addressing the men His Highness announced the promotion to Lt.-Col. of Major Kishen Singh, I.A.F., of Bikaner, who had served with the battery for the last 20 years. While going round the lines His Highness made detailed enquiries about the welfare of the men and stopped to talk to many of them.

After inspecting the men's living conditions he tasted the food in a battery kitchen, watched gun drill and complimented the officers and men on their excellent work during operations along the Kohima-Imphal road.

"LEAVE-AT-HOME" MEN SAIL FOR ENGLAND

HOMEWARD bound in troop-ships, the jungle and the Japs temporarily forgotten, India's first "leave-at-home" contingent have sailed for England.

The final scene as the ships carrying British troops and officers, drawn from units all over India and the 14th Army area, began to move away from the dockside was notable for its quietness, writes an Indian Army Observer.

To the embarkation staff it was just another movements job, but from the troops' point of view, it was a quietness of another kind. There was a tenseness in the air, a feeling of suppressed excitement which the watcher at the docks felt would reach its climax when the shores of England came into view and the men from the wilds of the Arakan, the banks of the Chindwin, the rocky fastnesses of the North-West Frontier and the sun-baked plains of India really felt the impact of the welcome awaiting them.

There was no demonstration as the men boarded the ships, found their allotted berths and then lined the rails to say a temporary farewell to India. A handful of army officers and other ranks gazed, some perhaps a little wistfully, at the men who were going to see their homes and families again.

"Lucky blighters," muttered one dockside soldier. "They'll be home in a few weeks—wonder when my application will go through?"

There was general satisfaction that here was a leave plan acted upon by the army with commendable swiftness. Men who only a matter of days before had been grappling with the Jap in the jungles of Burma, or coping with supply problems on the line of communication, were really going home.

NEW W.A.C. (I) STAFF COLLEGE

The W.A.C. (I) is to have its own staff college. It will be opened this month at Quetta, not far from the famous Indian Army Staff College from which so many leading personalities of the Army in India to-day have emerged.

The college will train W.A.C. (I) officers up to the standard required to fill third grade staff appointments and help officers holding junior appointments to qualify for upgrading. Each course will last four months and will take 50 officers.

A W.A.C. (I) Officers' School has been opened at New Delhi to give the W.A.C. (I) Officer who has not attended an O.C.T.U. such training as will enable her more efficiently to perform her duties.



Captain Unni Nayar, M.B.E.

FRONTLINE REPORTER COMES HOME TO INDIA

TO India has just come Capt. Unni Nayar, M.B.E., 5th Mahratta Light Infantry, one of the first Indian Army Observers, after more than two years' service in the Middle East and Mediterranean theatres. I persuaded him to tell me of his adventures, writes a brother Indian Army Observer.

India was the first command to introduce the system of officer observers. Capt. Nayar, medium-built, unassuming and always smiling, doggedly following our troops with note-book and pencil, has shown the extent to which the newspaper reader far from the front can be kept informed and cheered by their despatches.

A journalist himself, Capt. Nayar was called up in 1940, having been commissioned before the war in the Army in India Reserve of Officers. When the Director of Public Relations called him in as observer he had served for four months in a newly formed battalion of the 5th Mahratta Light Infantry.

For eight months before the Japs declared war, Capt. Nayar was reporting the doings of our troops in Malaya. He returned to India in December 1941 to learn of the Jap attack on Pearl Harbour. Immediately he asked to be sent back and landed in Rangoon in time to experience the first bombing of the city and the machine-gunning of civilians there.

Narrow Escapes

Capt. Nayar had many narrow escapes during the retreat from Burma. Twice he was caught in road blocks and on both occasions escaped. The house in Shwebo in which he was taking shelter was hit by a bomb; he escaped unhurt.

Eventually he returned to India *via* Tamu, after sharing all the horrors and hardships of Indian refugees on that dreadful march.

After covering the Duke of Gloucester's tour of India in 1942, Capt. Nayar arrived in the Western Desert in time to see the Fourth Indian Division fight the battle of El Alamein. He saw the campaign through with the division and was wounded at Wadi Akarit.

His worst experience occurred when he was caught in a German ambush in North Africa with a night patrol of Dogras of 11th Punjab Regiment. Three machine-gun snipers fired at them from point-blank range; they fell flat on the ground and saw tracer bullets cutting the tall grass above them.

In Italy Capt. Nayar reported the battles of the rivers fought so gallantly by the Eighth Indian Division. Going out with a patrol he was one of the first to wade across the Arno and enter the German-held half of Florence. He was with our troops when they helped to break the Gothic Line.

CENSUS OF MILITARY VEHICLES

Thousands of army clerks all over India are working on the first census of military vehicles ever to be held in this country.

A census was decided on to check the locations of about a quarter of a million military vehicles now in use in India. It covers every type of vehicle, including tracked and wheeled carriers, ambulances, amphibious trucks, trailers, tractors and lorries of various sizes.

The census will also provide units with a standard method of recording their holdings and subsequent issues and receipts.

Special Indian Army Orders have been issued initiating the scheme. The census will take several weeks to complete.

INCREASED PAY FOR INDIAN ARMED FORCES

IN the announcement made early in November relating to the application to personnel of the British Services in India of the War Service Increments and Japanese Campaign Pay sanctioned by His Majesty's Government, it was stated that a further announcement would be made as to the extent to which these benefits should be applied to the Indian Army, the Royal Indian Navy, and the Indian Air Force.

While the Government of India still have under consideration the question of the grant of Japanese Campaign Pay to the Indian Services, they have decided that War Service Increments will be granted to the Indian Services from the same date and under the same conditions as are applicable to the British Services.

These increments apply to all officers of the three Services including those of the British Services attached to the Indian Services. Service for the grant of these increments will be reckoned from September 3, 1939.

Increased Rates of Pay

All officers who have completed three or more years will receive increased pay at the following rates with effect from September 3, 1944:

Officers of the rank of Major to Brigadier, inclusive, in the Army and of equivalent rank in the R.I.N. and the I.A.F. will receive per mensem Rs. 69, Rs. 92, Rs. 115 and Rs. 138 on completion of war service totalling three, four, five and six years respectively; and officers of the rank of Captain and below in the Army and of equivalent rank in the R.I.N. and the I.A.F., Rs. 51 Rs. 68, Rs. 85 and Rs. 102 on completion of war service totalling three, four, five and six years respectively.

British Other Ranks of the India Unattached List and embodied members of the Auxiliary Force, India, will also receive increments at the rates applicable to British Other Ranks of the British Service in India. Conditions under which increments will be admissible to V.C.O.s are the same as those applicable to officers.

The rates for Viceroy's Commissioned Officers will be Rs. 10, Rs. 13, Rs. 16 and Rs. 19 (per mensem) on completion of war service totalling three, four, five and six years respectively.

Indian Other Ranks

As regards ratings and other ranks and enrolled non-combatants, whose war service increments will be effective, as for others, from September 3, 1944, the Government of India have decided that they will receive half of the war service increments in cash with their normal emoluments, and the remaining half will be deferred and paid to the individual on promotion to Indian or Viceroy Commissioned rank, or on transfer to the reserve, discharge or demobilisation.

The reason for this is the Government of India's desire to ensure that on leaving the armed forces, these personnel will have resources with which to re-establish themselves in civil life. Their rates of increments on completion of war service totalling three, four, five and six years, respectively, will be:

Indian other ranks of and above the rank of Havildar in the Army and equivalent ranks in the R.I.N. and the I.A.F., Rs. 6, 8, 10 and 12; Indian other ranks below the rank of Havildar or equivalent, Rs. 4, 6, 8 and 10; Non-combatants enrolled, Rs. 2-8, 3-8, 4-8 and 6.

The question of deferring the portion of war service increments now to be paid to I.O.R.s with current emoluments will be further considered by the Government of India in the light of any decision which may be reached regarding the grant of Japanese Campaign Pay to personnel of the Indian Army.

"LOOK SMART WHILE TRAVELLING"

The Army's New Slogan

"Look smart while travelling" is the current slogan of India's Army.

In an Indian Army Order the C.-in-C. in India, General Sir Claude Auchinleck, has reminded all soldiers of the importance of "cleanliness, soldierly bearing and general turnout of troops travelling by train."

It is pointed out to the men that soldiers on railway stations and in railway trains tend to be cynosures of civilian eyes and the impression they then make may determine the public's attitude to the army. Despite the difficulties every possible method of keeping clean and smart when travelling should therefore be adopted.

"The real spirit and discipline of a unit is reflected by the behaviour of small parties and individuals detached from H.Q. whether on duty or on leave," says the Order.

The Central War Committee, and the State Police, Tonk State, have contributed Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 660 respectively to the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund for the relief of Londoners bombed by flying bombs.

C.-IN-C., EAST INDIES



Admiral Sir A. J. Power

ADMIRAL SIR ARTHUR JOHN POWER, K.C.B., C.V.O., who has been promoted Admiral and appointed Commander-in-Chief, East Indies, was formerly Vice-Admiral Second-in-Command of Eastern Fleet, under Admiral Sir James F. Somerville and Sir Bruce Fraser.

He was in command when units of the Eastern Fleet bombarded the Nicobar Islands recently. He also commanded the force which carried out an air attack against Port Blair in the Andaman Islands.

Admiral Power has had a most varied war career. At the outbreak of war, he was Captain of the aircraft-carrier "Ark Royal." He held this appointment until May, 1940, and was then promoted Rear-Admiral and went to the Admiralty as Assistant Chief of Naval Staff.

He held this appointment for two years and then went to sea to command a cruiser squadron. During the preparations for the invasion of Sicily and Southern Italy he became Vice-Admiral, Malta, and remained in this appointment until the operation had been carried out. He then acted as Liaison Officer, Italy, for a short period.

In December, 1943, he was appointed Vice-Admiral Second-in-Command of the Eastern Fleet.

Admiral Power joined the Royal Navy in 1904. He is 53 years of age.

VICE-ADMIRAL GODFREY VISITS FORWARD AREAS

Travelling by air, jeep and launch, Vice-Admiral J. H. Godfrey, Flag Officer Commanding, Royal Indian Navy, recently returned to Delhi after a crowded tour of the forward areas on the Arakan Front.

In twelve days he travelled some 5,000 miles, of which several hundred were covered by jeep. He visited ports on the east coast of India and the Arakan, and in informal inspections saw for himself Coastal Forces, amphibious training, and Naval installations at Calcutta, Vizagapatam, Chittagong and an advanced naval base on the Indo-Burma border.

He was in Buthidaung within 24 hours of its capture and also visited Maungdaw and Taung Bazaar. At Buthidaung field guns were still firing from the township into the Japanese lines only a short distance away.

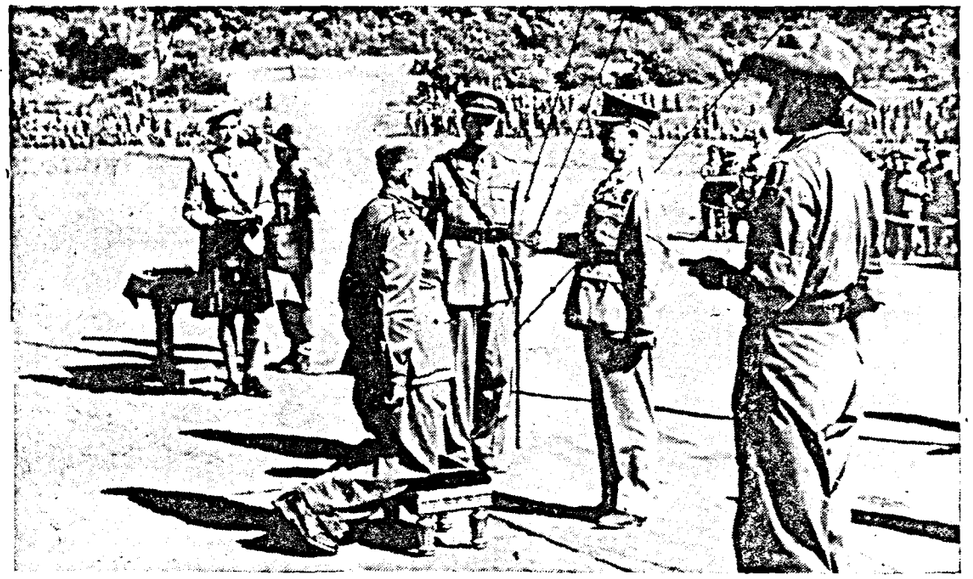
On his return he visited Indian warships at Calcutta, thus completing another rapid tour of the Naval sector of the Eastern Front.

ADMIRALTY'S TRIBUTE TO R.I.N.

On the eve of the New Year, the Board of Admiralty sent cordial greetings and best wishes for the New Year to the Flag Officer Commanding and all officers and men of the Royal Indian Navy.

In their signal the Admiralty say:

"We congratulate the Royal Indian Navy on its great increase in size and striking power and on the splendid contribution to the war effort which it is making. We trust that speedy victory will restore to the world the blessings of peace."



"Arise, Sir William," said H.E. the Viceroy after he had touched the 14th Army Commander on each shoulder with the ceremonial sword.

14TH ARMY LEADERS KNIGHTED IN THE FIELD

IN a field near Imphal, framed by hills from which thwarted Jap troops looked down only a few months ago and flanked on three sides by rank on rank of the men of the 14th Army, four Lieut.-Generals—their leaders—knelt in turn on a gilded hassock to receive from the hand of the Viceroy the accolade of knighthood.

High overhead fighter aircraft circled in the sunlight. Camouflaged anti-aircraft guns pointed their noses into the vivid blue sky.

Drawn up on one side of the square to watch the bestowal of these honours, in which the whole 14th Army shared, were the bonneted men of the King's Own Scottish Borderers. On another stood troops of the 15th Punjab Regiment and next to them stocky soldiers of the 5th Royal Gurkha Rifles. On the other side were tall *askaris* of the King's African Rifles.

Nearly every branch of the army was represented on the field and there were servicewomen, too, from the Q.A.I.M.N.S., the W.R.E.N.S., the W.A.C.(I), the W.A.A.F., the green-clad W.A.S. (B) and the W.V.S.

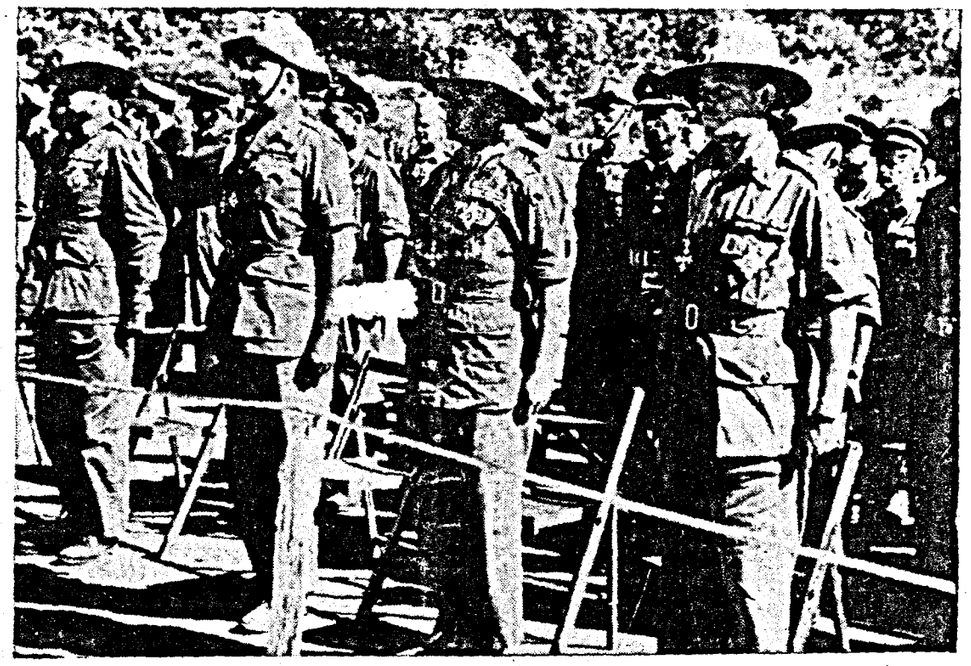
Lady Slim and Lady Christison, both wearing the uniform of the W.V.S., came to see their husbands knighted. Lady Scoones and Miss Anne Scoones were there, too, and so was Miss Christison, who is a W.A.C.(I) junior commander.

Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten was there, with Lt.-Gen. Sir Oliver Leese, Commander of the Allied Land Forces S.E.A., and Air Marshal Sir Guy Garrod. Other service chiefs present included Gen. F. M. Browning, Admiral Mountbatten's new Chief of Staff, and Air Marshal W. A. Coryton. Among the visitors sat Lady Wavell, the Hon. Felicity Wavell, Sir Andrew Clow, Governor of Assam, Lady Clow and the Maharaja of Manipur.

The flagged cars of the Viceregal party, driving up from the Imphal airstrip, moved around a road cut in the side of the hills and alighted at a point where tents had been erected some distance from the scene of the parade.

Lord Louis Mountbatten was the first to approach the parade. It was called to attention by the C.O. of the South Lancashire Regiment. The visitors stood as the Supreme Allied Commander took the General Salute.

He then advanced to meet the Viceroy and his party. Again the parade presented arms.



The four Generals who were knighted. (Left to Right) Lt.-Gen. Sir William Slim, K.C.B., Commanding 14th Army; Lt.-Gen. Sir A. F. P. Christison, K.B.E., Commanding 15th Indian Corps; Lt.-Gen. G. A. P. Scoones, K.B.E., then Commanding 4 Corps; and Lt.-Gen. Sir M. G. M. Stopford K.B.E., Commanding 33 Indian Corps.

The pipes and drums of the Royal Scots played the Royal Salutes and the Union Jack broke from the flagstaff.

Two platoons formed the guard of honour, one composed of veteran Royal Scots—two of them were wearing D.C.M.s won at Kohima and in the Arakan—and the other drawn from the R.A.F. Regiment. To the skirl of the pipes the Viceroy inspected the guard and returned to a point beside the flagstaff.

The four Lt.-Generals took up their positions in line before the parade. Behind them were 12 officers and men of the 14th Army—British, Indian and African—who were to receive gallantry awards.

As each general's name was called he marched forward to kneel on a gilded hassock, his slouch hat removed.

The Viceroy touched General Slim on each shoulder with the ceremonial sword. "Arise, Sir William," he said. Then he placed around the neck of the man kneeling before him the Order of the Bath.

Then came the turn of Sir Alexander Christison (15th Indian Corps), Sir Geoffrey Scoones (4th Corps), and Sir Montague Stopford (33rd Indian Corps), each receiving the Order of Knight Commander of the British Empire while their names and decorations were read out by General Slim's Military Secretary.

Twelve other officers and men marched forward singly to receive their awards. They were: D.S.O.: Major C. C. Morrison, 7th Light Cavalry; Major M. Heald, R.A., Indian Mountain Regiment; M.C.: Capt. Amir Abdullah Khan Niazi, 7th Rajput Regiment; Jemadar Bombahadur Thapa, I.D.S.M., 5th Royal Gurkha Rifles; I.O.M.: Havildar-Major Abid Ali, 9th Jat Regiment; D.C.M.: L/Sgt. A. J. Kemble, Royal Berkshire Regiment; Cpl. J. McElnatton, Devon Regiment; M.M.: L/Cpl. J. Davies, South Lancs Regiment; Cpl. Malakwen Sitenei, K.A.R.; I.D.S.M.: Hav. Assa Singh, 13th Frontier Force Rifles; B.G.M.: L/Nk/Indar Singh, Burma Regiment; G.M.: R.S.M. H. S. Noble, G.M.P. (I).

Issued fortnightly by J. Natarajan, Principal Information Officer, Government of India Printed in India by E. G. Tilt (Manager) at The Civil & Military Gazette, Ltd., Lahore. Communications for the Editor should be addressed to the Bureau of Public Information, Government of India, Lahore, and not to the Printers.

INDIAN INFORMATION



No. 135: Feb. 1, 1945
Fortnightly by the
Information Officer,
Government of India

•VICEROY ON INDIA'S TRANSPORT PROBLEMS



Major Gurbaksh Singh (right) and his son, Lieut. Lakhbir Singh, who are both serving with the 1st Jaipur Regiment in Italy. The father is battalion Medical Officer and the son is Signals Officer. Major Gurbaksh Singh has had 21 years Army service.

Vol. 16, No. 153. INDIAN INFORMATION Feb. 1, 1945

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

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

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

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

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

MAIN CONTENTS

	Page
Sir Edward Benthall on Transport Problems in Post-War India	86
Producer Gas and Road Transport: Dr. H. S. Dunnicliff's speech at Nagpur	93
Dr. B. R. Ambedkar on Damodar Valley Scheme	97
Indian Industries after the War: Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar's Radio Talk	106
Development of Indian Industries: Sir Ardeshir Dalal's speech at Nagpur	110
Mr. G. S. Bozman's Address to Publicity Advisory Committee	116
Sir Mahomed Usman on P. and T. Department's War Problems	125
International Civil Aviation: Chicago Conference Discussions	126
Hydari Mission to U. K.	134
National Savings Fortnight—Sir Jeremy Raisman's Broadcast	138
Recapture of Akyab	141

COVER PICTURE: Naik Gian Chand (right) 2nd Punjab Regiment, points out to his comrades a Jap position on the Burma Front.

"TRANSPORTATION IS CIVILIZATION"

Viceroy on Importance of Communications

"THE problem of communications seems to me to be the whole basis of India's social and economic advance, which we are all so anxious to forward," said H.E. the Viceroy in his address to the Transport Advisory Council which met in New Delhi on January 12. The Council consists of representatives of the Government of India and Provinces and some States. The session lasted two days.

H.E. the Viceroy said:

"Transportation is Civilization."

In a story Kipling wrote many years ago about a future world happily free of war and of politics, human affairs were controlled by an international board whose motto was the above dictum. It has somehow stuck in my memory ever since; and the more experience I have had of both peace and war, the more I appreciate its general truth. After some years in high military command, I am inclined to put forward as a parallel dictum that "War is Transportation". Certainly it is the ruling factor in military operations; and no campaign has better illustrated this than that on the North-East frontier of India and in the north of Burma.

In peace I am quite clear that the improvement of communications has always led the way in social progress. It was this belief that caused me to say in my first public speech as Viceroy more than a year ago at Calcutta:

"I do not see how it is possible to effect any great improvement in health or education in the villages of India until they can be reached surely and quickly at all times."

Nor in fact can one decide on the number of schools, or dispensaries and hospitals re-



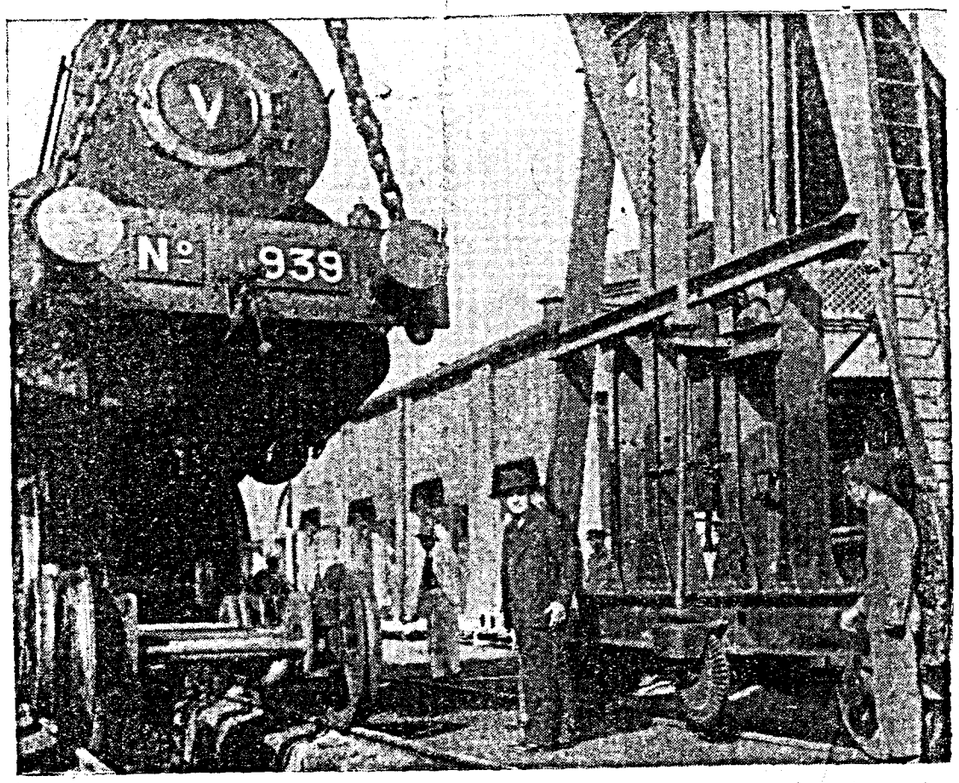
H.E. the Viceroy climbing out of the "Great Moghul," a locomotive reconditioned in the N.W.R. loco workshops. His Excellency visited the workshops during his recent tour of the Punjab.

quired for a district until the means of movement in that district are determined and known. Thus it seems to me that the first step in all the schemes for the social progress of which India is in such desperate need, and which are now so much under public discussion, must be the improvement of the means of communication; not only the main roads, but the minor district and village roads. Again, in any big agricultural or economic undertaking such as an irrigation or hydro-electric project the making of roads is almost invariably a first requirement.

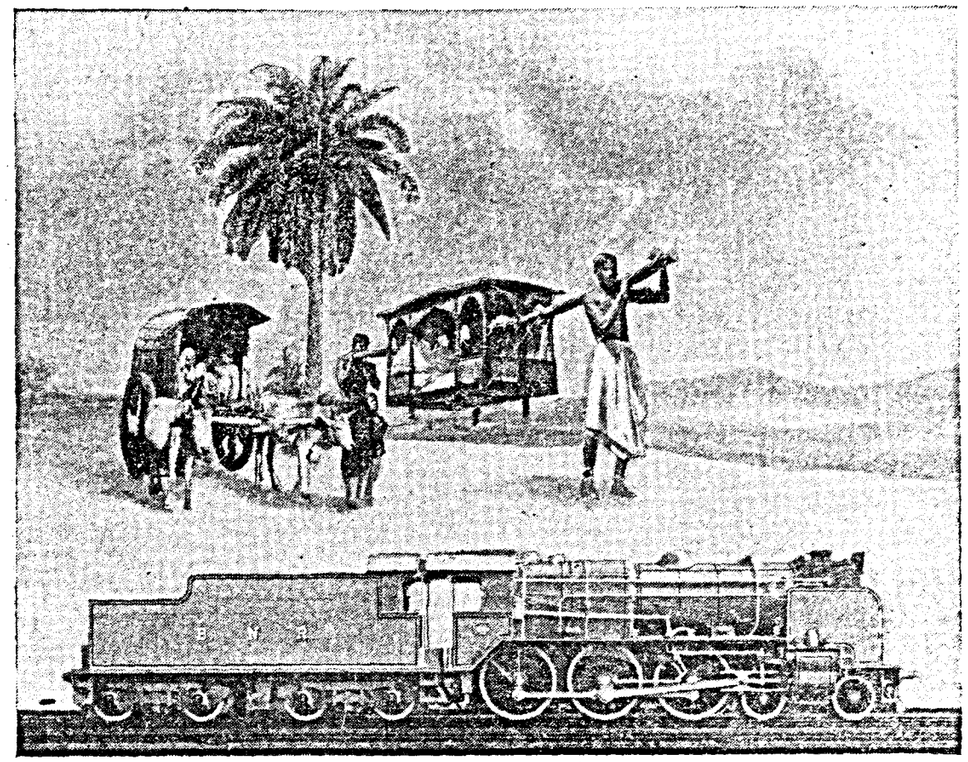
Motor Transport

So that I regard this conference as in many ways the whole foundation of the planning for India's social and economic progress. On the whole, conditions in India, in physical features and climate, are favourable to the development of road transport; but the size of the country and the distances make the problem an immense if not a particularly complicated one. The new feature which has to be considered in our present scheme of road development is the motor vehicle. Although motor transport has long since established itself in other countries, in India up to the beginning of this war motor transport played a minor part in the general system of communication.

India had no motor industry of her own; and her well-developed railway system was generally speaking sufficient for the needs of those who wished to travel fast, while the bullock cart still remained the normal vehicle of the countryside and matched the pace of life and business there. After the war it must be expected that motor vehicles will play a far larger part. There are likely to be many vehicles and many drivers available almost at once from the military organization; and if Indian



Lord Wavell in the locomotive shop, where he saw big locomotives being reconditioned.



The palanquin and bullock-cart yield place to more modern and faster means of transport—railway express trains which travel at 60 miles an hour.

Agriculture and Indian Business are to take full advantage of their opportunities, they must be prepared to make a greater use of mechanical transport.

I have so far spoken of roads only, but you have of course to consider the railways as well, and I presume air transport also so far as it may affect your problems of road and rail. The relations between roads and railways will be one of your main problems. I do not propose to go into the arguments on this problem but it is of the utmost importance that the Council should reach definite conclusions on this question of co-ordination. We must at all costs avoid the difficulties and disputes which uncontrolled exploitation of road transport brought in the United Kingdom in the years after the last war. What form the relationship between railways and roads should take is for you to consider. There are three interests involved which will have to be reconciled: the interests of the public, who require convenient transport for passengers and goods at a reasonable rate; the interests of the railways which, for reasons of which you are aware, are at some disadvantage in competing with road transport and may be subjected to severe loss, a loss which in India would fall on State revenues; and the interests of those enterprising people who are prepared to undertake the provision of services of road transport. How far State control should go, and how it can best reconcile these three interests will be a subject of your deliberations.

The needs of war have produced certain developments in road construction; and both the Central and Provincial Governments will have to consider how far military methods of work and organization may be applicable; it may be advisable to take over some of the work companies that have been formed for military

purposes and use them in some kind of quasi-military organization for the civil purpose of road improvement. I understand that the methods of organization of road construction used in Australia may be of considerable interest, since Australia has great experience of road-making on a scale and over distances comparable with the Indian problem.

Traffic Control

You will also have to consider how to control the traffic and upkeep on the roads after they have been constructed; this will obviously involve inter-provincial arrangements, and probably a common policy to be laid down by the Centre. Road transport arrangements in India, with a very few notable exceptions, are still almost primitive. The lorries that ply on the main roads are very seldom clean, safe, comfortable or punctual. But there is no reason why they should not be so and it is up to the Provinces to establish a strong Provincial authority, get the lorry traffic into the hands of reliable and resourceful organisations and provide a proper service for the public.

Finally, there will be what is usually the most difficult problem of all, the question of how to finance the great programme of road construction which is needed; and how to apportion the cost between the Centre and the Provinces. In most countries the principle is adopted that the users of roads should pay for their construction and upkeep by means of a tax on the means of locomotion, a tax on the vehicle itself and a tax on the petrol it consumes. I think it is obvious that in such a large country as India with such a great programme to undertake this principle may not provide an entirely satisfactory basis for the financing of road construction and maintenance, and the problem may have to be considered in the context of the general financial resources available for development.

The great thing is to get something moving as soon as possible, since the problem of communications seems to me to be the whole basis of India's social and economic advance, which we are all so anxious to forward.

MR. S. E. L. WEST

Sir Hugh Raper is due to retire at the end of February, 1945, and will be succeeded as Member (Transportation), Railway Board, by Mr. S. E. L. West, C.I.E., O.B.E., the Director of Traffic, said a Press Note issued by the Railway Department (Railway Board) on January 18.

TRANSPORT PROBLEMS IN POST-WAR INDIA



Sir Edward Benthall, Member for War Transport, Government of India.

Sir Edward Benthall's Speech

THAT the Government's object was to raise the productivity of transport and to develop a transport system in India which at the cheapest possible cost would provide for India's developing needs, was the announcement made by the Hon'ble Sir Edward Benthall, Member for War Transport, Government of India, in his speech opening the meeting of Post-War Transport Policy Committee in New Delhi on January 15.

The Hon'ble Member said: This meeting should be a landmark in the history of transportation in India. It represents the first occasion, since war put an end to our planning for peace time, when representatives of the Central Government, the Provinces and the public have met together to tackle the intricate problems of transport development.

The problems are well known to all of you and the business of this meeting is not to restate the problems or emphasise their complexity but to approach them with a determination to proceed one step forward with their solution. Nevertheless it is appropriate that I should endeavour to state in broad terms what it is that the Government of India are aiming at. If I can make this clear, it may not only be of general advantage but may also help to convince those who are haunted by the feeling that the Government of India's object is to protect the interests of the railways regardless of other considerations.

Transport Development

Our primary object is, on the basis of the existing state of affairs, to raise the productivity of transport and to develop a transport system in India which at the cheapest possible cost in capital and running expenses will provide for India's developing needs, having regard specially to the fact that agriculture, industry, education, health and in fact most of the plans for post-war development depend upon a transport system which adequately reaches out in the districts and villages. To achieve this we have to examine the subject from the widest and most broadminded angle. We must continually look at the matter as one comprehensive problem of co-ordination and rational development of transport and not as a series of problems involving the interests of those concerned with road development, road transport, railways or shipping.

We must consider how best we can develop and regulate transport as a whole for the benefit of the country as a whole and not of sectional interests, be they of Governments or of private individuals. We must remember always that in the years to come, if our policy is successful, India will for the first time enjoy an adequacy of transport and we must build to ensure that all forms of transport are fully exploited in a manner which will fit India for co-ordinated progress in peace and for the emergency of war should such a calamity again fall upon her.

It is not possible to cover the whole of the vast and intricate field in a single opening speech, which would invite others as long. But there are just a few things which ought to be said rather by way of illustration of the Government of India's policy than as a full statement of it.

Few people, if any, will disagree with the principles laid down in the Introductory Report submitted in 1933 by the Committee of Independent Experts to the International Chamber of Commerce and so aptly quoted in paragraph 2 of the Technical Sub-Committee's recent report on the future of Road Transport and Road-Rail relations. It is, however, one thing to lay down principles and quite another to translate them into practice. If we are properly to develop India's transportation system on a rational basis, we must go back to first principles and make certain primary decisions from which other details of policy will follow.

One of the first things we must decide is the degree to which we must develop rail, road, air, river and coastal communications respectively within our overall scheme of development. For the moment, let us consider only the respective development of road and rail since this is the major problem. The Nagpur Report recommends a target of the order of 400,000 miles of road development for the whole of India, including States, and although this figure is only a very rough estimate being based on empirical formula and is in process of being revised on the basis of plans prepared by Provinces as the result of a detailed survey of actual requirements and in the light of financial resources, it is generally accepted that a considerable target of development should be aimed at.

Road-Rail Competition

Some very influential opinion holds that the development of roads, particularly district and village roads, should rank very high in priority among the different categories of post-war planning and rehabilitation for India. It follows inevitably that such a large plan of road building and improvement must bring with it a very large increase in the volume of motor transport apart altogether from the natural increase expected on existing roads. The inevitability of this development is so self-evident that there cannot be found any opinion to contradict it and it is certainly accepted by the railway authorities. If then roads are to be pushed out into every district and every village, what is the future of rail expansion having regard to the fact that, in the decade before the war, the railways were beginning to feel the loss of their former monopoly of land transport and had not yet begun to reap the benefits which a properly co-ordinated and interdependent road-rail transportation system can bring to both forms of transportation?

The point which I wish to make to-day is a simple one but one which will govern all our actions in the development of new transport routes, namely, that it should be accepted as axiomatic that there is no sense in building a railway if a road will do the work equally effectively, or unless for very good reasons, in building both in competition for a traffic which can be carried by one or the other. New railways should only be built where a traffic survey shows that a road is unlikely to be able adequately to take care of the traffic. It is clear that where heavy traffic is to be developed, particularly in low priced commodities such as mineral traffic, railways must be constructed and there are various other rail projects which, even in the face of motor vehicle

competition, will prove desirable both as earning propositions and for the industrial and general development of the country. But it is obvious that, with the development of motor vehicle transport, many branch line projects which might formerly, in the days when the bullock cart reigned supreme, have proved justifiable will have to give way to the newer form of transport.

The idea that it is necessary to build railways to within 15 miles of every village is a survival of the bullock cart mentality and it is necessary to revise our outlook regarding rural transportation with the coming of the motor lorry and the bus. Nor should it be forgotten that the war has proved that the Indian railways can carry some 30 per cent more traffic than they carried before the war, a percentage which will be considerably increased when all the new rolling stock on order has been delivered and which should provide to a large extent for India's immediate post-war development on her existing lines.

Faster and Better Service

It seems likely then that the construction of new main and branch railway lines will be relatively slow—the Railway Board have been working on a programme of about 500 miles per annum of new lines—and that the main target of railway development of both goods and passenger traffic will be in the intensive development of traffic on the existing lines so as to give faster, better and, if possible—though of this there are small hopes—cheaper service to the public combined with better service conditions for the personnel of the railway services. This is the conclusion which the Government of India have formed and it is evidently consciously or subconsciously one which has also been reached by many of the provincial administrations, who are the authorities largely representing the users of transport and who, when considering the developments of their provincial resources as a whole, have not asked us for large increases in branch line mileages but have evidently envisaged that much of the work formerly done by branch lines will be done in future by motor transport with adequate efficiency and considerably less capital outlay.

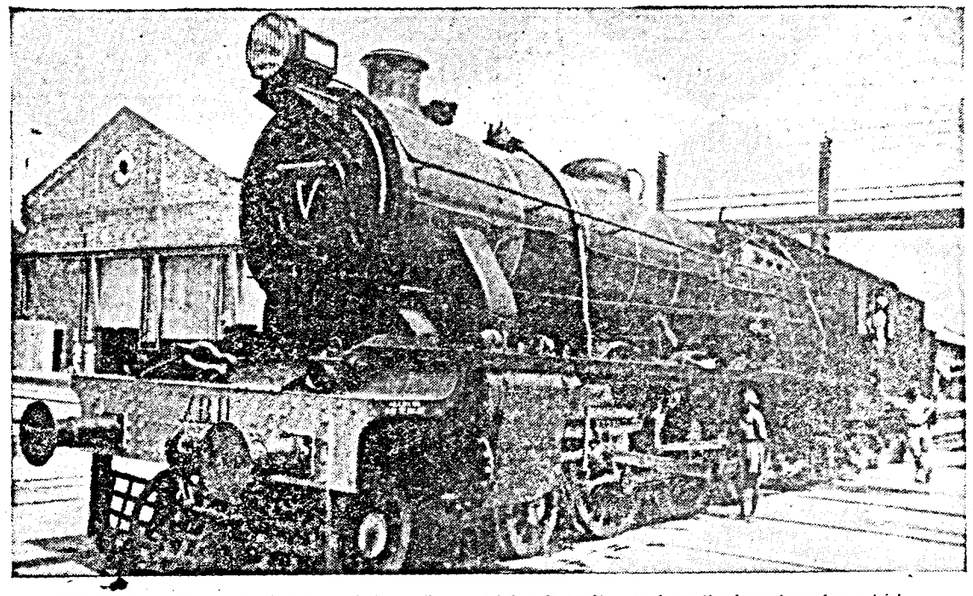
This view may be a disappointment to those who look for the outlay of many hundreds of crores upon the construction of new roads as well as the expenditure of many hundreds of crores upon the construction of new railways as the development of motor transport, but it is quite certain that the capital will not be available for both purposes from the common pool. To argue in favour of the building of both roads and railways on a gigantic scale simultaneously shows a certain lack of appreciation of the new factors which have entered into the internal transport position and which have been so ably set out by the Technical Committee. I therefore invite the views of the Committee on this point among others and feel confident that it will carry support.

Turning now to the question of co-ordination between road and rail services it will be agreed by all that the Motor Vehicles Act of 1939 was a great step forward but unfortunately the intervention of the war has not permitted a proper trial to be made of it, nor is there anything to show that the system of checks and balances which this envisaged would alone achieve the objective.

Road—Rail Co-operation

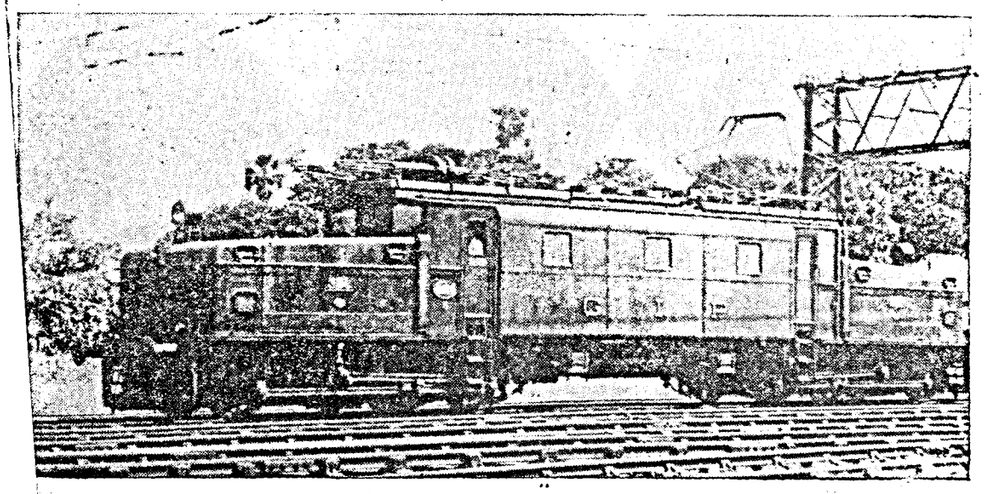
The Technical Report on road-rail co-operation—which I think you will all agree is in the main a masterly exposition of the necessity of rail-road co-ordination in Indian conditions for which we are deeply grateful—came to the conclusion, as others have elsewhere, that a Joint Transport Budget and all which that implies held out hope of being the ideal method of integrating all transport interests in India. The advantages are obvious. A master controller might be able to plan, from the single point of view of the efficiency of public transport as a whole, the operation of road and rail services complementary to each other, eliminating redundancy in either sphere, canalising capital expenditure into the most productive channels and creating a community of interests between the various means of transport.

Financial integration might at the extreme take the form of nationalisation under a central body of all means of transport road, rail, air, river and coastal or it might be done by a form of pooling of receipts. Such methods have been under discussion elsewhere. But some of the constitutional and financial assumptions of the Technical Committee on which this particular recommendation has been based are at variance with the basis of the Government of India Act 1935 and this makes the acceptance of their solution impracticable. In India the fact that roads are a Provincial subject and that Provinces have very different views on the whole subject, combined with the presence of Indian States and, it must regretfully be admitted, a great scarcity of administrative personnel and experience for the creation and conduct of such a vast undertaking must for the time being make that proposal only an ideal to be kept in mind for the future in connection with any constitutional changes and not one of immediate practical application.



This XB locomotive overhauled in an Indian railway workshop is on its way from the loco shops for a trial run before being put back into traffic.

What are the alternatives? We might allow price competition on the basis of equal opportunity between road and rail. But it is not possible here or anywhere else to create equal opportunity. It would hardly be economical in the widest public interest to allow freedom to road interests to place as many vehicles on the road as they wished in the same way as railways have power to increase their rolling stock, nor would it be right to allow railways to charge anything they liked for traffic which must go by rail, nor would it be possible to make motor



An electric freight locomotive.

transport companies common carriers, that is to say, to impose an obligation on them as on the railways to carry everything that offers, or to devise any satisfactory means of equalising the financial load of railway tracks financed out of loan money and of roads financed in the past by taxation.

From the financial and general economic aspects it would not be right to allow railways to crush road transport by the weight of their financial resources and their ability to increase charges on monopoly traffic such as coal to the disadvantage of industrial development or to allow roads by sacrificing rates and fares at uneconomic rates or by uncontrolled operation to depreciate one of the nation's most solid and valuable assets, her railways, the financial stability of which must be secured. Neither of these could be tolerated.

The policy which the Government of India have therefore determined to put forward for consideration is to regulate competition between road and rail by control of fares, routes and traffic together with regulation of conditions of service, exercised by Provincial Transport Controllers in accordance with principles to be agreed upon between the Centre and Provinces. Maximum co-ordination will be sought between road and rail interests, where possible, by the negotiation of financial participation by the State-owned railways in reliable motor transport companies either existing or still unborn, combined with the correlation of rates and fares and of the sharing of traffic between the two traffic media where they come into competition.

Management would be largely in the hands of those with expert knowledge of road transport operation. If an efficient management already exists, it will not of course be turned out merely to make room for railway personnel. It will be observed that the policy of Government is to proceed by negotiation and not regimentation, negotiation in the common interest and at an early stage because we believe that by this means much fierce and unnecessary competition in rate cutting can be avoided and much loss saved to everybody. It will leave open a wide field for competition in service. Under the existing Constitutional arrangements there is no question of the Centre endeavouring to trench on the sphere of the Provincial Governments by obtaining a dominating interest in road transport through the railways, but if they are to come to terms, the railways may insist upon negotiating a controlling interest in a particular company in order to secure protection for a State investment.

It may be familiarly argued that this will place transport in a position to impose high transport costs upon the public. Against this there is a double check in India, the power of the Provincial Governments to impose maximum road rates and fares and the power of the Central Government to do the same on railways. The powers of the Provinces would, of course, be exactly the same over companies in which railways were financially interested as over any other road transport company. A further safeguard would be the free issue of licences to private carriers also. A rates tribunal or tribunals to see fairplay would also form a natural part of such a policy.

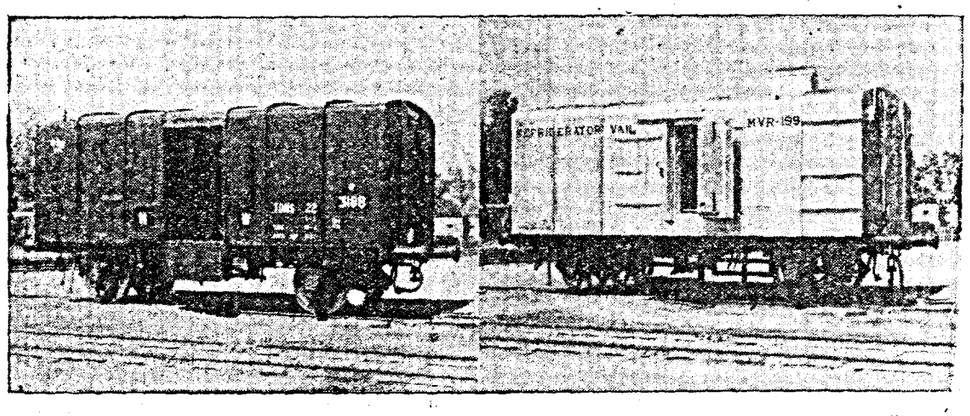
We have been carrying out negotiations with the Provincial Governments for some time on this basis and last week have discussed the whole policy on the Transport Advisory Council. There is complete agreement between the Centre and the Provinces that co-ordination is necessary in the public interest and that Provinces should agree to regulate motor transport in accordance with a code of principle and practice to be drawn up by the Centre with the agreement of the Provincial Governments which must form a binding convention.

The majority of Provinces were agreeable to railways taking a substantial interest in road transport but were opposed to their acquiring a dominant interest, though they did not object to railways negotiating a majority interest in particular companies in certain conditions. Certain Provinces are inclined to favour State, that is to say Provincial ownership of road transport services in which case the need for co-ordination in order to prevent a conflict of interests between Central and Provincial finances will be accentuated. Other Provinces favour participation with the railways and the public in joint road transport companies.

Although therefore we have not reached in conjunction with the Provinces a uniform policy for application in British India, we have reached a very large measure of agreement which forms the basis of a policy of practical application and of great promise of future progress; and we should welcome the views of the Committee on it.

The situation offers, of course, an extremely extensive field for negotiation between the Central and Provincial Governments and between road and railway interests, not to mention the river and coastal interests which will be concerned. It will involve one of the most intricate of all probems in post-war administration and will call for the best and most broad-minded administrators which the Central Government and the Provinces can produce.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 157)



Railway Refrigerator Vans—

Indian Railways have converted a number of broad-gauge wagons into refrigerator vans to transport Army imports of frozen meat from ports to consuming centres. These supplies from overseas assist in the supply of meat for the Army which so far depended entirely on supplies from Indian sources. The refrigerating medium employed in these vans is a mixture of wet ice and salt, frozen and crushed before being charged into the bunkers. Conversion involved complete insulation of the wagons, fitting up of bunkers and brine tanks, provision of self-locking insulated doors, roof hatches, and hot galvanising of all internal ferrous cooling equipment.

ROAD AND RAIL TRANSPORT

Post-War Development Plans

A Press Note issued by the War Transport Department, Government of India, on January 17 stated:

Roads and road transport are Provincial subjects but their development is an important part of the general scheme for post-war development in which the Central Government intend to help financially and in any other possible ways, as far as circumstances and the money available permit. Important Conferences have been held in Delhi during the last week in the shape of the Transport Advisory Council and the Policy Committee on Transport. The Transport Advisory Council is an official body, of some years standing, of representatives of the Government of India and Provincial Governments, while the Policy Committee is one of those created to advise generally on post-war problems and includes representatives of Provincial Governments, States and non-official interests.

Discussions

The main heads of discussion were the road plan, the future development of road transport, the problems of road-rail co-ordination that will arise, and the extent to which returned soldiers can be absorbed in suitable employment in the construction of roads and in road transport. The discussion at both Conferences was exploratory, but considerable progress was made. The classification of roads into National Highways, Provincial Highways, District Roads and Village Roads was generally accepted.

The Central Government are prepared, subject to certain conditions being satisfied, to assume responsibility for the development and maintenance of National Highways in British India. As regards other roads the possibility of assistance financially will depend on the resources available when the full picture of all the development programmes is before Government. It was decided that the preparation of project estimates for road development on the basis of full surveys of actual needs, but more or less on the lines of the Nagpur plan, should be proceeded with and that the estimates should be phased so as to be adjustable to the rate of expenditure eventually found possible.

As regards employment of returned soldiers, there was full exchange of views as to the best

means of affording employment to them. Detailed examination of the various openings that would be available, the methods of employing demobilised personnel and in particular their financial effect on the cost of the programme would be necessary.

Road and Rail Co-ordination

In both Conferences there was practically unanimous agreement that co-ordination of all forms of transport, and particularly between road and rail, would be necessary. Various possible means of practically effecting this were discussed, including both regulation of road transport by Provincial Authorities in co-ordination with the Centre and some fusion of financial interests particularly in the matter of passenger services, as for example, by railways taking a share in bus companies. While opinion was by no means unanimous regarding the conditions in which railways should participate in road passenger services, it was revealed that some progress had been made in certain Provinces in this direction and that some Provincial Governments were themselves taking a share.

There was practically unanimous agreement that, whether or not railways participated, it is essential that bus operators should themselves combine into companies, able to provide regular convenient and safe service to the public. The question of provincial ownership of bus services, which has been proposed in Madras, was also discussed and there was a certain section of opinion that while this might be the ultimate goal, time would be required to build up the necessary organisation and expert management.

It was recognised that if Provincialised operation of road motor transport were to develop side by side with Central operation of railways, the need for co-ordination would remain and would perhaps be even greater than otherwise.

As regards goods traffic, there was general agreement that long distance was the function of railways and short distance the function of road transport, and that regulation and control should be enforced to secure a proper division of functions in practice. Consequently, there would have to be a system of "free zones" within which motor transport could operate without restriction combined with the grant of permits for longer distances outside the zone, in the case of perishable and fragile goods or where it was evident that the economic need of the country as a whole would be served rather than the convenience or profit of certain individual providers or users of transport.

It was recognised also that India could not escape the effects of the natural conflict of interest between the providers and users of transport which has been behind the road-rail trouble through which other countries have passed, and that, in the special circumstances of India, where financially sound and healthy railways are essential to the future prosperity of the country as a whole, but are the responsibility of the Central Government; while roads and road transport are the responsibility of the Provincial Governments, some machinery for adjustment must be evolved and that further discussions should be held to evolve it. In the meantime it was generally agreed that the Central Government should set up a Departmental Committee to be called the "Indian Road Board" to expedite the completion of plans and discharge the functions of the Centre in that field.

INQUIRY INTO RAILWAY ASSETS POSTPONED

A Press Communique issued by the Railway Board on January 9 stated:

In October 1944, the Government of India appointed a Depreciation Fund Committee to inquire into the lives of Railway assets, which form the basis for determining the rate of contribution to the Railway Depreciation Fund. It consisted of two retired officers, Mr. T. S. Sankara Aiyer, late Financial Commissioner for Railways, and Rai Bahadur D. Dutt, a late Deputy Chief Engineer on the N.W. Railway, and an officer on the active list, Mr. W. G. W. Reid, who was, however, required for an important post in the Railway Board's office towards the end of March 1945, when the Committee was expected to complete the enquiry.

Soon after the Committee had started work, one of the Members (Rai Bahadur D. Dutt) was taken ill and found himself unable to continue. In addition, other unforeseen difficulties came to notice in the way of a thorough and satisfactory investigation. The Committee found that it needed a man of information as the basis for its investigation and report. This information was not readily available.

Its compilation could not be attempted by the Railway Administrations at the present juncture without detriment to their other and more important and immediate work. The Government of India, have, therefore, decided to suspend the enquiry and postpone it till the return of more favourable conditions.

PRODUCER GAS AND ROAD TRANSPORT

Dr. H. B. Dunnicliff's Address at Indian Science Congress

OPENING a symposium on producer gas at the Indian Science Congress at Nagpur on January 3, Dr. H. B. Dunnicliff, Deputy Controller of Road Transport, Government of India, surveyed the present condition of the producer gas industry in India and explained the attempts made to develop it on scientific lines so that it might survive after the war. The Chemistry, Physics, Engineering and Metallurgy Sections took part in the symposium.

Dr. Dunnicliff said: It is very suitable that the first symposium in India on producer gas as used in motor road transport should be held under the auspices of the Indian Science Congress and that its venue should be at Nagpur, for it was in this city that the first recorded efforts to start producer gas transport were made. This was in 1936. The plant "Cecoco" was of Japanese origin and the experiment was unsuccessful, but later on, a plant named "Kirloskir" was made and, between 1937 and 1940, about 40 units were sold, after which the company stopped production, at any rate, in this city.

As used in India at present in the motoring world, producer gas is a fuel formed by the suction of air over red-hot charcoal, with or without the injection of steam or water. Our deliberations will presumably be confined to the so-called "mobile" or "portable" type of producer gas plant which is fixed to a motor vehicle. According to existing regulations, such plants fitted to transport vehicles are required to work efficiently on this alternative fuel to motor spirit, in an engine originally designed for petrol, without alteration. Under these conditions, the engine can be switched from gas to petrol or *vice versa* at will, or run on a mixture of producer gas and petrol, the latter being introduced to enrich the producer gas and so make it competent for more difficult tasks such as movement over muddy or sandy routes or climbing hills.

Raw Materials

The raw materials which might be used in India as in some other countries for the manufacture of gas in mobile producer gas plants, however, cover a wide range of carbonaceous substances which include raw coal, anthracite, activated coke, and wood. The possibility of using other surplus materials, such as husks, saw-dust and charcoal or coal dust made into briquettes, is under examination.

For successful producer gas operation, the quality of the fuel is as important as the design of the plant. Only wood charcoal is being used in India and great efforts are being made by Provincial Governments and private producers to make available the most suitable kinds of charcoal in adequate quantity and at properly distributed points of supply to the users. Research work at Dehra Dun and elsewhere has recently shown that the range of Indian woods from which suitable charcoal can be manufactured is far wider than was usually accepted previously, and further work, particularly by road trials, is in progress.

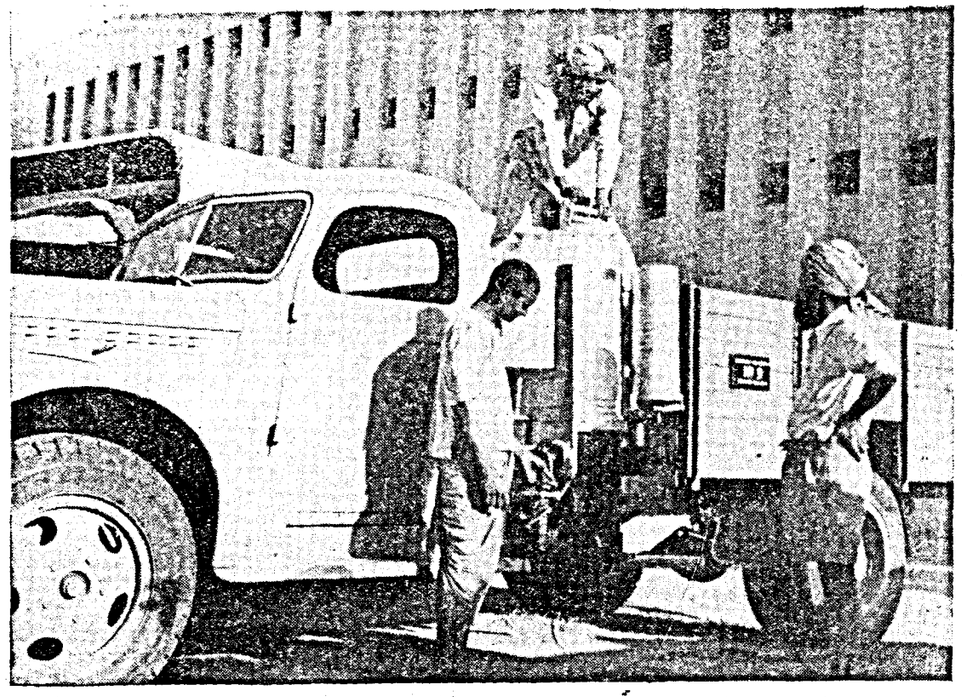
Sweden, the biggest and earliest large-scale exponent of the use of producer gas for transport, utilises not only charcoal but raw wood in her plants. Other countries which have developed producer gas transport are Australia, New Zealand, France, Great Britain and India among the United Nations, and also both our enemies Japan and Germany, the latter having used it for military transport in the field.

In Great Britain, anthracite or activated coke are the usual raw materials. Indian coals and cokes, however, are generally unsuitable for producer gas generation on account of their high sulphur content and heavy ash but Dr. Forrester at Dhanbad is investigating the possibility of using the Punjab and Assam raw coals in a plant designed in New Zealand to work on certain sub-bituminous non-coking indigenous coals.

British Emergency Gas Producer

Using charcoal, Mr. Casse at Cawnpore and Dr. L. C. Verman at Delhi have examined by road and bench tests respectively, the British Emergency Gas Producer, designed to operate on anthracite or activated cokes. They have found that the gas generated has sufficient power but that in quality it does not conform to the standards insisted upon in India, the gas filtration system being inadequate. No work has yet been done in this country on the use of wood for gas generation but Messrs. Salter and Deshpande of Trivandrum have undertaken the pioneer work on the design of a standard mobile suction-gas plant and they propose to extend their enquiry into the use of wood as a raw material for gas production.

The main objections brought against the use of producer gas for motor transport are its lack of flexibility and power, the liability of engines



Testing producer gas plant of a lorry.

to suffer greater wear through the dustiness and dryness of the gas, the frequent necessity to clean gas filters and the difficulty of starting or restarting the engine.

While it is admitted that straight producer gas used in a petrol engine is not suitable for so wide a range of motor transport service as petrol itself, it certainly can be and is being extensively employed efficiently in India during the present petrol supply restrictions in order to increase the amount of transport available both for men and materials. The total number of conversions so far recorded in India now approaches 18,000, of which some 88 per cent of the plants have been fitted on transport vehicles such as passenger buses or load lorries. Of these it may reasonably be supposed that some 75 per cent (13,500) are plying regularly on the roads.

Now, when one considers the diverse faults of which producer gas has been accused, this is a notable achievement and it is the more creditable when it is remembered that the result is due to Indian ingenuity and effort and that the industry is entirely swadeshi.

It must be admitted that this degree of conversion could not have been attained without a certain amount of official pressure but no Government would insist on a transport system which was demonstrably inefficient from a practical standpoint, and sane reasoning must bring us to the conclusion that producer gas as an alternative fuel to petrol has been much maligned. The real trouble lies with the indifferent maintenance and ignorant and unenthusiastic owners and drivers.

How then has this remarkable result been achieved?

The answer is that, while leaving the development of the producer gas industry practically entirely to private initiative, much assistance has been given by the Central and Provincial Governments to advance its prospects by supplying technical advice, by arranging for the release of controlled materials and by enforcing a certain standard of design of manufacture and maintenance through prescribed inspections and tests.

Progress is now being stimulated along scientific lines by the creation of a Standing Committee on Producer Gas Research with a technical officer of War Transport Department as co-ordinating Chairman.

This is a young industry for India, forced into not very willing action by war which brooks no delay. It is an industry in which progress must be swift or it will not meet the immediate requirements demanded of it. Hence it is the set purpose of this Committee to tackle its problems from a strictly practical standpoint by replacing hit-and-miss methods by scientific approach.

It has also been suggested that producer gas plant manufacture and operation shall be included in the syllabuses of Indian engineering colleges and technological institutions.

Producer gas plant manufacture is not a tinsmith's job. The apparatus must be as light and as robust as possible. Gas plants are scientific inventions and their problems must be tackled by scholarly methods and research.

Scientific Aspect

The problems involved stimulate the interest of engineers, physicists and chemists. Hence this symposium, which members of these three learned professions have been invited to attend in order to foster the study of the problems of mobile producer gas plants from a scientific aspect leading to industrial development and production. In this way, technicians will make their contribution to the solution by theoretical reasoning and laboratory and road experiments on the day-to-day problems of gas operation, in the design and manufacture of the plant, the generation, cooling and cleansing of the gas and its final passage suitably charged with atomised lubricant to the engine through a gas mixer, with or without steam or water injection or the use of carburetting agents to increase power.

In August 1943 there was a general directive from the Government of India that as many transport vehicles as possible should be converted to producer gas. The approval of model plants rested with Provincial Authorities largely on the examination of their design and method of operation. This method did not prove adequately effective and, ultimately, with certain modifications, the method of testing based on Australian specifications adopted in Madras since September 1942 was accepted for all India. A testing station was installed at Delhi in August 1943 and, since then, four similar laboratories have been opened at Trivandrum (November 1943), Calcutta (February 1944), Bombay (March 1944) and Nagpur (April 1944) which will be adequate to test all model plants likely to be developed in India.

From August 1943 no controlled vehicle was allowed to be fitted with a producer gas plant which had not passed the bench tests proposed by War Transport Department, and all Provincial Governments accepted the standard.



A fleet of Army motor trucks used for transport of vital supplies.

Early in 1944, further encouragement was given to the industry by the Government of India again issuing orders that all possible civil motor transport vehicles should be fitted with producer gas plants which had passed the prescribed test. At the All-India Producer Gas Conference held in Delhi last October, these tests, both on the bench and on the road, were finally standardised and Provincial Governments are being invited to accept them on an all-India basis.

It is encouraging to note that both the producer gas industry and the individual user are responding in large measure to this helpful method of approach and are prepared to cooperate in achieving a higher standard of performance by accepting the recommendations of Government on the training of drivers and the insistence on inspection to see that vehicles and their gas plants are being maintained in efficient working order. By these efforts it is hoped that in the course of next year or two, the mobile producer gas plant will become so highly developed and scientifically operated and, at the same time, so simply and stoutly designed that war pressure for conversion will be replaced by voluntary use, and producer gas plants will become normal equipment on a large proportion of India's transport vehicles.

Three Factors

It is anticipated that this desirable end will be encouraged by a rapid fall in the price of charcoal when hostilities cease and the use of producer gas will thus present an attraction which, unfortunately, it does not possess in existing circumstances, the attraction of considerable saving in expense in the movement of passengers and goods.

There are perhaps three main factors upon which the universal adoption of producer gas would appear to stand or fall. The first is the efficient cleansing of the gas, the second is its adequate cooling before entering the gas mixer from which it is being drawn to the engine and the third is a device for increase of power which may be attained by fitting a specially designed cylinder-head which will give a higher compression ratio or by the use of mixed fuels or both.

The latent heat of vaporisation of alcohol is 2½ times that of petrol. Hence, if power alcohol were used for boosting, it would, if properly injected, simultaneously enrich the fuel gas and lower its temperature and the fall would be considerably greater than in the case of petrol. It seems, therefore, that advantage might be taken of its higher latent heat to use power alcohol as a boosting agent, the equipment required being fundamentally the same as that used when petrol is used for the same purpose.

The Department of Planning and Development is already actively engaged in studying the post-war power and industrial alcohol industry from all aspects. In the motoring world, its prospects as a mixed fuel with petrol are again being discussed.

The work outlined above, however, suggests that it may also take its place in keeping the producer gas transport industry actively alive.

Post-war development must in any case consider the continued use of this alternative motor fuel in helping to solve India's transport problems which will certainly not diminish with the cessation of hostilities.

Now is the time, therefore, to prepare the way for its more favoured acceptance through men of science doing all that is possible in the field of research to remove the stigma of low power. This object may be achieved by examining the various methods of augmenting it, either by water or steam injection, through the use of mixed fuels or by the systematic development of engines with increased compression ratios or by any combination of these agencies for increasing the flexibility and range of operation of producer gas for motor transport.

BOMBAY EXPLOSIONS SEQUEL

The Central Government and the maritime Provincial Governments have agreed that in time of grave emergency such as the Bombay Dock Explosion, they will delegate their powers to the Fortress Commander in each Port, who will thus be in a position to assume general control of the various services, naval, army and air, fire fighting, police and others who are in a position to help should such an emergency occur.

This will prevent any possible repetition of the situation noted in the Report of the Commission appointed to enquire into the Bombay explosion, which laid stress on the absence of a "supreme authority" who could issue operational orders when the emergency occurred, and thus co-ordinate the efforts of the various services.

Although these powers will not actually come into operation until a grave emergency occurs, the Fortress Commander has been instructed by both the Central and Provincial Governments to prepare, in consultation with all the authorities involved, plans for dealing with such an emergency should it arise.

DR. B. R. AMBEDKAR ON DAMODAR VALLEY SCHEME

CALCUTTA CONFERENCE ADDRESS



Dr. B. R. Ambedkar.

"THE Government of India is very much alive to the disadvantages arising from the present state of affairs and wishes to take steps to evolve a policy which will utilise the water resources of the country to the best advantage of everybody and to put our water resources to the purpose which they are made to serve in other countries," observed the Hon'ble Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Labour Member, Government of India, in his address to representatives of the Central, Bengal and Bihar Governments at a conference held in the Bengal Secretariat in Calcutta on January 3 to consider means and methods for developing Damodar Valley.

Here is the full text of Dr. Ambedkar's speech:

On behalf of the Government of India I thank you for having agreed to hold this meeting at such short notice and at considerable personal inconvenience to yourselves. The purpose of this meeting is to consider means and methods for giving effect to the proposals of the Damodar River Flood Enquiry Committee appointed by the Government of Bengal in 1944. Before I proceed further, it is only proper that I should congratulate the Government of Bengal on the appointment of this Committee. I must also pay my tribute to the Committee for the very sound views they have expressed both on the particular problem of dealing with floods in the Damodar River and on the general problem of the best utilization of the water resources of the country.

Committee's Recommendations

I would like to make particular reference to two of its recommendations, namely VIII and XIII. In their recommendation No. XIII the Committee have stated:

"During the course of discussions it was felt by the Committee that it will be an advantage in the solution of flood control and soil conservation problems if forests and rivers of India are made the concern of the Central Government."

By their recommendation VIII, the Committee have suggested that the project of damming the Damodar should have as its purpose not merely stopping the flood but also include the generating of electricity and the supply of water for irrigation. Those who are aware of the present policy, or lack of policy, in the matter of the utilization of India's water resources will admit that these are recommendations, the importance of which cannot be exaggerated. It is not far from truth to say that so far there has been an absence of positive all-India policy for the development of waterways. Secondly, there has not been enough realization that our policy for waterways must be multi-purpose policy so as to include the provision for irrigation, electrification and navigation.

Railways and Waterways

Irrigation has been the only purpose of our waterways policy. Further, we have not taken sufficient account of the fact that there is no difference between railways and waterways, and if railways cannot be subjected to provincial boundaries, neither can waterways, at any rate those that flow from province to province. On the contrary we have allowed our constitution to make a distinction between railways and waterways, with the result that railways are treated as Central, but waterways are treated as Provincial.

The disadvantages of this error are many and obvious. To give one illustration, a province needs electricity and wishes to utilise its water resources for the purpose but it cannot

do so because the point at which water can be dammed lies in another province which being agricultural does not need electricity and has no interest in it, or money to finance the project, and would not allow the needy province to use the site. Complain as much as we like, a Province can take such an unfriendly attitude and justify it in the name of Provincial Autonomy.

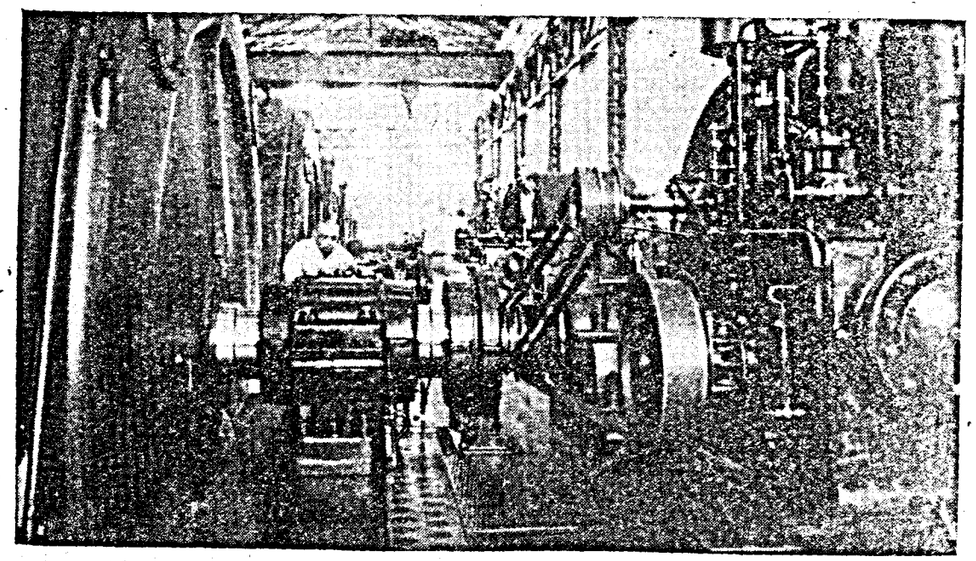
Utilization of Water Resources

I have made these observations with a two-fold purpose. Against this background you are in a better position to evaluate the recommendations of the Damodar River Flood Enquiry Committee appointed by the Bengal Government, to which I have made particular reference. My second purpose is to tell you that the Government of India is very much alive to the disadvantages arising from the present state of affairs and wishes to take steps to evolve a policy which will utilize the water resources of the country to the best advantage of everybody and to put our water resources to the purpose which they are made to serve in other countries.

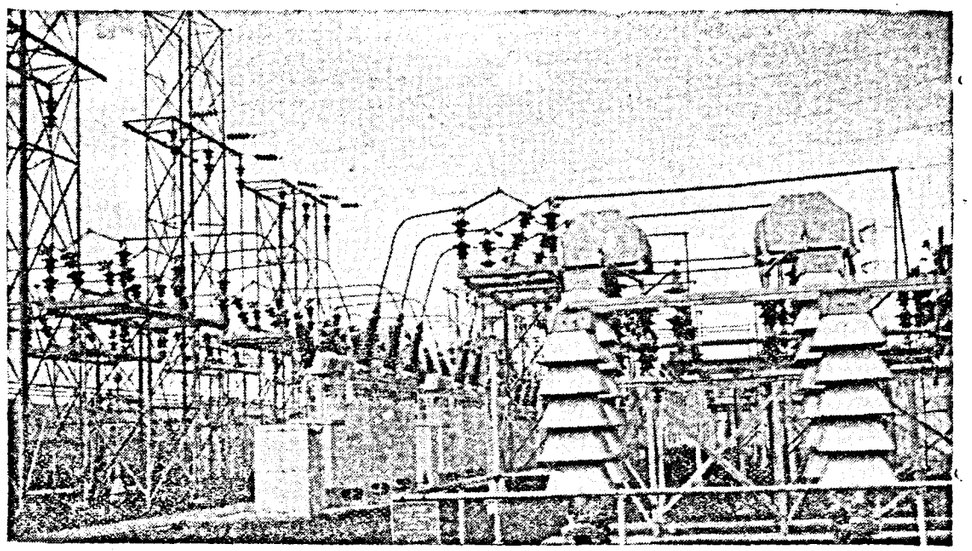
A revision of the constitution treating waterways on the same footing as the railways will no doubt be a very welcome change. But the Government of India does not think it necessary to wait till such constitutional changes come into being. Nor does the Government think that, if the Provinces show the will to co-operate in a joint project for the utilization of the water resources, the difficulties created by the constitution will stand in their way.

The Government of India has very much in its mind the Tennessee Valley Scheme operating in the United States. They are studying the Scheme and feel that something along that line can be done in India if the Provinces offer their co-operation and agree to override provincial barrier which has held up so much of their progress and their prosperity. As a preliminary step for securing the best use of the water resources of the country, the Government of India have created a central organisation—called the Central Technical Power Board, and are contemplating to create another to be called the Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission.

The objects which have led to the setting up of these two organizations is to advise the Provinces on how their water resources can be best utilized and how a project can be made to serve purposes other than their irrigation. It may be necessary to constitute other bodies, such as the Central Utilization Board or *ad hoc* Commissions of Enquiry. The appointment of the Central Power Board and the



The Generating Room of a hydro-electric supply station.



The outdoor switch-yard of a generating station. In the foreground are lightning arresters.

Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission does not exclude the setting up of such organizations.

The Damodar river is the first project along this line. It will be a multi-purpose project. It will have the object of not only preventing floods in the Damodar river but also have the object of irrigation, navigation and the production of electricity.

The authority which will be in charge of this project after it is completed will be more or less modelled, as far as it may be possible, on the Tennessee Valley Authority. It will be a co-operative undertaking in which the Centre and the Provinces of Bihar and Bengal will be partners. The Government of India are anxious to give shape, form and life to the project, and are anxious that no time should be lost in doing so.

New Policy for Waterways

The Government of India feel that they cannot proceed further in the matter unless certain preliminaries are explored. The first such preliminary is the site of the dam. Obviously, it cannot be decided in accordance with the wishes of Bengal. Equally, it cannot be decided in accordance with the wishes of Bihar alone. And even if the two Provinces agree upon a site, it could not be finalized without the advice of the experts. There are aspects which have also to be gone into. As I have said, the Damodar project must be a multi-purpose project. We intend that it should not only deal with the problem caused by floods, it should also provide for irrigation, electricity and navigation. Along with the question of a site, these matters have also to be examined.

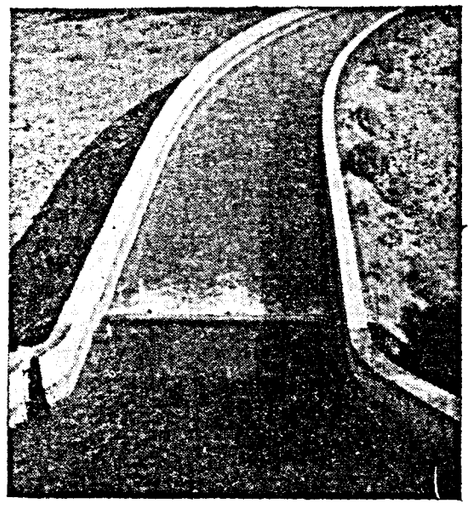
The business of this conference is to come to a decision as to the best machinery for doing this job. I hope we shall be guided by the right spirit, leaving aside all sectional points of view, and proceed to our business with a determination to agree upon the best solution and open a way to the inauguration of a new policy in regard to our waterways and lay the foundation for a regime of prosperity for the poverty stricken millions of this country.

CONFERENCE DISCUSSIONS

The Damodar Valley Project, a multi-purpose project, intended to exploit the Damodar river for irrigation, electrification and navigation, was discussed at the conference presided over by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar.

The basis of the discussion was a note circulated by the Central Government regarding the procedure for collecting necessary information.

Suggestions made in this note required that the three Governments should prepare an inventory of the facts and figures available to each other. This inventory was to be prepared in



After coal, water provides the most important source of power. This canal serves a power development station.

consultation with the Central Government's technical experts, and, if it did not disclose all the facts required further information should be collected. The Central Government's technical experts could then prepare a preliminary memorandum setting out the prospects for a co-ordinated scheme for the multi-purpose development of the Damodar Valley. The three Governments should then get together and give the necessary instructions for framing a project to the technical experts of the Central Government and the Provinces.

General Agreement

While there was general agreement on the question of making the Damodar Scheme a multi-purpose project, representatives of Bengal emphasised that the problem of controlling floods in Damodar should be a primary concern. After some discussion, it was agreed that investigations on the lines suggested by the Central Government should start under Mr. Man Singh, Special Engineer (Irrigation) with the Bengal Government. The Central and Bihar Governments would try to lend officers to assist Mr. Man Singh in this investigation. Mr. A. Karim, Deputy Chief Engineer, Irrigation Department, Bihar, would remain in touch with Mr. Man Singh.

Earlier during the meeting Mr. H. C. Prior, Secretary, Labour Department, Government of India, spoke about the administrative side of the waterways problems and indicated ways and means by which the Centre could play its part.

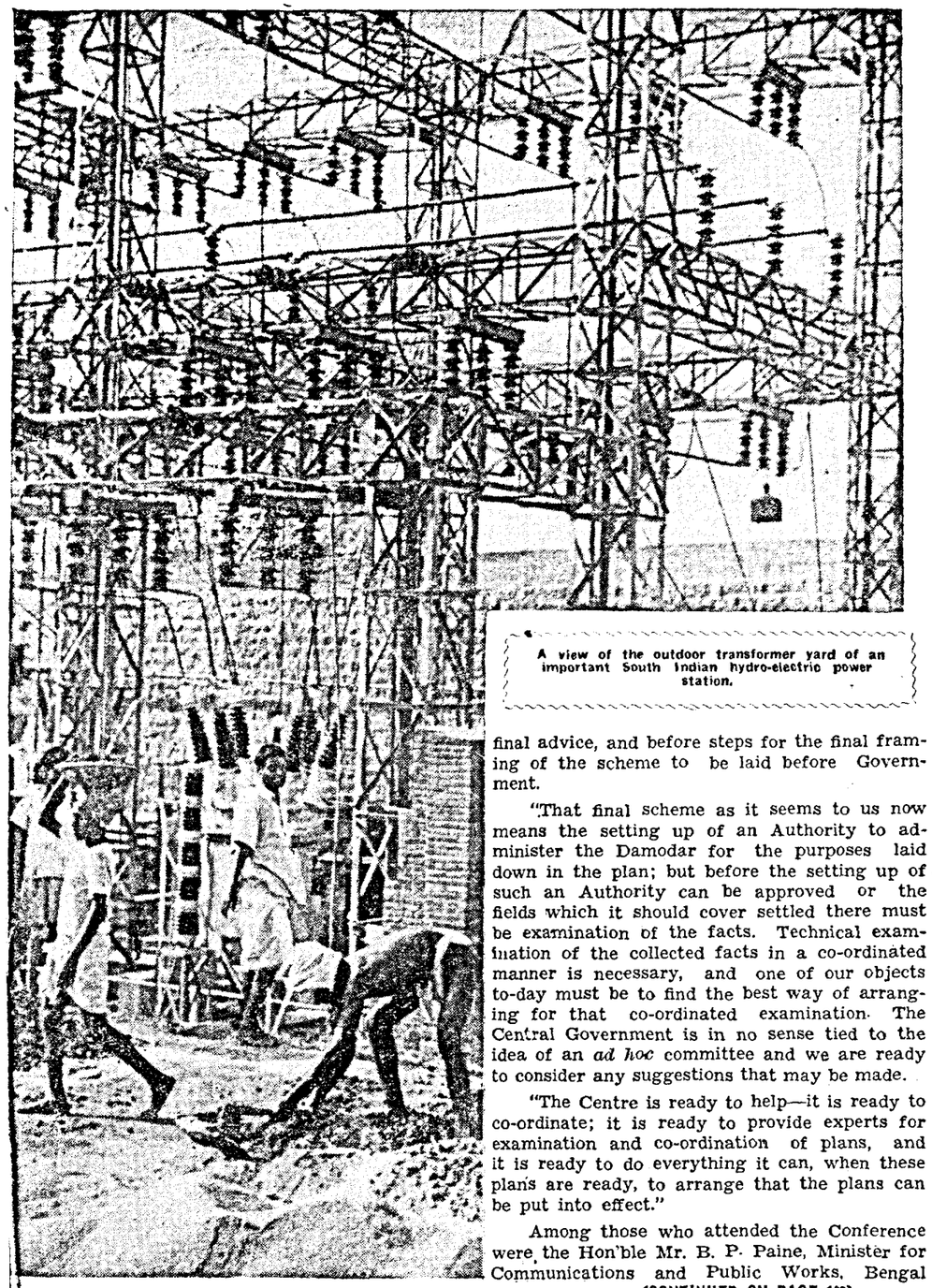
Referring to the case of the Damodar river, Mr. Prior said, "We all know that a ot of investigation and fact-finding must be necessary before a plan to deal with the Damodar can be finally drawn up. The lines on which a plan may be drawn have been shown by the Damodar Committee, though we hope that a final scheme may show that hydro power can be made available for longer periods during the year But there is still a lot to be done before the details on which the final plans can be drawn are ready and if we are to progress fast we must be sure that the steps that are being taken to collect the information on which those detailed plans will be made are well designed and will result in the collection of all the information that will be required. We do not want to find at a later stage that some essential facts are missing.

Progress Already Made

"Considerable progress is already being made. The River Research Institute in Bengal, the setting up of which the Centre welcomes and to which we hope staff and adequate powers will be given, has collected and is collecting much information. A Superintending Engineer is collecting further data and the Government of Bihar have worked out proposals for afforestation, etc. Dam sites have been examined by Mr. Savagem and other experts, and we have just seen Mr. West's geological report. Action is being taken rapidly, but what seems to us still to be necessary is that all aspects of the question should be fitted in together before a plan is drawn up.

"The possibilities of the Sone Valley Corporation and the Bihar Thermal Project and the manner in which they will fit in with the Damodar Project need to be considered. Navigational possibilities and the improvement in water supply in the coalfields must also be considered.

"The ground to be covered is wide and it covers more than one province and department; and it seems to us that a careful programme of how best the plan is to be framed and who is to frame it may need consideration. Let us first be sure of the facts we still want to collect and let us be sure that there is adequate technical examination of all aspects before the case is finally put before the Boards for their



A view of the outdoor transformer yard of an important South Indian hydro-electric power station.

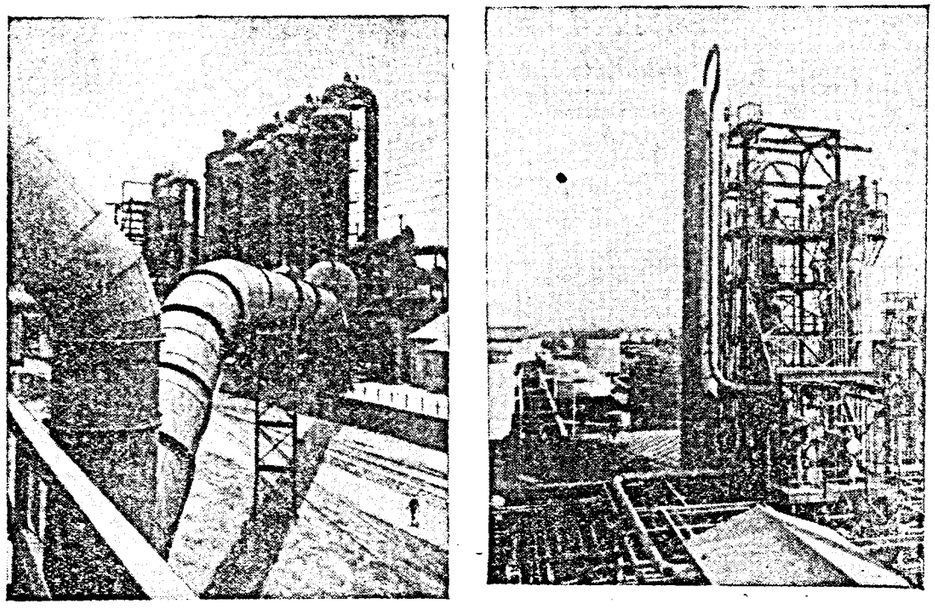
final advice, and before steps for the final framing of the scheme to be laid before Government.

"That final scheme as it seems to us now means the setting up of an Authority to administer the Damodar for the purposes laid down in the plan; but before the setting up of such an Authority can be approved or the fields which it should cover settled there must be examination of the facts. Technical examination of the collected facts in a co-ordinated manner is necessary, and one of our objects to-day must be to find the best way of arranging for that co-ordinated examination. The Central Government is in no sense tied to the idea of an *ad hoc* committee and we are ready to consider any suggestions that may be made.

"The Centre is ready to help—it is ready to co-ordinate; it is ready to provide experts for examination and co-ordination of plans, and it is ready to do everything it can, when these plans are ready, to arrange that the plans can be put into effect."

Among those who attended the Conference were the Hon'ble Mr. B. P. Paine, Minister for Communications and Public Works, Bengal

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 109)



The electrical dust precipitating plant which purifies the gas (to make it suitable for use as fuel) coming from the blast furnaces of an iron works. (Right) An oil refining plant somewhere in India.

DEVELOPMENT OF INDIA'S INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES

Mr. J. Vesugar's Broadcast

INDIA'S industrial resources and the possibilities of their development were examined by Mr. J. Vesugar, Industrial Adviser to the Government of India, in a broadcast from All India Radio on January 10 in the series, "Building a New India".

Mr. Vesugar pointed out that "it is the co-existence of favourable circumstances and the scientific balancing of economic advantages and disadvantages that will eventually determine the extent to which the resources I have mentioned can be developed. But since ultimately all strength derives from the human will, it is —'The will to do, the soul to dare'—that must in the long run be our most powerful resource."

Earlier, Mr. Vesugar said: "The first resource of any country, without any reservation is its man-power. One may say that we have this resource—in its basic raw state—in superabundance. Left in this condition the human factor may become a liability rather than an asset. That is why so much emphasis is being placed to-day on all aspects of education, in order to turn the raw material into a product which will be capable of extracting the maximum from machines and from the earth. Our experience in this war, when crude villagers have been able to use, after a short time, the most complicated modern armaments, provides ample evidence that when well fed and suitably trained Indian man-power can be turned into an asset.

Importance of Coal

Second in importance to human resources is power. Coal is not only the main source of power but is also the principal source of heat, the basis of most metallurgical and industrial processes. For this reason all the world's big industrial centres lie near rich deposits of coal. Though India has ample supplies, they are concentrated in a few localities and the quantity of really first grade coal is limited. This means that, failing the discovery of new large scale deposits, considerable attention will have to be given to two aspects of the coal industry. The first is to cheapen and increase transport facilities, and the second is that we must cease to be prodigal of our patrimony.

After coal, water provides the most important source of power. But it would be a mistake to think that it costs next to nothing to produce power from water. Usually, costly works and transmission lines are necessary, and the interest on the capital cost of these often exceeds the cost of fuel required for a thermal station. It is only when a perennial fall is situated near an industrial centre that hydro-electricity becomes cheap enough for chemical and metallurgical processes. To some extent the cost of storage required for power is reduced when the impounded water is at the same time used for irrigation. However, the amount of hydro-electric power that can be made available under a competitive economy must necessarily be limited, at the most about three million kilowatts. It would only be possible to develop all the vast potential resources of water power—one estimate is 27 million kilowatts—if we accepted the concept that the provision of facilities for electric power is a social service in the same way, let us say, as that of schools, hospitals and roads.

The next most important resource is iron. In this respect India is more fortunate than many other countries: not only in her iron ore practically on top of her coal fields, but the quality of this ore is high, probably the second best in the world. The magnesite and dolomite required for smelting are also available close to the ore. Perhaps no other country has the opportunity of producing iron and steel as cheaply as India. Along with iron, it may perhaps be appropriate to mention—manganese, tungsten, chromium, cobalt—all metals employed in the manufacture of alloy steels. These metals are available in India and for some of them India is the principal source for other countries.

Mica Deposits

We are also fortunate in possessing in Bihar the world's chief deposits of mica. This substance, which has been described as "one of the essential minerals in modern civilisation," is indispensable to the electrical industry. With mica is found beryl, which belongs to the same family as the emerald and aquamarine. The discovery that beryllium increases the tensile strength of copper and imparts special high endurance properties to its alloys has far-reaching implications.

In monazite, too, we lead all other countries. Indeed in 1938 we supplied 88 per cent of the world's requirements from the well known beach deposits of Travancore. Contrary to its name, which means "to be solitary", monazite is found in India with zircon and ilmenite. Ilmenite yields titanium dioxide which is the whitest of all substances and



A view of the Damagaria coal quarry in Bengal.

will replace lead more and more in the manufacture of white pigment.

Bauxite is available in India but the success of aluminium manufacture depends less upon this advantage than upon the provision of cheap electricity.

On the debit side of the account we should note that India is deficient—even on the basis of her present limited industry—in essential metals such as lead, zinc and tin. This fact leads us to the necessity of an exhaustive survey of the country's mineral resources. At the same time we must remember that though she may possess resources that are at present unexploited, India is by no means unexplored. For this reason we must be cautious in hoping to repeat the experience of Russia, which, as a result of an extensive survey, discovered undreamt of quantities of minerals mostly in sparsely inhabited territories.

The two existing oil fields of India, at Khaur in the Punjab and at Digboi in Assam, between them produce only about 15 per cent of the total requirements. A new field has been recently opened at Chakwal, also in the Punjab. India is relatively near the world's largest deposits of oil which are now believed to be round the Persian Gulf and not the Gulf of Mexico, and it may be that a geological survey will bring to light further sources of oil within our boundaries. Power alcohol could be made from molasses at present being wasted. This would not only augment the indigenous supplies of motor fuel but would when mixed with our low octane petrol, raise the octane rating.

So far as chemicals are concerned, the most important is sulphuric acid, so much so that the consumption of sulphuric acid is considered an index of a country's industrial progress. This is made either from sulphur or sulphur bearing mineral, generally pyrite. India is deficient in both and will have to import considerable quantities of sulphur if she is to embark upon a large industrial programme. Fortunately, it is a substance which is cheap, keeps indefinitely and needs no special storage. Large amounts can be imported when prices are low and stock-piled for use as required.

Next to sulphur the most necessary chemicals are chlorine and nitrogen. Chlorine is available from the sea or from salt and is a byproduct of the manufacture of caustic soda. In the initial stages of a country's industrial advancement, caustic soda is required in larger



Oil from a large depot on the Malabar Coast being discharged into a tank for distribution in interior areas.

quantities than chlorine. Owing to its poisonous nature, it is not possible to throw away surplus chlorine when not wanted and the production of caustic soda is therefore limited by the capacity to utilise the chlorine.

A beginning will be made with the nitrogen industry when the manufacture of ammonium sulphate, at present being considered by Government, is started. It must be remembered that phosphorus is only next in importance to nitrogen for fertiliser needs and since only very small deposits of phosphatic rock are so far known to exist in India, an intensive search for this mineral is necessary.

Possessing the largest cattle population of any country in the world, India leads in the production of skins and hides. Clearly if these were exported after processing, instead of merely in the crude state, both employment and wealth would increase.

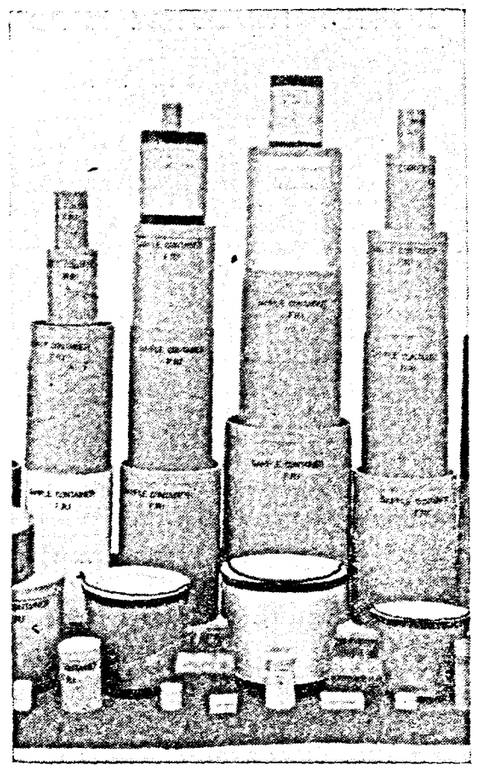
The same observation applies to other agricultural and forest products such as oil-seeds, sugar-cane, wool, coir, copra, resins and essential oils. For example if instead of exporting oil-seeds—the raw material were manufactured into oil, paint, soap, margarine and other goods—not only would the country be richer, but more of these products would be available to the cultivator. Similarly instead of being content to possess a monopoly of jute and produce only jute and gunny, we should make efforts to develop the manufacture of linen, twine and rope.

Plywood Industry

Notwithstanding large forests in various parts of the country India is short of the finer varieties of woods. It will take many decades to make up the deficiency even if it were feasible. We should therefore concentrate on building up a plywood industry.

Practically all the resources are available for manufacturing rayon and plastics. As for artificial silk, it will for some years be necessary to import pulp—as Japan has always done—but with experience of the industry and intensive research, it should be possible to develop indigenous sources of cellulose. The establishment of coal distillation, alcohol and chemical industries will make many products available for various synthetic industries, such as dyestuffs, drugs and fine chemicals.

Coming now to the air: so far as the air is concerned, India has the advantage of lying on the aerial cross-roads to the East. This strategic position together with the manifest benefit of air services in a country of the size



Plywood containers made by the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, as substitutes for the usual metal drums and cans.

of India should enable her to build up a sizeable aircraft industry—given all the other requisites.

Finally, there is the sea. Everyone knows that vast possibilities exist in our long coast line, whether through the development of deep sea fishing and the manufacture of salt and an enormous range of byproducts, or by the building up of an adequate fleet.

PRICES OF RAW BUFFALO HIDES

By a Notification issued in the *Gazette of India Extraordinary* dated January 3, 1945, the Government of India have decided to drop the scheme of controlling raw hides through licensed Arathdars and hide merchants and have, therefore, amended their notification of November 25, 1944, regarding the prices of raw buffalo hides, accordingly. There will now be one final ceiling price for sale to utilisers only

INDIAN INDUSTRY HAS NOTHING TO FEAR IN TRANSITION FROM WAR TO PEACE

DAY will dawn, we hope soon—the day of armistice—when joy bells will be ringing all over heralding the peace to come and hearts will be lifted in thankfulness that the days of trial and suffering and sacrifice are over. But in the midst of all this rejoicing there will be doubts in some minds and even dismay in others as to what individually their future will be and how readjustments in employment, business and trade can be brought about without detriment to the individual.

(By the Hon'ble Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, Member for Supply, Government of India.

(A broadcast from A.I.R., Delhi)

When the war ends, the economic system of this country, as of many others, will have been hammered into a shape quite unrecognisable from what it was at the outbreak of the war. Industry has been obliged to adjust itself to governmental needs and in many cases to ignore both the normal channels of trade and the usual customers of its products; Government being in many instances the sole or at least the predominant buyer, the normal markets have almost become non-existent. In the transition period between armistice day and normal peace times which will follow, there will be a hiatus for which careful preparation is to be made both by industry and by Government.

The Transition Economy

In this period of transition, what has been termed 'the transition economy,' may have to prevail. It has been truly said that in peace economy the bottleneck is markets while in war economy the limiting factor is production. In the transition economy the problem of co-ordinating demand with the rate of increase in peacetime production so as to avoid both inflation and deflation will have to be considered. The close of a war is usually sudden and abrupt and may occur at an unexpected moment. It will present to industrialists the problem of readjustment of their production to ordinary civilian needs. It will, in some cases, involve the re-tooling of plant and the consequent cessation of production during the process.

All this readjustment may mean the throwing out of employment skilled and unskilled workers now engaged in the various industries, resulting in discontent, if not acute labour troubles. If to



Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar.

this is added the process of demobilisation of the armed forces among whom again are many skilled workers, the resulting chaos may have serious repercussion on the entire social fabric. It is necessary therefore to avoid being caught quite unawares on D day and to make plans and lay down policies even now, however tentative they may be, so that both industry and Government may be better prepared for the transition period.

Though the issue of the war is no longer in doubt, it needs hardly to be won. It may be and indeed it is very likely that the war in the west will be first won and then the war against Japan. While this process of victory by stages may ease the difficulties of the transition period to a certain extent it cannot be sufficiently emphasised that at any moment the nation may be called upon to completely give certain of its industrial production for war purposes. In fact during the last few days the American Government which had freed a part of its industrial production for civilian purposes has had to cancel its orders and freeze the entire industrial production for war purposes.

In this country, owing to civilian demand for various kinds of goods having been starved to an abnormal extent, and owing to the evils of inflation arising as a natural consequence, it has recently been found necessary to release some portion of the industrial production for purely civil needs even during the war period. This process, it is hoped, will be continued and will grow in volume so that some industries at least will by a natural transition find themselves in a position to be completely on the basis of civilian production at the end of the war.

But the problem of industrial readjustment at the end of the war, the transition from war production to peace demands, is larger and more complicated than can be judged by the instances of a few industries which may be in a position to achieve this gradual transformation.

Problem of Re-conversion

What then are the issues involved in this change-over from wartime activity of various industries and what are the solutions that can be suggested. It need hardly be emphasised that the primary aspect from which this whole question has to be viewed will be the place which labour, skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled, will have to occupy first in the transition period and then in the period of peace economy. War workers have been trained and enlisted in various industries in larger numbers than ever before in the history of the industrial development of this country. In addition to these civilian workers engaged in our ordnance factories and in private industrial concerns, there are a large number in the armed forces for whom post-war employment has to be found. It is first from this aspect and secondly from the point of view of industrial and business concerns that the problem of re-conversion or continuance of industries started, developed, or expanded during the war has to be looked at. What then are the problems that will face industry in the transition from war to peace.

The problem of market readjustments, the issue arising from pent-up demands, the disposal of surplus government stocks, the disposal of government-owned plants, machinery or factories, or their utilisation, the cancellation of government contracts, the war controls and the need for continuing or relaxing these controls, the problem of further training for demobilised men and last international arrangements regarding exports and imports and currency stabilisation, these are the issues which have to be faced and solved partly by businessmen and industrialists and partly by governments if transition economy and the place of industry during the transition period is to be sound. Let us examine these issues.

There is a facile assumption sometimes made, taking the limited view of certain industries whose products are in acute demand at present, that business free from all controls will soon find itself on its feet and may in fact be in clover. It may be that certain products like cloth, paper, cement, sugar may find ready sale at the end of the war. But even for these products and certainly for the products of a great many other industries there will be difficult though not intractable problems to face. It must be realised that in the case of most industries, there will be a great need for market readjustments. During the last 5 years many industrialists at first reluctantly but ultimately quite eagerly have accepted government as their main, if not sole, customer. They have relinquished their old customers, lost touch with usual trade channels and, sometimes willingly and sometimes under necessitous compulsion, have diverted their business to channels which must terminate at the end of the war. Various controls devised by government, the system of priorities for obtaining raw materials and transport have among others brought about this position. It will take time to regain the abandoned markets, to get restored the channels of trade and to bring about the normal resumption of business which existed during peacetime.

Demand Not Cumulative

There is another fact which needs to be emphasised. We hear often of the pent-up demand for various kinds of goods, of the accumulated backlog of consumer demands and of the newly developed purchasing power of large sections of the community. It is not however correct to assume that the demand for all goods denied or in short supply during the war, would have accumulated. As a writer has pointed out, "Demand does not keep any more than fish". In the case of soft goods like food and the like the demand is gone for ever. Even in the case of durable goods, the demand is not mathematically cumulative. To take an extreme example, if one were buying every second year a motor car, one would not buy three new cars at the end of the sixth year of war. To a lesser extent this is true of cloth and certainly of electric fans, lamps, cycles and the like.

But while it is true that restricted demands do not always accumulate, it may equally be true that the demand existing at the end of the war for certain products may exceed the supply from current industrial production. Many of the industries have been working at high speed and on more shifts than normally. They have not been in a position to replace worn out parts and renew essential plant. Their production at the end of the war at optimum level cannot be guaranteed and the result may well be that supply may still be inadequate.

And here arises the issue whether some of the controls existing during war period should not be continued. The normal attitude of mind of a businessman is probably, and quite justifiably that all controls are anathema and that the sooner they are removed or relaxed the better for everybody. But I am certain that businessmen themselves, at least the more far-sighted, realise the grave danger of a sudden removal or relaxation of such controls as exist at present when the economic system has yet to readjust itself. Though demands do not accumulate there will be a much larger purchasing power with the community at the end of the war than in normal times. Taking the interest of the consumer on the one hand and the producer on the other, it is obvious that in the best interest of business itself, price stability and demand stability should be assured over a period. Price inflation immediately following the war as a result of the shortage of consumer goods and a vastly increased stream of purchasing power would be most disruptive. It would have a seriously disorganising effect on business. It would cause speculative excesses at first, a short boom in fact, and an intensive deflation later on. That will be too high a price that businessmen will have to pay for very short and comparatively speculative advantages. It is therefore for serious consideration whether during the transition period government controls in the form of price ceilings, rationing and priorities should not be continued.

Disposal of Surplus Goods

This brings me to the problem of the disposal of surplus goods which Government will have at the end of the war. Considerable stocks of commodities for which Government will have no further need, will have accumulated and must be disposed of. The problem is how to dispose them and at what time? And at what price? Can all that be treated as pure waste and scrap and thrown overboard? Such a proposition has been seriously advanced in some countries but I feel certain that in the conditions prevailing in India a solution on these lines is just an impossibility. The disposal of surplus goods so regulated as to meet the existing demand without hindering industrial readjustment or development will help business activity and deter inflationary tendencies. Plans are being now formulated for the orderly disposal of goods and it is hoped that these plans will take a final shape when government has had an opportunity of consulting business interests concerned.

Allied to the question of the disposal of government surplus and having a vital bearing on the position of industry at the end of the war is the problem of disposal of government-owned plants, machinery and factories. During the war ordnance factories have grown in number and in extent, plant and machinery have been bought by government and have been loaned to various private industrialists for stepping up the production of war demand. At the end of the war when military authorities have had an opportunity of surveying future possibilities and adjusting their needs of such possibilities, they will be in a position to estimate their actual requirements of plant and machinery and factories. The problem of the disposal of these plants and machinery requires a very careful consideration.

They cannot obviously be sold in a hurry on the auction block. In many cases they are not all balanced plants. The place that some of this plant and machinery would take in existing industrial structure has to be carefully studied. That post-war problem which is so important and looms so large in post-war planning, the regionalisation of industry, will have to be taken into account in the methods of disposal adopted. The war plant of the Government does not represent a homogeneous bundle that can be treated in just one way. There are highly specialised plants for strictly military material which must be either kept up for military ends or reserved as stand-by plant in case of future demands. We have at the other extreme machine tools and plants which can be turned to early utilisation. These are matters which are engaging the attention of Government and will come up before businessmen for their consideration. What can at this stage be said is that in disposing of war surpluses and plant, it will perhaps be advisable to follow a policy which will pave the way for the resumption of post-war production at levels where as high employment of labour as possible is guaranteed and at a standard of living for the worker which is reasonable.

Termination of War Contracts

The problem of the termination of Government war contracts is of special importance both to Government and to industrialists. The need for a sound formulation of policy in relation to such cancellations or terminations is an obvious necessity. When should a contract be cancelled? Should a guillotine be applied at the end of the war and all contracts terminated automatically? Should they be partially reduced in order that the manufacturer may taper off his production gradually till he gets back into his accustomed civilian work and some contracts be permitted to proceed to entire completion even if it means laying up of stock for future emergencies of government? These are questions which are engaging the attention of the Government and a special officer is even now engaged in examining those problems.

The Finance Member in a recent message to the Advisory Panel of Accountants has also suggested that Government would be glad of the advice and the co-operation of that body in formulating its policy. The need for a speedy settlement of this question at the end of the war and even more speedy settlement of claims arising out of it so that industry may not feel hampered is appreciated, and as I have already stated the formulation of policies is under way. In deciding these questions Government have necessarily to take into consideration the continued employment of labour.

Lastly there is one vital problem which according to most industrialists they may have to face in the transition period—the problem of competition from abroad for goods which they have produced during the war to meet Government demands. Industrialists have asked for protection for such goods and have stated that the newly developed industries would be snuffed out of existence if on the one hand Government custom drops off and on the other imports are freely permitted.

International Trade

The pattern of international trade at the end of the war is not yet in sight. The nature of post-war international agreements regarding trade and commerce has not clearly emerged from such informal discussions as have so far proceeded. Every country will try to safeguard its basic interests at such conferences and it is therefore difficult to forecast the highest common measure of agreement that will ultimately emerge from such a conference. It is clear, however, whatever the ultimate agreement may be, that a great deal of latitude will necessarily have to prevail during the transition period.

The demand that the future of industries started or encouraged by Government during the war should be safeguarded so long as sound business lines are pursued is one which Government has to take seriously into consideration. Various methods and devices have been suggested for such safeguarding, the principal and the most obvious of them being a high protective tariff for the indigenous products, especially where they are produced in quantities sufficient to meet the internal demand. Another device that has been suggested particularly where production is inadequate for meeting the internal demand is control of the quantity to be imported together with a system of price control over the whole field so as to avoid on the one hand injury to the industry and on the other undue exploitation of the consumer. An averaged price over the entire product, taking both indigenous and imported goods, may soften the blow to the consumer without affecting a fair level of profit to the indigenous producer. These and other proposals are engaging the attention of the Government and it is hoped that conclusions will be arrived at in good time.

I have touched on only some of the issues that arise in consideration of the problems of the transition of industry from war to peace conditions. It is impossible to go into greater detail over these issues in the course of a short talk. Some industrialists have expressed grave fears regarding the future—the fear of bureaucratic control, the fear of high level taxation policy, the fear of competition, the fear of monopolies—internal and external—the fear of demands for socialization of industry and a number of other fears. I should like only to say that taking a general and broad view of conditions and tendencies in the immediate post-war years Indian industry well-conducted on sound business lines has nothing to fear except fear itself.

COFFEE PRICES REDUCED

In consultation with the Indian Coffee Board, the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies have reduced the basic wholesale prices at which coffee will be sold from the pool (as from January 1, 1945) as follows:

Description of raw coffee	*Present Price per cwt* (ex-works)	*New Price per cwt* (ex-bags)
Plantation A	108-8-0	102-8-0
Arabica Cherry (5 per cent triage basis)	100-0-0	87-0-0
Robusta Flate (5 per cent triage basis)	90-0-0	65-0-0

This downward revision in wholesale prices will result in a reduction in the retail prices of coffee as from April 1 amounting to approximately 2 annas per lb.

DAMODAR VALLEY PROJECT

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 101)

Government, Mr. B. Sarkar, I.C.S., Secretary, Communications and Public Works Department, Mr. B. L. Subarrwal, Mr. J. F. Russel, Chief Engineer, Bengal, Mr. Man Singh, Special Engineer (Irrigation), Mr. N. K. Bose, Director, River Research Institute. Mr. N. Dar, Secretary, Post-War Reconstruction Committee, Mr. H. M. Ishaque, Development Commissioner and Mr. A. Karim, Deputy Chief Engineer, Irrigation Department, represented the Government of Bihar. Mr. H. M. Mathews, Chairman, Central Technical Power Board, Mr. W. L. Voorduin, Hydro-Electric Member of the Board and Mr. D. L. Masumdar were also present to represent the Central Government.

INDIA WILL BE PROTECTED AGAINST FOREIGN DUMPING

Sir Ardeshir Dalal's Assurance

THE assurance that India would be protected against foreign dumping and that Government were actively considering the question of liberalising protection to Indian industry was given by the Hon'ble Sir Ardeshir Dalal, Planning and Development Member of the Governor-General's Executive Council, in reply to an address by Seth Gopaldas Mohta, President, C.P. and Berar Chamber of Commerce at an Home in Nagpur on January 18.

The Planning Member further assured the Chamber that Government were fully alive to the necessity of promoting the chemical industry. Indians will be sent abroad for training with a view to secure personnel not only for the chemical industry but also for a number of other industries which were to be developed.

The suspicion that the present attempts to ascertain India's requirements of capital goods were designed to thrust out-of-date machinery on the country, Sir Ardeshir said was unfounded. Every country in the world, he said, was knocking at the door of the U.K. and the U.S.A. for the supply of capital goods which they required for rehabilitation purposes. If India remained aloof he thought it would mean a great loss to Indian industry itself. There was no question of any pressure on industrialists to purchase capital goods now from any particular source. It was entirely for the industrialists to decide whether they should purchase the goods at the present moment and the type and kind of goods they should go in for.

Question of Dollar Exchange

Referring to the question that Government should arrange dollar exchange for the purchase of capital goods, Sir Ardeshir said it was beyond the capacity of Government at present because all dollar resources were required for the purposes of war. If, however, any plant or machinery was urgently required from the U.S.A. and if a reasonable case was made out he was sure that the necessary dollar exchange would be made available, but it was not available in unlimited quantities.

Referring to E.P.T. Sir Ardeshir said that the necessity of distinguishing between profits which were ploughed back into business and those which were distributed as dividends in taxation had been brought to the notice of the Finance Member. He added that any industrialist who required money for repairs, rehabilitation or expansion of



Sir Ardeshir Dalal.

business could obtain a refund of part or whole of his E.P.T. deposit for the purpose.

As regards the suggestion that the Government of India should see that development of industries by foreign companies in India did not proceed in a manner contrary to Indian interests, the Planning Member said that it was a matter which was engaging the attention of the Government and they would see that the development of foreign companies did not injure Indian interests.

Replying to the criticism about the personnel of the Fertiliser Mission and the Machine Tool Mission and the importation of foreign experts, he said that both the Missions were on a purely technical level. Their report would be considered by Government and it would be for Government to give the decision on their recommendations.

Ammonium Sulphate Factory

Regarding the location of the ammonium sulphate factory Sir Ardeshir said that the Government of India had come to the conclusion that at the present moment when this article was urgently required to grow more food it would be quicker and cheaper to have one central plant instead of a number of plants in various places.

This, however, did not preclude the possibility of putting up another plant in South India. The factory would be located at Sindri near Dhanbad, in Bihar, where it would be possible to expand it to manufacture other nitrogen compounds.

Coming to local problems Sir Ardeshir said that the Central Provinces was potentially enormously rich in minerals and other resources. It would be ideal if the minerals and other resources could be utilised within the province tself. In the case of manganese it would not be wise to prohibit its export since India was the second largest producer of manganese in the world and had more than what she needed for her own requirements. He, however, agreed that export should be regulated and should not be prejudicial to the interests of the province.

He further admitted that mineral resources had not been properly surveyed anywhere in India. The mining and utilisation side of the Geological Survey had so far been inadequate. They had taken steps to expand the geological survey and they were going all over the world to find people to fill the posts. In the meanwhile all Indian Universities should try to train as many geologists as possible. Further the C.P. was rich in cotton and oilseeds. It was for the industrialists to utilise those resources and develop other industries. There was no reason why they should not have a thermal station in a province where there was plenty of coal and water available. The Government of India were proceeding with a number of hydro-electric projects which had been surveyed and a great expansion of electric power was envisaged in the Punjab and U.P.

SPEECH AT ROTARY CLUB

Most of the measures for a better distribution of wealth touched upon by the authors of the Bombay Plan in their Second Report had also been discussed in the Second Report of the Reconstruction Committee of Council issued some months ago, said Sir Ardeshir Dalal in a speech at the Rotary Club lunch in Nagpur on January 18.

As regards the improvement of the standard of living and the means to be employed for that purpose, Sir Ardeshir said, there was no difference between the aims of the Government of India and the authors of the Bombay Plan. Similarly in the matter of the role of the State in industrial development there was close relationship between the views of the authors of the Bombay Plan and the proposals made in the Second Report of the Government of India.

Sir Ardeshir claimed that planning will result in a better distribution of wealth. He quoted from the Second Report of the Reconstruction Committee of Council which said: "Planning as here contemplated will inevitably result in a better distribution of wealth. The provision of the various amenities, free or at reduced cost to the poorer classes, such as education up to the age of 14, medical relief, water supply, and other public utility service, including electric power will have that result. The general improvement in the health and efficiency of labour will tend the same way. Positive measures to secure a fairer deal for labour, to ensure them a reasonable wage, together with such provisions as maternity and sickness benefit, holidays with pay, etc., will have the same effect.

Regionalisation of Industries

"The industrial expansion that is contemplated includes a regionalisation of industries as well as a large extension of small scale and cottage industries which will tend towards a dissemination of the means of production in the hands of a much larger number of people than at present. Even with regard to large scale industries, the need for the investment of a substantial portion of the profits of such industries for further expansion will imply controls and a measure of taxation which will remedy the anomaly of the existing concentration of wealth in a few hands."

Continuing, Sir Ardeshir said that all planning implied control and regimentation. There was an impression that he was against regimentation. He did not think that the rigid totalitarian control as applied in Russia would be desirable and feasible, but a certain amount of control and regimentation which might continue for a long time after the war was essential. He has been advocating reasonable and salutary regimentation.

Replying to a question whether regimentation could be enforced when the Provinces enjoyed autonomy, the Planning Member said that the question pre-supposed that the Provinces would not come into line with the proposed reconstruction plan. He was not prepared to grant that. He explained that it was not the intention to encroach on Provinces but to come to an understanding with them by mutual arrangement.

Earlier, Sir Ardeshir Dalal said that planning was very much in the air nowadays. Every country in the world was preparing for the post-war period. Planning, he said, implied an act of faith. They must believe that they were going to achieve something. If they thought these were only paper schemes, they would achieve nothing. There must be imagination to plan and sympathy for the people for whom they were planning, besides faith in the aims and objects.

The Central Provinces, he said, had coal, manganese and limestone. When the province was properly surveyed, there might be other natural resources too. The Province could develop power. So far, he pointed out, industries had

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 130)

SECOND REPORT ON RECONSTRUCTION PLANNING

Development Member's Reply to Criticisms

THE setting up of an "Economic Brain Trust" for India, in the shape of the "General Purposes Committee" of the Consultative Committee of Economists and the statement of Sir P. M. Kharegat, Additional Secretary, Education, Health and Lands Department, Government of India, that Indian agriculture was capable of increased production to support at least 50 per cent more population than at present, were the highlights of the proceedings of the fifth meeting of the Consultative Committee of Economists which was held in New Delhi on January 3, 1945, with the Hon'ble Sir Ardeshir Dalal, Member for Planning and Development, Government of India, in the chair.

The following economists were present:

Dr. P. J. Thomas, Mr. J. W. Thomas, Dr. L. C. Jain, Mr. C. N. Vakil, Mr. J. P. Neogi, Dr. Gyan Chand, Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao, Mr. B. P. Adarkar, Mr. D. R. Gadgil, Mr. Radha Kamal Mukerji, Rao Bahadur Dr. B. V. Narayanaswamy Naidu, Dr. A. I. Qureshi, Dr. R. Balakrishna, Mr. V. L. D'Souza, Dr. B. R. Misra, Rev. Dr. E. D. Lucas and Dr. J. C. Sinha.

General Purposes Committee

A sub-committee of the Consultative Committee, to be known as the "General Purposes Committee," was formed, with Sir Theodore Gregory, Mr. C. N. Vakil, Dr. P. S. Lokanathan, Dr. Gyan Chand, Mr. M. K. Ghosh, Mr. D. R. Gadgil, and Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao as members to advise the Planning and Development Department on such matters as might be referred to it from time to time. This Committee is likely to meet once a month.

Explaining the scope of the General Purposes Committee, Sir Ardeshir Dalal said:

My object in forming this sub-committee is to have a body of economists who will be in constant touch with me and would help me in formulating the plans, particularly in planning the whole thing, and in giving me their advice with regard to certain difficulties, e.g. the want of statistics, the want of data, questions of priorities, the priority to be assigned as between agriculture and industry or as between capital goods industry and consumptive goods industry and the various problems of the kind which have just now been raised. For that purpose, we would very much welcome the advice of the economists who might perhaps meet once a month and help me.

Replying to criticisms on the "Second Report on Reconstruction Planning" of the Reconstruction Committee of Council, Sir Ardeshir Dalal said:

I thank you, gentlemen, for a very stimulating and interesting discussion. If I may take up the points one by one: Prof. Mukherjee has raised the problem of the agricultural worker and incidentally the conditions of agricultural labour are perhaps the worst and also the most difficult to ameliorate. I was looking for some constructive suggestions from him with regard to the amelioration of the condition of the agricultural labourer. Undoubtedly when the standard of living is raised and the purchasing power is also raised, the agricultural labourer must come into his own.

Land Tenure

But apart from that Prof. Mukherjee mentioned things like collective farming, which, I think, he did not very much advocate himself, and also the system of land tenures. My friend, Sir Phiroze Kharegat, has pointed out the difficulties about the land tenures. Nevertheless, personally I am convinced that something or other will have to be done to the system of land tenures and perhaps a systematic inquiry into the land tenures in the different provinces, with a view to their improvement, is absolutely necessary.

The Flood Commission Report is being carefully investigated by the Bengal Government and from what I can see I think the day is not far distant when many of the recommendations of the Flood Commission will be actually brought into operation by the Government of Bengal and that will be going a very great way indeed.

Another point that was raised was about fragmentation and uneconomic holdings. That of course is the greatest curse of Indian agriculture; but with regard to that also, various provinces are taking measures. The C.P. Government has made very good advance with regard to the consolidation of holdings and the Punjab Government has been proceeding along the same lines mainly by the co-operative method. The Bombay Government have recently been considering legislation mainly based on the C.P. model. All these things involve a great deal of interference with the established habits and customs of the people. It has got to be done very cautiously and we have got to carry the people along with us. As for the 2,600 calories which Prof. Mukherjee said was inadequate for the agricultural labourer, I should be very happy if the agricultural labourer could get this amount to begin with.

As regards Dr. Qureshi, most of the points he made have been considered by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research report (known as the Kharegat Plan). The subject of the training of personnel was also mentioned. That is a subject which has been considered by the I.C.A.R. It is engaging the attention of Government at the present moment.

Constitutional Aspect of Planning

Dr. Adarkar implied, as far as I could make out, that besides economic planning we should also go in for constitution planning, thereby encroaching on the sphere of the Sapru Committee, among others. That, I think, is going a bit too far. All that we have said in this report is that the plan is necessarily based on the present constitution, because we do not know what the future shape of the constitution is going to be.

The question of population is an extraordinarily thorny one. We have already seen two diametrically opposite views advanced in this very room within the last half hour. I may say that I hold definite views on the subject and my view is the restrictionist view. If I could possibly devise some means of restricting the population of India, I should be very happy; but on the other hand, there is my friend here who holds a diametrically opposite view.

Then a great point was made by Prof. Adarkar when he said that we should maintain the total level of Government and public expenditure at the present level; Government is in entire agreement with this proposition because to my mind it is very necessary if we are to prevent disastrous consequences following the termination of the war.

As regards the survey of resources that was mentioned by him, we are already planning the survey of our mineral resources and it is contemplated that the strength of the geological survey should be greatly increased. Similarly my friend here is contemplating soil surveys. With the help of Sir Theodore, we are also thinking of having the census of production.

Dr. Naidu made the point that we should obtain data, industry by industry, before going in for the expansion of industries. That is also what we are proposing to do. We are contemplating the formation of a number of panels for the expansion of various industries or allied groups of industries and one of the first things that we shall do in connection with the work of these panels is to obtain information with regard to the existing production, export, import, future possibilities and so on for every individual industry and then plan its expansion. Standardisation of products is one of the things which is also engaging our attention and the Industries and Civil Supplies Department are putting up a bureau of standards for the purpose.

Prof. Rao raised the question of transition from war to peace and one of the points he made was that we should give first priority to consumption goods. As pointed out by my colleague here, in the case of most of the consumption goods, the demand is not a cumulative one, so that I do not go quite so far as Prof. Rao has contemplated. To my mind the first priority, barring just the immediate period of transition, should be given to capital goods and power. This is, of course, a question of difference of opinion.

Prof. Gyan Chand saw certain trends towards socialism in this report. I have no quarrel whatever with his reading of our intentions. A minimum standard of living for all is our ultimate ideal and if that ideal is to be attained, it would necessarily mean a levelling of incomes.

Industrialists' Part

With regard to industrial planning, he thought that we had left the initiative to industrialists. That again is not exactly correct, because as I have just mentioned we are contemplating the establishment of 29 panels to deal with the question of the development of different industries, so that it cannot very well be said that on this question we have left the initiative entirely to the industrialists. The industrialists have their own part to play in the development of the industries of the country, as has been mentioned in this report. At the same time Government has taken the initiative.

Then Prof. Gyan Chand made an interesting point with regard to public corporations. I wish he had been here. I would then have asked him something more about public corporations. That is a matter that has been engaging our very earnest consideration but the subject requires to be carefully thought out.

Post-War Level of Taxation

He stated that he hoped that Government would maintain the present war level of taxation in the post-war period. I do not know what the reactions of my friends in the Finance Department are but on the whole I think they were happy ones.

Sir Cyril Jones: This is dealt with in the Report.

Mr. Narahari Rao: We are going to explore every new source.

Chairman: I hope the public will thank you.

Mr. Gadgil had a pessimistic note to sound. He thought that all these estimates were made

under conditions of uncertainty and in the absence of adequate data. Well, therein I agree with him. One of our greatest troubles is the absence of statistics and the absence of adequate data and it is not possible within the immediate future to deal with this deficiency adequately. We have got to begin our planning with inadequate data but that is a difficulty which cannot be helped. We are considering the question of reforming the whole system of statistics in India. That is a long-term problem and will take some time. He was under some misunderstanding in thinking that we have estimated that things like roads, public health and other services will yield returns within the first five or ten years. We have not contemplated anything of the kind at all.

Mr. Gadgil was also sceptical about the estimates of revenue surpluses which the Government of India have framed. They have been careful to say that they are based on certain assumptions. World conditions or political conditions may render the fulfilment of those assumptions difficult or impossible. In that case undoubtedly those estimates will not be realised. No one has given any assurance that these surpluses will materialise. They will only materialise if those assumptions come true.

Question of Targets

Then he said that instead of laying down targets and aims a better method would be to assess the possibilities even on an optimistic basis, if necessary, and in doing that he commented on the Bombay Government Plan and recommended it for our adoption. That is the line on which we are also proceeding but that is exactly the reason why in the public and particularly in the Press we are being assailed. One of the criticisms that is frequently advanced is that we have got no plan, no ideals, no targets, no aims. I have been trying to impress on the public the lines on which we are proceeding. It is not so very spectacular but at the same time I may say that we have recommended the Bombay Government Plan to all other Provincial Governments and the estimates which are framed by the Provincial Governments are of the same order of magnitude as the estimates of the Bombay Government Plan, so that I hope Mr. Gadgil will realise that we are not proceeding in a vacuum or in such a manner as to subject, if not ourselves, at least our successors, to very severe criticism on the part of the public.

As for Dr. Thomas, he has said that the question of full employment is not going to be solved by intensive industrialisation. That was a point which engaged the attention of the Bombay planners also. For that very reason they have recommended the adoption of cottage industries and minimum scale industries and industries of a kind which do not require such capital intensification as some of the more highly technical types of industries would require. It would mean a larger number of men are employed, although the output and the capital employed is correspondingly small. The surveys will naturally go on side by side with the development of industries. I understand that Dr. Thomas is a great advocate of public works. That is a point which has not been lost sight of. In the conditions of transition from war to peace, public works will certainly form a very important item in providing employment of labour.

SIR P. M. KHAREGAT'S SPEECH

Replying to criticisms on agricultural planning proposals in the Reconstruction Report, Sir P. M. Kharegat said:

"One of the important suggestions that has been made is that we should study various subjects. In particular, reference has been made to the study of periods of unemployment and underemployment, the study of labour conditions and a study of the effects of land tenure on production. All these points we have in mind and we are seriously thinking of setting up a Board of Agricultural Economists to take up studies of this kind. But what I would like to emphasise is that we cannot wait until these studies are complete. We must carry on our development work; otherwise it will mean that this work will be held up for years and years. We, therefore, intend to push on with our plans irrespective of the studies; and in the light of the results of those studies, we will make such amendments in our plans as may from time to time be necessary.

Reform of Land Tenure

The next point suggested by several speakers is in connection with the land tenure system. We realise that there are many difficulties in connection with that. We wrote to Provinces some months ago and the attitude of several of them is that they do not wish to take up such an enquiry at the present time as the only result might be to embitter relations between landlords and tenants. That aspect of the matter has to be borne in mind.

We propose to examine the results of the various systems and carry out experiments in collective farming, in co-operative farming, in farming by the State or by capitalist enterprise in different places and see which of them results really in increased production, because ultimately that has got to be the test of any system. It does not matter to us whether the farms owned are large or small. What will result in increased production is what we have to try and foster to the best of our ability, bearing in mind the social aspects of the matter also.

Reference has been made to land utilisation. Here again we have already set up a committee which is going into the whole question of setting up a Land Utilisation Board for the country, possibly with other Boards affiliated to it in the various Provinces. I may here clarify a small point which was mentioned by Prof. Mukherjee. He referred to the statement in the report that we are aiming at freedom from restriction to the actual user of the land. Now that phrase was meant to cover restrictions imposed by the landlord on the tenant, such for instance as restrictions against the planting of groves, restrictions against the putting down of wells in his holdings and things like that.

Agricultural Debt

Then there is the question of agricultural debt. We fully realise that that is a very big problem. A committee has already been appointed under Dr. Gadgil in order to make suitable suggestions to us in the matter. But I cannot endorse the statement that has been made that the co-operative system has failed and is therefore unsuitable. The co-operative system has not been fully tried in this respect and I have not the slightest doubt that if the system is tried by linking up co-operative farming, co-operative credit and co-operative marketing, it will result in very considerable success.

If anyone has any doubts on the subject I would refer him to the condition of the co-operative Sugarcane Sales Societies in the U.P. There you have an organisation which was built up within two or three years and deals with something like two to three crores worth of sugarcane supplied to the factories and they are working so well that I understand that they have got no overdues at all and every single pie that has been advanced by these societies has been recovered in full year after year. I do not think we need be pessimistic about the future of co-operative societies.

I would just like to refer to one other point and that is the question of population control. I am only interested in the matter from the agricultural point of view. There is no need whatsoever to restrict population in India provided we devote our attention to the adequate increase of agricultural production. We may be able to increase our production by 50 per cent in a very few years, in five to ten years quite easily, and it can even be increased by one hundred per cent, provided the necessary facilities for increased production are made available and remunerative prices ensured. In view of that I see no reason why we should take a pessimistic view about our population and try to restrict it, at least at the present stage. On the basis of what we can produce, agriculture in India can support at least a 50 per cent higher population than it is doing at present. That fact should be borne in mind before we suggest a reduction of the population.

PANELS TO REPORT ON INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Provisional targets to be aimed at in the first five-year period and, wherever possible, of the target to be reached in 15 years, it is understood, will be indicated to the industrial panels being set up by the Planning and Development Department of the Government of India. The 29 panels proposed to be formed will make recommendations to Government on the development of industries, both existing and new.

Among the panels expected to be set up soon are: Iron and Steel (Major); Sugar, Alcohol and Food Yeast; Heavy Chemicals, Light Chemicals and Electro Chemical industries. It is understood that the provisional targets aim at 80 to 100 per cent increase in five years in the production of iron and steel, 50 per cent in textiles and 100 per cent in cement.

For the development of textile industry, the existing Textile Board will act as the panel. It is understood the Iron and Steel (Major) panel will include Sir Padamji Ginwala (Chairman), Sir J. J. Ghandy, Mr. Pashir of J. K. Industries, Cawnpore, and Mr. Parr, the Steel Commissioner. Its terms of reference will include alloy steel, special steel, tools steel, rerolled products, fabricated and structural steel, forgings, castings, tubes, tin plate, wire, nails and screws, nuts and bolts.

The setting up of these panels will mark the first stage in the preparation of a detailed phased plan of industrial development for the first effective five-year post-war period.

The panels, it is understood, will be supplied with factual information by Government. In the case of new industries, the information will consist of a general survey of the industry and the importance of starting it in India, the availability of raw material, the power requirements, the demands of the Indian market and the probabilities of exports. In the case of existing industries, the information will naturally be more comprehensive; it will indicate, in addition, the location of existing units, the types of goods produced and the total production under each category and the assistance, if any, given by Government.

Each panel will be required to report on the scope and extent of development; whether the industry should be State-owned either on grounds of national interest or because private

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 120)

MR. G. S. BOZMAN REVIEWS WORK OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING DEPARTMENT

MR. G. S. BOZMAN, Secretary, Information and Broadcasting Department, Government of India, surveyed the activities of the Department in his address to the Publicity Advisory Committee which held its fourth meeting in Bombay on January 18, 1945.

He said: I know how disappointed you will all be that the Hon'ble Sir Sultan Ahmed (Member for Information and Broadcasting, Government of India) is not able himself to welcome you and to preside over our deliberations. I am certain that he is as disappointed as you are; he attaches the greatest importance to every opportunity for obtaining public advice and criticism on the work of his Department and he fully realises the value to him and to the whole Department of the non-departmental view in publicity matters. It is only for compelling reasons of health that he has been forced to deny himself the pleasure of meeting you again and I know you will all wish me to convey to him the sincere wishes of this Committee for a complete and speedy return to his normal health and energy. I venture to think that the Committee would wish me to add to that message their heartiest congratulations to him upon the high honour recently conferred upon him.

A Word of Caution

It has been the custom at these meetings to give a brief survey of important developments in the work of the Information and Broadcasting Department during the last half year. This practice I propose to follow, but there are certain factors affecting all our publicity work to which, with your indulgence, I feel I should refer.

In his last speech the Hon'ble Sir Sultan Ahmed spoke of the change in outlook which was necessarily coming over the Department as the end of the war came nearer and the problems of peace assumed more imminent importance. At the same time, however, he wisely uttered a word of caution and pointed out that, while looking forward to the better times to come and the new problems to be faced, we must not relax our concentration upon the war and all the efforts still necessary to bring it to final victory. Recent events in Europe have amply shown how necessary that warning was. The enemy in Europe has hit back and hit hard. That even his most furious efforts can alter the conclusion of the war no man imagines, but we have been forcibly reminded that he has plenty of fight left in him and we should do well to reflect that as his final defeat draws inexorably nearer there will be desperation added to his strength. We must not, therefore, allow ourselves any respite from the daily, day-long task of fighting this war to its successful finish.

Another Enemy Offensive

There is, however, another enemy offensive to be tackled. As his hopes of military success dwindle almost to nothing, he is concentrating on sowing dissension among the Allies. This indeed is his last remaining weapon. We should not be blind to its dangers. The Nazi and Fascist conception of total war not only involves the utmost disruption, both physical and economic, of everyday civil life, but it also achieves its final beastliness in its conscious attack upon human faith, upon the distinction between good and evil which is the very foundation of all that we regard as civilisation.

In the countries which he has occupied the enemy has deliberately set himself to deprive men of their ideals, to destroy the human soul. In those more fortunate countries which have escaped occupation the enemy works through insidious lies and poisonous deceptions. He knows that in the democratic countries thought and speech are free and he seeks to turn that very fact to his own use. His object is to destroy faith and to encourage doubt. Why is it that just at this time we see a stream of reports and comments harping on differences between allied nations? Why is it just at this time that we find scandalmongers producing alleged disclosures of secret documents, all designed to undermine confidence and to create the impression that we have no ideals for which to strive?

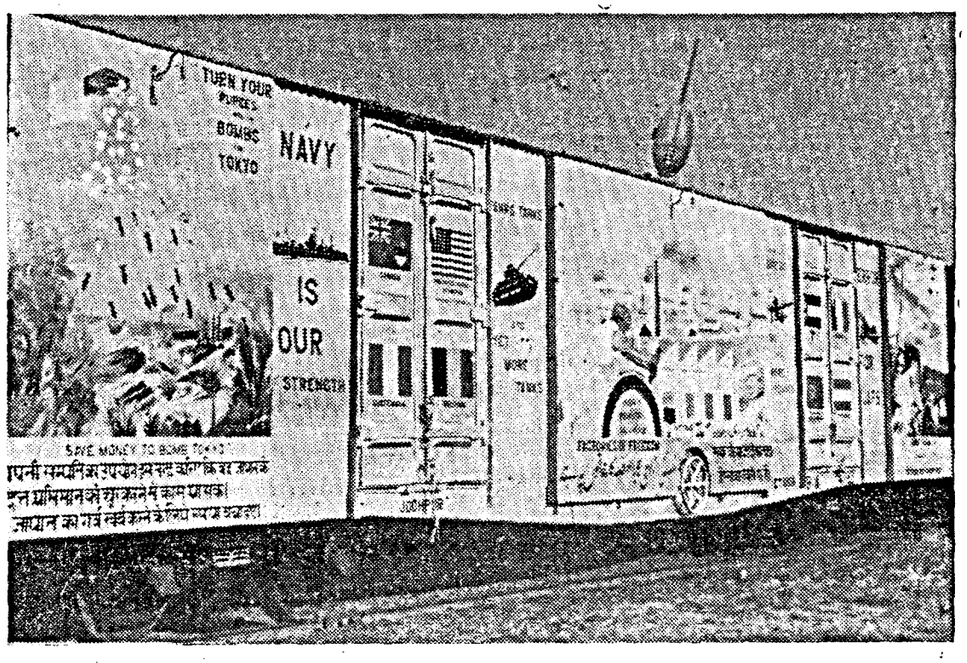
It is not difficult to discern the enemy's hand. The Japanese as well as the Germans are quite content to hammer away, month in and month out, at some particular lie until they see some deluded persons yielding to the constant pressure and giving voice to the doubts that the poison has created in their minds. Then they can sit back and think out a new life; they know that our freedom of discussion will do the rest of their work for them. No man will deny that there are and always will be differences among peoples. Nor will any believer in the democratic way of life ask that those differences should not be freely discussed. That is the basis of the democratic method and exactly what the enemy himself will not allow. But it is disturbing to see men, otherwise, one must be persuaded, intelligent and well-intentioned, falling into the enemy trap and, whether for sensation or to line their own pockets or for some less reputable motive, sedulously playing exactly the game the enemy wants them to play. It is disturbing partly because it can but give the enemy encouragement to resist the longer, but even more because it is designed in the long run to induce exactly that loss of faith and bewilderment of mind upon which the Nazi and Fascist doctrines originally fattened and prospered.

Faith and Confidence

You may well ask what all this has to do with publicity in general and this Committee in particular. In general, I would say that it behoves every publicist in whatever medium to remember always that while the enemy remains unbeaten he will continue emitting his poison. There is therefore a heavy responsibility resting upon all of us to determine, conscientiously and impartially, whether what we want to say will give comfort to the enemy. If the answer is 'Yes,' then however high the motive or however pressing the inducement, we should not say it. In particular, I would say that there are two points which we in this Committee should remember. One is that we should design our campaigns, inside India or outside, so as to strengthen that faith and confidence which the enemy seeks to destroy and to stimulate that unity of purpose which the enemy labours to disrupt. The other is that the totalitarian processes of war, both physical and spiritual, are designedly of a long-term character. They seek to destroy both the principles and the practice of democracy.

The defeat of the enemy's armed forces, therefore, will not put an end either to the effects of those processes or, indeed, to the efforts of the defeated enemy to continue them. We must therefore be ourselves prepared to continue on guard against them, even in times of peace, and to ensure that our freedom of thought and speech, when relieved of war-time or partisan restrictions, does not fall a victim to the insidious influence of a pernicious doctrine.

To turn now to a brief account of the work in this Department since the Committee last met, it will be observed that the developments in All India Radio form a separate item on the agenda. I do not propose therefore to say any more on that subject just now than that we have been able to provide more funds for certain purposes which we believe will further improve the services which this very large and



powerful organisation can offer. It will be suitable to discuss those purposes later, but I should mention now that we have already started daily services in Assamese and Oriya and that we are establishing a Field Recording Unit on our Eastern Front. This will enable All India Radio to obtain up-to-date actuality records and eyewitness accounts of the fighting in that region.

Publications Division

In our foreign publicity we have converted the Foreign Publicity Office, of the work of which the Hon'ble Member gave some account in his last address to this Committee, into a Publications Division. This Division will assume responsibility for all published material intended for countries outside India. The two Russian magazines which were mentioned at the last meetings have now been produced, but it is too early yet to form an estimate of their success. One of them forms one issue of a multi-lingual magazine called "Dunya" which has recently been produced in collaboration with the Director of Public Relations. Other editions are in English and Roman Urdu, in English and Persian, and in Pushtu and Urdu. We are contemplating using other foreign languages in the future.

I should like to take this opportunity to state that in my own view this work of foreign publicity must inevitably assume greater importance as the war draws to a close. It must be a matter of the closest concern to India that in the international rearrangements which will follow upon the final victory there should be a full and sufficient understanding of Indian achievements, Indian potentialities and Indian requirements. There cannot be that understanding without what in technical language is called background information. I do not think anyone will deny that there is at the moment in many parts of the world a great deal of background ignorance about India.

We cannot of course compel those who are frankly not interested in India to read about the country and study it from different angles. But that should not absolve us from the duty of making the necessary material available to those who are interested, and we have now undertaken the research work which will enable us to determine what are the particular aspects of India that will most interest individual foreign countries, or to put it another way the setting in which information about India is likely to prove most attractive. This is, of course, no more than every intelligent advertiser does. He studies the taste of his potential clients and then advertises his wares in a form which is most likely to attract the customer's notice.

Connected with foreign publicity but at the same time distinguishable from it is the work of the Counter-Propaganda Directorate. We have now succeeded in moving this branch down from Simla to Delhi. This means that the officers can now maintain the immediate contact with the military authorities which is so important for their work.

Members of the Committee will by now be receiving copies of the weekly "Far East Bulletin," produced by this branch and I hope they will have learnt from it not only something of what is happening in the Far Eastern countries but also the fantastic distortions and misguided enthusiasms of which the Japanese propaganda machine is capable. One need only count up the number of times the Japanese have sunk the American Pacific fleet to understand their difficulty in reporting anything but the most flagrant lies about the operations in the Philippines.

The Counter-Propaganda Directorate have also been taking a particularly active part in the Security Campaign. This is a campaign which this Committee commended and the military authorities have given us great help in preparing a scheme to emphasise the need, particularly in ports, at railway centres and so on, of the strictest individual precautions against careless talk or indiscreet correspondence.

Advertising Branch

In our Advertising Branch the system outlined in the Hon'ble Member's last speech appears to have worked satisfactorily. With the co-operation of the Press all the space required, with one or two exceptions, has been made available for Government advertisements. Recently the newsprint quota was increased from 1|3rd to 1|2, although the space which can be utilised for advertisements has been reduced by 5 per cent. This may mean a slight reduction in the space available in the case of papers which have used the increased quota to increase circulation rather than the size of individual issues but we do not expect it to affect Government advertising campaigns.

All reports that we have received indicate that the Controls Campaign and the Anti-Black Market Campaign have been widely welcomed and have been distinctly successful. Methods of improving a continued campaign on these subjects are now under discussion with the Industries and Civil Supplies Department. The Advertising Branch is also playing its part in the Security Campaign with Press advertisements, posters and cinema slides. They have

also contributed largely to the campaigns for national savings and for Government Securities. The Travel Less Campaign has been wound up.

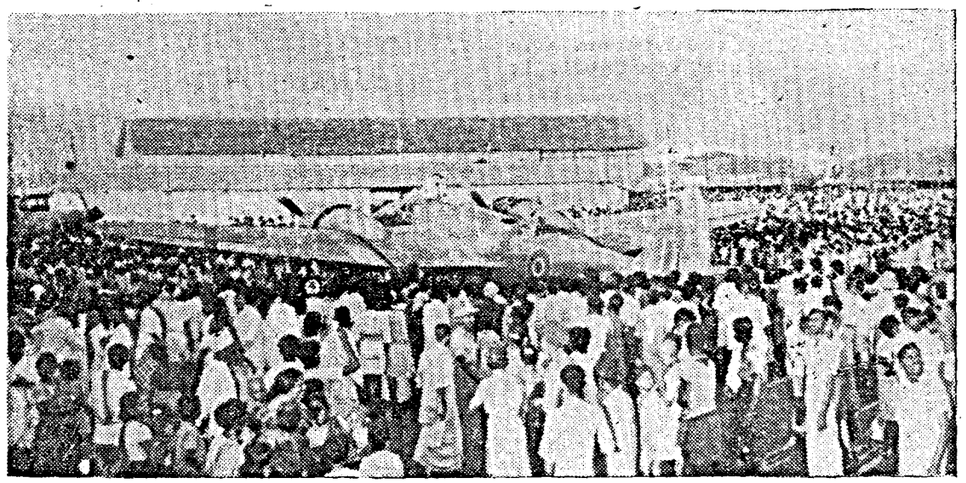
The National War Front has participated vigorously in all our campaigns. Hundreds of meetings have been convened throughout the country and many thousands have listened. The National War Front is essentially an organisation for the conduct of field publicity, that is, for the education of the masses in the meaning of the war, the interference that it inevitably causes in daily life and the need for a co-ordinated and united effort to bring it to a successful conclusion. We have for a considerable time now been exploring different methods of ensuring more effectively that the messages we want to send do really reach the people for whom they are intended. We are now engaged upon a scheme which we think will conduce towards that desirable end and we hope at the next meeting to be able to give you details of it.

War Services Exhibition

Members will, I think, be interested to hear also of the progress of the War Services Exhibition. In the last few months it has visited Poona, Hyderabad and Cochin and is now in Travancore. Two important new sections have been added. One consists of large models showing better housing and better road communications. The other deals with nutrition and consists of a restaurant where balanced diet meals



I.A.F. officer explains the intricacies of modern flying to college girls at the War Services Exhibition.



A Blenheim bomber which took part in many operational flights over Jap territory is the centre of attraction at the Exhibition.

are served at very reasonable prices in modern conditions which are both hygienic and attractive.

There is no doubt that these sections have proved just as popular as the rest of the Exhibition which continues to be patronised by very large crowds. In fact they have been so large that we have received many requests to set aside one or two days at each site when the members can be limited so that those who wish to examine the Exhibition at leisure and in detail can do so. This we have done by charging a small entrance fee on one or two days and limiting the number of tickets for sale.

We have not overlooked the possibility of a much wider use of exhibitions on a smaller scale for publicity purposes in general, but as our plans in this respect are not yet fully mature this also I must leave till the next meeting.

That constitutes a brief survey of the main items of interest concerning the work of the various branches. I have consciously omitted one or two branches. Firstly, the Information Films of India; members will be able to see for themselves what this unit has been doing and we shall then, I hope, have a discussion on the merits of that work. Second, the Women's Section. Begum Shah Nawaz is here and I propose to ask her to tell the Committee herself something of what she has been doing. Third, there is the Song Publicity Organisation. This branch has continued its excellent work and the popularity of the songs produced has been fully maintained. Fourth, there is the Information Bureau. The fact that I have no major developments to report most certainly does not mean that the Bureau has not been more than fully occupied. I am glad to say that the coverage obtained by their releases continues to be satisfactory.

Co-ordination

There is a point governing all the work of the Department to which I should like to refer. I have more than once been asked whether in so large and in some respects diffuse an organisation there is not danger of overlapping and duplication of work. There undoubtedly is, and it is a danger of which we have always been conscious. We guard against it in several ways. Firstly, we draw a distinction between internal and external publicity. This does not, of course, mean a distinction of policy, but it affords us a convenient administrative basis. Then, in both fields we have co-ordinating boards.

On the internal side we have our Planning Board which not only issues the directives for all internal campaigns and allots the functions of the different branches but also scrutinises the material issued and the periodical reports. This means that we watch the detailed working of the branches and can at once see if there is duplication of effort.

On the external side we have two boards, one on the executive level and one on the policy level. Here, again, the functions of the different branches are clearly defined and each branch is in a position to know what other branches are doing. The co-ordination between external and internal publicity is done in the Department itself. in this respect, of course, the danger of overlapping is small. We do not claim that we have entirely eliminated duplication, but we believe we have reduced it to a minimum. And we are constantly on the watch. I might add that in publicity, so long as you are saying the right thing, it does less harm to say it twice than not to say it at all.

Our agenda list is not exactly crowded, but I have little doubt that we shall find plenty to discuss during the time at our disposal. If members have particular questions that they would like to ask about individual branches of the Department, we shall do our best to answer them. It only remains for me therefore to repeat what I am sure you already know that we greatly value the advice of this Committee and that any suggestions that may result from our present deliberations will continue to receive the same earnest attention which we have devoted to them in the past.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 115)

capital is unlikely to take it up; the capital required for development; the extent to which technical advice from abroad may be necessary; the manner and the degree of co-operation with foreign firms both as regards capital and management; the location of the industry; the nature of assistance required from Government in the form of protective duties, bounties, research grant, expert advice, etc.; the control that Government should exercise in the case of private ownership; whether the industry should cater for the export market and whether it should develop, as in Japan, on the cottage industry basis and, if so, to what extent.

It is understood that joint meetings of the panels will be held, wherever necessary, to secure co-ordination, particularly where the processes and the products of the industry are connected with those of another.

TECHNOLOGICAL POSSIBILITIES OF AGRICULTURE

Mr. D. R. Sethi's Radio Talk

WHAT are the technological possibilities of Indian Agriculture? This question was answered by Mr. D. R. Sethi, Director of Agricultural Production (Food), Government of India, in a broadcast on January 13 from the Delhi Station of All India Radio in the series "Building a New India".

The question, Mr. Sethi said, is not merely to what extent one can raise a particular crop or groups of crop in this country, but with reference to specific requirements of our population. It is, therefore, more profitable to consider the question of technological possibilities of Indian agriculture with reference to definite and specific targets of production and it is from this point of view that I propose to attempt an answer tonight.

The agriculture of this country must perform two fundamental functions. One is that it must secure to all our people adequate quantities of food. The other is that we must have sufficient raw materials to feed our industries. In any programme of ensuring freedom from want to a people, freedom from hunger and starvation must occupy the foremost place.

This being the aim, we must now try to translate it in terms of specific quantities of each type of foodstuffs. Here we come up against a serious difficulty in the matter of statistics. Our statistics of crop production are proverbially unreliable, but I am not one of those who is prepared to accept the consideration that because statistics are bad it is not possible to attempt any planning. If you take the overall production of this country and the overall requirements of the population of this country the mistakes that are likely to occur on account of faulty statistics are not of a dimension higher than those which will occur on account of our unpredictable weather conditions and it is therefore possible for us to prepare a plan and a programme of production which could make reasonable allowances for faulty statistics and the effect of fastidious weather conditions.

Production Targets

As regards the overall requirements of India's population, various estimates have been made and one of the most authoritative is the one given in the Memorandum on Agricultural Development prepared by the Advisory Board of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. For purposes of further consideration I will rely upon this. According to this Memorandum the amount of cereals that are required for the feeding of the population, on the basis of a minimum diet of 18 oz. per day, is 54 million tons and it has been estimated that the available quantity is only of the order of 52½ million tons. Thus on the existing basis of population and without making any allowance for the future increase in it due to our high birthrate, there is a gap of 1½ million tons to be filled.

If we wish to proceed cautiously we will have to allow for possible short supplies on account of adverse weather conditions and for increased supplies necessary due to maldistribution. We must therefore estimate the gap to be much wider than indicated in the Memorandum. I do not pretend to be a prophet but if I were to estimate I would aim at a target of production of cereals at at least 60 million tons. In respect of pulses which are the main sources of proteins, our target should not be less than 12 million tons.

Having indicated the targets for the main articles of dietary, I would have liked to indicate what in my view should be our aim with regard to energy foods like sugar and fats and oils and protective foods like vegetables, fruit, milk, meat, fish, eggs, etc. The time at my disposal does not permit me to do so. I would, however like to say that the estimates arrived at by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research are, in my view, under-estimates. They do not take into consideration the future increase in population and they also do not take into consideration short falls in production or short supplies due to weather hazards and to maldistribution.

Increased Yields Per Acre

I now proceed to consider whether Indian agriculture in its broader sense, i.e. including agriculture, horticulture, pisciculture and animal husbandry can meet these requirements within a measurable period of time, say 15 to 20 years. The two main means of production are land and human labour. So far as our land resources are concerned, it is my belief that India has under the growing pressure of her population reached, or, I might say, has nearly reached the maximum potential of land which could be profitably used for crop or fodder production. There are still about 170 million acres of land which are recorded as fallow and culturable wastes. It must be remembered that a substantial portion of this area will have to be kept for grazing cattle. The major portion out of the balance cannot be

brought under the plough without unprofitable expenditure of labour and material resources.

Therefore, in forward planning I would not rely so much on bringing new land under cultivation as on better exploitation and conservation of existing land resources to secure increased production. In other words it is in the direction of securing increased yields per acre of different crops that our hope mainly lies and it is in this direction that, I make bold to say, our main energies should be concentrated.

Amongst the means available to us for the achievement of our targets the most important in order of priority are irrigation, manures, seeds and methods of cultivation. What these can achieve would take a very long time to describe. I will only mention a few more important points in connection with these.

The total cultivated area in this country is some 341 million acres. Of this only 63½ million acres are irrigated. The whole of the balance unirrigated area, perhaps, cannot be irrigated but that a very large proportion of it can be given enough water for producing larger crops cannot be contested. We have yet not fully harnessed all the irrigation sources that nature has bestowed on this country and if even only a small part of these is harnessed for the service of the teeming millions of this country during the next 15 or 20 years it should not be impossible to bring in another 30 to 40 million acres into increased production.

In the case of rice we have at present some 60 million acres which are unirrigated. If half of this acreage could be irrigated we would add another at least four million tons of badly wanted rice to our resources. Of the 34 million acres under wheat only 10 millions are at present under irrigation. During the next 15 or 20 years we can at once double the yield from this area and thereby add at least another 2½ to 3 million tons to our cereal resources.

Intensification of irrigation in our country would not only lead to a very substantial increase in the output of all crops but it would also mean more fodder, more vegetables and more fruits for our people. I attach the greatest of importance to the expansion of irrigation facilities in this country for it is the surest method of increasing our production from our cultivated areas by anything from 50 to 100 per cent.

The next most important means of stepping up our production is adequate manuring of our land with a view not only to restoring it to its



Threshing the Paddy crop.





The men take the sheaves in small bundles and throw them on the ground for a second threshing by bullocks. (Right) Women labourers winnowing paddy.

normal fertility but to provide sufficient plant food to take the fullest advantage from the inherent capabilities of a crop plant with regard to its normal production, leaving alone its maximum potential of production. Research work carried out in the past has indicated that the great test need of Indian soils is Nitrogen and it has been computed that some two million tons per annum of this plant food are necessary to produce a reasonably good crop.

The sources of this manure are to be found in cowdung, in farmyard manure, in composts made from town refuse and village wastes and in concentrated organic manures such as oil-cakes. The quantities available from these indigenous sources of manures are, however, insufficient to meet our needs and we must, therefore, to a very large extent rely upon chemical fertilizers such as Ammonium Sulphate to meet the major portion of our requirements with reference to this particular plant food.

Improved Seeds and Cultivation

Generally speaking, we know what amount of this plant food is needed by various crops under different environments in our country and its application is calculated to increase the yield of our crops particularly of cereals, sugar and vegetables by anything from 20 to 30 per cent over the existing yields. The future planner must, therefore, give adequate attention to the provision of enough of this vital plant food in order to achieve his targets.

The productive capacity of a given plant is an inherent characteristic of its origin. In other words, a plant can only give so much of its yield and no more because that is its hereditary character. Breeding work in the past few years has resulted in better types of crop plants which can and do yield 10 to 15 per cent more than the varieties in general cultivation. We must, therefore, plan in such a way that we cover the entire acreage under a given crop with improved seeds in as short a time as possible, for this is one of the surest methods of getting a higher yield per acre.

I will cite only one instance. We have 34 million acres under wheat. The average yield from this area is of the order of 675 lbs. per acre. By the use of improved seeds we can step up this yield by at least another 75 lbs. per acre. Over the 34 million acres under the crop this alone would mean an addition of at least a million tons of cereals per annum.

The cultivation of our soils is mainly dependent upon bullock power. The supply of bullocks depends upon the cow and we have perforce to maintain a large number of these animals to produce the necessary number of bullocks that we need for our cultivation. Both bullocks and cows must have food to live and the production of this food competes with that required for the human population. One of the results of this competition is that the cows are barely given a maintenance diet and cannot, therefore, be expected to produce large quantities of milk which we must have for the adequate nutrition of our people and for which we must produce adequately in order to enable us to supply a production ration to those animals.

In any plan for the future this important aspect of the question must be borne in mind,

and a system must be devised whereby the aid of mechanical means of cultivation is utilised not only for the adequate intensive cultivation which will be necessary but also for the adequate production of fodders which will lead to more milk for our people. Mechanical cultivation would help us in reducing the number of animals that we need for our cultivation and it would also help us in achieving more efficient cultivation.

Agricultural Research

Before I conclude I would like to refer to one or two vital problems in connection with the planning of our agriculture for the future. Research is the basis of all advancement and this applies to agriculture equally as much as to all other fields of human endeavour. Research in agriculture in the past has been sadly neglected in this country and I, therefore, plead for a more liberal endowment of agricultural research if we are to cope with the growing needs of our people.

In all our planning we must always keep in mind the human side of our plans. Our approach must be from the point of view of betterment of the men as such. It follows that this approach must be a sociological approach and we must aim at uplifting the man as such.

And lastly I would like to make a reference to the systems of farming prevailing in our country. No amount of planning howsoever perfect it may be on paper is going to achieve the targets of production on the present basis of small holdings. A radical change in our system of land tenures and system of holdings is a pre-requisite to the large scale application of results that have been or may be achieved from research work with a view to producing two blades where only one grows at present.

FOOD OFFICERS FOR U.S.A.

Dr. B. C. Guha and M. L. Khanna who left for U.K. last September to investigate modern methods of dehydration have completed their work and will be shortly leaving for U.S.A. to study fruit dehydration and the Quick Freeze Process. Experiments carried out in the fruit canning factory at Peshawar show that dehydrated fruit is a better product than sun-dried fruit.

Competent observers are of the opinion that low temperature treatment of fruit is the real line of future advance in India. The Quick Freeze Process therefore is likely to occupy a prominent place in post-war conditions.

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF FRUIT TECHNOLOGY

The Imperial Council of Agricultural Research has decided to start an Indian Institute of Fruit Technology at Lyallpur from April 1, 1945, for imparting theoretical as well as practical instruction in fruit and vegetable preservation, said a Press Note issued by Imperial Council of Agricultural Research on January 5.

It added: The Institute will provide for (a) teaching (b) research (c) advisory and publicity work (d) quality control of commercial products and (e) co-ordination between regional stations (when established) and the Institute.

Until satisfactory arrangements can be made for other courses of instruction, it has been decided to admit students only for one years certificate course. On completion of the course every successful candidate will be granted a Certificate from the Institute.

UNDER-MILLED RICE

As a result of orders passed in most provinces requiring rice millers to under-mill compulsorily, it is officially claimed that available supplies of rice have increased in provinces and States ranging from 3 per cent in Madras to about 6 per cent in Bombay. Under-milling of rice cannot be treated as a purely temporary measure, and it is hoped that this health-giving habit enforced by the war, will have taken permanent root before the war ends.

Far More Nutritive

The under-milled rice of today is from every point of view much to be preferred to its highly polished predecessor; but it still suffers in general estimation from that predecessor's having been so long regarded as a sign and symbol of affluence. Popular prejudice in favour of highly milled rice has persisted by a natural but misleading association of ideas—whiteness and cleanliness—nevertheless scientific research has shown that under-milled rice possesses solid virtues. Rice of which only the husk has been removed, and of which most of the protein and vitamin have not been polished away, is perfectly digestible, highly assimilable and palatable and far more nutritive than polished rice.

SIR MAHOMED USMAN ON P. AND T. DEPARTMENT'S WAR PROBLEMS

HERE is the full text of the speech of the Hon'ble Sir Mahomed Usman, Member for Posts and Air, Government of India, at the opening of the P.M.G.s' Conference held at New Delhi on January 16.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you here to-day for this Conference.

Of the Departments in my charge, the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department looms largely in the public eye. This is not simply because it employs a very large number of persons or earns a very large revenue, though these are important in themselves; its importance lies in the fact that its activities touch intimately the daily life of every citizen of India, whether he be rural or urban, rich or poor, high or low.

The administration of a department of this nature is and must always be arduous, but the great War has brought numerous new problems of its own and has added to the difficulties of administration. Traffic has increased by leaps and bounds. There has been difficulty in securing the required staff. Partly as a result of the increase in rates—postal, telegraph and telephone—and partly as a result of the increase in volume of traffic, the revenues have since 1939-40 more than doubled. During the same period, the expenditure on staff has increased by about 50 per cent.

Additional War Problems

During the War additional problems have to be faced. You have had to make arrangements for the supply of foodstuffs, for the opening of offices and the accommodation of staff in out-of-the-way places, and for handling large quantities of traffic of numerous classifications and varieties. In certain parts of your charges, you have had enemy attacks and you had to maintain the morale of your staff. I am aware of the courage and skill with which you, who are in charge of the executive and administrative work in Circles, have tackled these problems as they arose from time to time.

I myself have had to deal with many of these War problems and have felt during the last year that it would be of great value, not only to yourself but also to Government, if all of you could meet together and discuss common problems of administration round a table.

I am very glad that I have been able to arrange for the holding of the present Conference



Sir Mahomed Usman.

—the last one being as far back as 1929. There is in my opinion a great advantage in the opportunity which such conferences afford to all of you to make personal contacts with your brother officers who are performing similar executive and administrative duties, and with the officers of the Directorate who have to deal with the problems with which you are faced and have to issue orders on your recommendations. Such contact is, I am sure, bound to result in smooth working of the administrative machine and in increasing its efficiency. I hope it will be possible to hold such conferences in future at fairly frequent intervals.

The agenda prepared for the Conference includes some very important items and is a fairly heavy one. Your deliberations, I am sure, will be of great advantage to Government.

You will have a strenuous time in your conference. I find that several social functions have been arranged for you where you will be able to meet each other as well the officers of the Directorate and of the Posts and Air Department.

Before I conclude I should like to refer to another important question which is agitating the minds of all of us and which gives a great deal

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 133)

DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION

Chicago Conference Discussions

IN September 1944, the Government of the United States issued invitations, to about 55 nations of the world, to an International Conference on Civil Aviation to be held in the United States. India was among those invited and accepted the invitation, said a Press Communique issued by the Posts and Air Department, Government of India, on January 13. It continued:

The International Conference met in Chicago from November 1, 1944, to December 7, 1944. Fifty-two nations attended the Conference, and with the notable exception of U.S.S.R., all the United Nations and most of the Neutral nations were represented.

India was reresented at this Conference by the following delegation:

1. Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai.
2. Sir Gurunath Bewoor.
3. Sir Frederick Tymms.
4. Mr. G. D. Singh.
5. Mr. S. C. Sen.

The International Conference was the culmination of a series of bilateral talks undertaken by the Government of the United States with a number of countries interested in the development of international civil aviation. India was one of the countries which undertook such informal bilateral conversations with the United States in August 1944. Prior to the undertaking of these conversations, the Government of India had announced in their Press communique of July 27, 1944, the broad aims which they wished to see achieved. These were as follows:

Freedom of Flight

(1) The Government of India seek a world-wide international agreement on a fully reciprocal basis, which will assure the freest possible development of international air navigation and air transport for the benefit of the peoples of the world as a whole, and with due regard to the rights and interests of all.

(2) They endorse the principle, already accepted by the British and American Governments, of freedom of flight and freedom to land for refuelling and other non-traffic purposes for all civil aircarft, including regular air transport services, on a non-discriminatory basis.

(3) They consider that the grant of commercial rights, that is, the right to carry traffic to and from another country, is better negotiated and agreed to on a universal reciprocal basis rather than by bilateral agreements.

(4) They endorse the principle, generally accepted, of the right of each country to reserve internal air services and to determine the agency for the operation of its own internal and external air services.

(5) They also endorse the principle which is again generally accepted, of the reservation of "cabotage" traffic, that is, traffic originating in and terminating in the territory of one country, including its colonies and dependencies. For this purpose it is accepted that India in common with the Dominions of the British Commonwealth is a separate country.

(6) The sovereignty of every country over the air above its territory and over the aerodromes in its territory must be fully recognised.

(7) The establishment of an international body whose function would be to implement the provisions of the international agreement, and, in particular,

(a) to promote the development of air transport in the interests of the world as a whole, and to ensure that the interests of the people both of the most powerful and of the smallest countries are secured;

(b) to ensure the safe and orderly development of air navigation by the co-ordination of technical systems and rules.

As a result of the bilateral talks with the U.S.A., the Government of India saw no reason to modify these general views and the original general aims were kept in view by her delegates during the discussions at the International Conference.

U. S. Government Proposals

In convening the Conference, the United States Government suggested that the Conference should have the following objectives:

(1) The establishment of provisional world route arrangements by general agreement to be



Sir Gurunath Bewoor (right) with Sir Frederick Tymms, India's delegates, at the International Civil Aviation Conference in Chicago.

reached at the Conference, the countries participating in the Conference to agree to grant the landing and transit rights necessary for the establishment of provisional route arrangements and air services.

(2) The establishment of an interim council to act as a clearing house and advisory agency during the transitional period.

(3) Agreement upon the principles to be followed in setting up a permanent international aeronautical body and a multilateral aviation convention dealing with the fields of air transport, air navigation and aviation technical subjects.

The Conference at Chicago proceeded to consider the framing of an international multilateral aviation convention on the basis of certain drafts which had been prepared by the Government of Canada and the Government of the United States. The object of such a convention was to secure—

(1) Uniformity of principles and rules governing international flying throughout the world, thereby removing obstacles to the development of communication by air, and

(2) the greatest measure of freedom for the operation of scheduled international air transport services, to provide the world with the transport and communications which it needs, while at the same time protecting the interests of all countries in their own carrying trades.

The First Objective

The approach to the first objective was along a common front and having the invaluable precedent of the International Convention for the Regulation of Air Navigation, concluded in Paris in 1919 (India is a party to this Convention), as a guide, the problem presented no

major difficulties. The Convention on International Civil Aviation which has emerged from the Conference is largely based on the Paris Convention, with some modifications in principle and improvements in form. It makes no change in the matter of freedom of the air. It reaffirms the sovereignty of each country over the air space above its territory. It confers, as did the Paris Convention, as between the contracting States, the privilege of freedom of flight for all civil aircraft not engaged in scheduled air transport services. It reserves all rights not only in regard to internal air transport, but in regard to the operation of scheduled international air transport services to, from and across the territory of any State.

A series of technical annexes have been prepared which bring the regulation of aviation into line with modern technique. These, after further study, will be finalised and annexed to the Convention, and will become obligatory in international aviation. If, as is expected, the Convention is accepted by most of the countries represented at the Conference, it will mark a considerable advance in securing a wider unification of principles and rules.

The Second Objective

The second objective was approached by different countries from widely divergent points of view. One view strongly advocated by certain countries was in favour of the grant of freedom for commercial aviation with no regulation, leaving it to free and open competition. The advocates of this view urged that only thus would the world reap the benefit of more, better and cheaper air transport. The opposite view, which was equally strongly advocated, called for regulation of air transport by an international body, the regulation being intended (1) to prevent uneconomic and cut-throat competition, resulting in the grant of subsidies and the creation of international jealousies, and (2) to protect the interests of countries which are now backward in the field of civil aviation, so that they may in due course and at the proper time take their legitimate share in international air transport.

During the course of discussions, in which all parties strove to find a common agreement, these views underwent considerable modification. The Indian delegation, while anxious to promote greater freedom of operation, was not prepared to grant unrestricted freedom unless, for the national control which each country now exercises through bilateral agreements, a satisfactory form of control by an international body was substituted, so as to ensure a degree of protection for the Indian air transport industry.

In spite of various attempts made to find a formula which would satisfy all parties, it was found impossible to arrive at an agreement. It was therefore finally decided that this question, with all the documents relating to it, should be referred to an interim council elected by the International Conference with instructions to study those documents, to collect further data, and to report to the next conference.

In the main Convention, certain provisions on the air transport side have, however, been incorporated. Machinery is established for international collaboration in the provision of air ports and other air route organisation needed for international air transport, when the State in whose territory the organisation is required is unable to provide it. An Air Transport Committee of the Council will collect, study and publish the result of its studies of air traffic and air transport statistics and cost data for the benefit of the States, parties to the Convention.

Provision has been made for the filing with the Council of copies of all agreements relating to air transport and this is expected to have a deterrent effect on the making of special bargains which may be injurious to the interests of others.

Interim Agreement

Before it can be effective, the main Convention requires to be ratified by the Governments of the States which sign it. Some time must therefore elapse before it can come into force. An Interim Agreement has therefore been adopted, setting up an interim civil aviation organisation with certain preparatory and other functions, and incorporating a number of common regulatory provisions for international flight. Such an agreement can be accepted by Governments through their powers of executive action and could therefore become effective at an early date, thus enabling international air transport to develop and function soon after the end of the War. The Interim Agreement sets up an interim civil aviation organisation consisting of an Assembly, on which each signatory State will have one vote, and a Council of nominees of 21 States selected to represent—

(a) countries having the greatest development in air transport operation.

(b) countries contributing most largely to international air route organisation, and

(c) countries other than those already selected under (a) and (b), representing the major geographical regions of the world.

This Council will appoint a Committee on Air Navigation and a Committee on Air Transport. The former will have as its principal task the study of the technique of aircraft operation and control and the completion of the technical annexes for the main Convention. The functions of the latter will be to study all questions relating to international air transport, technique and costs and, in particular, the problems of internationalisation of air transport and of international control of air transport which could not be settled at the Chiago Conference.

Following failure to agree on the principles of control of international air transport, and in response to a growing feeling in favour of greater freedom, even without control, two separate agreements were drawn up by the Conference. The first of these agreements, known as the International Air Transit Agreement, provides for the grant of the freedom of flight across the territory of a State and the freedom of landing for non-traffic purposes. As between the States which sign this Agreement, these freedoms are granted without any reservations, but it is open to a country which feels that such freedom is being abused by another country to its detriment, to appeal to the Interim Council for examination and report.

The second separate agreement, known as the International Air Transport Agreement, provides for the grant, in addition, of what are known as the commercial freedoms, namely, the right to set down traffic from the country of origin of the aircraft, the right to take up traffic for the country of origin of the aircraft and the right to take up and set down traffic to and from intermediate countries. A similar provision authorising reference to the Interim Council has also been provided in this agreement. These two separate agreements are open for signature by such countries as desire to sign them.

Four Documents

The Conference thus finally prepared four documents:

(1) The Convention on International Civil Aviation.

(2) The Interim Agreement on International Civil Aviation.

(3) The International Air Transit Agreement (Two Freedoms).

(4) The International Air Transport Agreement (Five Freedoms).

Apart from these, a number of miscellaneous resolutions were adopted by the Conference, relating to various subjects and these were incorporated in the Final Act of the Conference.

In the last plenary session of the Conference the elections to the Interim Council took place. The original vote failed to elect India. There was, however, universal recognition of India's incontestable claim and outstanding qualifications to be elected in the category of States which make the largest contribution to international air route organisation and in the final session of the Conference, Norway, which had been elected to the Council, offered to resign its seat and proposed that India should be elected in its place. This offer of Norway was followed by that of Cuba, which offered to resign its seat on the Council in favour of India, requesting Norway to retain its seat. The Conference accepted the offer of Cuba and India was unanimously elected to a seat on the Council. The delegates of India acknowledged the generous actions of Norway and Cuba which had been taken in the interests of international collaboration and thanked the delegations for their act of self sacrifice.

India has signed the following documents:—

(1) the Final Act,

(2) the main Convention,

(3) the Interim Agreement, and

(4) the Two-Freedoms Agreement.

The Final Act is merely a record of the work of the Conference. The main Convention does not come into force until it has been ratified by the governments of the signatory countries and it is necessary that 26 countries should ratify the Convention before it becomes effective. The Interim Agreement and the Two-Freedoms Agreement will not become binding on any country until confirmed by its Government by notification to the United States Government. The Government of India will now proceed to examine these documents with that object.

Examining the results of the Conference with reference to the objects which the Government of India desired to see achieved, it will be noted that the right of each country to reserve internal air services and to determine the agency for the operation of its own internal and external air services, has not been interfered with. The principle of the reservation of "cabotage" traffic, that is, traffic originating in and terminating in the territory of the same country, has been accepted. The sovereignty of every country over the air above its territory has been recognised.

As regards the grant of freedoms, India was prepared to grant on a fully reciprocal basis, the freedom of transit and the freedom of landing for non-traffic purposes, and this has been achieved by the separate agreement.

As regards the grant of commercial freedoms to scheduled air services, India was prepared to grant them subject to the constitution of a satisfactory international body to regulate international air transport. It was not found possible to achieve agreement on this matter and this has been referred to the Interim Council for study and report. In the meantime, so far as countries not parties to the International Air Transport Agreement are concerned, the grant of such freedoms to scheduled air transport services will be subject to specific bilateral agreements, and it will be open to India to make such conditions as she may desire to protect for legitimate interests.

Montreal Talks

Before the opening of the Chicago Conference, the representatives of the Governments of the British Commonwealth and the Empire had met in Montreal to consider matters of common interest to the Commonwealth. After its close, they met again to consider the results of the Chicago Conference, insofar as they affected the Commonwealth and the Empire. Conversations were held first in Montreal and later in London and at these meetings India was represented by Sir Gurunath Bewoor and Sir Frederick Tymms. At these conversations, it was proposed that a Commonwealth Air Transport Council be constituted, whose functions will be to keep under review the progress and development of Commonwealth civil air communications, to serve as a medium for exchange of view and information between the Commonwealth countries on civil air transport matters and to consider and advise on such civil aviation matters as any Commonwealth Government may desire to refer to the Council. The Council will be purely advisory in its function but will be of great value in the co-ordination of Commonwealth air communications.

The Montreal and London conversations also dealt with the question of the organisation and methods of operation of air services in the Commonwealth. India is in this regard concerned mainly with the services operating between the United Kingdom and India and from the United Kingdom across India to Australia and New Zealand. The conclusions of the conversations will be examined by Government in due course.

POSTAL SERVICE TO GREECE

The post card service to Greece has now been extended to Macedonia and Western Thrace, said a Press Note issued by the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, on January 2.

FOUR CONTINENTS ON DELHI ARMY RADIO LINK

DETAILS have been released of the wartime build-up of army radio stations connecting vital military communication centres throughout the country and linking up India with other commands overseas. At least four continents are now in continuous wireless touch with New Delhi today.

Before the war a small wireless network linked up centres such as Quetta, Rawalpindi, Bombay, Poona, Delhi and Jubbulpore. Several of these sets were home-made, built by signal officers from components bought in the local bazaar.

One of them, the Daggset, named after its designer, Lieut. (now Major) Dagg, was used in 1936 for communication with Jubbulpore by a diplomatic mission of the Indian Government in Lhasa.

When the war broke out and the demand for army radio communications increased, varieties of sets were brought into use, ranging from ordinary service and home-made types to army models designed during the last war, all of which gave good service.

In 1941 a signal unit at G.H.Q., New Delhi, became the centre of this chain of radio stations, opening up new links with the principal cities and ports of India. When the army was heroically fighting its way out of Burma men of the Royal Signal and Indian Signal Corps maintained direct touch continuously until the completion of the withdrawal.

High Power Transmitters

Now some of the most modern radio equipment has been installed. The arrival of a large transmitter from England enabled a high speed circuit to be opened up with London; this is one of the busiest links in the world and is capable of handling 75,000 words a day. Other external links have grown daily, including automatic wireless to Australia and many other parts of the world.

Many of these high power transmitters send messages of a highly secret nature which have to be sent in cipher. To deal with this important work men of the Royal Signals, Indian Signal Corps and members of the W.A.C. (I) daily handle millions of words in the most complex ciphers to foil the Japanese intelligence service and prevent them from gaining any knowledge of our plans.

INSULATING MATERIALS FOR RADIO EQUIPMENT

INSULATING materials manufactured in India have fairly good dielectric properties, according to an investigation recently carried out at the University College of Science, Calcutta, under a scheme of research financed by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. The investigation was undertaken in view of the great demand for special types of insulating materials used in radio and other high frequency apparatus. It has revealed that porcelain, bakelite, shellac moulded board and shellac moulded paper board manufactured in this country are suitable for high frequency work and for use in the manufacture of radio apparatus. The results of the survey are published in a recent issue of the *Journal of Scientific and Industrial Research.*

Production of Diastase

Investigations on the production of diastase (a report on this appears in the Journal) have led to the discovery that waste materials, such as rice and groundnut husks when supplemented with groundnut cake, are excellent raw materials for the growth of Aspergillus Oryzae and the commercial production of diastase. The investigation of processes for manufacturing these valuable materials from micro-organisms cultured on suitable indigenous raw materials became possible with the organisation of the National Collection of Type cultures by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. Organic catalysts, principally derived from microbiological sources, find extensive use in the brewing, food, textile and pharmaceutical industries.

Producer Gas Plant

A full summary of the proceedings of the conference of experts called by the Department of War Transport to discuss technical details of the producer gas plant appears in the Journal. With the recent developments in the design and operation of the plant, the use of producer gas as fuel for transport vehicles is likely to become a permanent feature in post-war years. The decision to set up a Standing Producer Gas Research Committee is expected to lead to further improvements. An important problem is the efficiency of the filter system in the gas plant. The engine of vehicles running on producer gas is damaged by fuel gas carrying over with it a certain amount of finely divided charcoal dust. Investigations in the laboratories of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research show that certain types of cotton fabric which are manufactured in India are efficient in screening off the dust particles from the engine.

Next to molasses, Mahua flowers constitute the most important raw material for the manufacture of alcohol. The methods which are now in vogue for the production of alcohol from mahua are crude and unsatisfactory. An article in the Journal suggests the necessary improvements. Mahua, it is pointed out, has gained importance because, next to molasses, it is the most important raw material for the development of power alcohol industry.

The editorial in the Journal emphasises the need for establishing an Institute of Formentation Technology in India. Among other articles of interest in the Journal are on Tinplate Industry and the Singhbhum Copper Belt.

SIR ARDESHIR DALAL'S SPEECH

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 111)

not developed in the C.P. to the extent which one would expect from its natural resources. The Government of India were ready to help financially, but they first looked to the Province to help itself and try to explore its resources. On that basis alone the Provinces should expect help from the Centre in their development plans.

The problem facing them might be divided into the immediate post-war transition from war to peace and the long-term projects. They had to find employment for the demobilised and adjust themselves to peace economy. In the post-war period, he said, they would have to maintain the present level of expenditure. The level of taxation, therefore, would remain somewhat on the same level.

He referred to the plans prepared at the Centre and emphasised that agriculture and industry must develop side by side. Agriculture was the foundation of India's economy. Unless the purchasing power of the people improved, it would be useless to start industries. The report prepared by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research was before the Provinces and it was for them to decide how far they could adopt its recommendations. Industrial development too was essential. Industries contributed to the wealth of a country and strength of Defence depended upon the extent of industrialisation. India, he said, had the resources and given the will there was no reason why India should not industralise.

INCREASE IN IMPORTS OF FOODGRAINS AND RAW MATERIALS

India's Foreign Trade Figures

BOTH imports of foreign merchandise and exports of Indian merchandise were higher by Rs. 42 crores and Rs. 16 crores, respectively, in the first half of the current fiscal year, as compared with the corresponding period of last year. The former amounted to Rs. 94 crores as against Rs. 52 crores last year and the latter to Rs. 109 crores as against Rs. 93 crores last year. These figures do not include value of either imports or exports on Defence account.

Imports of foodgrains have increased, while exports of the same have declined. There was a spectacular rise in the imports of raw materials, while exports of the same registered only a moderate increase. Of manufactures, there has been a moderate rise in imports and an appreciable rise in exports. The total visible balance of trade in private merchandise in favour of India has declined owing to a larger expansion of imports related to expansion in exports. Imports from and off-take by Empire countries, including the U.K. have increased, while imports from foreign countries have substantially increased, exports to them showing only a small increase.

Imports

Taking imports in the first instance, there is an increase of Rs. 5.50 crores under the group "Food, Drink and Tobacco", which is mainly accounted for by an increase of Rs. 4,35 crores under "Grain, Pulse and Flour". Tobacco shows an increase of Rs. 57 lakhs and "Other Food and Drink" Rs. 41 lakhs. Imports of liquor have registered an increase of Rs. 12 lakhs.

There is a spectacular rise of nearly 100 per cent in the imports of raw materials, the value of which has increased by Rs. 27 crores, from Rs. 28 crores to Rs. 55 crores. This is mainly accounted for by an increase of Rs. 21 crores under Oils and Rs. 6 crores under raw cotton. There was a decrease of Rs. 1.72 crores under raw wool and an increase of Rs. 64 lakhs under "Other non-metallic mining and quarrying products and the like".

There was a moderate increase of Rs. 9 crores in the imports of manufactures—from Rs. 19 crores to Rs. 28 crores. The chief increases were: chemicals, drugs and medicines Rs. 2.72 crores; cutlery, hardware, implements and instruments Rs. 50 lakhs; electrical goods and apparatus Rs. 28 lakhs; glass and earthenware Rs. 15 lakhs; machinery of all kinds Rs. 1.92 crores; iron and steel manufactures Rs. 82 lakhs; paper, pasteboard and stationery Rs. 41 lakhs, cotton yarns and manufactures Rs. 28 lakhs; and woollen yarns and manufactures Rs. 16 lakhs. There was a decrease of Rs. 15 lakhs in the imports of non-ferrous manufactures.

Exports

Turning to exports of Indian merchandise, we find a notable decrease of Rs. 74 lakhs under the food group. It is significant that the value of exports "grain, pulse and flour" have decreased by Rs. 1.83 crores. Other decreases were: provisions and oilman's stores (Rs. 23 lakhs), spices (Rs. 32 lakhs), sugar (Rs. 16 lakhs) and "other food and drink" (Rs. 15 lakhs). There have been increases under fish (Rs. 48 lakhs), fruits and vegetables (Rs. 92 lakhs), tea (Rs. 24 lakhs) and tobacco (Rs. 30 lakhs).

There has been only a moderate increase of Rs. 5 crores in the value of raw material exports from Rs. 19 crores to Rs. 24 crores. The chief increases were: gums, resins and lac Rs. 1.94 crores; hides and skins (raw) Rs. 45 lakhs; oils Rs. 19 lakhs; raw rubber Rs. 51 lakhs; oilseeds Rs. 67 lakhs; raw cotton Rs. 1.90 crores; and raw wool Rs. 38 lakhs. There were decreases under the following heads: "other non-metallic mining, quarrying products and the like" Rs. 32 lakhs; metallic ores and scrap iron or steel for remanufacture Rs. 81 lakhs; and oil cakes Rs. 14 lakhs.

Manufactures Export

There was an appreciable improvement of Rs. 11 crores in the value of exports of manufactures, from Rs. 51 crores to Rs. 62 crores. Jute and cotton manufactures mainly accounted for this increase—Rs. 8.41 crores under the former and Rs. 1.48 crores under the latter, or nearly Rs. 10 crores under both together. Other increases were: paper, pasteboard and stationery Rs. 24 lakhs; rubber manufactures Rs. 28 lakhs; and woollen manufactures Rs. 68 lakhs. The chief decreases were: iron and steel manufactures Rs. 11 lakhs and "other yarns and textile fabrics" Rs. 26 lakhs.

The following table shows the main trends of the import and export trade of India in the first six months of 1944-45 as compared with the corresponding half year of 1943-44:

	First Six Months		Difference.
	1943-44	1944-45	
	(in crores of Rs.)		
Imports of foreign merchandise:			
Foodstuffs	3.57	9.07	+5.50
Raw Materials	28.35	55.35	+27.00
Manufactures	19.52	28.21	+8.69
Total (including miscellaneous)	52.22	93.90	+41.68
Exports of Indian merchandise:			
Foodstuffs	21.78	21.04	—0.74
Raw Materials	19.25	24.12	+4.87
Manufactures	51.39	62.68	+11.38
Total (including miscellaneous)	93.43	109.23	+15.80
Re-Exports	3.31	5.09	+1.78
Total Exports	96.74	114.32	+17.58
Total Visible Balance of trade in merchandise	44.52	20.42	—24.10

As a result of far greater increase in the value of imports than of exports, the total visible balance of trade in private merchandise in favour of India has declined. It amounted to Rs. 44.52 crores in the first half of 1943-44 and only to Rs. 20.42 crores in the corresponding period of the current fiscal year. This represents a decline of Rs. 24.10 crores, or about 54 per cent.

Direction of Trade

Analysing trade by countries, we find that the import trade with the Empire Countries (including the U.K.) has appreciably increased by Rs. 13 crores, from Rs. 25 crores to Rs. 38 crores. The U.K. has gained by Rs. 7 crores. The Kenya Colony has increased its share by Rs. 3.65 crores and Australia by Rs. 1.77 crores. Imports from foreign countries have registered a substantial increase of Rs. 29 crores, from Rs. 27 crores to Rs. 56 crores. The chief increases are: Iran from Rs. 10.50 crores to Rs. 26.18 crores (plus Rs. 15.68 crores); Egypt from Rs. 6.46 crores to Rs. 9.92 crores (plus Rs. 3.46 crores); and the U.S.A. from Rs. 8.81 crores to Rs. 17.58 crores (plus 8.77 crores).

In the export trade, the off-take of Empire countries has increased by Rs. 11 crores (from Rs. 61 crores to Rs. 72 crores) and of foreign countries by Rs. 5 crores (from Rs. 32 crores to Rs. 37 crores). Of the former, the U.K.'s share has increased from Rs. 26 crores to Rs. 31 crores (plus 5 crores). Other Empire increases were: Aden and Dependencies from Rs. 1.70 crores to Rs. 1.10 crores (plus 40 lakhs), Ceylon from Rs. 7.91 crores to Rs. 9.81 crores (plus 1.90 crores), and South Africa from Rs. 5.01 crores to Rs. 7.44 crores (plus 2.43 crores), Australia's off-take has declined from Rs. 7.19 crores to Rs. 6.24 crores (minus 95 lakhs).

Of the foreign countries the U.S.A. has increased her share from Rs. 17.05 crores to Rs. 21.61 crores (plus Rs. 4.55 crores), South America from Rs. 2.60 crores to Rs. 4.58 crores (plus 1.98 crores), Egypt from Rs. 91 lakhs to Rs. 229 lakhs (plus 138 lakhs) and Iran from Rs. 66 lakhs to Rs. 156 lakhs (plus 90 lakhs) while Turkey, Syria, Arabia, Iraq and Belgian Congo have decreased their shares.

LICENSING OF INSURANCE AGENTS

Hitherto the fees for licences, under the Insurance Act, 1938, to act as insurance agents were paid by means of bank or treasury receipts. It has now been decided that the fees will hereafter be paid in the form of "Government of India Insurance Agent Licence Fees Stamps," which are available for sale to the public from November 11, 1944, at 113 Treasuries distributed throughout the country, said a Press Note issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on January 3.

SIR MAHOMED USMAN'S SPEECH

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 125)

of trouble in the day to day administration of the Department. This is the question of communal representation in the services. I would like to emphasise that if the orders of the Government of India in this respect are observed, in spirit as well as in letter, it would lead to the smooth running of the Department. I want you to be the guardians of the interests of all those under your charge irrespective of the community to which they belong and give each one of them their just and due share.

I have now great pleasure in declaring the Conference open.

HYDARI MISSION TO THE UNITED KINGDOM

ADDRESSING a Press Conference in New Delhi on January 18, Sir Akbar Hydari, Leader of the Hydari Mission to the United Kingdom, said:

We would like to make it clear that the object of our mission is to place India in a better condition than she would otherwise be to sustain her war effort. For a country to be enabled to carry on war vigorously it is not enough for her to produce war supplies to the utmost of her capacity and soldiers to the limit of her man-power but also to maintain her internal economy at a level which will keep the home front from breaking up.

This does not apply to India alone. Every country now at war is feeling the economic strain on its internal economy which the churning out of war supplies over the many years that it has been at war has imposed upon it. What we aim, therefore, to do is to secure by discussion and mutual understanding with representatives of His Majesty's Government whom we expect to meet, such an adjustment of the burden which India is carrying as will, in the Government of India's judgment, enable India fully to continue to pull her weight during the period of hostilities still remaining.

Common Effort

This is our aim. What we bring back remains to be seen. Everyone who has given thought to the question of the economic load now being borne by India has ideas as to the directions in which the burden on the citizens of this country can most effectively be lightened. It would be premature at this stage when we have not even started the discussions in London and certainly unprofitable to speculate on the details of what we should bring back.

While a lot depends upon us we cannot act in a vacuum but will have to take account of conditions under which the other side is labouring. We are not going in the spirit of disputants but as people sitting down with their colleagues on the other side to ensure how the common effort can best be sustained. In the maintenance of this effort the continued well-being of the people of this country is a vital factor and we do not propose to lose sight of it.

ENTRY OF WOMEN FROM U. K. INTO INDIA

A Press Communique issued by the Defence Department, Government of India, on December 29 stated:

In view of certain statements which have recently appeared in the Press, the Government of India consider it desirable to explain the position as regards the entry of women from the United Kingdom into India.

Restrictions are still necessary owing to shortage of passenger accommodation from the United Kingdom to India.

The following categories of women are at present eligible for passages to India from the United Kingdom—

(1) Those travelling on Government or military duty.

(2) Civilians specially required as doctors, nurses or teachers.

(3) Wives of certain civil technical personnel recruited in the United Kingdom for work essential to the war effort who make it a condition of accepting employment in India that their families be allowed to accompany or follow them.

(4) Wives, families and fiancees of civil officials and non-officials and of officers of the Royal Indian Navy, the Indian Army and Indian Air Force and also of British Service officers attached thereto except those serving with the Indian Engineers, Artillery and Signals.

In order to ensure that cases in category (4) come out in the fairest order as passages become available, all such cases are considered by a Committee, which examine the facts of each case without knowledge of the name or occupation of the person concerned. The main considerations which guide the Committee are length of separation between the applicant and his family or fiancee and special circumstances of extreme hardship. In cases where applicants have had 4 months' leave in the United Kingdom under the leave scheme it has been decided that this leave will not prejudice cases which otherwise would qualify on the ground of length of separation.

There is no question of these priorities ever being overriden. It occasionally happens however that owing to shortness of notice or other causes, priority passages are refused at the last moment by those to whom they are offered. In these cases persons outside the categories who are ready to sail at once can

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 136)

PRICES FIXED FOR RADIO TUBES AND SPARE PARTS, CIGARETTES AND DISINFECTANT FLUIDS

HERE are the latest notifications issued by the Government of India under the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance relating to the sale of radio tubes, spare parts and components, various brands of cigarettes and locally manufactured disinfectant fluids.

Radio Tubes

The Central Government have announced the maximum retail selling prices of various types of radio tubes, spare parts and components covering about 700 items in all. These prices are in amplification of a previous notification dated November 25, 1944, relating to the calculation of retail prices of radio tubes and spare parts with reference to the American and British list prices. The items covered now include spare parts and components of such well-known makes of radio sets as Westinghouse, R.C.A., Philips, and MUR. The maximum retail selling prices of 22 different types of radio tubes ranging from Rs. 4-14 to Rs. 11-10 per tube, have been given in a separate schedule.

Cigarettes

The maximum wholesale and retail selling prices of Carlton Special Magnums and Blue Bird brands of cigarettes have been revised by the Central Government as follows: Carlton Special Magnums As. 6 per packet of 10, Rs. 2 per tin of 50, and Rs. 33-8 per thousand (wholesale); Blue Bird cigarettes As. 0-1-3 per packet of ten and Rs. 6-4 per thousand (wholesale); Messrs. Blue Star Tobacco Company's "Blue Star" brand cigarettes, annas four per packet of ten (retail); Rs. 22-8 per thousand wholesale price to retailers; and Rs. 21-14 per thousand distribution price to wholesalers.

The maximum selling prices chargeable by a dealer or producer as already fixed by the Central Government in respect of State Express 999, State Express 555, Cravan A, Wills Gold Flake, Passing Show, Honey Dew, Carreras Straight Cut, A.A.A., Bears Special, Sunflower, Guinea Gold, Neptune, Sportsman, Akbar Shah, Bat, Motor and Player's Navy Cut Medium brands of cigarettes in units of 50, 20, or 10 cigarettes relate to a tin of 50 cigarettes, a packet of 20 or a packet of 10 cigarettes as the case may be.

Disinfectant Fluids

The maximum wholesale and retail selling prices of all locally manufactured disinfectant fluids with a minimum of 10 per cent, 20 per cent. or 30 per cent. creosote oil content have been fixed by the Central Government. Prices of locally manufactured disinfectant fluids of more than 30 per cent. creosote oil content will be fixed on application to the Controller-General of Civil Supplies.

The maximum retail selling prices of locally manufactured disinfectant fluids with a minimum of 10 per cent creosote oil content have been fixed at annas 9 per 22 oz. bottle, Rs. 1-4 for one gallon loose and Rs. 2-4 for one gallon tin at the place of production.

A discount of 12½ per cent on these prices is allowed to all retailers.

All dealers in disinfectant fluids have been directed to mark or exhibit these prices prominently in their shops and to attach labels to all tins or bottles offered for sale on and after February 1, 1945, showing the creosote oil content of the fluid.

"RECOGNISED DEALERS" FOR INDIAN WOOLLEN GOODS

There is apparently among some members of the public a mistaken idea that only the recognised dealers selected by Government for the sale of controlled Indian Woollen goods are allowed to sell woollen goods. This is not the case.

The recognised dealers in Indian woollen goods are those to whom Government make supplies of controlled Indian woollen goods marked F.W.M.I. (Federation of Woollen Manufacturers in India) or T.M.A. (Textile Manufacturers Association); but imported woollen goods, and woollen goods of indigenous manufacture other than those supplied against Government orders, may legitimately be sold by any dealer. The recognised dealers, mentioned above, are selected entirely by Government, and not by the Federation of Woollen Manufacturers in India or any similar body.

CEILING PRICES OF RAW COW HIDES

By a Notification published in the *Gazette of India* dated January 6, 1945, the Government of India have fixed the ceiling prices of various categories of raw cow and cow calf hides. These prices will come into force with effect from February 1, 1945, said a Press Note issued by the Industries and Civil Supplies Department, Government of India, on January 6, 1945.

Paper for Packing Match Boxes and Footwear

THE Government of India have decided under the Paper Control (Economy) Order, 1944, to allow the following concessions for the packing of match boxes and footwear.

(1) Match boxes shall in future be packed in hessian paper containers each containing not less than 5 gross of loose boxes without any other form of inner packing.

The hessian paper containers should be made from hessian cloth and kraft paper pasted together with bitumen. Containers may be sealed with a label not exceeding 16 square inches in area.

(2) Match boxes intended for export may be packed in dozens in kraft paper and then in wooden cases lined with water-proof paper. Each packet containing a dozen boxes may bear a small label, the same size as that used on the match box to indicate the kind of matches which it contains.

Packing of Footwear

The following are the relaxations in respect of packing of footwear:

(1) All boots and walking shoes, full-slippers, and court shoes, and sandals priced at Rs. 6-8 per pair or more, made wholly of leather whether hand or staple welted and with or without rubber or wooden heel may be packed in boxes made of board which should not be lined inside or outside with any paper, and no tissue or other packing paper should be inserted inside the box. No label should be affixed to the box. All particulars relating to the contents of the box should be printed, stamped or stencilled on the box itself.

(2) No chappals, half-slippers, and sandals priced at less than Rs. 6-8 per pair, made wholly or partly in leather should be packed in boxes made of board, but they may be wrapped in a single sheet of kraft or brown wrapping paper and sealed with a label not exceeding 12 square inches in area on which may be indicated particulars relating to the contents of the packet.

(3) Canvas shoes with rubber soles may be packed loose without a wrapper in board containers each containing not less than 20 pairs. Particulars relating to the contents of each container may be printed, stamped or stencilled on the container itself. No label or paper lining should be used either inside or outside the container.

DRUGS CONTROL ORDER
Changes in Licensing System

CERTAIN changes in the licensing system for manufacturers, importers, wholesalers, and retailers of drugs imposed by the Drugs Control Order, 1943, are notified in the *Gazette of India* dated December 30, 1944.

The licence fee for upcountry dealers has been revised and restricted licences at nominal fees will be granted to retailers who sell only a limited number of specified "household remedies." Restricted licences for wholesalers, manufacturers and importers who sell not more than five drugs were recently introduced.

The object of the new type of licences is to concentrate supplies of the more essential drugs in the shops of full-time chemists and to lessen the burden of licence fees on dealers of the restricted type.

It will be an offence for manufacturers, importers and wholesalers to supply other than household remedies to restricted licensees. Possessors of general and restricted licences will no longer have to take out purchaser's licences in order to obtain supplies from manufacturers, importers and wholesalers. These licensing changes have effect from February 15, 1945.

CEILING PRICES OF LEATHER

By a Notification in the *Gazette of India* dated December 30, 1944, the Government of India have waived the proposed reductions in the prices of various categories of E.I. Kips, as prescribed in the Notification of September 23, 1944, up to June 30, 1945.

By another Notification the Government of India have allowed a small increase in the ceiling prices of various categories of Leather (other than E.I. Kips). These prices took effect from January 1, 1945.

ENTRY OF WOMEN FROM U. K. INTO INDIA

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 134)

and do obtain berths which would otherwise remain empty.

As allegations have been made of unfair preference to members of the I.C.S. and residents of Delhi, the following figures in respect of recommendations made up to date are published for information:

Out of the first 613 recommendations made for priority passages 17 were on behalf of members of the Indian Civil Service throughout India, and 52 on behalf of residents of Delhi (official and non-official).

TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN COTTON

"THE services which the Laboratory is rendering to the various agricultural departments in India and to the cotton trade and textile industry in the country have been continued as in the past and the practical appreciation of these services is reflected in an appreciable increase in the number of several types of samples which have been sent to the Laboratory for tests," states the Annual Report of the Director, Technological Laboratory, Bombay, for the year ended May 31, 1944, published by the Indian Central Cotton Committee, Bombay.

During the year under report the total number of cotton samples tested rose to 1,514 as against 1,129 in the previous year. "One noteworthy feature regarding these tests is the large increase in the number of samples received for spinning tests from cotton mills," says the Report. "As many as 109 samples of cotton were tested for different mills who wanted to obtain authoritative reports of the Laboratory on the performance of their cottons. Many mills when in doubt regarding the performance of a cotton refer the matter to the Laboratory to express its opinion which is given after a careful and thorough test. In some cases when an appreciable difference is observed between the test obtained at the Laboratory and at the mill the working conditions of the mill are carefully examined to find out how this difference could be narrowed down so that the mill may obtain nearly the same performance as recorded at the Laboratory." In all, 379 reports were issued as against 234 in the previous year.

The valuation reports issued from the Laboratory proved helpful to breeders in estimating the acre-cash values of their improved strains.

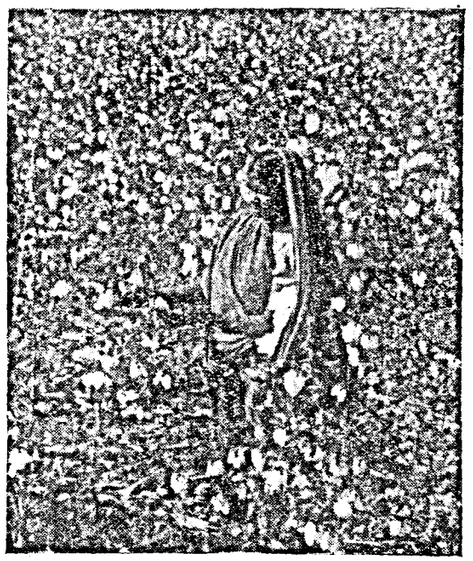
Tests for Agmark

As required by the Agricultural Marketing Adviser to the Government of India tests were carried out on samples of certain varieties of cotton to fix criteria for quality control in applying Agmark to cotton. Similarly, work was continued in connection with the scheme for the survey of cellulose-bearing materials of India on behalf of the Imperial Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. Spinning tests were also carried out (for the first time) on long-staple cotton grown in Mysore State.

The Laboratory issued various bulletins and circulars to enlighten the people on the subject of cotton industry, and took part in the cotton exhibition held in Bombay in March, 1944.



An Indian village girl with a load of newly harvested cotton. (Below) Picking cotton.



SAVE AND LEND TO SPEED UP VICTORY

Finance Member's Appeal

"BY saving and lending to the Government you help to shorten the war and to bring nearer the day of victory. By saving and lending to the Government you help to maintain the economic health of the country and to prevent prices from rising to heights which cause widespread distress. By saving and investing your money with the Government, you promote habit of saving and of investment, you not only begin to plan your own future but you help to lay the foundation of the planned India of tomorrow." Thus said the Hon'ble Sir Jeremy Raisman, Finance Member, Government of India, in a broadcast talk from the Delhi Station of All India Radio on January 7, inaugurating "The All-India National Savings Fortnight."

The Finance Member said:

The All-India National Savings Fortnight begins to-morrow and the object of my talk to-night is to assist in giving it a good send-off. It is not easy to say anything new on the subject of savings in wartime, but it is so important for the country and for all of us that I will not apologise for repeating many of the things you already know.

Why We Should Save and Lend

There are several good reasons why everyone of us should contribute his quota of wartime savings. Here are a few of them: First, by saving and lending to the Government you help to shorten the war and to bring nearer the day of victory. Money is still the sinews of war and, in countries where goods and services are paid for, money has a part to play comparable with that of men and munitions.

Second, by saving and lending to the Government you help to maintain the economic health of the country and to prevent prices from rising to heights which cause widespread distress. When goods are scarce, as they must be in wartime, it is obvious that if everybody tries to spend his whole income and to compete in the markets, prices will rise ever higher. No system of price control can be effective without a certain measure of self-control; and self-control means that people should refrain from spending; in other words, that they should save as much as possible.

Third, by saving and investing your money with the Government, you promote your own highest advantage. Since you cannot spend



Sir Jeremy Raisman.

your money in the best way now, it is infinitely better for you to put it aside to meet the future needs of yourself and your family, and for rational spending at a time when goods will no longer be so scarce, when you can exercise your choice and obtain better value for your money.

Fourth, by acquiring the habit of saving and of investment, you not only begin to plan your own future but you help to lay the foundation of the planned India of tomorrow. These are days when men's hearts are full of hope for the better world that is to be, planning, reconstruction, development, are all in the air. We hope one day to see the realisation of our dreams for a better India. The achievement of our hopes depends, to a very great extent, on the exercise of that self-control which I just mentioned.

There is a time for saving and a time for spending, not only in your own private interest but in the interest of all your fellow-countrymen. Today the great need of the moment is to reduce private spending to the minimum and to release the maximum resources for the successful prosecution of the war. But the time will come when private spending will have its part to play in maintaining employment and preventing the evils which often follow in the wake of periods of intense activity. We have all heard of the alternation of trade booms and trade depressions. Human happiness requires that the booms

should be flattened out and the depressions levelled up, and this can be done by restricting spending in periods of prosperity and increasing it in periods of recession. If people acquire right habits of saving and spending, they become better citizens and promote their own happiness and that of their fellowmen.

Saving Habit should be Encouraged

These things, I know, are familiar to many of you. But there are also great multitudes to whom they will always be difficult to understand. Those of you who do understand them can play their part by assisting and encouraging the habit of saving among the less instructed members of the community. No effort can be more deserving than this. Small savings can be the salvation of the country and of the people. India has already shown that she is capable of a volume of saving many times greater than was ever thought possible in the past. If these results could have been achieved at an earlier stage, it is not too much to say that most of the hardships and miseries, which the country has had to undergo, could have been very greatly mitigated.

Although we have entered on the last stage of the road to victory, it is still not possible to say definitely how long that stage will last. In the meantime, we must continue to exert the maximum efforts to maintain war production and to preserve our economic stability. This means that citizens of every class, both in their own interest and that of the country at large, should save to the maximum and invest their savings with the Government. That such investment is sound from the point of view of the individual as well as of the community, can hardly be questioned, for India's financial integrity and credit-worthiness stand particularly high whether compared with those of the belligerent or of the neutral nations of the world.

Large Variety of Investments

The Government have devised a large variety of investments to suit the needs of every class. Thus, in addition to the main 3 per cent. Victory Loan, which is on sale at par at all treasuries and branches of the Reserve and Imperial Banks, there are a number of other loans, both short and long-dated, on sale through the Reserve Bank. You will have also seen the announcements about the Prize Bonds which do not carry interest but offer a chance of winning a useful prize every six months. Besides these regular loans, there are the various Post Office issues, the Savings Bank which now allows 2 per cent interest on deposits, the Defence Savings Bank which gives 2½ per cent interest and in which deposits can be withdrawn one year after the end of the war, the ordinary Cash Certificates and the Twelve-Year National Savings Certificates.

The last named have been devised primarily for the small saver and carry a specially favourable rate of interest. The rules recently published have simplified the procedure for investment in and encashment of these Certificates and have introduced new privileges for investors. The lowest denomination is Rs. 5 and the small investor can put by his savings in the form of stamps of As. 8 or Re. 1, and then exchange the stamps for Certificates which yield a return of 50 per cent if held to maturity. The scheme provides for the employment of authorized agents whose work is to contact the investor, whether in town or village, to collect the money he wishes to invest, purchase the Certificates on his behalf and deliver them to him. The scheme also provides for the establishment of Savings Bureaux in all important towns.

A Great Opportunity

There is here a great opportunity for social service, for by this scheme those who are sufficiently educated to appreciate the value of savings can play a part in helping the State and the individual, and it is for this form of service that I would like to make a particular appeal. Authorized agents receive commission on their sales, but it is of course open to any agent to work in an honorary capacity. The target for small savings has been fixed at an average of 3½ annas per month per head. In present conditions and at present levels of income, the achievement of this target should not impose too great a strain while its beneficial effects in maintaining economic stability can hardly be overestimated.

Before I close, there is one thing which I should like to emphasise. During the coming fortnight, I hope that a great effort will be made throughout the country to stimulate national saving and investment. What is required is not merely a spasmodic effort on the part of individuals but the beginning of a regular habit in as large a number of people as possible. This regular habit will bear golden fruit in national and individual advantage. It will increase the number of prudent and self-reliant citizens whose stake in the country is a guarantee of a responsible and balanced outlook on life. Whatever may await India in the future, there can be no doubt that the existence of large numbers of small savers, who have attempted to plan their own prosperity and provide both for their own future and that of their country, will be an element of tremendous strength. This has been proved elsewhere and it cannot but be true in India.

GEN. LINDSELL'S TRIBUTE TO INDIA'S WAR EFFORT

STRIKING figures on India's war effort were given by Lt.-Gen. Sir Wilfrid G. Lindsell, Principal Administrative Officer, India Command, at a Press conference in London recently.

"India has been all out for five years and has in my opinion produced an outstanding achievement," he said. "India deserves immense credit for what she has done."

The armed forces for which the Commander-in-Chief in India was now responsible totalled approximately two and a half million men, Gen. Lindsell continued.

Airfields

"We have built an immense base to hold stores and reserves required for the forces now based upon India. We have built hospitals, camps, barracks, training areas and airfields and their appurtenances. Incidentally, this includes a little matter of 360 airfields from which the greatest aircraft in the world can now operate.

"Here are a few figures regarding what has been provided: Accommodation for 1,320,000 men; 70 training establishments holding 470,000; 130 hospitals providing 94,000 beds; 42,000,000 sq. ft. of covered storage; 104 Air Force establishments; £6,000,000 on ports docks and naval establishments.

Engineering Feats

"In Northern Burma military engineers—the Americans on the Ledo front and the British on the Tamu, Tiddim and Arakan fronts—have driven four roads which constitute some of the greatest engineering feats of any theatre of war. They are the sole means of supplying the entire army, for there is not a yard of railway in the whole area.

"Many of the forces employed are maintained entirely by air—there is no other means of getting near them except by cutting through the jungle with a hatchet.

"In that country some of the most magnificent fighting of the whole war has taken place—real soldiers' battles in the fullest sense of the word.



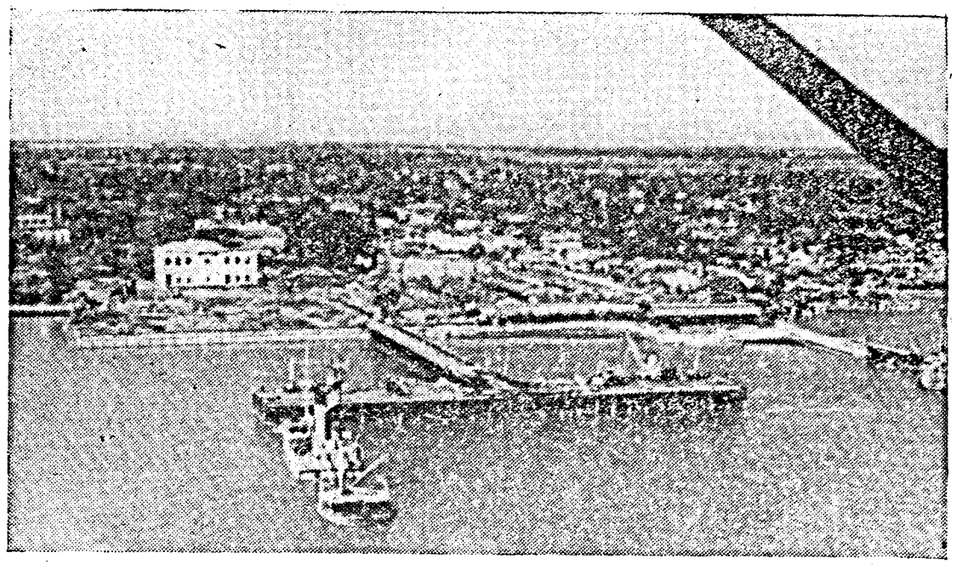
Lt.-Gen. Sir Wilfrid G. Lindsell

"India is confronted by many difficulties. India today cannot feed herself wholly from her own resources and the problem of importing sufficient grain and transporting it to areas where it is needed is one of immense difficulty. India is also short of coal and is dependent on necessary machinery from the U.K. and U.S.A. to improve her output.

India's Problems

"The problems of India and South East Asia Commands are not comparable to those which have to be faced in the European theatre. We are providing for the forces deployed in these two theatres as rapidly as we can all that they need for their well-being and fighting efficiency. Building capacity is limited by India's transportation difficulties, lack of raw materials and lack of supervisory personnel.

"The British community in India is playing its part magnificently under most trying conditions and I would like to pay special tribute to the work of British women in India for what they have done and are doing for His Majesty's forces in that part of the world. Their work is worthy of the best traditions of our race."



The port and town of Akyab. This photograph was taken from an R.A.F. aircraft of the Eastern Air Command during the invasion.

AKYAB—ARAKAN TRIUMPH FOR INDIAN DIVISIONS

AKYAB'S recapture on January 3, nearly three years after its fall, marks more than the virtual conclusion of the Arakan campaign. It is the crowning expression of many months of hard, bitter campaigning by Indian, British and West African troops fighting side by side.

Announcing the recapture of Akyab, a communique issued from SEAC Headquarters on January 5, stated:

"15th Indian Corps Front: On the morning of January 3 our forces landed on Akyab island. The troops were landed on the northern beach from naval craft. More troops crossed the four-mile stretch of water from Foul Point and others crossed in local boats from Kudaung Island, at the mouth of the Mayu river, further east. There was no opposition and the island is firmly in our hands."

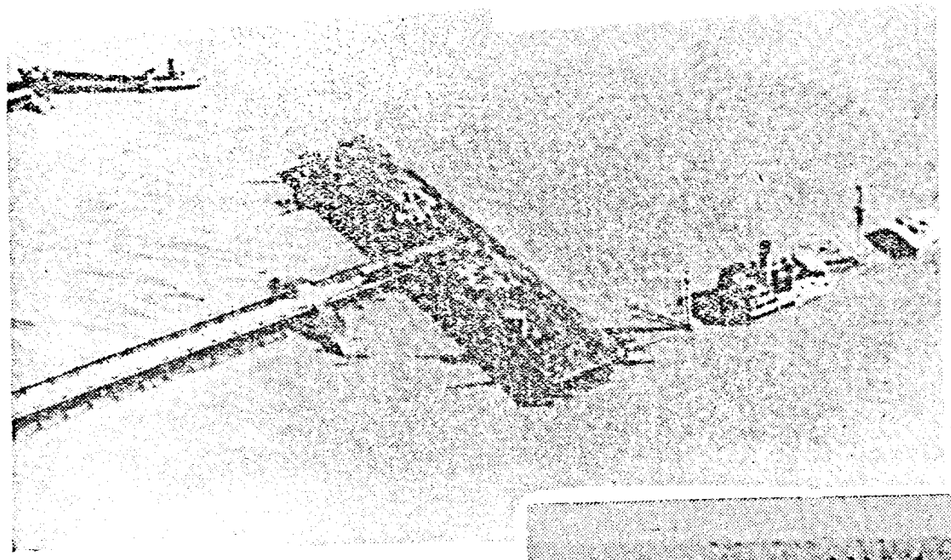
A White Ensign, a Union Jack and the starred Blue Ensign of the Australian Commonwealth fly over the main jetty in Akyab. The Union Jack was the first to appear there: it was hoisted on a dockside lamp-post by British and South African sailors who landed from an M.L. of the Arakan Coastal Forces at the time of the capture of the town.

The Ensigns were raised on twin dock cranes soon after an Australian destroyer and two sloops of the Royal Indian Navy had led in the Naval assault force which, only 24 hours previously, had put British and Indian troops and Indian-manned tanks ashore on the northern beaches of Akyab island.

We were ready to fight our way into Akyab, writes an R.I.N. Observer. A bombardment force of cruisers and destroyers was included in the fleet which approached the island in broad daylight. Its fire was not needed.

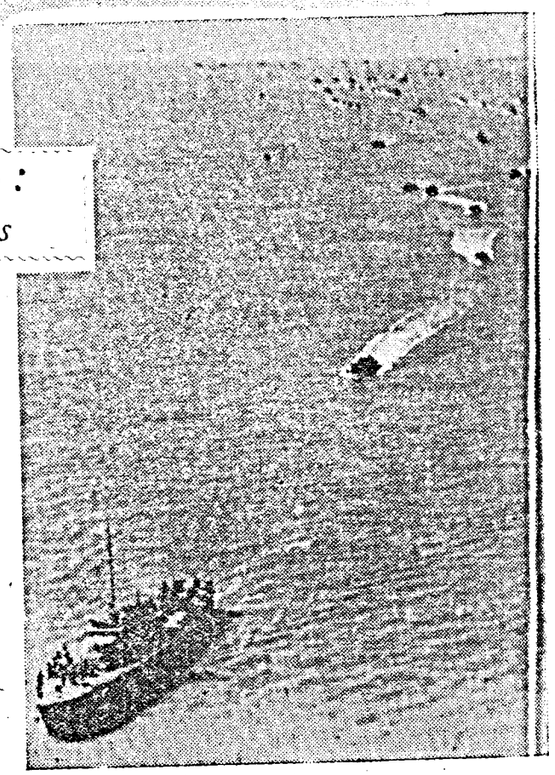
I was on board the fifth ship in the line—an M.L. of the Burma Navy. The high spirits of the ship's company may be imagined. For them it was a case of returning home after long exile and reoccupying the base from which they operated in very different circumstances three years ago. The Burmans stood on the fo'c'sle pointing out familiar landmarks and sharing the hundred reminiscences those sights inspired.

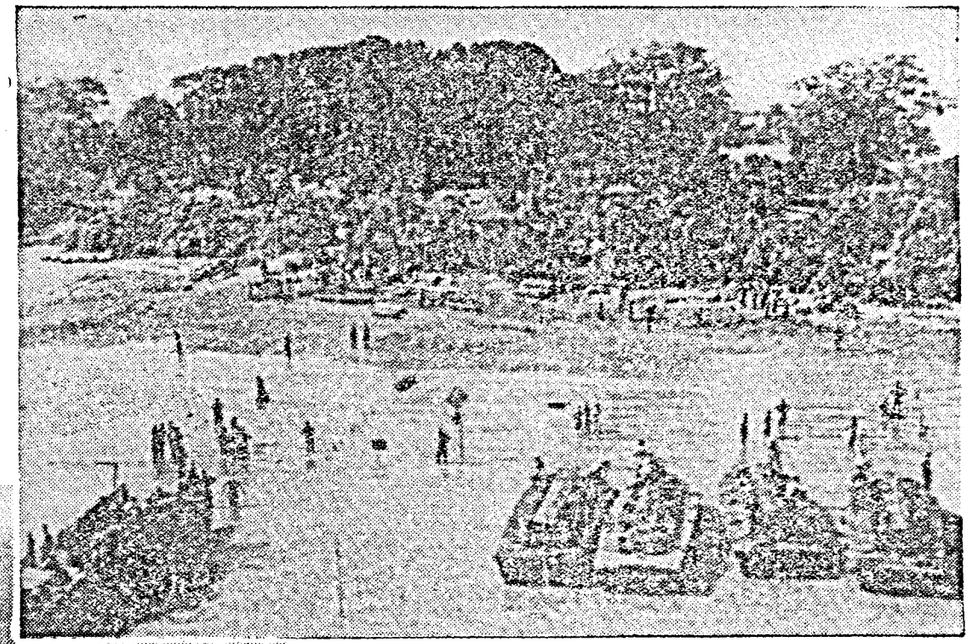
For me the most striking impression was the contrast between the appearance of the Akyab waterfront and that of the Chittagong dock area. At Chittagong one has to make a microscopic survey to discover damage suffered in Japanese air raids. Akyab presents a very different picture. A merchant ship, hit in R.A.F.



The jetty and two ships bombed and sunk by the R.A.F.

Recapture of Akyab : Invasion Pictures





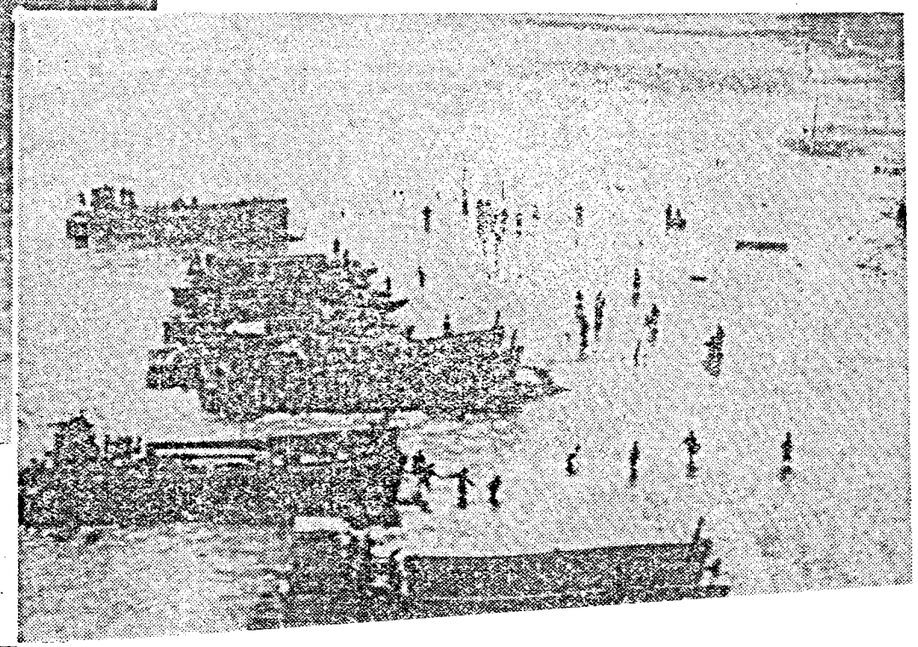
The invasion in progress. Troops leave their landing craft on the beach near the port. (Below) The actual landings at Akyab.



Commandos board the landing craft which took them to Akyab.

The seaborne invasi n

ing Akyab.





Lt.-Gen. Sir A. F. P. Christison, Commander of the 5th Indian Corps, who was in charge of the Army operations; G/Capt. W. D. David, Air Liaison officer to the Corps Commander and Air Commodore the Earl of Bandon, photographed when they landed on a village green which the local people had prepared for them. The white flag was used by the natives to guide their aircraft.

bombing, lies off the main jetty with her decks awash. Many of the administrative buildings and godowns along Strand Road are burnt-out shells with pock-marked stone walls and twisted steel girders.

Strategic necessity has forced the Japanese meekly to surrender the third most important port in Burma and the air base from which they mounted bombing raids on Calcutta and Chittagong. If they had chosen to stand and fight, they might have turned Akyab into another Caen. Yet they accepted our naval and air superiority with resignation, and shed their "do or die" fanaticism like an outworn garment.

Akyab will be infinitely more valuable to us than it has ever been to the Japanese. We have the planes to make good use of its satellite airfields. The whole of the Irrawaddy valley—spinal column of Japanese defence in Burma—is as close to Akyab as the Ruhr valley is to London. We have warships to base on the port and tighten our existing control of the Bay of Bengal. In addition, our inland water transport steamers can now freely enter the Mayu and Kaladan rivers from seaward and greatly ease the strain on overland communications in the Arakan, which have never been adequate for land operations on an ambitious scale.

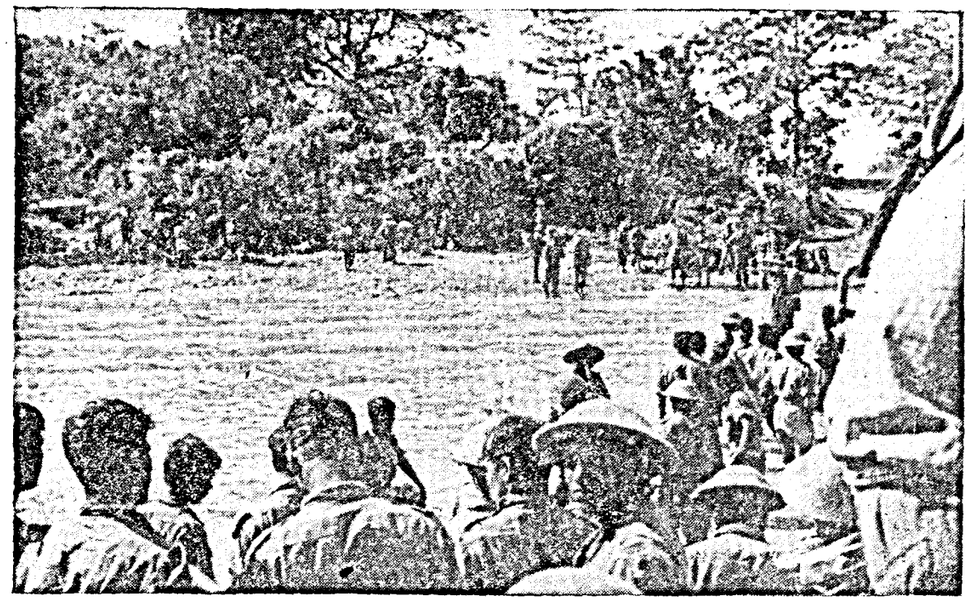
It may be the enemy's intention to give battle further south, but he has greatly weakened his chances of a successful stand by abandoning the chief port of Arakan. There is nothing to prevent us from outflanking him by an ambitious assault in his rear. Seapower coupled with overwhelming air strength affords us considerable freedom of movement, and the initiative on the Arakan Front is now firmly in our hands.

"WE ARE GLAD YOU ARE BACK...."

Advancing along the tortuous waterways north of Akyab, our Naval forces have received a great welcome from the inhabitants, writes an R.I.N. Observer in the Kaladan river area.

Everywhere, people have crowded the waterfronts to cheer and wave to our ships. Many row out to volunteer information about the fleeing enemy: some even tried to swim out to one Coastal Force craft.

A small canoe flying the Burmese flag brought out a former Akyab police officer. On his uniform hat sparkled the badge of the Burma Police. "I cleaned it every day," he told us, "I knew I would need it again." In an attache case



Engineers of the Madras Sappers and Miners on their way to prepare the beach road to Akyab.

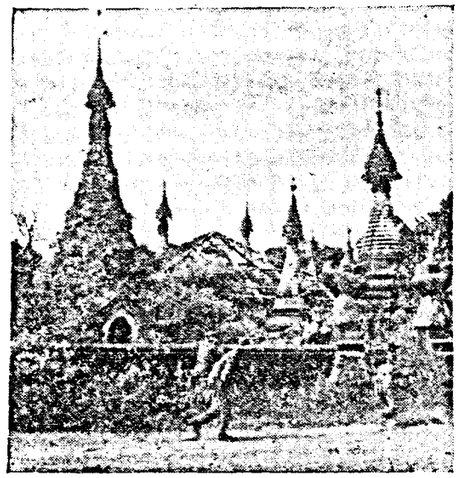
was his uniform, well ironed and pressed, with polished silver buttons.

He had stayed in Akyab after we left the town, but had refused to work for the Japanese despite their threats. They ransacked his house several times, and he eventually went to live in a village up river to await our return.

"We are glad you are back. This has been a bad time for us," said one villager, indicating the ruined houses and overgrown fields. Formerly prosperous farm land, not one village in four now seems to be occupied. Deserted and tumbled down, dozens of empty villages stand amongst neglected fields. There has been little fighting here compared with other areas of the Arakan, and what we see is evidence of economic depression. Japan's "co-prosperity" has not been a convincing experience for these people.



Akyab villagers welcome the liberating forces.



British troops search Akyab for Japs.

The Arakan campaign has been a triumph for four of India's leading divisions. It has brought new laurels to the Fifth Indian Division, which had already distinguished itself in Africa, and has also brought fame to the Seventh Indian Division, which by standing fast against the enemy "invasion" attempt of last January was the first formation to call the Japs' bluff.

In recent weeks the 25th Indian Division has been revealed as holding out against the Arakan Japs throughout the monsoon—a "ghost" formation which was a deadly, anonymous menace to the Japs at a time of the year when they did not expect to have to fight.

For the 26th Indian Division the Arakan phase has been particularly arduous. It is the only division to fight two campaigns on this front and has not been north of Chittagong for nearly two years.

Guerilla Tactics

The R.I.N., the land forces, the R.A.F. and the I.A.F. all had a share in the Arakan fighting. It was a campaign which brought many disappointments before final success could be achieved.

During the 1942 invasion of Burma on the Arakan Front, the Japs were halted roughly on the Indo-Burma border by the spring months. Limitations of supplies and poor communications made it impossible for the Allies to retaliate but towards the end of 1942 patrolling and guerilla tactics were being intensified throughout the length of the Burma Front.

In the Arakan this took the form of a brigade advance to the Maungdaw-Buthidaung line which developed, after a series of supply misfortunes and adverse weather, on a somewhat increased scale. Advanced troops reached the Donbaik area in the Mayu Peninsula but fell back after a series of bloody encounters in the face of bitter Jap resistance.

While this campaign was far from being successful—it ended in a stalemate with advantages superficially with the enemy—the Japs sustained heavy losses, especially of valuable veteran troops. In addition, our own forces gained considerable experience and robbed the enemy of any chance of opening an offensive.

The Arakan Line

In the spring of 1943 the Arakan line was roughly where it had been a year before. Throughout the monsoon and a few months afterwards it remained unchanged but from December onwards we began to "lean" heavily on Jap forward positions, pressing them back and winkling them out where possible.

The object was to force the Japs to reveal where they proposed to stand and fight.

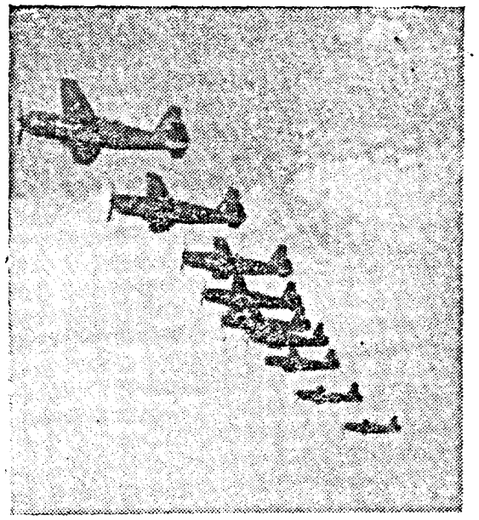
This stand came on the Maungdaw-Buthidaung line; 15th Corps, under Gen. Christison, began an attack which resulted in the occupation of Maungdaw. Meanwhile the 81st West African Division in the Kaladan Valley to the north were moving forward and developing a threat to the lines of communication on which the Jap troops in the Arakan relied.

Enemy Plans Thwarted

At this stage, early in 1944, the Japs conceived a bold counter-attack on the flank and to the rear of the Seventh Indian Division which was intended to force the withdrawal of this division and also the Fifth Indian Division, which constituted our force in the Arakan at that time. This accomplished, an advance into India would have been possible.

Although the enemy seized the vital Ngakyadauk Pass and surrounded the Seventh Indian Division their plans were thwarted by the Fifth Indian Division. Although facing another Jap force, and with its only line of communication menaced, it went to the help of the hard-pressed Seventh.

Step by step the enemy was driven back, hammered out of shape and broken into isolated units. Two thousand Japs were killed and at least an equal number wounded.



An I.A.F. Vultee Vengeance Dive-Bomber squadron flying in formation over the Arakan.



Pilots of the Indian Air Force who have been pounding Jap strongpoints in Burma.

Our advance was maintained and by the spring of 1944 Buthidaung was recaptured. The Fifth Indian Division was then flown to Imphal, where it earned additional glory for the part it played in holding and driving back the Jap offensive there, and the Seventh was flown north later.

In the Arakan there were now the 25th and 26th Indian Divisions, which continued to carry out active patrolling and infiltration tactics throughout the monsoon period. Many casualties were inflicted and the Japs were given no rest.

After the 1944 monsoon the enemy made a feeble attempt to strike at our communications by an outflanking movement. It was speedily crushed and it became clear that the Japs' Arakan days were numbered.

Faced with the possibility of amphibious operations on the long coastline, the Japs were forced to thin out their forces in the Arakan. Taking advantage of this our troops fought forward, occupying Foul Point, across the estuary from Akyab Island, before the turn of the year.

AIR FORCES' HELP

Meanwhile other troops had advanced down the Kalapanzin River and occupied Buthidaung and Kadaung. In the Kaladan the 81st West African Division, which had pulled out during the monsoon, returned and after hard fighting outflanked the Japs' forward positions in the valley and advanced south beyond Kyauktaw.

In all the bitter fighting in which our ground troops were engaged to clear the Arakan they were closely supported by the I.A.F. and the R.A.F. Day after day, in fair weather and foul, they gave their aid to the men fighting in the jungle below; throughout the monsoon they flew whenever there was the slightest chance of taking off.

Hurribomber pilots of the I.A.F. pounded and strafed enemy strongpoints hidden in the hills and jungles, blazed away at road, rail and river communications, blew up supply dumps and harassed Jap troops. Often they dropped vital messages for army commanders and provided escort for transport aircraft.

Fighter-reconnaissance aircraft of the I.A.F. also carried out thousands of sorties and brought back many valuable photographs of enemy troop movements, jungle hideouts and gun positions. These provided army commanders with accurate intelligence on which successful plans were laid.

The undoubted ability of the pilots and the excellence of aircraft serviceability maintained by ground crews resulted in high morale among the pilots and a low casualty rate.

In all this aggressive work the I.A.F. shared responsibility with the R.A.F., who brought weight and greater diversity to the duties undertaken. The R.A.F., in addition to fighter and reconnaissance activities, bombed and blasted vital points in the Japs' Arakan strategy and transported troops and supplies, often over great distances.

The supply by air of the Seventh Indian Division in its administrative box near Ngakyedauk Pass was the greatest operation of its kind to that date while the transfer by air of the Fifth Indian Division from the same area, after the Japs had been trounced there, to Imphal was a historic operation which altered previously held conceptions of the mobility of ground forces.

Without the unstinted support of the I.A.F. and the R.A.F. it is certain that the success which has culminated in the recapture of Akyab could never have been accomplished.

R. I. N. was Arakan "Second Front"

For the R.I.N. the fall of Akyab has a special significance.

For many months the "little ships" of India's Navy have been waging a war of their own against the Japs down the long Arakan coastline from Chittagong to Ramree Island, bombarding enemy installations, spying out the land and generally making a nuisance of themselves. Their off-shore harassing tactics have undoubtedly had a notable effect on the whole of the Arakan campaign.

The R.I.N. ships have been serving in the Arakan Coastal Forces, in which British, Burmese, and South African units are also included. They never relaxed their grip on the enemy-held coast, making extensive bombardments in the earlier months of last year and continuing with patrols in the forward area south of Maungdaw.

The Arakan Coastal Forces have all the time been of great value to the land forces pushing south-east from Maungdaw. A close co-ordination between the navy and the army has developed and there has always been an immediate response by the navy to the army's call for flank support.

R.I.N.'s Offensive Sweeps

When the monsoon ended the navy resumed its attacks with great vigour. The enemy found his communications, coastal supply craft and strongpoints being subjected to a vicious onslaught in which the surprise blows of the R.I.N. ships and their associates provided what was virtually a highly embarrassing "second front".

Several Jap focal points were attacked with a dash which displayed anew the high pitch of efficiency and training to which the R.I.N. has attained. The jetty area at Lontha, in Andrew Bay, 150 miles south-east of Akyab, and defence



Crew of a motor launch clipping 40 mm. shells.

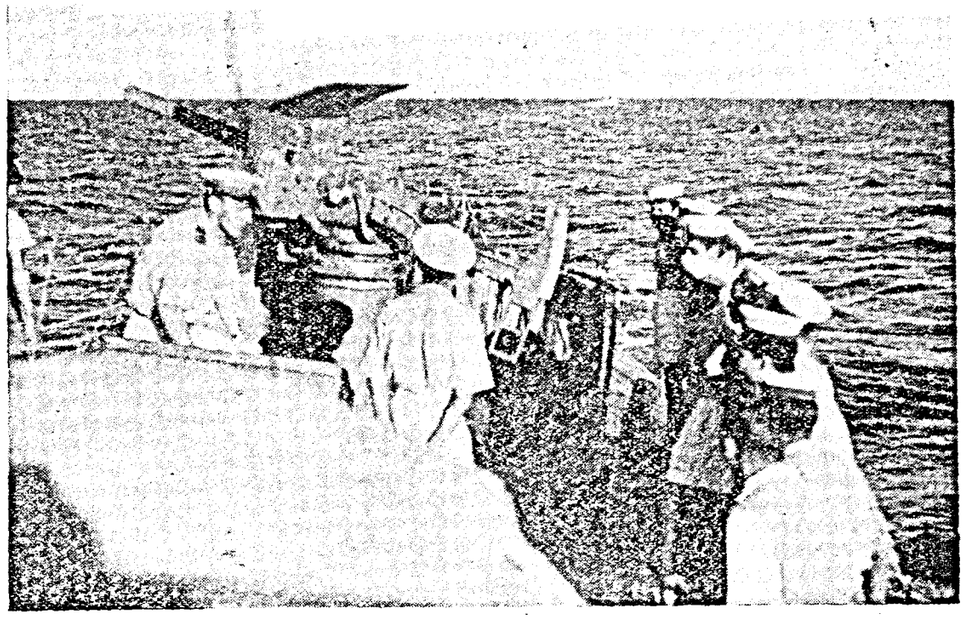
positions at Minbyin, on Ramree Island, were bombarded at close-range with devastating effect.

Offensive sweeps were continually undertaken by the R.I.N., the "little ships" sailing as far south as Cape Negrais at the tip of the Burma peninsula, to harass the Japs in unexpected places. At no time did the enemy venture to challenge our command of the sea, except by sporadic air attacks.

Sea-borne Raids

The fall of Akyab was hastened by sea-borne raids at adjacent points along the Arakan coast. Troops were taken by the Arakan Coastal Forces to places where they could be landed to make tip-and-run slashes at the Japs, whose attention was already fully occupied by the land forces moving steadily down the Mayu Peninsula.

For the Japs the Arakan Coastal Forces have been a constant menace. For the R.I.N. this phase of the war has been a brilliant opening chapter which promises a big share in the eastern battles which have yet to come.



Gunners are briefed on the foc'sle of a ship of R.I.N.'s Arakan Coastal Forces.

SPLENDID CONTRIBUTION TO WAR EFFORT

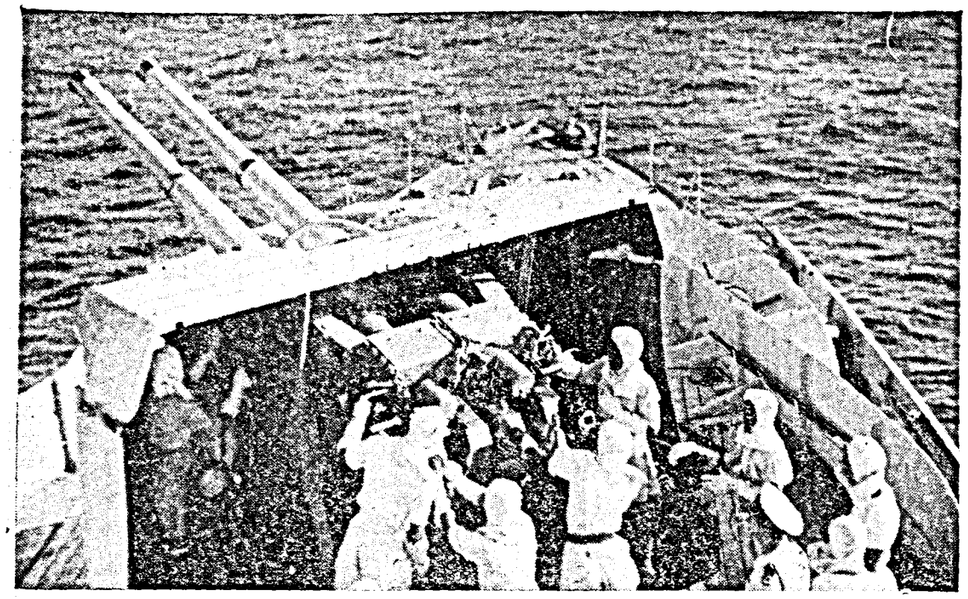
Admiralty's Tribute to R.I.N.

THE New Year finds the Royal Indian Navy, now more than 20 times as big as it was at the outbreak of war, keyed up for a larger share in the campaign against the Japanese in South-East Asia. Behind lies a year of achievement, tribute to which was recently paid by the Board of Admiralty. In the Admiralty's words, India's Navy is making a "splendid contribution to the war effort."

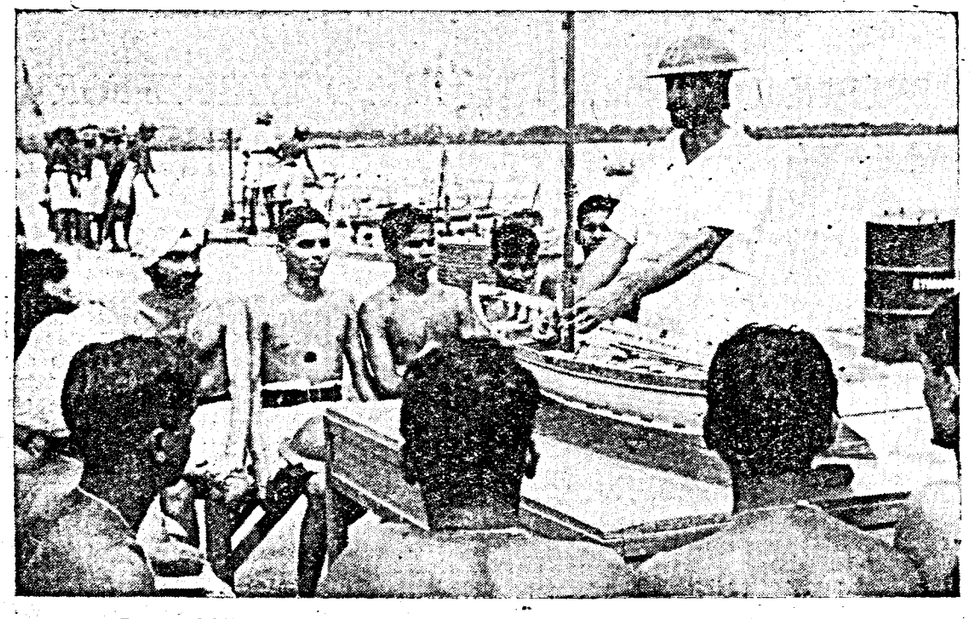
With the movement eastwards of the Naval centre of gravity, heavier responsibilities were cast on Indian warships helping to escort merchant ships with reinforcements and equipment for the armed forces as well as merchandise. It is estimated that there are 2,000,000 tons of merchant shipping in the Indian Ocean at any given moment, and H.M.I. ships played their part in protecting this vital traffic. During the year Indian warships successfully took part in actions against enemy submarines, while at the approaches to our ports Indian minesweepers laboured constantly to keep channels clear for shipping.

Ranging far down the Burma coast, the little ships of the R.I.N. Arakan Coastal Forces harassed the enemy's sea flank and assisted the advance of our land forces. They destroyed Japanese craft carrying troops and stores and bombarded shore positions. The R.I.N. Landing Craft Wing intensified preparations for the day when it will join in the great seaborne assault on enemy-occupied territory. Indian shipyards contributed several new warships to the fleet. H.M.I. Naval Dockyard at Bombay worked to capacity refitting and repairing Allied and Indian naval vessels.

Recruits have come from all parts of India, and training has been consolidated and stepped up in preparation for new tasks ahead. Six new training establishments started work, among them the initial training centre for recruits, H.M.I.S. *Akbar*, the largest Naval establishment in India.



The gun crew of H.M.I.S. "Jumna" at loading practice. They are wearing anti-flash equipment designed to protect heads and hands from burns.



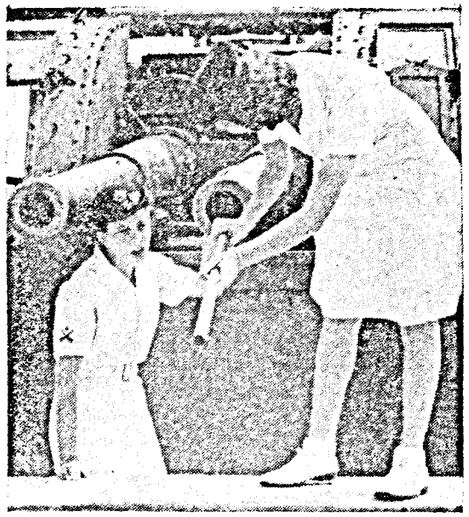
The 15th R.I.N. shore training establishment to be opened since the outbreak of war in 1939, H.M.I.S. "Akbar," at Bombay, provides preliminary training for new entrants to the service. Here, recruits learn the names and functions of every part of a seaboat with the aid of a scale model.

More and more of India's sailor girls, enrolled in the W.A.C. (I) Naval Wing, took up their duties in H.M.I. shore establishments. The Wing is an integral part of India's naval organisation, and renders invaluable service to the country; at the same time it gives its members training which will stand them in good stead in civil life after the war.

Broadcasting on Navy Day—celebrated in India for the first time on October 21 last—the Commander-in-Chief in India, General Sir Claude Auchinleck, drew attention to the vital part seapower will play in moulding India's destiny. In 1945 seapower will sway the course of the war against Japan, and India's Navy will do its bit in achieving victory.

PATNA DARBAR'S GIFT

The Patna Darbar have generously contributed Rs. 33,333-5-4 towards His Excellency the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund; Rs. 22,925 for 7 ambulances, Rs. 5,204-5-4 for the Royal Indian Navy Benevolent Association and Rs. 5,204 for St. Dunstan's.



Naval W.A.C. (I)s help in the maintenance of guns in H.M.I.S. "Himalaya," R.I.N.'s Gunnery school at Karachi.

A naval officer explains to naval W.A.C. (I)s the working of a for'ard gun abroad an armed launch.



Crew of an I.A.F squadron in Burma being briefed by Army Liaison officers.

1944—A YEAR OF GREAT ACHIEVEMENT FOR I.A.F.

THE Indian Air Force can look back on 1944 as a year of great achievement, as a year during which its pilots and ground crews on the Burma Front provided one of the brightest highlights in its short history.

During 1944 the I.A.F. had more squadrons on operations than ever before. It operated without a break throughout the year and its efforts received a greater measure of praise and recognition in the form of awards than in any previous year.

Frontline Operations

The first squadron moved into the frontline late in 1943 and it was followed at fairly regular intervals by other squadrons. These squadrons undertook strenuous programme in support of the 14th Army, its duties including dive-bombing, strafing of enemy troops, communications, supplies and dumps, technical and photographic reconnaissance and escorting supply-dropping aircraft and shipping.

The I.A.F. took part in the battle of the Ngakyedauk Pass, covered the first tank attack by the 14th Army, participated in the siege of Imphal, took thousands of reconnaissance pictures for the Army on which future plans and tactics were based, and destroyed by bombing and strafing numerous enemy communications.

The fine work of the pilots, who were splendidly backed up by the ground crews, was recognised in the award of the D.S.O. to W/Cdr. Mehar Singh, the first I.A.F. officer to receive this honour, and three D.F.C.s which went to S|Ldr. Arjan Singh, (now Wing Commander) F|Lt. J. C. Verma and F|Lt. D. G. Bhore.

On India's North-West Frontier the I.A.F. carried on, out of the limelight, with 'watch and ward' duties, and its quiet efficiency earned warm appreciation from the military and political authorities.

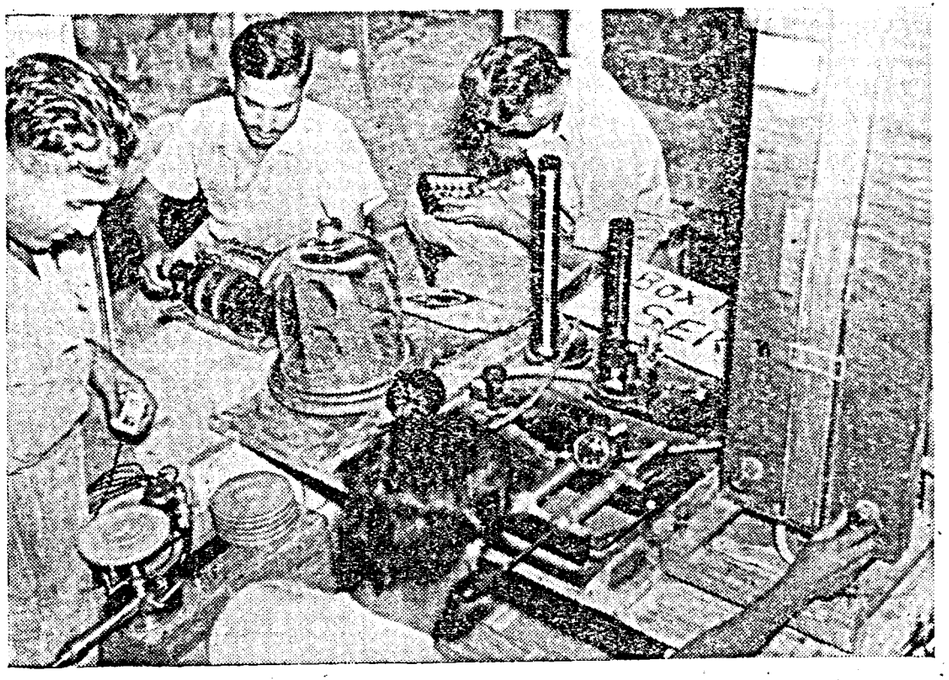
Among other noteworthy events during the year was the coming of Air Vice-Marshal M.



S|Ldr. Narinjan Prasad, C.O. of an I.A.F. Vultee Vengeance Dive-Bomber squadron in Burma, with his rear gunner F|Lt. Jagjit Singh (standing).



Members of an I.A.F. Hurricane squadron with the Officer Commanding, S|Ldr. (now Wing Commander) Mehar Singh, D.S.O. (fifth from left.)



Ground crew at work in an I.A.F. squadron's workshop on the Burma Front.

Thomas, C.B.E., D.F.C., A.F.C., as Air Officer Commanding, India Command, the introduction of a new training aircraft, the Cornell, to I.A.F. flying instruction centres, the transfer of W/Cdr. Majumdar, D.F.C., one of the earliest members of the I.A.F., to take part in invasion operations in Europe, and the extension of the Indian Air Training Corps to all Universities of India.

Former Air Chief's Tribute

Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Peirse, Allied Air Commander-in-Chief, South East Asia, until November, on the eve of his departure from India, paid a warm tribute to the Indian Air Force. "I have watched you grow and I have seen you fight," he said. "You have won your spurs and the respect and confidence of all of us. The Indian Air Force squadrons of today are the foundation of the Indian Air Force of to-morrow."

The I.A.F. is looking forward to 1945 confident that it will crown its efforts of the past year with an even more splendid record.

BOMBAY GOVERNOR'S GIFT TO I.A.F. SQUADRON

H. E. Sir John Colville, Governor of Bombay, has sent to an Indian Air Force fighter reconnaissance squadron a pair of silver tankards to commemorate his recent visit to the squadron.

Writing to the Commanding Officer, the Governor said: "I am sending herewith two silver mugs as a memento of my very happy visit to the squadron last month. I shall drink your health often."

The squadron is known as 'the Bombay Squadron' and Sir John Colville is its 'guardian.' It started operating on the Burma front ten months ago and has since flown more than 3,570 sorties totalling over 5,030 operational hours.

Rs. 5,00,000 FOR SEAC

H. E. the Viceroy has sanctioned a further grant of Rs. 5,00,000 from the War Purposes Fund to Headquarters, Air Command, South-East Asia, for providing amenities for R.A.F. and I.A.F. personnel in the Command.





Lt.-Gen. Sir Richard N. O'Connor

LIEUT.-GENERAL SIR RICHARD N. O'CONNOR, K.C.B., D.S.O., M.C., has been appointed General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Command, in succession to General Sir Mosley Mayne, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., A.D.C., who has been selected for an appointment in the United Kingdom.

Lieut.-General O'Connor has had a distinguished military career and served with great gallantry both in the last war and in this. During Rommel's drive from El Agheila in the early spring of 1941, he went right forward to assess the situation for himself and was captured in very unlucky circumstances by a German motor-cycle patrol while driving in his staff car through the night.

Sent to Italy he remained there until that country's collapse in September 1943. During the confusion that followed he managed to escape, made his way southwards through the enemy lines and rejoined the British forces.

Returning to the United Kingdom he was appointed Commander of an Armoured Corps and has lately been in action in that capacity

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 156)

Lt.-Gen. Sir Geoffrey Scoones

LIEUT.-GEN. SIR GEOFFREY SCOONES, K.B.E., D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C., has been appointed General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Central Command, in succession to Lieut.-General H. B. D. Willcox, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., who has become Chairman of the Army Reorganisation Committee recently set up by the Commander-in-Chief in India.

Commanded 4th Corps in Burma

Commanding the 4th Corps with energy and skill on the 400-mile Assam-Burma border, an appointment which he assumed in August 1942, Lieut.-General Sir Geoffrey Allen Percival Scoones, was responsible for the transformation of Imphal from a defensive base into an offensive springboard in the face of the much-vaunted attack by the Japs in the early months of 1944. In the resultant decisive battles the Japs suffered heavily at the expense of 4th Corps troops; between March and July they lost more than 11,000 in killed alone.

Lieut.-General Scoones, is a soldier who has faced many crises and been beaten by none. He was born at Quetta in 1893, the son of late Major F. T. F. Scoones and Mrs. Scoones, who is an Australian.

Educated at Wellington, he entered Sandhurst and was commissioned in 1912. Like his father he joined the Royal Fusiliers, who were at that time in India, and later transferred to 2/2 Gurkha Rifles, with whom he served in France. In 1917, he was posted to Quetta as a brigade major and as such saw further service in the Afghan War of 1919.

During 1920-21, he was at the Staff College, Quetta. After various staff appointments and a spell of regimental duty he took over command of 2/8 Gurkha Rifles, whom he was commanding at the time of the disastrous Quetta earthquake of 1935. The work that he and his men accomplished on that tragic occasion brought him the award of the C.B.E.

In the earlier years of this war he held various appointments in Britain and then came to India, where in April, 1942, he assumed command of the 19th Division. Three months later he was promoted Lieut.-General and assumed command of 4th Corps. For the part he and his men played in the great defeat of the Japanese who tried to invade India, General Scoones was awarded the K.B.E.

Lieut.-General Scoones was married in 1919. He has two daughters and a son; his wife and one daughter are in India and his son is serving as a Sapper officer with the Middle East Forces.

Lt.-Gen. Sir Richard N. O'Connor

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 155)

with General Dempsey's Second British Army in the battle of Western Europe.

The son of the late Major M. N. O'Connor, Royal Irish Fusiliers, he was born in 1889 and educated at Wellington College and Sandhurst. He served right through the last war, being mentioned in dispatches nine times, earning the D.S.O. and Bar, the M.C. and the Italian Silver Medal for Valour.

After holding various staff appointments in the post-war period he became Commander of Peshawar Brigade 1936-38 and military Governor of Jerusalem 1938-39. During the present war he saw active service in the Middle East and North Africa, where his expert knowledge of armoured warfare led to his becoming Commander of the Western Desert Forces in the successful Libyan campaign of 1940-41 under General Wavell, then Commander-in-Chief, Middle East.



Lady Louis Mountbatten.

LADY LOUIS MOUNTBATTEN ARRIVES IN INDIA

FOLLOWING front-line tours in France and Flanders, where she visited hospitals and casualty clearing stations, Lady Louis Mountbatten has arrived in India to begin a comprehensive tour of the Far Eastern theatre of operations.

Lady Louis, who is Superintendent-in-Chief of the Nursing Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade and is the St. John representative on the British Red Cross and St. John Joint War Committee, will see for herself the work of these two organisations in India and South-East Asia Commands. She will concentrate on visits to hospitals and medical units. During a three months' stay in this theatre she will tour India and Burma and go as far afield as China. She will visit many places in the 14th Army area. She will take back with her to the United Kingdom a full and lengthy report on the activities of the organisations she represents.

Immediately on her arrival at New Delhi, where she was the guest of the Viceroy and Lady Wavell, Lady Louis began a series of interviews with high-ranking officers.

Lady Louis has come to India at the invitation of the Government and the Commander-in-Chief in India, General Sir Claude Auchinleck.

BRITISH PREMIER'S REPRESENTATIVE TO REPORT ON SERVICES' WELFARE

WITHIN a week of Mr. Churchill's announcement of the appointment, Lt.-Gen. Charles J. S. King, the Prime Minister's Personal Representative on welfare matters, arrived in India. After preliminary talks at New Delhi he left almost immediately for Kandy.

Tall, medium built and smiling, Lt.-Gen. King has started work with enthusiastic vigour. "I have almost forgotten it is Christmas," he said when an Indian Army Observer greeted him. "Yes, I spent Christmas en route from Britain to India."

Lt.-Gen. King knows India well, having spent 18 years here. After being commissioned in the Royal Engineers he came to India in 1913 and was adjutant of a Madras Sappers and Miners unit for three years.

Knows Tamil and Hindustani

His association with Madrassis explains his knowledge of Tamil, which he tried on a sepoy in Cairo the other day while on his way to India. "The sepoy was mighty pleased to hear his mother tongue," said Lt.-Gen. King, who also speaks Hindustani.

As Commander, Royal Engineers, he was responsible for rebuilding Quetta after the disastrous earthquake of 1935. He saw service in World War I in India and in the Persian Gulf and was four times mentioned in despatches. He was awarded the O.B.E. for services in Afghanistan in 1919, when he was commanding a field company of sappers.

Lt.-Gen. King went back to Britain as Chief Engineer of a command and later, as Deputy Engineer-in-Chief, saw service in France in this war. After Dunkirk he became Chief Engineer, Home Forces, and in May, 1941, became Engineer-in-Chief, War Office, which post he held until his present appointment.

His wife and three sons are in Britain. His hobby is cabinet making, which he had to stop because of the war. He has played polo and hockey for the army in India.

The Prime Minister outlined Lt.-Gen. King's duties in the House of Commons during the debate on the Munster Report. "It will be his duty to ascertain how matters progress and to report to me on the difficulties which may arise and on the assistance which will be required from this country," he said. "He will be concerned with the welfare of all the three services and the Merchant Navy and will have a staff for this purpose."



Lt.-Gen. Charles John Stuart King.

Lt.-Gen. King will have an inter-service staff and a civilian staff officer for merchant seamen. Commander the Hon. J. M. Fitzroy Newdegate, R.N., and Lt.-Gen. King's secretary have come with him.

SIR EDWARD BENTHALL'S SPEECH

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 91)

My remarks have so far been confined to the co-ordination of road and rail transport but our desire to co-ordinate other forms of transport also is equally great. For instance Government, of course, recognises the need to develop inland water transport in its proper sphere and in harmonious relationship with the railways and road transport and that the rates structure of mechanically propelled inland water transport must be co-ordinated in harmony with the rates structure of the other media, particularly of course that of the railways. In Eastern India I hope that as a first step the local rail and inland water interests will get together in order to set out the problem and see how far they can reach agreement.

REPATRIATION OF BRITISH TROOPS IN INDIA AND S.E.A. COMMANDS

A PRESS communique issued by General Headquarters (India) states:

It is the War Office's intention to maintain the qualifying period of overseas service for repatriation for British Troops in the India and South East Asia Commands after December 31, 1944, at approximately four years or a few months less. This is, of course, subject to operational requirements as determined by the course of the war and is liable to amendment at short notice.

In the immediate future it will not be possible for officers of certain arms to be returned to the U.K. at the same rate as other ranks. The sudden removal of a large proportion of trained leaders who have acquired an expert knowledge of their duties and of the characteristics of the men they command must have an adverse effect on the efficiency of the army as a whole.

The repatriation of these officers must therefore be phased to obviate the grave risk of the fighting and technical efficiency of the Army being lowered to a degree likely to affect the successful prosecution of the war against Japan.

Every effort, however, is being made and will be made to bring the rate of return to the U.K. for officers of all arms into line with the rate for other ranks.

These conditions apply to officers and other ranks of the British Service attached to Indian Army Units as well as to those actually serving with British units. The reservation regarding officers applies to both officers and British other ranks serving with East and West African Forces.

Officers and other ranks continue to be called forward as at present and there will be no change in this procedure.



Maj.-Gen. H. R. Kerr, O.B.E.,M.C., (centre) Director of Supplies and Transport at the War Office, recently visited India to discuss with local authorities questions relating to the feeding and transport of British forces in the S.E.A. Command. Picture shows Maj.-Gen. Kerr with Maj.-Gen. G. W. Hogden, (left) C.B., O.B.E., D.S.T., G.H.Q.(I) and Brig. P. A. Arden, C.B.E., D.S.T., ALFSEA.

MAHARAJA OF JODHPUR VISITS TROOPS IN ITALY

WHEN the Maharaja of Jodhpur visited the Jodhpur Sardar Infantry on the Eighth Army's Adriatic sector, officers, V.C.O.s, N.C.O.s and sepoys together marked the occasion by toasting his health in "assa" wine, which had been brought over by the Maharaja from their home State.

His Highness, who wore his R.A.F. uniform with the rank of Air Commodore, was accompanied on his visit by his brother, Lt.-Col. Maharaj Sir Ajit Singh. They were met at battalion headquarters by the commanding officer, Major Ram Singh, adjutant, Captain Hamir Singh and Lieut. Moti Singh.

Unaware of the Maharaja's visit until a few hours beforehand the Jodhpurs excitedly thronged the narrow Italian lanes, bursting into tumultuous cheers at the approach of His Highness's car.

Addressing the men the Maharaja gave a detailed and encouraging account of wartime conditions in Jodhpur and laid particular stress on the attention devoted by his administration to the welfare of Servicemen's families.

The day ended with a *bara khana* attended by officers and V.C.O.s, with such unit veterans as sepoys Hari Singh and Gulla Ram.

C.-IN-C. VISITS ARMY TRAINING CENTRES

TRAVELLING over 1,000 miles in 12 hours the Commander-in-Chief in India, General Sir Claude Auchinleck, has returned to New Delhi after a one-day tour of inspection at Mhow.

On arrival at the Holkar State Airfield, Indore, in the morning the C.-in-C. was received by the Prime Minister and the Resident.

He immediately left for a signal training centre, where he saw trainees studying. He commented on their all-round technical efficiency.

At the Officers' Training School he made a tour of inspection and addressed the cadets, reminding them that without good officers even the best troops could not succeed in war. While they were at the O.T.S. they were getting the best instruction and it was up to them to take full advantage of it.

At a convalescent camp the C.-in-C. saw Italian cooks at work. At a leave centre he had a few words with lorry drivers resting on their way to Calcutta from Bombay and saw the arrangements for giving them hot baths, meals and rest before continuing their journey.

VISIT TO AMBALA

Arriving by plane and continuing on horseback General Auchinleck recently carried out a full day of inspections and visits in the Ambala district.

He flew to the R.A.F. station at Ambala and shortly afterwards spent an hour on horseback making a tour of the Indian Army Veterinary Corps centre.

At the R.A.F. station, the C.-in-C. was met by a guard of honour of pupil officers of the Indian Air Force before visiting lecture rooms and sections. He saw the Link Trainer, which is used for instruction in blind flying, sat in the cockpit and operated the controls.

At the mountain artillery centre, the C.-in-C. chatted with recruits and watched gun drill and fire discipline. He also visited the 15th Punjab Regimental Centre, where he saw the men training on the assault course.

The C.-in-C. congratulated Mrs. Goddard, wife of the commandant, and other ladies on the clothes they made under the Red Cross for distribution to the Burmese as they are liberated from the Japs. At a special parade he presented gallantry and meritorious service medals to 16 men of the regiment.

A busy day ended with a visit to a supply training group of the R.I.A.S.C., where a high standard of marching and drilling by sections was shown.

NATIONAL DEFENCE COUNCIL

THE 17th session of the National Defence Council opened at the Viceroy's House, New Delhi, on January 8. The session lasted three days and H. E. the Viceroy presided.

The Hon'ble Sir Jogendra Singh, Member for Education, Health and Lands, Government of India, made a statement on the progress of the Grow More Food and Anti-Locust Campaigns and there was a discussion thereon. The Council also considered a memorandum on the activities of the Department of Information and Broadcasting and a statement by the Hon'ble Sir Firoz Khan Noon on Civil Defence Policy.

Second Day's Proceedings

When the Council re-assembled the following day at the Viceroy's House, the officiating Quarter Master General in India made a statement on the efforts of the Army to be self-supporting in the matter of supplies for consumption and there was a discussion thereon.

The Council then discussed the Hon'ble the Supply Member's memorandum on the supply of clothing to the Defence Services. The Hon'ble the Supply Member also addressed the Council on plans for the production of ammonium sulphate in India.

On January 10, the last day of the session, Her Excellency Viscountess Wavell addressed the Council on the organisation and work of the Women's Auxiliary Corps (India) and on other war work done by women in India.

His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief then reviewed the general war situation and indicated the scope and functions of the Committee on the reorganisation of the Indian Army. The Council also discussed the Adjutant-General's statement on the present recruitment situation in India.

The session then concluded.

"AMENITY PACKS" FOR INDIAN TROOPS

H.E. the Viceroy has made a grant of Rs. 20,000 from the War Purposes Fund for providing "Amenity Packs" containing toilet requisites, stationery, mending materials, tobacco, games, etc., for Indian troops in Italy.

WORK OF W.V.S. IN U.K.



The Dowager Marchioness of Reading.

"Army That Hitler Forgot"

By the Dowager Marchioness of Reading, Chairman of the Women's Voluntary Services in Great Britain.

A broadcast from the Delhi Station of A.I.R. on January 8.

It has always been the duty of those behind the lines to meet shortages in order to strengthen the men fighting at the front. Today, the term "behind the lines" does not exist because aerial warfare and the shattering of civilian homes has changed the whole outlook. A woman in countries near to the war has no longer to fear only for her man at the front—her children, her home, her neighbours, everything is in jeopardy, and aerial attack is so swift and sudden that the sounding of the siren may be the prelude to complete devastation.

Civil Defence is the service which deals with the results of air attack, and W.V.S. stands in regard to Civil Defence as the A.T.S. stands to the Army. Our primary duty is post-raid work, although we do much other work; but everything gives way to Civil Defence needs. We operate on a completely decentralized basis, helping to carry out locally all that must be done to safeguard individuals of the community; to meet emergency and to carry out on a local basis those things which must be done for the nation.

We came into being in June 1938 in direct response to an appeal for women to train and fit themselves to help if the need should arise, and our first task was recruiting and training—making the women of the country aware of what was required of them.

W.V.S. does not ask for odd leisure moments—it demands of its members every ounce of employed otherwise for the good of the country, and a training for the work is required. The work we do is unglamorous, hard and often dangerous; there are no individual rewards, there are no officer ranks, but there is the knowledge that this great army of women—a million strong—plays a real part in the life of the Nation, and a regional commissioner once said of W.V.S. that it was the army that Hitler forgot!

Service and Self-Discipline

Our work is the normal work of women done on a national instead of a domestic scale; and we have endeavoured in all our organizing to disturb normality as little as possible, to ask for conformity only in the spirit of true service and self-discipline. The job is carried out on a flexible basis by the individual, interpreting her instructions according to her own views.

Post-raid work includes clothing and bedding for those who have lost all their belongings in the attack, and we have over 2,000 clothing depots spread throughout the whole of Great Britain. We do clothing of every sort and kind for those suffering from war distress, and our clothing depots have handled over fifteen million garments since 1940. During the attack by flying bombs the clothing depots in the south of England were strained to the utmost, and we lost several by enemy action. In one case, whilst on duty in their clothing depot, four women were killed and three so seriously injured that they are still in hospital.

Work that does not sound dangerous often requires great courage in its carrying out. For emergency feeding, W.V.S. man the famous mobile Queen's Messenger convoys, which go to the scene of action, and are able to feed 15,000 people a day. If any place is seriously hit, one or more convoys are drafted into it, and the people are dealt with by emergency feeding until such time as static feeding can be set up.



At the 19th meeting of the W.V.S.(I) Central Committee held recently under the presidentship of H. E. Lady Wavell at the Viceroy's House, New Delhi, Lady Colville (wife of the Bombay Governor) presented to Her Excellency a W.V.S. brooch on behalf of the delegates.

Our members do a vast amount of work in static feeding too, and we have at the moment over 17,000 women working in British restaurants which are the communal feeding centres in urban areas, but immediately after raids and in all moments of emergency or distress it is the mobile canteens that do such splendid work, and women manning mobile canteens go out on every sort and kind of job. We have big heavy ones and small light ones and tiny trailer ones which can be handled easily over bomb craters, and each one brings the inevitable cup of tea with a varying assortment of food. I saw one mobile canteen team who told me that as a flying bomb cut out near them and they realised it would fall close, they got under their canteen for protection, but the explosion released the brakes and they found themselves stopping the wheels in a way they had not anticipated doing!

One of the jobs we have had more to do with than anything else is Evacuation, both originally in 1939, then during the heavy blitz and recently because of flying bombs. It is in evacuation I think that most sides of W.V.S. come into being together. The sending of children out from the threatened cities means a great deal of work in those cities. The assembling and escorting of children needs special handling on the trains, the provision of hot drinks and food needs special preparation and much planning. Receiving, and above all, billeting at the other end, is a job which would exhaust the kindest of hearts and best of tempers, were it not that the person doing the job realises why it is being done and how valuable it all is.

I know an escort, aged over 58, who often gets back at 11-30 at night after a 15-hour day of railway journey with four or five children under five years old and gets her instructions to report for duty at 7-30 next morning and does it willingly and cheerfully. These escorts have naturally to be very fond of children—they vary in background from the wife of the eminent statesman, a retired nanny, the wife of an economist and girl clerks who undertake the work on their Saturday afternoons and Sundays off. We have handled over 49,000 children under five from our Headquarters, and have moved them to War Nurseries established at the beginning of the War all over the non-vulnerable areas.

And then in the country, when the children are established, there is clothing; there is the very hard job of school feeding; there is the new task we have undertaken of helping with extraneous duties in the school.

Our latest task is the rehoming of those who have lost their homes by flying bombs. This is done by adoption of a locality by a county that has not suffered direct damage, and many tons of furniture and other gifts are being donated in this way to alleviate the distress or loss of all possessions. The organization of this work is colossal, each town or village is approached and their gifts have to be collected, packed and despatched. These gifts range from a bed to a kitten, and are the generous response to an urgent appeal on behalf of those who have suffered seriously.

Rest Centres

W.V.S. man most of the rest centres in the country, and it is to these rest centres that people are brought immediately after a raid, when their homes have been destroyed and their relations are still being dug for. And an "Incident Inquiry Point" must also be manned at once. These are set up alongside the officer in charge of the work of digging for buried persons, and all that follows the fall of a bomb. Great flexibility of action is used in handling these points, and it is the responsibility of the key W.V.S. woman in the street or of the district to report within 12 minutes of the bomb falling and to take charge of all enquiries. It is a cruelly hard job—it is a wonderfully satisfying task, because as people arrive in terrific distress, one is able to give them information and help them with amazing speed, but equally one has to break hard news to them, and help them in their tragedies.

During the months of the flying bomb attack, we were manning many dozens of such Incident Inquiry Points at a time. I remember in one particular week visiting 49 different ones as they were set up. At one I arrived about an hour after the bomb had fallen, and while speaking to the woman in charge whom I knew slightly I asked if the first mortuary list had come in yet. She told me it was expected any moment, and as we talked the list was handed to her. I looked over her shoulder and saw the first name on the list was that of her best friend, but the woman never quailed. She went straight on with her job and nobody ever knew and I doubt if she knew that I had seen what had happened.

That week out of the 49 Incident Inquiry Points I visited, ten of the women had lost their own homes. They did not wait to see what had happened, they did not pause to make their own arrangements; they reported for duty as they had been trained to do, and carried out the job which they knew was their responsibility for the benefit of their neighbours.

There is also all the welfare work we do for the Services—running nearly a thousand canteens, clubs and hostels, visiting scattered and lonely units with mobile canteens, doing the darning of socks for the troops, and running a fresh vegetable scheme for the small ships of the Navy. All work which has to be done by very hard pressed women, for domestic servants are almost unknown in Great Britain to-day—but work done with great zest and enthusiasm all the same.

And then there is the V.C.P. which is the National Taxi Service of Great Britain. We have over 20,000 volunteer cars in this service, and in one month this year over two million miles of journeys were done by these drivers. A great deal of night driving has to be done, which in the black-out is very unpleasant, and when one realises that the majority of W.V.S. members are "not so young", it reflects the greatest credit on women of 60 and over who are prepared to jump out of bed and do an emergency job at any time at night.

Other Tasks

There is the Pie Scheme to help the agricultural workers, and the Food Advice Bureau to help the urban dweller in using her ration; there are Make Do and Mend and Clothing Exchanges, and Work Parties and Knitting Centres—who are, as an extra to their normal work, undertaking to knit half a million pounds of wool for liberated Europe.

This is the way the ordinary woman of Great Britain has fulfilled the call, and this is the reason that the badge our members wear has earned respect and regard throughout the whole of the U.K.

I have, alas, no time to tell you more, but I do want to assure you that we in Great Britain, realise our responsibility, and will fulfil it whatever it may cost us.

We have had a great many W.V.S. members killed on duty, but we have never once called for volunteers for any task, however hazardous, without getting offers of service well over-subscribed.

We women in the U.K. have been through five years of horrible warfare. We have seen sights no woman should ever see, and have grown accustomed to sounds we did not realise existed, but we have come through these years

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 163)

FIRST INDIAN DEPUTY CHIEF COMMANDER, W.A.C.(I)

Miss K. Shanthi Ranga Rao

MISS K. SHANTHI RANGA RAO, till recently Principal of the Indraprastha College, Delhi, has been appointed the second Deputy Chief Commander of the Women's Auxiliary Corps, India, being granted a direct commission with the rank of Colonel.

A member of a family well-known in India for its record of public service, Miss Ranga Rao has a large number of firsts to her credit. She belonged to the first batch of women from a women's college to read for the Postgraduate Licentiate in Teaching, Madras, and was the only woman in the University to take a first class that year. She was the first Indian woman to be elected an F.R.G.S. She is now the first Indian woman to be Deputy Chief Commander, W.A.C. (I.).

Academic Record

Miss Ranga Rao is well known to the academic world and has held resident professorships in Madras at Queen Mary's College and at the Lady Willingdon Postgraduate Training College, where she was also professor in charge of athletics and girl guide activities.

On her return to India after her first visit to Europe, she opened the Geography Department in Queen Mary's College. The Central College for Women, Nagpur, owes its inception to her.

More recently, she has been Principal of the Indraprastha College, Delhi. The tribute paid her by the Vice-Chancellor in his recent invocation address—that she had "made her mark" on the University even for the brief period that she was with it, bears eloquent testimony to her work here.

Added to a thorough knowledge of India and its ways, Miss Ranga Rao has a wide acquaintance with the west, where she spent several years. She holds diplomas in Geography, Psychology and Education from the University of Cambridge, has a first class Honours degree in Geography and Economics from the University of London and was a resident student at the University of Grenoble in France. She represented India at the Girl Guide Officers' World Conference held in Geneva and attended other world conferences including the Geographical Conference in Paris and the New Education Fellowship Conference in London.

Miss Ranga Rao has clearly defined ideas on the training of girls for public service in India and is well equipped to guide W.A.C. (I) policy upon all matters affecting the well-being of the Corps' thousands of women, both today and in a post-war India.

W.A.C. (I) FILM

How five W.A.C. (I) girls from different parts of India and representative of different sections of India's vast population meet in a Bombay W.A.C. (I) hostel and get down to the job of learning a trade in the Corps is the subject of a film on the W.A.C. (I) shortly to be released to cinemas in India.

The girls are a Hindu from the south, a Mussalman and an Anglo-Indian from the north, a Parsee from Bombay and an English girl to whom India is a second home.

The film lasts about 15 minutes. It has shots of W.A.C. (I)s in the numerous occupations for which the Corps is now so well-known and stresses the value of this training to girls intending to make careers for themselves in India after the war.

WORK OF W.V.S. IN U.K.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 162)

with the deep conviction that ours has been a privilege of service we would not have evaded even had we been able to do so. Many of us are very tired—many of us have lost our homes, but all of us realise that this is the first time that women have been able to work full-heartedly and with real selflessness alongside the men they love.

Six years ago, I was pleased to be given the job of forming W.V.S. because I thought it would be an interesting piece of work. Five years ago, I knew the job was worth while and thrilling, but to-day I am sobered and humbled, for I know now that the million women I am privileged to serve as their Chairman are some of the very finest human beings in the world, and through their selflessness of action and unflinching devotion to duty have made a contribution to posterity that the world will never forget.



Pay Day in R.I.N.—Able-Seaman A. Appachan of Travancore receives his pay from the Captain of his ship, Sub-Lieut. P. P. Nair, also of Travancore.

WARTIME INCREASES IN INDIAN SEAMEN'S WAGES

IN 1939, at the time of the outbreak of war in Europe, Indian seamen, compared to British and Chinese seamen, were paid low wages. During the last few years of war, however, their position in this regard has considerably improved, owing partly to wartime increases in their basic wages which aggregate 100 per cent of the pre-war basic wages and partly to the grant to them of war risk money equal to pre-war basic wages, in addition.

Thus, an Indian seaman who on August 31, 1939, only received Rs. 25 p.m., has been receiving until recently Rs. 50 p.m. as basic wages and another Rs. 25 p.m. as war risk money. Similarly, a serang who was paid Rs. 60 p.m. on August 31, 1939, has been receiving Rs. 180 p.m. i.e., Rs. 120 p.m. as basic wages and Rs. 60 p.m. as war risk money.

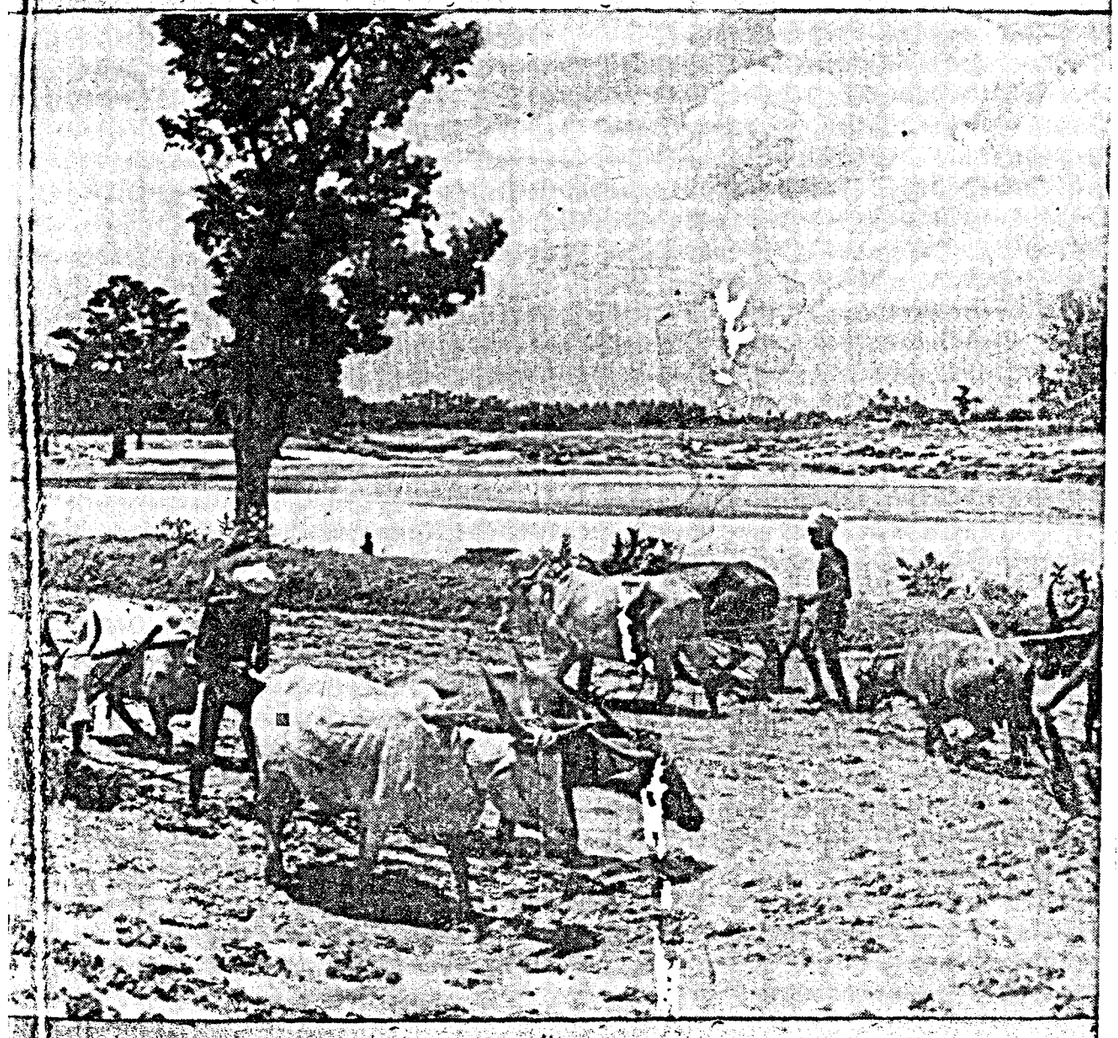
Despite the above mentioned increases, however, Indian seamen have been at a disadvantage *vis-a-vis* British and Chinese seamen. Shipping companies in India have, therefore, in consultation with their London principals, agreed to grant to Indian seamen, with retrospective effect from January 1, 1944, a further increase, in the shape of war risk money equal to twice the pre-war wages. This increase is subject to a ceiling of Rs. 66 p.m.

One half of this new increase in war risk money will be paid in cash and the other half will be held in deposit to the credit of the seamen for payment on the termination of hostilities.

Thus, an Indian seaman, whose pre-war wages were Rs. 25 p.m. and who has been receiving till recently Rs. 75 p.m. in all, will now receive Rs. 125 p.m. from January 1, 1944, of which Rs. 25 will be held in deposit to his credit. Similarly, a serang, who drew Rs. 60 p.m. as basic wages in the pre-war period will with effect from January 1, 1944, receive Rs. 246 p.m., of which Rs. 33 will be held to his credit in deposit.

Issued fortnightly by J. Natarajan, Principal Information Officer, Government of India. Printed in India by E. G. Tilt (Manager) at The Civil & Military Gazette, Ltd., Lahore: Communications for the Editor should be addressed to the Bureau of Public Information, Government of India, Lahore, and not to the Printers.

INDIAN INFORMATION



Vol. ... No. 154: Feb. 15, 1945
... Fortnightly by the ... Information Officer, ... Government of India.

●FIFTH ALL-INDIA FOOD CONFERENCE



Members of the Afghan Military Mission who recently toured India were the guests of H.E. the Viceroy and Lady Wavell at lunch at the Viceroy's House. Picture shows (L. to R.) H.E. the Viceroy, M. Shafi Khan; Brig. Muhammad Arif Khan and Lieut.-General Muhammad Umar Khan.

Vol. 16 No. 154. INDIAN INFORMATION Feb. 15, 1945.

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

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

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

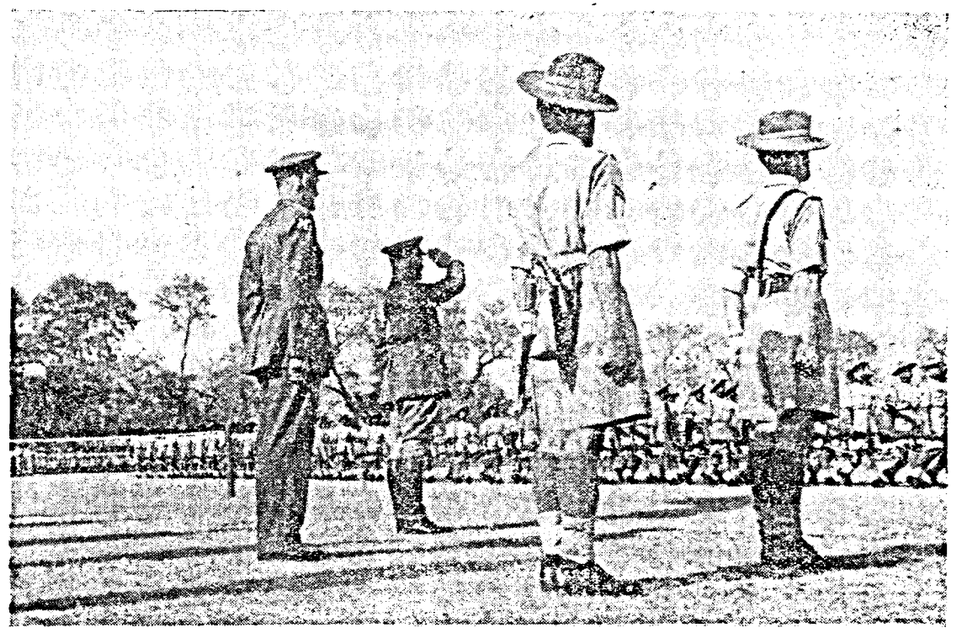
CONTRIBUTIONS:—Many MSS. are submitted to us which we regretfully return; since everything published in INDIAN INFORMATION emanates from an official source it follows that non-official contributions cannot be accepted.

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

MAIN CONTENTS

	Page
R.I.N.'s Part in Attack on Ramree Island	175
Sir J. P. Srivastava's Visit to Imphal	180
Fifth All-India Food Conference	187
Mr. G. E. Cuffe's Address to Indian Railway Conference Association	205
Indian Airline Pilots	216
Indo-Iranian Cultural Society	220
Sir Jogendra Singh's Address to Central Advisory Board of Education	225
Dr. B. R. Ambedkar on Post-War Electric Power Development	235
Dr. P. J. Thomas on Future of Indian Cottage Industries	249
First Meeting of Central Advisory Board of Archaeology: Sir Jogendra Singh's Address	256
Indian Parachute Regiment	262

COVER PICTURE: Ploughing land for paddy cultivation.



H.E. the Viceroy taking the salute at the march past during the V.C. presentation ceremony.

TRIPLE V.C. BATTALION HONOURED BY THE VICEROY

THE famous "triple V.C. battalion" of the *5th Royal Gurkha Rifles* was paid a unique honour by H.E. the Viceroy recently. Departing from the custom which prescribes the presentation of Victoria Crosses at investitures in Delhi, Lord Wavell travelled to the North-West Frontier Province, where the Battalion is stationed and presented the V.C.s won by Naik Agansing Rai of Amsora village, Okhaldunga district, Nepal, and the late Subedar Netrabahadur Thapa of Ranu village, Bhirkot district, Nepal, in the same action in Burma. The Battalion's third winner of the coveted award, Havildar (now Jemadar) Gaje Ghale, was decorated by the Viceroy at New Delhi in January, 1944.

Naik Agansing Rai won his award by a series of actions at Mortar Bluff which culminated in his capturing three enemy strongpoints and killing ten Japs. "His qualities of gallantry and courage," says the citation, "are worthy of the fighting race to which he belongs and his outstanding devotion to duty is in accordance with the highest traditions of the service."

Six hours later, at nearby Water Piquet, Subedar Netrabahadur Thapa held to the last an isolated position, the possession of which was vital to the safety of a 14th Army base. "True to the traditions of the service and his race," states the citation, "he fought against overwhelming odds for eight hours before he was killed."

Presentation Ceremony

Among the spectators were the families of the two men. They had left their villages for the first time to trek for days over the rough tracks of Nepal to the Indian border, where they had their first experience of rail travel. Among them was the young betrothed of the late Subedar Netrabahadur Thapa.

The battalion formed a hollow square surrounded by troops drawn from the 9th Jat Regiment, the Mahar Regiment, the 18th Cavalry and the R.I.A.S.C.

Before the presentation of each award the citation was read in English and Gurkhali. In the case of Naik Agansing Rai the English version was read by Brigadier R. T. Cameron.



Lord Wavell pins the Victoria Cross on the breast of Naik Agansing Rai. (Right) Nainasara Thapani, the young betrothed of Subedar Netrabahadur Thapa, who was posthumously awarded the V.C., receives the decoration in his stead from His Excellency.



Naik Agansing Rai photographed after the investiture wearing his V.C.

D.S.O., who commanded the battalion during its fighting withdrawal from Burma to the Assam frontier, and was brigade commander at the time the V.C.s were won.

The young betrothed and the mother of Subedar Netrabahadur Thapa were escorted to the Viceroy by Lieut.-Col. N. Eustace, D.S.O., 6th Gurkha Rifles, who was commanding the battalion at the time the V.C.s were won. He had assumed command during the absence through wounds of Lieut.-Col. E. P. Townsend.

The Viceroy then took the salute at a march past of the battalion, which was in command of Lieut.-Col. Townsend. At the head of one of the companies marched Jemadar Gaje Ghale, the first of the Battalion's three V.C.s.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 169)



Nainasara Thapani shows Subedar Netrabahadur Thapa's decoration to her mother after the investiture. (Below) Subedar Netrabahadur Thapa.



INDIAN ARMY'S 18TH V.C.

Posthumous Award to Rifleman Sher Bahadur Thapa

THE year 1944 closed with one more distinction for the Indian Army—the announcement of India's 18th Victoria Cross.

The supreme award has been made posthumously to Rifleman Sher Bahadur Thapa, aged 23, 9th Gurkha Rifles, of Ghalechhap village, Tanhu district, Nepal. He gave his life while rescuing wounded comrades in an action on the Adriatic sector of the Italian front.

Rifleman Sher Bahadur Thapa is the seventh Gurkha to win the V.C. in this war, and this is the second V.C. to be won by 9th Gurkha Rifles. This is the 11th V.C. awarded to the Indian Army in 1944.

Put the Enemy to Flight

Charging an enemy position in the face of persistent small arms and mortar fire Rifleman Sher Bahadur Thapa, a bren-gunner with a battalion which was fighting its way into the State of San Marino, killed the machine-gunner and put the rest of the post to flight. When his section commander, who had accompanied him in the charge, was badly wounded by an enemy grenade, he ignored intense fire to rush a party of Germans who were attacking them.

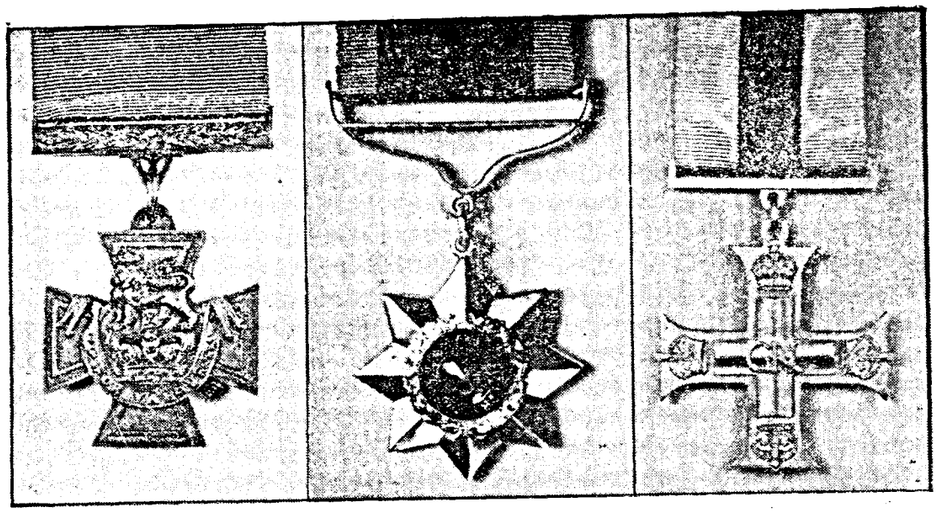
Reaching the crest of a ridge Rifleman Sher Bahadur Thapa disregarded a suggestion that he should take cover in a slit trench and continued to fire while lying in the open under a hail of bullets. The enemy was clearly visible only from his exposed position; showing an utter contempt for personal danger he silenced several enemy machine-guns and checked Germans who tried to infiltrate to the ridge.

Later he covered the withdrawal of forward companies who, their ammunition exhausted, were returning after a protracted stand of two hours.

Rifleman Sher Bahadur Thapa remained alone at his post in the open until his ammunition ran out. He then dashed forward against accurate enemy small arms fire and rescued two wounded men who were lying between him and the advancing Germans.

While returning for the second time he paid the price of his heroism and fell riddled by machine-gun bullets fired at point blank range.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 179)



(Left) V.C.: Medal made of bronze, from old Russian guns captured during the Crimean War; maroon ribbon, (Centre) I.O.M.: Eight-pointed silver star; middle portion blue enamel; laurel wreath and design in the centre are of gold; dark blue ribbon with red edges. M.C.: Silver cross, white ribbon with thick purple stripe.

AWARDS FOR GALLANTRY

India, Second on V.C. Roll

EIGHTEEN Victoria Crosses, one George Cross, 142 Distinguished Service Orders and three Indian Orders of Merit (1st Class) have been won by officers and men of the Indian Army in this war up to December, 1944.

Other awards won by the Indian Army include 282 Indian Orders of Merit (2nd Class), 561 Military Crosses, 941 Indian Distinguished Service Medals, two Distinguished Conduct Medals, one George Medal and 518 Military Medals.

Awards to the Indian Army and the Indian States Forces for the whole of the war total 2,468. In addition, there have been several thousand mentions in despatches and gallantry certificates.

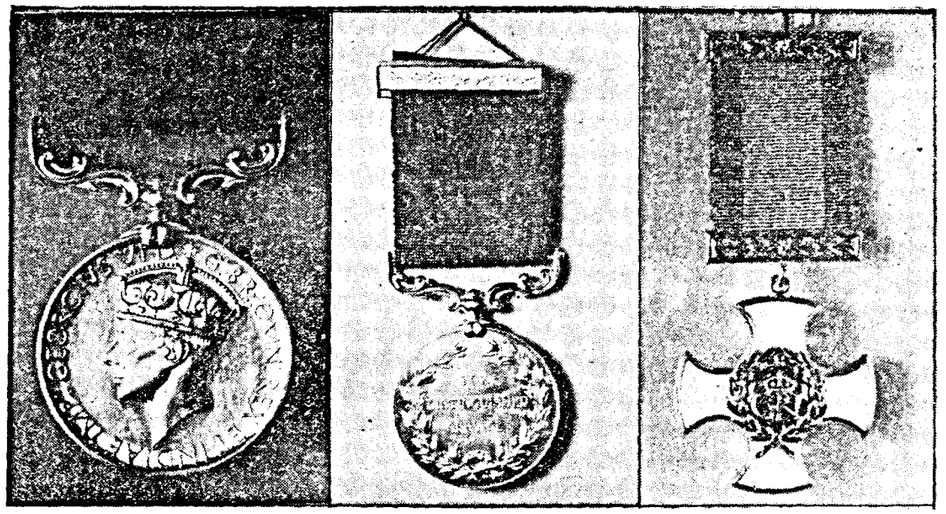
I. O. M. Award

India stands second in the number of V.C.s awarded in this war. Up to December the 115 V.C.s won in World War II had been distributed as follows: U.K. 75, India 18, Australia 11, New Zealand 7, Canada 3, South Africa 1 and Fiji 1.

By a recent Indian Army Order the Indian Order of Merit now consists of one class only. Those who repeat the performance which earned them the Indian Order of Merit will receive a Silver bar.



O.B.I.: Red ribbon.



I.D.S.M. (Left and Centre): Silver medal, blue ribbon with red stripe. (Right) D.S.O.: Gold cross, having on one side a wreath of laurels and a Royal and Imperial Cypher. The same design is on the other side except that the Imperial Crown replaces the Imperial Cypher.

The Military Medal was made available for the Indian Army only at the beginning of last year, hence the comparatively small number of winners of this award. Already several Indian soldiers have won the bar to the M.M.

Men of the Indian States Forces, fighting alongside the Indian Army, have won one Distinguished Service Order, 5 Indian Orders of Merit (2nd Class), 7 Military Crosses, 16 Indian Distinguished Service Medals and 8 Military Medals.

Officers and men on British Service in India and 14th Army have won four V.C.s, one George Cross, 38 D.S.O.s, 57 D.C.M.s, 158 M.C.s and 253 M.Ms.

TRIPLE V.C. BATTALION

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 166)

Among the distinguished visitors who attended the parade were Gen. Sir H. Finnis, G.O.C.-in-C., North Western Army, and Lady Finnis; H.E. Sir George Cunningham, Governor of the North-West Frontier Province, and Lady Cunningham; and Brigadier Sir Shumshere Jang Bahadur Rana, son of the Prime Minister of Nepal, who was representing the Ruler of that State.

Gurkha regiments have won nine of the Indian Army's 18 V.C.s of this war. Ten of the 18 V.C.s have so far been presented, one by H.M. the King at Buckingham Palace, two by Lord Linlithgow and the remaining seven by H. E. Lord Wavell.

BRITISH M.P.'S TRIBUTE TO INDIAN PIONEERS

Indian Pioneers, who during the recent disturbances in Greece worked 36 hours without a pause to get essential supplies ashore, have now been personally thanked by a visiting British Member of Parliament, Mr. J. Lawson.

Speaking through an interpreter, Mr. Lawson, who has been for 25 years Labour Member for Chester-le-Street, told the Indians that he was very glad to be among them.

"On behalf of the people of Great Britain," he said, "I wish to tell you of the great admiration felt for the gallant work you have done in Greece and the way you have borne yourselves in the recent fighting."

He concluded by wishing them god-speed to their native land when the war in Europe was finished, writes an Indian Army Observer.

AMENITIES FOR INDIAN TROOPS

H. E. the Viceroy has sanctioned a grant of Rs. 3,00,000 from his War Purposes Fund to Lt.-Gen. Sir Oliver Leese, Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Land Forces, South-East Asia, for providing amenities for Indian troops under his command during 1945.

COMMANDOS SWEEP JAPANESE FROM MYEBON HILL

JAPANESE dead, abandoned food and equipment litter the wake of our advancing troops on the Myebon peninsula. Position after position is falling to commandos and British and Indian troops as they sweep north, strongly supported from sea and air.

Heaviest fighting since our landing occurred at hill "Bugle", an enemy strongpoint which was stormed by commando troops and Indian tanks. Firmly installed in pill-boxes, on a hill-face riddled with trenches, Jap troops determined to stay or die.

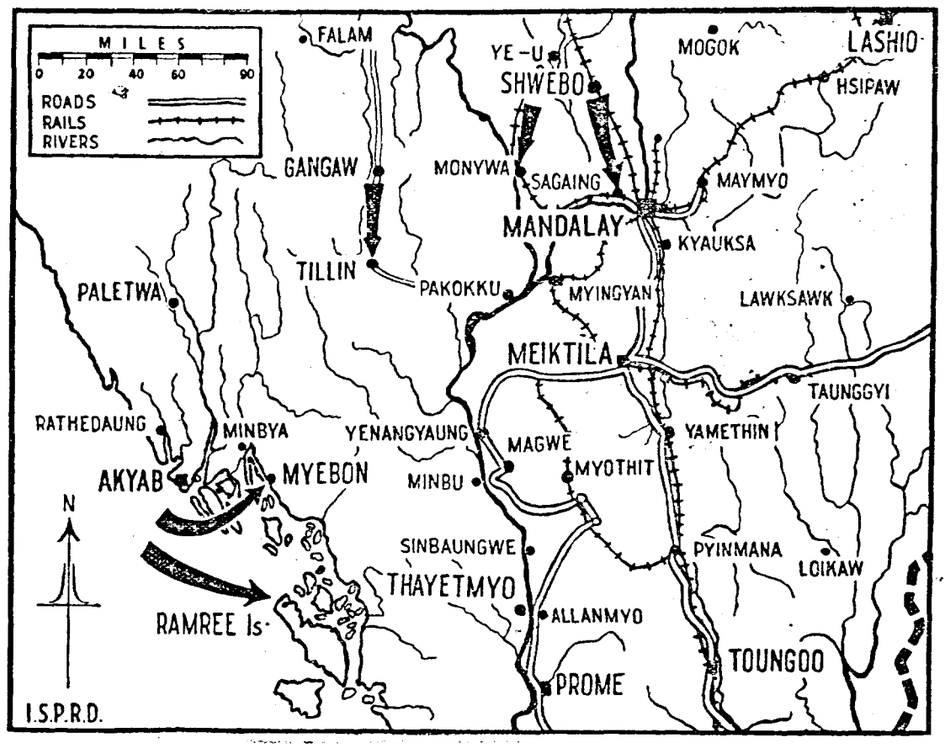
They died, writes an R.I.N. Observer who accompanied this latest combined operation. In bitter fighting commandos rushed the positions and wiped out the defenders.

I watched the attack from a forward observation post 300 yards from the hill. Slight smoke from burning grass, set alight in a previous bombardment, drifted across the wooded hills. Through field-glasses I could see the men in the green berets stepping warily across the open paddy fields, their rifles at the ready.

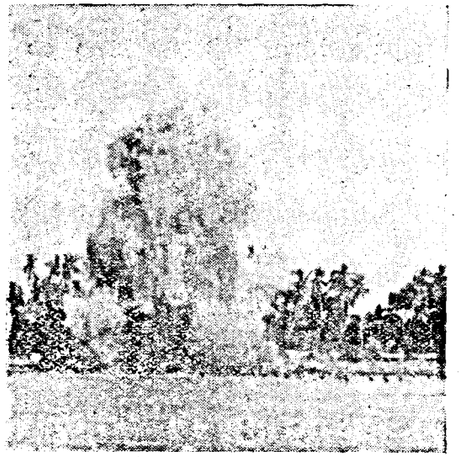
An enemy machine-gun clacked nearby but seemed to cause little annoyance. The men continued to work round to the left of a low hillock in front of the hill; just ahead the tanks, like hunting animals, nosed forward in short bursts, stopping every few yards and training their turrets to and fro. As they disappeared naval guns recommenced their strafing further in the enemy's rear.

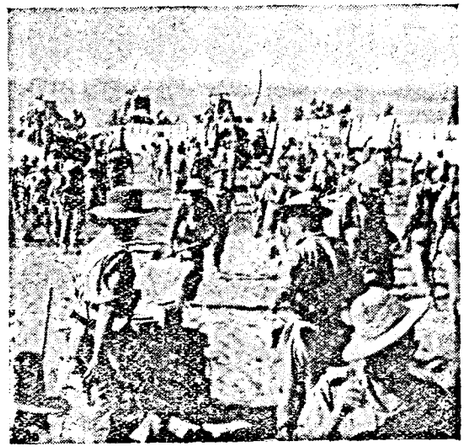
It soon became evident that the enemy did not intend to desert this position—too many excellent fortifications have fallen to us in the last few days without a shot being fired. He fought to the death in "Bugle's" bunkers and trenches, spending lives in fruitless effort.

The tanks soon dealt with lower positions, engaging them almost at the point of their guns. In one deep redoubt a British two-pounder anti-tank gun, believed to have been captured in 1942.



THE ASSAULT ON MYEBON—



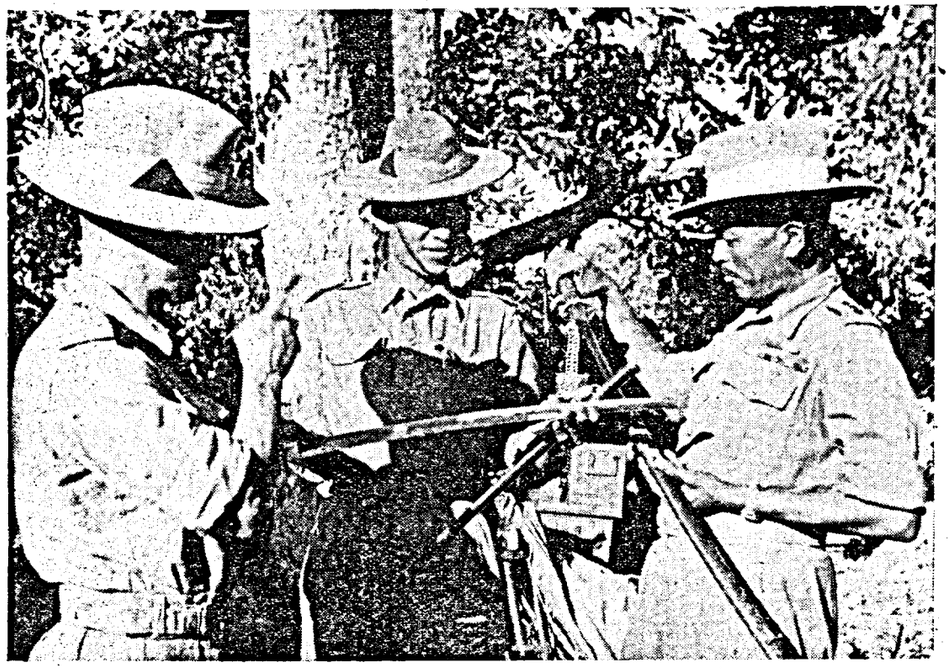


Myebon Peninsula in Hunter's Bay, 32 miles from Akyab town, was the second strategic point on the Arakan coast to be won in combined operations. The Japs were blasted from the coast by bombardment from sea and air as Commandos of the 15th Indian Corps went ashore in R.I.N. landing craft.

These pictures show (Top left) seaborne troops making their landing under enemy fire. (Right) Men of a Baluch Regiment reaching "Easy Beach" in R.I.N. landing craft to support the inland drive. (Below left) Traffic control on Myebon beach. These men landed with the first wave of troops. (Right) Two R.I.N. Officers examining a Jap anti-tank gun which had been abandoned without being used by the Japs where the landing was made.







Three Gurkha warriors photographed near Ye-U with captured Japanese swords. They are Sub. Mahasher Lumba (Left) Sub. Manbahadur Rai (Centre) and Sub-Major Mansher Rai, of the 10th Gurkha Rifles.

received a direct hit at three yards' range from a Sherman's 75 mm. gun.

Bitter close-range fighting developed as the commandos worked their way up-hill. Here the defenders wasted their lives, leaving good positions which could have caused us casualties and blundering into our machine-gun fire in clumsy attempts to infiltrate.

One fanatic hurled himself empty-handed up a slope covered by bren-gunners. He got just about three paces. Our casualties were very light.

Enemy Positions Blasted

The hill was only an observation post when I visited it this morning (January 23). Gurkha patrols were still fanning out in the vicinity of Thanga and I could see tanks blasting enemy positions across a chaung over 1,000 yards away.

All around me troops were busy collecting and sorting out the abandoned equipment which littered the position. Every trench and pill-box was choked with ammunition boxes, food, rifles and personal possessions.

Underclothes, socks and tunics lay mixed with newspapers and the inevitable picture postcards. One of these showed Jap soldiers defending a heavily wired beach, with landing craft approaching under the shadow of Fujiyama, which towers over the scene.

Invasion of Japan already seems to be worrying their men. But these lay dead among the misery of their defeat, sprawled where they fell among their futile trenches and bunkers.

Nearby Indian engineers were already extending our newly-made supply road towards Thanga. Bulldozers were working almost within sight of the forward troops.

I drove back to Myebon, past columns of Gurkha and Baluch troops heading for the forward area. Yesterday this road had been under enemy shell and mortar fire and we lashed our protesting jeep over the bumpy surface amid the crump of explosives; on our left a small farm had been a perilous place where Jap snipers' bullets whined overhead.

It was quiet now. The enemy guns were silent, cows were grazing in the fields again and villagers were returning.

Two smiling Sikh signalmen sat in the crater of the "75" that had nearly got us yesterday. The forward observation post from where I had watched the attack on "Bugle" was a barn once more.

Each turn of the road revealed some position abandoned by the enemy—strongly-built, well-camouflaged pill-boxes and intricate trenches which must have cost him weeks of labour.

At Pagoda Hill, primary target of R.I.N. sloops which covered the attack, enough ammunition to hold up a brigade was stored. Vast reserves of rice, biscuits and tinned salmon also fell into our hands.

GALLANTRY OF R.I.N. LANDING CRAFT CREWS

History was made on the beaches of Myebon last week when the Royal Indian Navy's Landing Craft Wing—an entirely new branch of the Indian Armed Forces—had its baptism of fire in the first major amphibious action of the South East Asia Command, wrote an R.I.N. Observer from Myebon on January 21.

Warm tributes are paid by the other Services to these Indian sailors' gallantry and skilful seamanship in the face of fire. With shells bursting in the sea around them, the first wave of assault craft, loaded with Commandos, successfully negotiated the obstacles placed by the Japanese 100 yards from the low water mark and put the soldiers ashore in exemplary manner. Later waves of craft kept up a steady ferry service with reinforcements. Not even an attack by Japanese bombers put them off their stride.

Landing Craft Wing's Efficiency

At the occupation of Akyab also, the Landing Craft Wing won high praise for the efficiency with which it transported our troops according to schedule. "We are proud to have had them serving with us," said one high ranking army officer, summing up the crews' achievements.

Behind this story lies a record of strenuous training on quiet stretches of the Indian coast over the past two years. When, earlier in the war, plans were made for the expulsion of the Japs from Burma, the Royal Indian Navy assumed responsibility for providing landing craft crews and beach parties as well as maintaining the craft. New training and repair establishments sprang up.

Since the Navy could not itself provide all the officers and ratings required, volunteers were obtained from the Indian Army, and under the guidance of R.I.N. instructors became sailors. These soldiers-turned-sailors were largely drawn from Northern India. As drafts completed the course, they proceeded to Combined Training Centres, where, in conjunction with the Indian Army and the R.A.F., they practised amphibious warfare, applying to Eastern waters lessons learned at Madagascar, North Africa, Italy and Normandy.

At Akyab and on the Myebon peninsula the Landing Craft Wing secured its first eagerly awaited opportunity of taking part in the assault on Japanese-held South East Asia. It has conclusively shown the Japanese that it is a force to be reckoned with.

LORD LOUIS WRITES TO GURKHA V.C.

Rifleman Tulbahadur Pun, V.C., 6th Gurkha Rifles, has received a letter signed by Lord Louis Mountbatten. The letter reads:

"I am writing to convey to you my heartiest congratulations on the award of the Victoria Cross.

"Your magnificent display of initiative, personal bravery and superb leadership during the assault on Japanese bunker positions near the railway bridge at Mogaung was an inspiration to all ranks. Your outstanding devotion to duty is in accordance with the highest traditions of the service.

"My best wishes to you for every success in the future."

The letter was sent in an ordinary civilian envelope addressed to "Rifleman Tulbahadur Pun, V.C." and franked: "From Supreme Allied Commander, South East Asia."

Hav. Tulbahadur Pun's Reply

Tulbahadur Pun, who has since been promoted Havildar, has replied as follows:—

"Sir, I very humbly accept the congratulations which you send me. May God give me strength again to render to the Government such service and faithfully to carry out my duties. I pray with all my heart that I may continue to be worthy of the great honour which the Government has conferred upon me.

"You, Sir, bear a great part in the efforts to terminate this war and I always pray that your efforts will be successful. Good fortune be yours.—Your Obedient Servant, Tulbahadur Pun, Havildar."

Havildar Tulbahadur Pun wrote the letter himself in Hindi. A translation was sent by his battalion personally to Lord Louis Mountbatten.



A patrol party of the 18th Royal Garhwal Rifles on the Burma Front.

JAP-KILLING GARHWALIS' THIRD SEASON IN BURMA

STURDY young battle-seasoned warriors from homes hugging the snowline on the Himalayan ranges to the west of Nepal have recently completed their third season of killing Japs on the Burma Front.

These men of a battalion of the 18th Royal Garhwal Rifles have fought through some of the toughest battles of the whole South East Asia campaign, winning the complete respect of Irishmen of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers in the grim battle of Yenangyaung in the first Burma campaign and of a battalion of the Lincolnshire Regiment for their determination and fearlessness in the past two Arakan campaigns.

Killed 400 Japs in One Action

After the fall of Rangoon the Garhwalis killed 400 Japs in one action, in spite of difficulties of supplies and water. They proved their doggedness again when the Japs attacked the Seventh Indian Division's "box"; at Hill 1070, a commanding feature on the Jap-infested Ngakyedauk Pass, they resisted for five days.

Next they were committed to clear 200 Japs from Point 202. During this battle, assisted by a platoon of the Lincolns, the Garhwalis took their first prisoners.

Fighting hand-to-hand again the Garhwalis went for the Japs on the eastern end of the Maungdaw-Buthidaung road. In this action, which lasted four days, a young Indian officer from Allahabad, Major C. O. Tobit, led his whole company up a gradient covered by heavy enemy fire.

The Garhwalis suffered 50 casualties in one day but they did not give up. Later, at "Bunny Bay," they killed 50 Japs in a couple of hours.

In the hardest of all their battles, when our troops were preparing to fall back on the monsoon line, the Garhwalis, helped by air-strikes, tanks and artillery, accounted for 350 Japs killed in 22 hours.

Jemadar Baldeb Singh, of Julangi, Monivar Patti, beat off five attacks. He was last heard shouting to his men to use kukris. In another sector Havildar Gabar Singh Risht, of Katkaliyani, Pindar Par Patti, killed 30 Japs with his two sections.

Before retiring through a defile covered by the Lincolns the Garhwalis added 129 more dead Japs to their score.

R.I.N.'S PART IN ATTACK ON RAMREE ISLAND

Kyaukpyu Occupation a New Threat to Jap Life-Line

ONLY nine days separated the successful assault on the Myebon peninsula from the landing by troops of the 26th Indian Division on the northern shore of Ramree Island. This third amphibious operation on the west coast of Burma was probably on a bigger scale than the earlier ones at Akyab and Myebon, writes an R.I.N. Observer. I watched it from the bridge of an Indian motor launch of the Arakan Coastal Forces, leading the first wave of R.I.N. assault craft to the beach.

As we started the run in, a cruiser opened fire on the area between Dalhousie Fort and Georgina Point. Although the cruiser was several miles astern of us, the clamour of her guns was deafening. Wicked yellow flashes were followed, after an interval of several seconds, by a thunder clap that seemed to tear the skies apart, and then by a heavier detonation as the salvo exploded among the trees flanking the beach. Great fountains of smoke, earth and tree fragments spurted up where the shells had landed.

Destroyers and sloops, manned by British, Australian and Indian sailors, took up positions within two miles of the hostile shore and commenced bombarding with their 4.7 and 4-inch guns. We could hear the shells whistling over our heads and for a brief moment pitied the Japanese defenders.

Strafing From Tree Height

Five minutes before the first assault craft touched down, successive squadrons of Liberators and Mitchells pattern-bombed strongpoints at the western end of the beach, while Thunderbolts strafed it from tree height. Altogether, close on 300 British and American aircraft supported the assault. This concentrated pummelling almost completely eliminated opposition on the beach itself. And soon British and Indian troops were swarming ashore, to be followed within half an hour by tanks and artillery. All day the big transports lay at anchor, while landing craft ferried reinforcements, motor transport, fuel, food and stores to the beach.

At dusk enemy aircraft approached, but were intercepted and driven off by Spitfires. Last night (January 24) we went to action stations and listened to the drone of enemy aircraft flying high above us in the moonlit clouds. An impressive barrage from the warships seemed to have the desired effect, for no attack developed.

Air superiority was, in fact, the keystone round which the successful operation was built. We had more aircraft over Ramree Island than the enemy could muster in the whole of South East Asia. This meant that the fleet was practically immune from attack, and the troops did not have to fight their way ashore with heavy casualties—as might well have been the case if the beach defenders had not first been "debunkered" by naval and air bombardment.

Japs in Full Retreat

Within 12 hours of the landing the Japanese were in full retreat southward. They may try to stand before the township of Ramree, 40 miles south of Kyaukpyu, but they must know they are fighting a losing battle. Just across the water from Ramree is Taungup—the " elbow-joint" of the enemy's line of communication to the Arakan Front.

That thin life-line, on which the Japanese in Arakan depend for their food, ammunition and petrol, winds for 120 miles from the railhead at Prome, in the Irrawaddy valley, across the inhospitable Arakan Yoma by way of the Taungup Pass, and down the mountainside to the small port of Taungup. Here it branches. An indifferent road, skirting the mangrove swamps, runs northward to Minbya and Myohaung, while powered barges and country craft thread their way through the myriad muddy chaungs which criss-cross the swampland in which thousands of Japanese troops are now virtually marooned.

The occupation of Kyaukpyu provides us with yet another air base on the Japanese flank. It is within 90 minutes of either Mandalay or Rangoon, as the bomber flies. The harbour is capable of accommodating large merchant ships and is more sheltered than Akyab during the south-west monsoon.

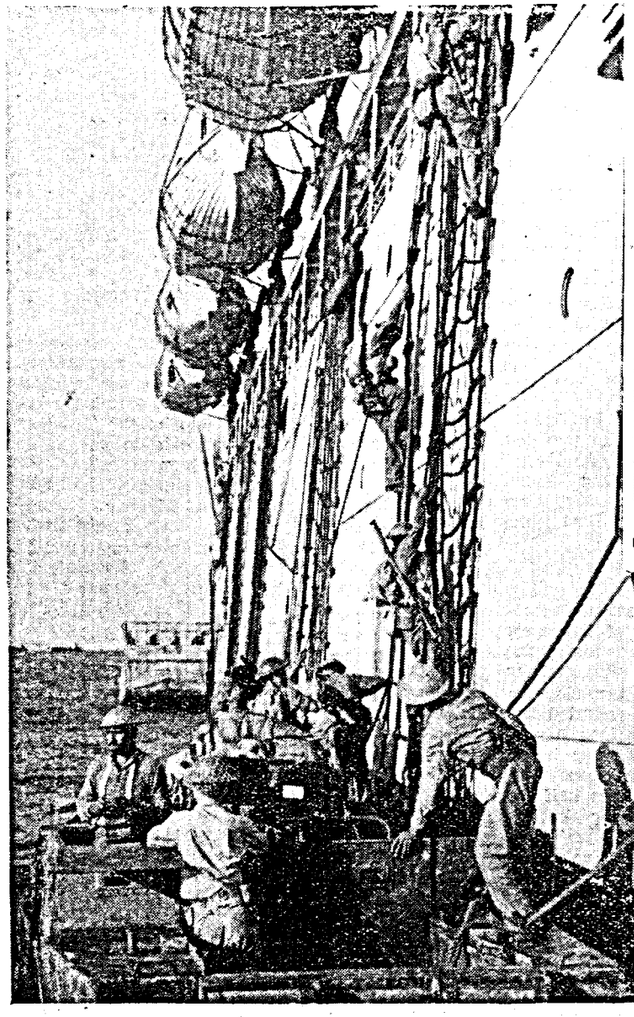
NEW Q.M.G. IN INDIA

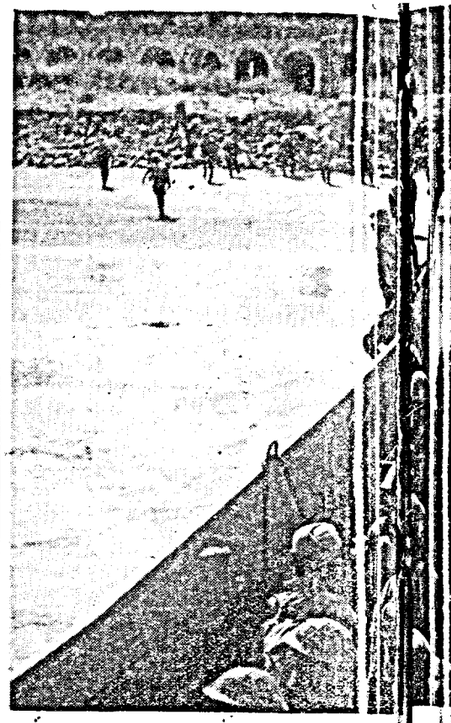
Newly arrived in India is Lieut.-Gen. Alfred Reade Godwin-Austen, C.B., O.B.E., M.C., who has succeeded Lieut.-Gen. B. O. Hutchison, C.B., C.B.E., as Quartermaster General in India. Gen. Hutchison is returning to the United Kingdom on sick leave.

Until he took up his new appointment, Lt.-Gen. Godwin-Austen was Vice-Quartermaster General in Britain. He is a nephew of Lt.-Col. H. H. Godwin-Austen who surveyed K2 in the Karakoram Range, and established that it was the second highest mountain in the world.

THE RAMREE LANDINGS—

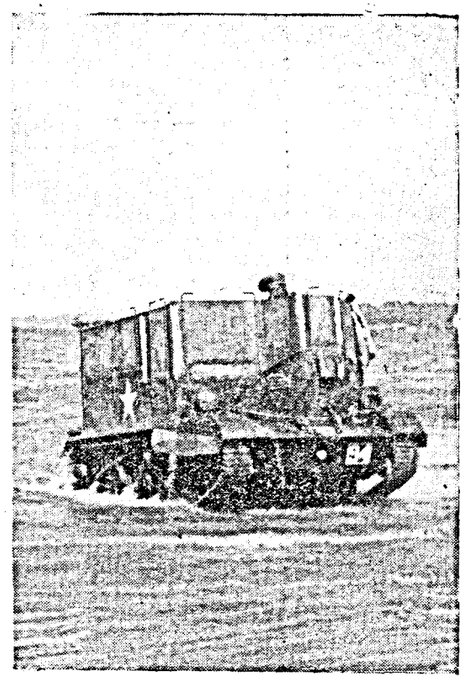
Allied troops landed on the north-west coast of Ramree Island, 80 miles south of Akyab, on January 21. The landing—the third successful combined operation on the Arakan coast—was unopposed, but was followed by heavy fighting.





Punjabis leaving the landing craft at the Kyauk yu beach. In the background are shell-battered buildings.

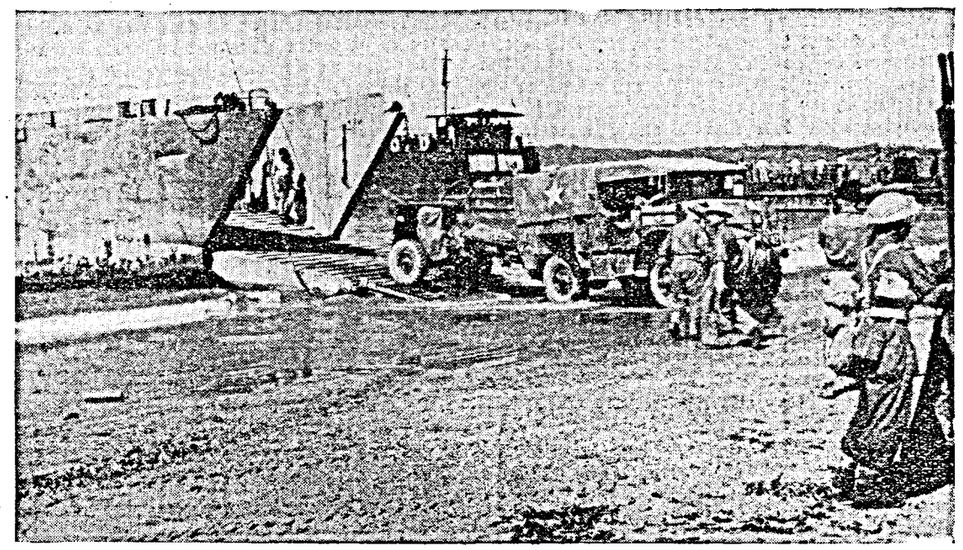




A Bren carrier comes ashore from the landing craft at Kyaukpyu. (Below) A truck hauls a 25-pounder from the landing craft for the inland assault.



Punjabi troops board an R.I.N. landing craft from a merchant ship before the attack at Kyaukpyu—the chief town of the island. (Right) R.I.N. ships escort landing craft to the objective.



CIVIL AFFAIRS STAFF BRING ORDER BACK TO AKYAB

AKYAB'S liberation has brought relief to the population of the island and supplies are now available to the populace at prices controlled by the Civil Affairs staff, writes an Indian Army Observer with the 25th Indian Division.

Rice which used to be Rs. 14 a basket (24 lbs.) is now fixed at Re. 1 to Rs. 1-4. Matches, costing a matter of annas per packet of 12 boxes instead of Rs. 8 a box under Japanese control, are plentiful. Further supplies of consumer goods such as soap, cooking oil, *dhal* and salt are being flown into the airstrip and distributed through a central shop. Destitutes are provided for by the Civil Affairs' own welfare department—food, housing, and garments being issued free.

Useless Jap Notes

Loom spinning has started now that cotton yarn is on sale at workable prices and facilities for pottery-making will soon be provided for those with experience in the trade.

The fantastic inflation of prices under Jap rule is illustrated by the cost of cotton *lungyis*. The Japanese rate was fabulous and only a few could pay the sum of Rs. 250. The result was that most people's attire was dirty old rags—the lack of soap making it impossible to wash both clothes and body adequately.

Useless Japanese notes are now selling at 15 Jap rupees for one Indian—this is quite unofficial and souvenir hunters are the only buyers.

Government servants from hideaway holes in occupied territory are applying for their old jobs back and those whose conduct during the Japanese occupation has put no obstacle in the way of their re-employment are receiving on account of the Burma Government back pay at full rates for four months and half rates for 21 months.

Medical Attention

Medical attention is in full swing and very shortly a hospital for civilians only will be opened.

After careful inquiry and sifting of evidence from the victims, Major G. Clift, District Superintendent of Police in Akyab until 1942, has compiled a record of terrible near-death tortures used strictly in the interests of Japanese military aims. There are no cases of sadism for its own sake.

For withholding Indian currency notes the price paid by the culprit was to be tied upside down for several hours at a time. A man who was caught hiding more rice than was permitted was given one or more of the 14 different tortures which are not fit to be described.



A Civil Affairs Officer examines the wounds of a Chin elder who was suspended from the wrists by telephone wire by the Japs for his pro-British sympathies.

One of the more common methods of punishing minor offenders was to put them in cold water to freeze.

The net result of all this was to institute a reign of terror quite unimaginable anywhere other than on an island from which it was far too risky to attempt escape. There were no boats and sentries guarded all possible places where a man could swim.

COLLARS AND TIES FOR TROOPS

Troops in India may now wear khaki collars and ties with battle dress or bush shirt, says an Indian Army Order.

The Order applies to V.C.O.s Indian Warrant Officers, Class I and B.O.R.s.

Collars and ties may be worn when the men are off duty, in barracks, on leave, walking out, working in offices or attending lectures or similar indoor instruction.

The issue of shirts with collars attached and khaki ties may be delayed until materials become available but men may buy their own.

THE 1ST PATIALA INFANTRY'S EXPLOITS IN BURMA

Col. Balwant Singh's Broadcast

THE remarkable story of the 300-year-old 1st Patiala Infantry's two and a half years in the Burma jungle, during which they accounted for over 1,000 Japs dead and wounded, was given by Col. Balwant Singh, C.B.E., O.B.I., the regiment's commanding officer, in a talk broadcast recently from the New Delhi studios of All India Radio.

From May, 1942, when it fought a series of gruelling rearguard actions during the withdrawal from Burma, the 1st Patiala Infantry has fought steadily through almost every phase of the Burma operations.

It covered the advance of the first Wingate Expedition and at a later stage despatched three columns to create a diversion and aid the hard-pressed Chindits. It fought in the Chindwin valley, in the Kabaw valley, on the Tamu road, and around Ukhrul.

At harassing the enemy's communications and the organising of deep-range penetration patrols the Patiala forces proved adept.

Noteworthy Achievements

"Particularly noteworthy," said Col. Balwant Singh, "are the achievements of one column, 120 strong, which forced its way through 350 miles of jungle in the Chin Hills area and after a trek of only 21 days returned with much valuable intelligence.

"One patrol operating on the east of the Upper Chindwin coolly occupied Paungbyin, where a Jap headquarters was located. Our men remained in possession for two days; before withdrawing we evacuated scores of Indian and Burman refugees, besides some Persian traders, and then destroyed everything of value to the enemy."

Daring Exploit

During the recent Jap 'invasion,' the Patiala forces at their own request were given the job of cutting up communications in the enemy's rear in the Ukhrul region. At the height of their operations they completely severed Jap lines of supply for ten days, seriously interfering with the enemy's plans.

"Some of our men," said Col. Balwant Singh, "distinguished themselves in a manner which will always be a source of pride not only in our regiment but throughout the Indian States' Forces.



Col. Balwant Singh of the 300-year-old First Patiala Rajendra Sikh Infantry.

"Particularly daring was the exploit of Havildar Mohinder Singh, of Mahraj village, Ferozepore, who with one man penetrated unobserved an enemy headquarters.

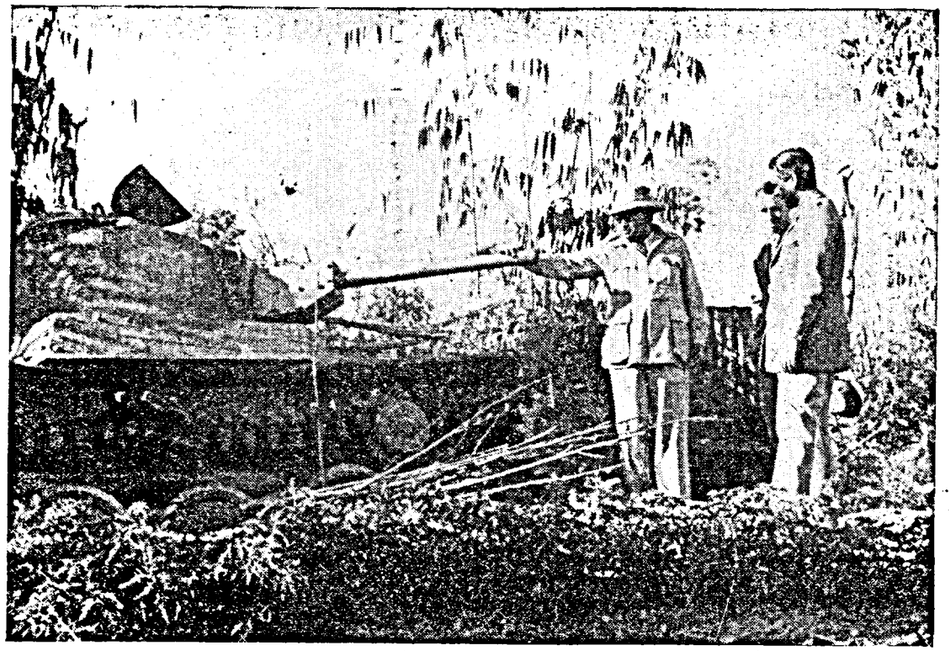
"When the battalion launched their main attack he leaped up with his companion in the midst of the enemy and fell on them with a will. The Japs were so confused by the unexpected appearance of our men, that they fled, leaving their dead. The battalion suffered one casualty."

INDIAN ARMY'S 18TH V.C.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 167)

"The great bravery of this Gurkha rifleman was instrumental in saving the lives of many of his companions and his outstanding devotion to duty contributed largely to the reverse the enemy eventually suffered when our troops counter-attacked," says the citation. "His name will live in the history of the regiment as a very gallant soldier."

Rifleman Sher Bahadur Thapa enlisted in November, 1942. He was unmarried.



Sir J. P. Srivastava recently visited the battle-scarred fields on both sides of Bishenpore Road littered with disabled Japanese tanks and armoured cars. Here, the Food Member is examining a knocked out Japanese tank.

FOOD MEMBER'S TRIBUTE TO THE INDIAN SOLDIER

INTERVIEWED on his return to Delhi after a two-day visit to Imphal in the last week of January, during which he inspected hospitals and reception camps, Sir J. P. Srivastava paid a glowing tribute to our "young, sturdy and cheerful" soldiers on the Eastern Front who are "beating back the enemy, destroying Japanese troops and Japanese equipment."

"Whatever Allied forces administer the final fatal blow to Japan," he said, "the Indian Army has played a crucial part on the Imphal Front in battering not only the might but the extravagant pride and self-confidence of the enemy. One stops to look at these men with no little respect and reverence."

"I went to areas," he continued, "where intense fighting has taken place. The once fertile fields present a scarred appearance with shell-holes, burnt trees and absence of vegetation. I talked to a number of civilians who had left their villages or had been evacuated, leaving behind their houses, cattle and most of the belongings. They were full of praise for our troops who had enabled them to return to their homes. The populace shows a refreshing power of recuperation, and to-day in many places the ravages of war are scarcely visible.

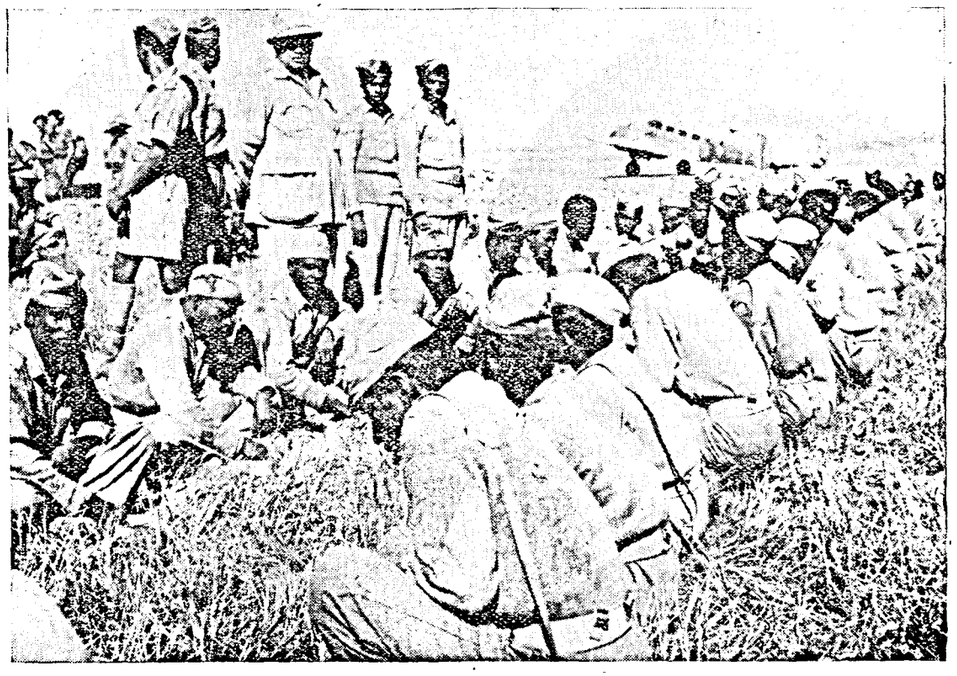
Aid to Burmese Villagers

"The work of rehabilitation is proceeding apace, aided by the Government of India. People have returned to their villages, and have been provided with building materials for the reconstruction of their huts and in many places temporary shelters have been erected for them. As their fields are not likely to be ready for cultivation for some time, they are being fed by the Government. Measures are also well in hand to send increasing numbers of livestock which the Japanese, during their brief occupation, had slaughtered and eaten.

"I heard it from all sides that at the moment of great ordeal, the civilian population, no less than the fighting forces, faced the situation in this theatre of war with courage and calm confidence. The people's morale was excellent and



During his tour, the Food Member had an opportunity of seeing the progress of rehabilitation work undertaken by the special officer, Mr. J. H. Butter. The villagers who had been driven away by bombs and shells have returned in large numbers to rebuild their homes and resume cultivation.



Sir J. P. Srivastava sees Madras Pioneers at lunch.

they gave no quarter to the enemy. During their occupation of the territory, the Japanese established a stern military *raj* and despoiled the people of whatever they needed. They at first tried to pay their dues in Japanese notes and when these were not accepted by the people, counterfeit notes of the Government of India were issued. Most of these have now been surrendered by the people at the Imphal Treasury.

"I inspected the base hospitals and transit camps and talked freely to Indian officers and men, all of whom were in great spirit and form. Watching them, captains, colonels and others of lesser or greater rank, only re-emphasises their sober confidence and unrivalled gift of good cheer, and I felt very proud indeed of my countrymen who have once again proved their worth on the field of battle.

'Holi' in Rangoon

"The rapid advance which our troops are making in the forward areas, has raised high hopes and they are all anxious to play their part in winning back Burma. When I was there, everybody was expectant, eager to hear the fall of Mandalay and one Subedar to whom I talked, said he hoped to be the first to enter Rangoon before Holi! Where men from every part of India have done so well it is difficult to make comparisons, but I was told that the grim Gurkha with his kukri has proved himself to be a terror to the sneaky Jap.



A combined hospital for British and Indian troops was also visited by the Food Member.



Sir J. P. Srivastava (third from left) talking to Mr. C. Gimson (second from right) Political Agent, Manipur, at the Residency—the buildings and attractive grounds of which suffered damage from enemy bombing. Lady Wylie (wife of Sir Francis Wylie, Political Adviser to H.E. the Crown Representative) is on the extreme right.

"The Reception Camp is a model of neatness and organisation; kitchen arrangements are excellent, the food was good; there was a reading room and a playground and even an Amusement hall where occasionally there are dance and music performances. B.O.R.s and I.O.R.s mix freely together and a true spirit of comradeship exists between them. During my visit, I could not help feeling that here was the material which was going to play a prominent part in the India of tomorrow. These men had learnt valuable lessons while in the army, and they are sure to apply the benefit of this not only to their lives but also to the lives of their fellow countrymen. I would strongly appeal to my countrymen to extend to these heroes their kindliness and sympathy. They would welcome any token of regard and affection which we can send them.

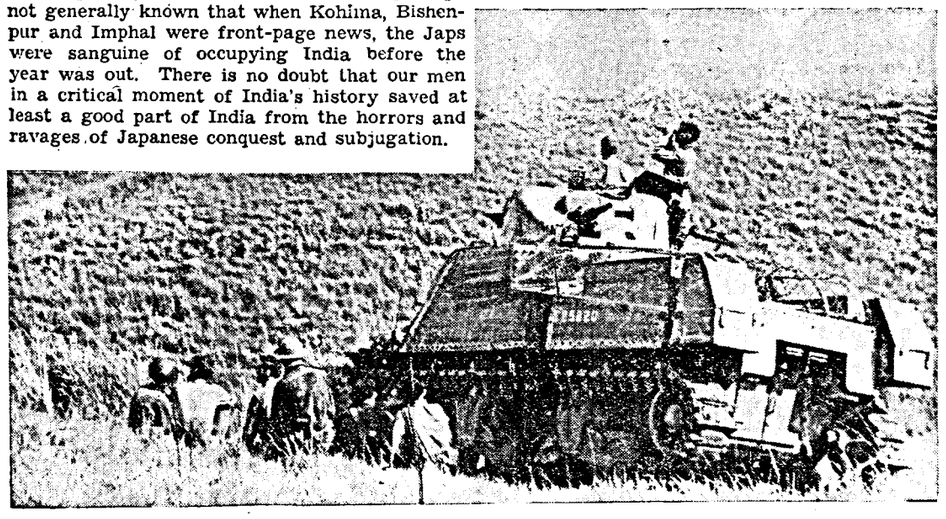
Appeal to Indian Women

"The W.V.S. and the W.A.C. (I)'s are doing a splendid job of work, but the personnel of these consists very largely of non-Indian women. Our Indian sisters should not lag behind. There is a good job to be done by them in the forward areas and I should like to make an earnest appeal to our young women not to lose this opportunity of service. Officers in charge of hospitals, which are so well run and equipped and which have saved the lives of thousands of our countrymen, complained to me of the paucity of Indian nurses. It is perhaps not generally known that when Kohima, Bishenpur and Imphal were front-page news, the Japs were sanguine of occupying India before the year was out. There is no doubt that our men in a critical moment of India's history saved at least a good part of India from the horrors and ravages of Japanese conquest and subjugation.

"Small supplies of light literature, daily papers in different languages, indoor games, wireless sets and gramophones, materials for occupational therapy, such as carpentry tools, wool and needles for knitting and embroidery, goat-skins for leather work, oil paints, water colours and such materials would be greatly appreciated. I have spoken about these to H.E. the Commander-in-Chief, who has authorised me to state that he himself would see that all such gifts, meant for the troops, reach the proper persons.

"The impression that I have brought away is that the war on the Eastern Front is going on extraordinarily well, that our troops are in the best of spirits and that it is only a matter of little time, when the enemy will be expelled from Burma and no small part of the credit for this will go to our Indian troops.

"Our Indian officers whom I met in Imphal struck me as being second to none. They are giving of their best to the attainment of victory, which they are sure will be ours in a very short time. They were not by any means tired or homesick. In fact, one of the jolliest functions which I have attended in recent times was an after-dinner party given by Indian officers who had recently received promotion. Some of these were going into action in a day or two and were full of confidence and enthusiasm, and their courage and cheerfulness was contagious. Our men at the front deserve the gratefulness of every Indian in the country."



Tanks of the Indian Armoured Corps have played a notable part in the fighting on the Burma front.

IMPROVEMENT IN HEALTH OF ARMY IN INDIA

THE general health of the Army in India in 1943 showed an improvement over the previous year.

In the case of the British Army, while not as good in the years immediately preceding 1940, the bill of health showed a great improvement over 1942 and a less marked though definite improvement over 1941. Health in the Indian Army was better in 1943 than in 1942 but less good than in 1941 and the immediately preceding years.

These general findings are given in the annual report on the health of the Army in India in 1943, a lengthy document, largely statistical, covering every aspect of servicemen's health in India.

The admissions to hospital ratios per thousand of strength for 1942 and 1943 show the improvement which was achieved:

	1942	1943
British officers	.. 1098.9	930.4
British other ranks	.. 979.1	847.2
Indian officers	.. 708.9	655.0
Indian other ranks	.. 746.5	742.7

Sickness Rates

Comparing the sickness rates in India during this war with those for World War I the Report remarks:

"It is apparent that sick rates in India during the last war were also very high. For officers 1917 and 1918 both exceeded the figure for 1943. For other ranks 1918 much exceeded the rate for 1943, 1915 almost equalled it and 1916 and 1917 were somewhat better.

"The years 1914 to 1918 were in India no different from years of peace, with British troops living in relatively healthy cantonments and their daily routine scarcely affected by a war waged far beyond India's borders.

"In 1943 India felt the full blast of a major war on her frontier in the most unhealthy region in the world. The year 1943, although not subject to quite so uniquely adverse health factors as 1942, was yet a year of exceptional difficulty for India; in view of this it is considered that the sick rates for 1943 can be considered as being satisfactory."

Malaria came highest among the infections to which the Army is prone. In the case of British other ranks it accounted for 198 per thousand admissions to hospital, an increase of 34, and 192 per thousand Indian other ranks.

In a special section the Report deals with nutritional problems, to which increasing attention was paid during 1943. It points out that with the onset of the malaria season in Assam a weakness was revealed in nutritional reserves necessary for protection against the disease, due to the bad climate, the strenuous operations in which the fighting men were engaged and the difficulty of supplying full and fresh rations.

CLAIMS COMMISSION FOR ARMY DAMAGE CASES

Constituted under the Government of India, War Department, a Claims Commission (India) came into operation on January 1. Headquarters of the Commission are in Simla and its executive officers are located in areas under North-West Army and Central Command, Sind, Lahore and Delhi districts and at headquarters of various lines of communication areas throughout India.

The Claims Commission will deal with claims in India made by or against the Armed Forces (British, Indian, Dominion and Allied), or the Central Government. Such claims may arise out of traffic accidents, training and manœuvres and other occurrences in which injury or loss of life or damage to civilian property has resulted and for which responsibility is accepted by the Armed Forces or the Central Government.

Compensation Officers

The Commission is also responsible for advising the Commander-in-Chief in India regarding regulations designed to minimise accidents and damage. It will, in addition, maintain records of all claims and claimants.

The new procedure to be adopted in the case of traffic accidents in which military vehicles are involved is laid down in an Indian Army Order.

Compensation officers will be appointed by brigades where exercises are liable to cause damage to property or crops. The Commission will also investigate cases where the Services make claims against civilians for injury to Service personnel or damage to Service property.

GEN. AUCHINLECK ENTERTAINS AFGHAN MILITARY MISSION

ON the conclusion of the Afghan Military Mission's visit to India a dinner was given in their honour by the Commander-in-Chief in India, General Sir Claude Auchinleck.

"I think we may say that this visit is an outward and visible sign of the friendly relations existing between Afghanistan and India and with His Britannic Majesty's Government in Great Britain," said the Commander-in-Chief, proposing the health of Lieut.-Gen. Muhammad Umar Khan and the officers of the Mission.

He hoped that they would take away with them some idea of what was being done in India to make an efficient base for operations in South East Asia Command under the control of Lord Louis Mountbatten.

Replying to the toast, Lieut.-General Muhammad Umar Khan, Chief of the General Staff of the Afghan Army, said: "It is the first time that an Afghan Military Mission of this size has visited India or has been given such extensive facilities for studying the production of all types of war material and the training of officers and men of the Indian, British and American armies.

"We have been much impressed by the thoroughness and efficiency of the training that is being given and by the sympathy and understanding which exists between the officers and their men of whatever nationality."

In an extensive seven weeks' tour, the Mission saw a wide variety of Army, I.A.F. and R.I.N. training centres and war factories in all parts of India and later studied jungle warfare conditions in Assam and Manipur. They made



H.E. General Sir Claude Auchinleck talking to Lt.-Gen. Muhammad Umar Khan (Centre) Chief of the General Staff, Afghan Army. On the left is Lt.-Gen. Sir A. Hook, Director of Medical Services, India Command.

a special survey of the actions which took place in the battlefields of Bishenpur and Kohima.

Among those present at the dinner were M. Muhd. Shafi, Royal Afghan Consul General, M. Ali Motamedy, Iranian Consul General, the Hon'ble Mr. Shen, Chinese Commissioner, the Hon'ble Sir Mahomed Usman, Member for Posts and Air, Government of India, Sir Olaf Caroe, Foreign Secretary, Lieut.-Gen. Sir John Swayne, Chief of General Staff, Lt.-Gen. Sir Wilfrid Lindsell, Principal Administrative Officer, India Command, Lt.-Gen. A. R. Godwin-Austin, Quarter Master General, Lt.-Gen. R. B. Deedes, Adjutant-General, Vice-Admiral J. H. Godfrey, F.O.C., R.I.N., A|Marshal L. N. Hollinghurst, Air Marshal Commanding B.A.F.S.E.A., Air V|Marshal Thomas, A.O.C., India, Lt.-Gen. S'r Alexander Hood, Director of Medical Services, War Office, Lt.-Gen. C. J. S. King, Mr. Churchill's personal representative on welfare matters, Lt.-Gen. G. Wilson, Director of Medical Services, India, Brig. Gen. J. A. Warden, Commanding General S.O.S., India Burma Theatre, Col. Irving Dooh, Chinese Resident Military Officer, Lt.-Gen. Sir Thomas Hutton, War Resources Committee.

GEORGE FORMBY IN INDIA

Complete with the inseparable ukelele and the broadest of broad grins a familiar figure stepped from a 'plane at a western India airport. It was "George"—the inimitable George Formby, famous alike on the British stage and screen.

"George" has travelled from the United Kingdom to entertain troops of the 14th Army in fulfilment of Basin Dean's policy to provide more and better stars for men in the forward areas. Accompanied by his wife and business manager, Beryl, "George" will make a brief appearance in Bombay.

Patricia Burke

Troops will see and hear him in some of his biggest hits. He will also sing songs from his latest film which has not yet been shown in London.

Another new arrival among the topflight stars is Patricia Burke, daughter of the famous Marie Burke, who is at present entertaining 14th Army troops. Patricia Burke has been outstanding as principal boy in pantomimes and, like George Formby, is looking forward to meeting and cheering the men on the Burma Front.

GEN. AUCHINLECK VISITS MILITARY UNITS IN AJMER

THE Commander-in-Chief in India, General Sir Claude Auchinleck, recently concluded a short tour of military units in Ajmer and Nasirabad.

The tour began with a visit to the B.B. and C.I. Railway workshops, where the C.-in-C. saw various stages of manufacture and repair work being carried out on the engines.

He then drove to the K.G.R.I.M. School, where he inspected the boys on parade. "Discipline and self-control are two very important points you should never lose sight of," General Auchinleck told the boys. "While you are here, work hard and play hard, they go together."

From the K.G.R.I.M. School the C.-in-C. proceeded to the Church of Scotland Mission High School for the daughters of V.C.O.s, N.C.O.s, and men of the Indian Army.

His Excellency later visited the Recruiting Office for Rajputana and Central India and the Recruits' Reception Camp. At the Recruiting Office the C.-in-C. met two old friends, Lieut.-Colonel B. L. Cole and Lieut.-Colonel G. Howson, C.I.E., M.C., who had served in the Army with him at Bareilly in 1904.

From Ajmer General Auchinleck drove to Nasirabad, where he spent the evening inspecting the Boys' Company of the 4th Bombay Grenadiers and the Ajmer Regiment. Next morning the C.-in-C. continued his inspection of the centre, watching recruits doing rifle drill, weapon training, bayonet practice and P.T.

To round off his tour His Excellency presented Colours to the combined company of boys of the Bombay Grenadiers and the Ajmer Regiment. On the same parade he presented a gallantry award and several decorations for long and meritorious service to V.C.O.s and N.C.O.s of the Centre.

In his farewell address to the officers of the centre the C.-in-C. told them how pleased he was to see such a well run training establishment.

BAHAWALPUR MOBILE CANTEEN UNIT

His Highness the Nawab of Bahawalpur has generously contributed a further sum of Rs. 5,000 to H.E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund towards the equipment of the Bahawalpur Mobile Canteen Unit.



Sir J. P. Srivastava, Food Member, opening the fifth All-India Food Conference in New Delhi.

THE FIFTH ALL-INDIA FOOD CONFERENCE

RATIONING, "Grow More Food" drive, Government monopoly procurement and protective foods formed the subject matter of resolutions passed by the Fifth All-India Food Conference which met at New Delhi on January 29, under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Sir J. P. Srivastava, Member for Food, Government of India.

The session lasted five days and was attended by representatives from provinces and States and the Regional Food Commissioners of the Central Government. Members of the Famine Enquiry Commission and Mr. A. Dibdin, Secretary, Economic and Overseas Department of the India Office, London, were present by special invitation.

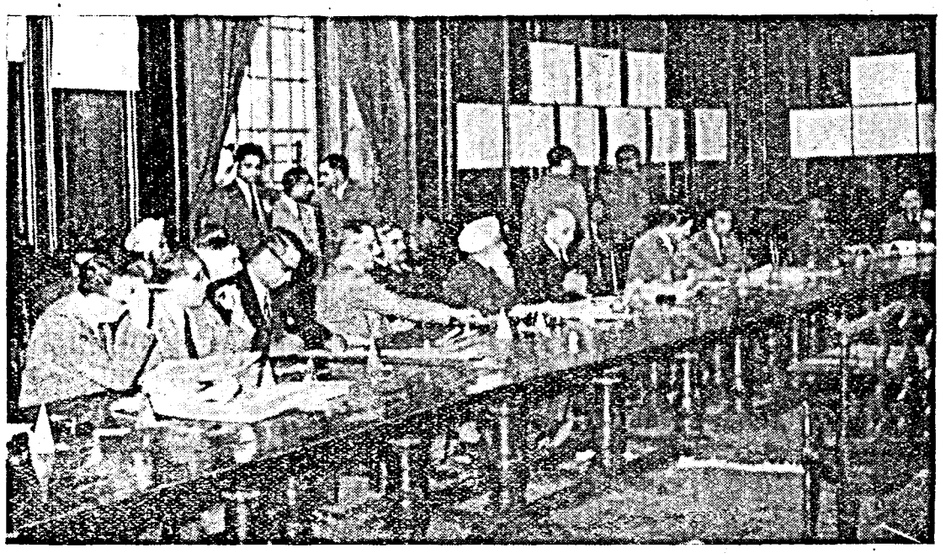
Inaugurating the Conference, Sir J. P. Srivastava said:

"Gentlemen,—Before I refer to the business of this Conference I cannot let the occasion pass without a reference to the sense of personal as well as public loss which I feel at the untimely death of Sir Chhotu Ram. His eloquent and sincere advocacy, and his experienced advice will be sorely missed by us all, and I am sure you would wish me to tender our sincerest sympathy to his relatives and to the Government of the Punjab.

"I am happy to welcome once again to a Food Conference at New Delhi the representatives of the Provinces and States. We have with us today Sir John Woodhead and Members of the Famine Enquiry Commission. We are grateful to them for their presence, and I hope that our deliberations will assist them in their difficult and laborious task.

"I am also glad to welcome Mr. Dibdin, the Secretary, Economic and Overseas Department of the India Office. His presence, at our invitation and as our guest, is a practical demonstration of the desire of the Secretary of State for India to maintain the closest possible contact with us over our food problems and to share in the efforts which we have made to deal with them. His stay in this country must, we regret, be brief, but he hopes, after this Conference, to visit as many different parts of India as he can to acquaint himself with conditions on the spot, and I am sure he will receive everywhere a warm welcome and the most willing assistance.

"Now Gentlemen, as to the origin and purpose of this Conference; you will remember that the last occasion on which we had a conference of this nature was in October 1943 when we



The Conference in session: Representatives of Provincial and State Governments and the Regional Food Commissioners of the Government of India were among those who attended.

were considering and had to determine our policy in the light of the recommendations of the Foodgrains Policy Committee. In the period which has elapsed since then considerable progress has been made in our procurement of supplies, in the distribution of those supplies to deficit areas, in the control of prices, and in the extension of rationing. This has been achieved by the steadfastness and co-operation of the Food Administrations in the Provinces and States and at the Centre in carrying out the co-ordinated all-India policy which we adopted at our last Conference.

"I am grateful for the efforts which you have made and for the support which you have given me. I know very well that there have been many difficulties to overcome, and not the least, difficulties of providing the necessary personnel for the huge administrative task to which we were pledged, difficulties of movement unavoidable in the circumstances which war has forced upon us, and difficulties of psychology in a country which was passing through a period of unprecedented strain and anxiety.

"These difficulties have been faced with courage and determination, though many of them remain and will continue to remain so long as the strain of war continues. Nevertheless, I believe that confidence in the ability of Government to forestall shortages, to maintain supplies, and to control the prices of the basic



Mr. A. Dibdin (left) of the India Office, London, with Mr. N. N. Wanchoo, Deputy Secretary of the Food Department.

cereals has largely been restored, and that this confidence is justified by the stocks which you have been able to build up and by the distribution machinery which you have established.

"In the course of the extensive tours which I have made I have been impressed by the necessity for securing the association of responsible public opinion with the operations of Government in food control. I am sure that such association has been found, and will be found, a very great asset, and I should like to see the practice extended in all parts of India.

"Progress" Our Watchword

"Whatever we have achieved I am certain of one thing, namely, that we cannot stand still. We have a long way to go before we can be satisfied either that the food available to the people in all parts of India conforms in quantity and quality to what we should wish, or that we can afford to relax for one instant our vigilance and our efforts to assure and improve supplies. In our work during the past 18 months we have encountered not only new difficulties with old problems but new problems altogether. While, then, our watchword must be "PROGRESS", a time has been reached, I feel, when we can and should meet together, and in the light of experience which we have gained, survey what should be our policy for the future, to remove defects, consolidate the ground which we have gained, and make further advances for the better feeding of our people.

"Experience in other countries and with other kinds of commodities indicates that Government controls which start with limited objectives are bound to widen their scope more and more so long as normal conditions are not restored, and in this Conference we shall be considering how to improve and widen our procurement of the principal foodgrains and how to turn the necessity for control to advantage by improving the constitution of diets in different parts of the country, and by making special provision to secure an adequate supply of the protective foods, especially to those sections of the community which stand most in need of them.

Nutrition and Protective Foods

"In dealing with methods of procurement you have had the advantage of studying the Hon'ble Somerset Butler's report which, in my view, presents an admirable objective record of what has been attempted, and what is actually being done today in many parts of India which have felt with particular severity the pressure of restricted supplies. You will recall that at the Conference of October, 1943, the Fourth Food Conference, we undertook to study the question of Government Monopoly purchase. Mr. Butler's report and our preliminary views upon it, which we have communicated to you, are the fruit of that undertaking, and we hope to obtain your views at this Conference.

"In connection with procurement and the Basic Plan I must mention the difficulties which we have encountered in getting the surpluses of some of the important subsidiary foods, such as gram and pulses, and also the edible oils, moving into the deficit areas and into consumption there. I hope that in the course of our discussions we shall obtain your views as to our course of action in respect of them.

"In dealing with nutrition and protective foods, you will, I hope, all be able to bring to bear the knowledge which you have gained in your own efforts to deal with the problems involved. It is difficult for us at the Centre, without unduly burdening you with constant enquiries, to keep ourselves fully informed of the details of these problems which vary so greatly in kind and in intensity in different places. We at the Centre hope that at the Conference we shall be able to learn from you what you have done, what are your plans for the future, what are your difficulties, and how we can help you.

"I am aware that much good work has been done by the Command Coordination Committees and their associated Provincial Committees to survey resources, increase production, allocate supplies and remove competition in purchase for the needs of civilians and the Defence Services. Such coordination is, however, not yet universal or complete, as I found for instance on my recent visit to Assam, and I hope that with your help and advice we can go far to make it more so.

Storage and Movement

"Your deliberations on these matters will, I am confident, prove of particular value to our new forward planning section, which under the able direction of Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao will study and advise us upon these and connected problems. This section, as you know, will be concerned with both long-term and short-term policy directed towards improving the national diet, and although their researches will cover a much wider field the means of getting the protective foods into consumption in adequate quantities must be an important consideration. I would ask you to give every co-operation to Dr. Rao and his staff in their important work.

"You will also be reviewing in the course of our discussions important questions of movement, of storage, and of rationing. In considering them I suggest that the guiding principles must be the utmost conservation of our resources, whether of food or of transport, the

prevention of waste, and the improvement of quality. You will, I know, bear in mind how much the success of movement depends on careful planning and regularity, and that both procurement and regularity of movement are assisted by the proper provision of storage.

"With both procurement and storage is linked the question of proper inspection arrangements. The proper inspection of grain at the time of purchase and before it is put into store prevents the infection of storage accommodation and checks deterioration. The provision of adequate storage and the inspection and regular turnover of grain in that storage is necessary to minimise loss and to conserve our resources, while finally the inspection, and cleaning of grain before issue to the public when it goes to the retailer, is a duty which we owe to the consumer who has to take the grain which we offer him.

"There have been losses and there have been complaints as to quality, and you will forgive me for emphasising on this occasion, in the manner that I have done, the importance which I attach to this question. On our part we have established already a Storage Directorate in the Food Department and we are about to set up a parallel Directorate of Inspection. So far as the Provinces and States are concerned, the function of these Directorates will, in the main, be advisory but they will also, I hope, prove of practical service in ascertaining your needs and helping us to give you the assistance which you require in the preparation of designs, in securing adequate priorities for the materials which you need for construction, and in providing any technical advice which you may need in the adoption of measures to prevent damage by climate or by insect and rodent pests.

"The Directorate of Inspection, of course, will be similarly at your service with regard to the establishment and training of Inspectorate Staff and in the setting up and co-ordination of standard qualities of different grains all over India. Many of you have received visits from my Storage Officers and have discussed, I think, with mutual advantage your problems. All of you have, I hope, received copies of Dr. Coyne's advisory notes and will soon be receiving a copy of "Principles of Cereal Storage"—a manual based on the lectures he delivered at the 'course of instruction' which we held in Delhi last October and which was attended by some of your officers.

"I am anxious that all governments should take full advantage of the existence of these Directorates by asking them for advice and assistance whenever required. This is a field of food administration in which Central and local Governments are already co-operating and can co-operate further with results of greatest value to the country.

"I need not remind you that improvement and increase of storage accommodation and the observance of sound principles of storage, turnover and inspection have both an immediate and a long-term importance. It is a matter of vital urgency to prevent the waste of foodgrains at a time like the present when they are in short supply. Looking forward to the time when normal functioning of trade can be resumed, we should be able to claim that by the establishment of high standards in the storage of the grain which we hold and in the quality of the grain we distribute, we shall have used the period of Government Food Administration to confer benefits of lasting value both to the grain trade and to consumers in India.

Increased Production

"No survey of the food problem, as it stands today in India with our rapidly increasing population, would be complete without a reference to the need for increased production both of the basic cereals and of the protective foods. This is the particular province of my Hon'ble Colleague the Member in charge of the Education, Health and Lands Department. I would only say that we in the Food Department watch with the keenest interest and sympathy the efforts which are being made to increase production. We believe that by a sound and well-planned procurement policy we, on the distribution side, can make a real, indeed a vital, contribution to the confidence of the producer that he will find an assured market at fair prices for his goods, and I would ask you in considering procurement problems to bear that aim constantly in mind.

"Gentlemen, we have a very heavy programme and I will not detain you longer except to say that I propose, with your consent, to ask speakers to limit their speeches to 10 minutes, and that we now proceed to the discussion of the first item on the Agenda."

CONFERENCE DISCUSSIONS

The Conference then discussed monopoly procurement with special reference to Mr. Butler's Report.

The representative of Baroda expressed the view that food control should not be relaxed for a further period of five or six years. Full co-operation of the State was assured in introducing Government Monopoly.

Sir George Boag, speaking on behalf of the States of Cochin and Travancore, expressed his



Sir J. P. Srivastava (left), Sir Jogendra Singh (centre), Member for Education, Health and Lands and Sir Pheroze Kharegat, Additional Secretary, Education, Health and Lands Department.

gratitude to the Government of India for the very substantial improvement that had taken place in the food situation in the two States, since the last Food Conference held in 1943. As a measure of the improvement, he instanced the progressive increase of rice rations in Cochin from 4 ozs. a day in 1943 to 6, 8 and 10 ozs. at present. As a result of the Hon'ble Member's visit to Madras, supplies from surplus areas had increased, and he had no doubt that in Cochin they would be able to build up their rice ration to 12 ozs. a day which Travancore had already done a few days ago. Their experience showed that Government Monopoly had not affected production.

The representative from Orissa stated that his Government had tightened up the machinery for procurement, but he felt that it would be unwise to embark on any scheme of complete procurement until assured of adequate staff. The Orissa Government was in favour of establishing a single procurement price over as large an area as possible.

The opinion of the Madras Government was that Monopoly Purchase by Government should be the rule in normally deficit districts, but their experience showed that in surplus areas it was preferable to leave procurement to the trade backed, if necessary, by requisitioning if stocks were short.

Bihar's representative considered monopoly purchase to be unsuitable for an area under the Permanent Settlement, where there was no village or revenue staff, no data for assessment nor any agency for distribution. Bihar's present policy of procurement, he stated, had proved quite successful.

Sir Henry Knight explained Bombay's procurement schemes. Their experience was that with public co-operation a Government monopoly could be successfully operated.

The Central Provinces did not favour a change-over from their present system of procurement which had brought satisfactory results to one of complete procurement.

Mr. Suhrawardy expressed himself in complete agreement with the view that even after the war there should be some form of control over procurement and distribution for raising the standard of living of the agriculturists. In Bengal their aim was to procure whatever was available through co-operative organisations.

Sind was in favour of continuing its present policy of procurement; Sind's problem was that of finding adequate storage accommodation for all the surpluses offered.

The United Provinces favoured a short-term plan to deal with present emergent conditions; they felt it was inadvisable to lay down a long-term procurement policy.

Discussions had not concluded when the Conference adjourned.

INCREASED FOOD PRODUCTION

Sir Jogendra Singh's Address

When the Conference reassembled the following day, the Hon'ble Sir Jogendra Singh, Member for Education, Health and Lands, reviewed the progress of the "Grow More Food" campaign and the various measures taken by the Government to step up food production. He said that compared with the pre-war average of three years ending 1939, the area under grain crops in 1943-44 had increased by over 11 million acres giving an additional yield of 4 million tons of foodgrains.

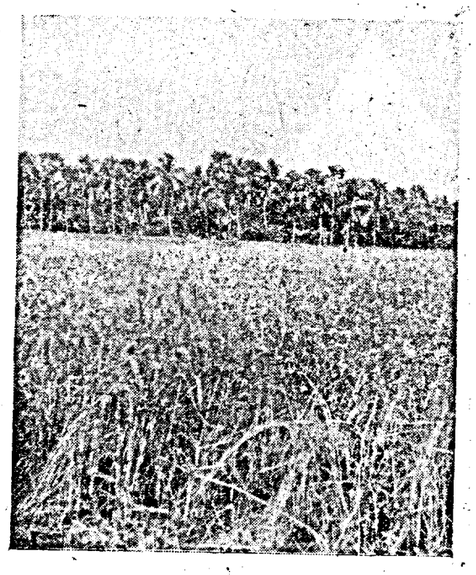
Sir Jogendra Singh said: "I am not going to make a formal speech. I feel to-day we meet to share our experiences and to exchange constructive thought. I come to you to seek and to profit by your knowledge, so that we may formulate a joint Central policy to serve the best interests of the Provinces and the States.

"I am indeed grateful to the Provincial and State Governments for the efforts they have made in making the Grow More Food drive a success. I can now assert that we have grown more food as surplus supplies are seeking a market and the growers have replenished their stock and some of the provinces have a fair quantity of grain waiting to be transported. Bengal is no longer crying out for supplies. There is ample evidence that the food situation has improved. It could not have improved without increased production.

"It is difficult to speak for the future, for the future is a gamble in rain. We may, however, hope that with favourable weather conditions there would be a sufficiency of food, provided the surplus is carefully stored and the stocks are either built up by the Provinces and States, or carried by trade as in normal times.



"Bengal has pulled through," agree both the Food Member (left) and Mr. Suhrawardy, Minister of Civil Supplies, Bengal.



Paddy crop ripe for harvesting.

The inter-provincial interchange of surplus produce deserves serious consideration. I know, valuable foods, such as gur, pulses and gram knocked in vain at the closed provincial sluices

for an outlet last year. The distressing situation has become easier, but the food problem needs and will continue to need our anxious care for many years to come. We know that roughly 30 per cent of our population is under-nourished. It is difficult to say, whether it is due to lack of purchasing power or food shortage. We also know that our population is increasing. If it continues to increase at the present rate, in 1951 we may have to provide for between 430 to 440 millions and by 1971 for 530 millions.

"We cannot, therefore, afford to slacken in our effort to increase our food production. Our immediate problem is to make available an increased supply of protective foods, such as milk, butter, ghee, oil fats, eggs, fish, poultry and meat. The increases required in most of these articles for feeding the existing population on the scale recommended by nutrition experts have been worked out and are known to the Provinces and States. We can no more delay making arrangements for increasing the production of these foods if we are to feed all our people.

'Grow More Food' Drive

"We have made a beginning in this direction, so far as foodgrains are concerned, in our Grow More Food campaign. For instance, compared with the pre-war average of three years ending with 1939 the area under grain crops increased in 1943-44 by over 11 million acres giving an additional yield of about four million acres mostly in Bombay and in the Central Provinces. The remaining increase in acreage was brought about by bringing under cultivation marginal and fallow lands. In the 1943-44 season the average under rice in Bengal increased considerably and as the weather conditions were favourable, an increased yield of two million tons of rice above the normal was estimated.

"The figures of all the crops for 1944-45 are not yet available as the results of harvesting of millets, pulses, oil seeds are still awaited, but the second forecast of the acreage under cotton shows a reduction from 14.7 to 13 million acres and the target of 80 million acres of rice has been exceeded.

"It is true England has increased its acreage by 90 per cent in the last five years under crops, while our percentage increase has been about 3. The comparison would acquire validity if we also compare the percentage of areas under cultivation of the two conditions. England and Wales out of its 37 million acres had only 11 per cent under the plough and have now increased it to 20 per cent, while India has had about 36 per cent. of its area under the plough and cannot add to it appreciably without creating additional facilities of irrigation, drainage, etc., for land reclamation.

"It is in providing these facilities that the Government of India has been assisting the Provinces and States. For instance, Government has assisted, by grants and loans, the sinking of over 2,500 tube-wells at an estimated cost of Rs. 4½ crores and nearly 17,000 masonry wells at a cost of nearly Rs. 2 crores. It has also provided finance for the procurement and purchase of good seed to the tune of Rs. 1½ crores as loans and another Rs. ½ crore as grant.

"It has directed attention to the conservation of manure and emphasised the need to create village forests to provide fuel to save farmyard manure which, if it could be saved, would considerably increase production. It has taken steps to train bio-chemists to convert town refuse into manure and secure 65,000 tons of ammonium sulphate and allotted 30,000 tons to rice areas sufficient to manure 4,50,000 acres which may add an additional million maunds to the yield. It is taking steps for the crushing of oilseeds so that oil fats for men and oil-cake to feed our livestock and our soil may be available. It has given Rs. 53 lakhs as loans and Rs. 27 lakhs as grants to subsidise the supply of oil-cake and other manures.

"We have so far not been successful in our endeavours to secure an adequate number of tractors for ploughing. In 1944 we indented for 151 but so far only 9 out of the 22 released have been shipped from the U.S.A. We are pressing for 1,200 tractors in the current year and also for Dairy machinery, pasteurising plant, marine engines to equip boats for the transport of fish, recognising that in this machine age, wealth is man power plus horse power, a definition which the London "Economist" has given.

"I had witnessed ravages caused by locusts twice in my life. In 1926-31 the loss was estimated at Rs. 5 crores. The locusts are always present in their home lands but periodically they have a swarming phase. When this occurs, their invasion begins. This cycle started in 1941 and, I wrote a letter in the *Civil and Military Gazette* suggesting how the campaign should be organised. It was later given to me to direct the organisation of the campaign.

"I am glad to say that our campaign under the leadership of Dr. H. S. Pruthi and his staff has been successful so far. We have for the first time joined an international organisation and defeated the formation of swarms at their breeding grounds and thus saved crops worth many crores.

"Finally, the Government is engaged in evolving a basic scientific policy to promote agricultural and industrial development. On the agricultural side its objective is to produce and provide fully nutritive food for our increasing



Tillers of the soil.

population and on the industrial side employment for the population that land can scarcely support. Rapid industrial development is essential to improve the living standard.

"The enquiry on nutrition has revealed the need for a substantial increase in the production of protective foods, such as milk, eggs, fish, vegetables, etc.

"As I am on the point of protective foods, I should like to mention that we now produce from 400 to 500 thousand tons of molasses. All but a small proportion of the molasses goes to waste and at least 300,000 tons per annum could be available for conversion into food or fodder yeast. It could provide 100,000 tons of yeast per annum sufficient at the recommended ration of a quarter of an ounce per day for 25 million people. Yeast has been produced by Messrs. Parry and Co., and there is no reason why this source should be allowed to run to waste.

"In the light of our nutritional needs we must plan rotation of crops in relation to various combinations of soil and climate and to indicate to our farmers what we require and prove to them that it is to their advantage to adopt our suggestions.

"If we are to modernise agriculture, we must go in for agricultural research on a much larger scale than hitherto together with a substantial and vigorous campaign to translate the results of research into actual practice on every holding.

"There is a misunderstanding regarding average yields in India. Our average yields are low, for only on one-fifth of the area which is under irrigation crops can be properly grown, but if the yield from four-fifths of the area which is unprotected is added to the yield of the protected area, it naturally brings down the yield from the protected areas also. There is nothing wrong with our soil and with our yields on properly cultivated land. We get yields which are not far behind the yields of some of the Western countries.

Value of Irrigation

"Our need is to bring more area under irrigation, because without irrigation, fertilisers are useless, and the application of fertilisers is uneconomic unless prices are stabilised. It is said that one maund of sulphate of ammonia may give an increase of three maunds of paddy and two maunds of wheat; but one maund of sulphate of ammonia may cost Rs. 7 and if paddy is selling at Rs. 2 a maund and wheat at Rs. 3 a maund, it is uneconomic for the cultivator to use it. The analysis of the methods for increasing food production is founded on five principal means:—

(1) The use of manures and fertilisers on land where water supply is already adequate;

(2) improvements in water supply and drainage including contour bunding of fields;

(3) the use of improved varieties of seed;

(4) the use of improved methods of cultivation and the reduction of time wasting operations on holdings;

(5) the control of diseases in crops and pests in stored grain and in the case of human beings control of malaria and other parasitic diseases.



South Indian ploughmen returning home from work.

"I therefore particularly wish to draw your attention to the terms of the agenda. I should like to have your opinion as to how far each Province and State is able to meet the requirements of its own population for home consumption, and the contribution it can make to outside markets both in the matter of foodgrains and protective foods, such as milk, oil fats, fish, eggs and poultry. If it is not possible for you to do so now, you could work out your provincial and State targets as early as possible and let the Centre have them, to enable the Centre to co-ordinate production in relation to the demands of India as a whole. There is a danger that without Central co-ordination each province and State working for self-sufficiency may not be able to balance its production and distribution.

All-India Policy

"It would also be useful if the possibilities of extending irrigation by all known methods for bringing new areas under cultivation and the need for agricultural plant of various kinds could be estimated and furnished. I would welcome information as to what the Provinces and States are doing in consolidating their resources of manures and how far each province and State is prepared to crush all its oilseeds and to make oil fats available for human consumption and oil cake for the soil and for the live-stock.

"We are indebted to the Provincial and State Governments for the success which has been attained in increasing food production and no less to the military authorities who have helped in organising production of milk, vegetables, poultry and shown the way how to organise the production of protective and nutritive foods. It is in the hope of this continued co-operation that we are planning an all-India scientific agricultural policy, so that within a fixed number of years we may break the vicious circle of unemployment, poverty, ill-health and illiteracy. For this purpose we have to draw on the reservoir of finance on the basis of the potential resources of the country."

THIRD DAY'S PROCEEDINGS

Control and Distribution of Fresh Foods

Problems relating to the control and distribution of fresh foods and fuel formed the subject of discussions at the third day's session of the Conference. The following resolution was passed:

1. All Governments should furnish by May 31, 1945, to the Government of India, and to the appropriate Command Co-ordination Committees, in respect of eggs, poultry, fish, milch cattle, milk and milk products, goats, sheep, live-stock, potatoes, seed potatoes, fresh vegetables, fresh fruit, cooking oil and oil seeds, oil cake, fuel (wood and charcoal), the best possible estimate of: (i) Local production; (ii) Target for increased local production attainable in 12 months; (iii) Local requirements both civil and military; (iv) Import requirements; (v) Normal sources of supply; (vi) Export surpluses; (vii) Normal export markets and (viii) Prices at the main consuming and producing centres.

2. All Governments should also specify requirements, the present lack of which affects production, and distribution of commodities referred to in (1), including minimum desirable provision of such requirements in the next 12 months, and in the next 3 years.

3. All Governments will examine the possibility of forming organised bodies of producers, traders and co-operative societies, in respect of the commodities in (1), with a view to employing them as agents for planned and controlled procurement and distribution.

4. The Government of India, on receipt of the information to be supplied under (1) will examine how best they can afford all possible assistance to governments to increase production, ensure supplies and control distribution of any of these commodities.

The U.P. revealed that it had worked out a complete scheme of purchases of the various items, in close co-operation with the Army authorities. There was little difficulty in getting figures for cattle for the problem of milk was causing anxiety.

The Punjab welcomed the emphasis laid by the Central Government on the co-ordination of the requirements both of the Army and the civilian population. It also suggested a regional control of prices and the formulation of a central plan in the matter of seed potatoes.

Bengal favoured the formulation of a Command Co-ordination Committee. As regards control of prices, the Provincial Government felt it would be difficult to make it effective without control over stocks which at present they could not secure.

Assam had always been deficit in live-stock, milk products and poultry. It had however produced enormous quantities of vegetables, and by an arrangement with the Army authorities, 50 per cent had been reserved for the civilians. The position regarding fruits was also satisfactory and the province was in a position to export about a million oranges a day to Bengal.

Bihar's difficulties in securing accurate figures of production and consumption in view of its being a Permanent Area Settlement were explained. Its Provincial Co-ordination Committee on which there were representatives of the Army had been of the greatest value and help.

In Madras special surveys were being conducted on the various items of fresh foods, in which the authorities had secured the fullest co-operation from the military authorities, who were bearing half the expenses. Their greatest difficulty, specially in the larger cities, was regarding milk, and they felt that they would have to press the Central Government to arrange for suitable imports of powdered milk. They had been able to increase their acreage under potato cultivation by 5,000 acres and they were working out a large number of schemes for increasing vegetable production.

In Hyderabad, with the help of the Army authorities, the Government was working out a scheme for an increase in potato cultivation, in which the State was a heavily deficit area.

The representative of Q.M.G. explained the steps already taken to meet some of the difficulties raised during the discussions and assured full co-operation with the civil authorities.

The Conference then rose for the day.

RATIONING AND NUTRITION

Food Conference Resolutions

Reassembling the following day, the Conference considered problems relating to rationing and nutrition and adopted the following resolutions:

1. The present burden of an over-all deficiency of foodgrains should be shared evenly by all parts of the country. With that object in view all Governments accept the following principles:

(a) Full urban rationing should be introduced and extended in accordance with the recommendation of the Foodgrains Policy Committee.

(b) Until all deficit areas can be ensured sufficient supplies to enable them to sustain a basic ration of 1 lb. of cereals per adult per day, the size of the basic ration in any area should not exceed that quantity.

(c) Extra provision should be made for heavy manual workers by means of a supplementary ration and in the form of cooked foods through industrial canteens.

(d) In all rationing schemes the definition of a child should be from the date of birth to the age of 8.

Nutrition

2. It is essential to improve the diet of the people, and to this end all Governments will undertake an examination of diets in their area, to determine in what respect they are defective and how the defect can best be made good. They will examine especially measures required to provide sufficient milk and other protective foods to the vulnerable section of the community.

(a) The introduction and popularisation of foodstuffs which should be added to the diet, or must be substituted for those in short supply, require persistent publicity and active encouragement, including arrangements for practical demonstrations of the preparation of unaccustomed foods.

(b) Use should be made of expert nutritional advice in guiding the policy of Central and Provincial food administrations.

(c) Large employers of labour should be given every encouragement by Governments to provide canteens for the supply of wholesome cooked food to their labour.

3. The campaign for growing more food should be continued with undiminished vigour in all areas, both surplus and deficit.

4. Steps should be taken to ensure a market (or have an assured market) for foodgrains at fair prices wherever this is necessary to safeguard the interests of cultivator and ensure the success of the grow more food campaign. This may be done by the establishment of an adequate number of purchasing centres for the buying of the foodgrains offered at such centres at the prices fixed or otherwise.

Protective Foods

5. Special attention should be paid to increasing the production of protective foods such as vegetables and fruits, milk, eggs and fish and for this purpose Provinces and States should consider the desirability of—

(a) encouraging the growing of vegetables in school gardens and villages for local consumption;

(b) appointing a Milk Development Officer in order to increase milk production in each province and major State and taking steps to produce and provide adequate fodder and concentrates;

(c) setting up (1) large dairy farms or encouraging their establishment by private individuals or organisations in suitable areas by the grant of land and subsidies, (2) making proper arrangements for the salvage of dry city cows, and (3) regulating the inter-provincial movement of cattle from one area to another by suitable quotas to be arrived at regionally or centrally in consultation with the provinces and States concerned;

(d) setting up poultry farms at suitable centres for the supply of cockerels to villages and providing them with incubators, and wire fencing and other facilities;

(e) encouraging (1) fish culture, (2) stocking of tanks with fingerlings, (3) supplying the requirements of fishermen in respect of fishing tackle and (4) providing trawlers, launches, ice and cold storage facilities for developing deep sea fishing.

Fertilisers

6. The production of groundnuts in lieu of non-food crops should be encouraged in areas where suitable; inter-provincial movement of vegetable oils should be regulated by suitable quotas to be arrived at regionally or centrally in consultation with the provinces and States concerned; and exports from India should as far as possible be in the form of oil rather than that of oil seeds, and for this purpose additional crushing plant should be set up for crushing the whole of the oil seeds produced in or near the producing areas.

7. Each province and major State should consider the desirability of appointing a Fertiliser Controller to conserve and promote its manurial resources by encouraging composting, extending the practice of green manuring, utilisation of bones and arranging for the equitable distribution at controlled prices of fertilisers, of the town waste and oil cakes produced in the area concerned bearing in mind the needs of cattle for concentrates.

Inter-provincial movement should be regulated by suitable quotas to be arrived at regionally or centrally in consultation with the provinces and states concerned.

Aid to Agriculture

8. (a) Facilities should be provided by the Central Government, where necessary, for the supply of building materials for seed and manure depots, iron and steel for agricultural implements, tractors and connected machinery, pumps and other machinery required for minor and emergency irrigation drainage and bunding works, diesel oil, petrol, etc., needed for working such machinery and rice mills, cold stores and the transport needed for seed, manures, etc.

(b) Inter-provincial movement of seed potatoes should be regulated by suitable quotas to be arrived at regionally or centrally in consultation with the provinces and states concerned.

Increased Production

9. Provincial and State Governments should supply the Government of India so far as is possible with their programmes for increasing the production of foods during the next two years, stating the figures of increased production that they expect will result.

The Government of India will assess the nutritional needs of the country and consult with provinces how any gap between the needs and the programmed production can be reduced.

The programme of facilities to be provided in the shape of seeds, manures, depots for seeds, manures and implements, irrigation works, drainage works, bunds, etc., to complete the programme should be worked out by the Governments concerned and schemes prepared to try and provide the same in so far as local resources as supplemented by the Centre permit.

FOODGRAINS TRANSPORT: MOVEMENT PROGRAMME

On February 2, the last day of the Conference session, Sir Edward Benthall, Member for War Transport, and officers of the War Transport Department conferred with the delegates over problems of movement, and explained the comprehensive steps taken to increase haulage and wagon capacity.

The Conference adopted the following resolutions:

"(1) The movement of foodgrains ought to proceed smoothly throughout the year, so far as possible. To this end the Central Government undertake, in respect of grains subject to the Basic Plan, to plan a constant movement throughout the year, so that the transport authorities may programme a regular supply of wagons. Provincial and State Governments for their part undertake, to the best of their ability, in the case of surplus areas, to see that procurement keeps pace with the transport available and to provide storage for the balance; and, in the case of receiving areas, to send dispatch instructions and make arrangements for inspection, so that the programme can be punctually observed.

"(2) In the case of other foodgrains the Central Government should undertake: (a) To prepare a similar movement programme, with the same priorities as for foodgrains in (1) above, to supply deficiencies declared by Governments out of surpluses declared by Governments, and (b) to co-ordinate the disposal of all other surpluses by means of authorised and assisted trade movements."

Monopoly Procurement

In the light of discussions held on the opening day of the Conference on Monopoly Procurement, the Conference made the following recommendation:—

"The results so far obtained in the working of monopoly procurement systems justify their further study, and their development so far as the circumstances of each province and State permit.

"Where monopoly procurement is in operation in respect of any particular grain, Government should, in the interest of producers, accept all such grain as is offered, subject to considerations of quality. Acceptance should be at notified centres, at the appropriate stage of the marketing process, and at prices fixed in accordance with the all-India policy after consultation, wherever necessary, with the Central Government.

"The development of monopoly procurement should be in the direction of the acquisition by Government of grain offered for sale voluntarily. Nevertheless, in those areas where it is deemed advisable, monopoly procurement may be extended by:

"(1) a compulsory levy and the acquisition, in addition, of any balance that any producer may desire to sell, or

"(2) assessment of the surpluses of individual producers and the compulsory acquisition of such surpluses."

The Conference in making this recommendation recognises that the financial consequences of implementing the policy may necessitate assistance to the Provinces by the Central Government.

Food Member Reviews Discussions

Summing up the proceedings of the Conference, Sir J. P. Srivastava said:

"Before we bring this Conference to a close, I should like to thank you for the manner in which you have applied yourselves to a lengthy and difficult agenda, and for the practical and co-operative manner in which you have discussed and debated the points for decision. We all owe, I think, a special debt of gratitude to the Sub-Committees who have undertaken the difficult task of drafting.

"During our five-day session, we have covered a very wide range of subjects, the importance of which will be apparent to any one who will read the resolutions just passed by you.

"We may have our critics, we may have sceptics of the utility of these Conferences but, I for one, am a firm believer in them and have found your advice and collaboration on the common task most useful. I would like to clear a misunderstanding which apparently exists in some quarters as to the scope and composition of this purely official Conference. It has been said that we have overlooked the need for including non-official representatives in this Conference. It will be apparent to you and to all those who understand the business transacted at this Conference that it is intended solely to review the working of the food administrations of the different Provinces and States, and to reach some kind of decision about points over which there may be a difference of opinion among them.

"No one can accuse me of not consulting non-official opinion at every stage and in every conceivable manner, but the work of execution of the policies eventually evolved must be left to the Provincial and State administrations and I must meet them at regular intervals and understand their difficulties and handicaps if our co-ordinated programme is to be pushed through with vigour in every part of the country.

"I say that these Conferences have shown that over food at all events, India is one and no part of the country can be independent of the rest or afford to plough a lonely furrow. In fact this Conference is the finest pattern of a Federal Parliament charged with a vital responsibility affecting the entire country and if the understanding and goodwill, which have prevailed here, continue in the future in this and other all-India spheres, I feel certain of our many difficult problems will be automatically solved. It is a matter of supreme gratification to see British India and Indian States, Ministerial Provinces and Section 93 Provinces, all working hand in hand, actuated by one ideal and one aim. That itself is an achievement of which any well-wisher of the country may well be proud.

Need for Vigilance

"May I now turn to certain salient points arising out of the discussions.

"It is true that our stock and supply position internally has greatly improved, and that certain Administrations not only hold large stocks but think that their procurement operations may be embarrassed by this fact. I am the last to say anything to discourage that sober confidence which we may feel in our ability to meet our obligations in the future; nor do I wish for one moment to discourage Provinces and States from revising the figures which they have given us of surpluses and deficits or from making more food available to us for distribution, but I must warn you against any tendency, if such should exist, to become over confident or assume either that vigilance can be relaxed or that no further effort is necessary to extend and improve, your procurement and distribution arrangements.

"One of the greatest problems which we have to face when Government acquires large quantities of grain is to ensure a proper turnover of Government stocks and to provide for the proper conservation of grain that has to be held for any length of time. Turnover is obviously linked with control of distribution, and the more you can extend Government responsibility for distribution, proportionately to your powers of procurement, the more certain will you be of being able to control turnover.

"We must be constantly on the alert to examine our procurement and distribution machinery not only in the light of the improved present position but rather in the light of what you will have to ensure if, because of a failure of the monsoon or for any other reason, you again have to deal with a situation of acute scarcity. God forbid that such conditions should recur, but if they were to, there could be no excuse for an administration which, after what we have gone through, had failed to learn the lesson and provide the necessary machinery.

Committee on Food Subsidy

"The question of subsidising foodstuffs has not been actively debated in this conference. We, at the Centre, have not raised the question but we are not asleep about it. To conduct a preliminary examination of the subject in all its aspects and with all its serious implications, we have set up an Inter-Departmental Committee under the chairmanship of Sir Theodore Gregory. The Food, Education, Health and Lands, Labour, and Finance Departments are represented on the Committee and their report will, I am sure, be of the highest importance.

"I was not a little surprised to hear one or two members saying that there is no overall deficiency of foodgrains in the country. The figures which Mr. Hutchings gave you yesterday must have dispelled any mistaken notions on this all important point. The task of all of us would be easy, indeed, there could be no task left for us to perform if India were self-sufficient in the staple cereals. Supply and demand would, in that case, have kept the whole country well fed and well provided and both the Food and the Grow More Food Departments would have become redundant. I cannot let any misunderstanding on this point go uncontradicted.

Improvement of National Diet

"A good deal has been said on the subject of the maldistribution of pulses, gram, gur and mustard oil. I agree with you that the present position is highly unsatisfactory. We are glad to have had the benefit of the views of both the Supplying and the Recipient Administrations. We shall now proceed forthwith to formulate our views, and for this purpose I am calling a meeting of the Departments concerned. We shall communicate our decision to you at an early date.

"I would ask you also to take very seriously the considerations which have been placed before you regarding the improvement of national diet. I am well aware of the difficulties caused by shortages of staff as well as by local custom or

individual prejudice. Nevertheless, I am confident that Administrations which have done what you have done under enormous difficulties to bring order out of chaos, will not be content to allow the opportunity to pass for improving the nutrition of the people which now presents itself. I say opportunity because it does seem to me that when Government has accepted responsibility for food, and set up expensive machinery for its distribution to the extent that you have done, it has means to its hand to influence diet which it has not had in the past, and which may not recur if and when Government distribution of food ceases. The extent to which we can use this opportunity may be circumscribed, but we should have a poor defence in our own consciences or against future critics if we have not done our utmost to utilise it.

"Once again, then I thank you for your co-operation, and for all that you have done to implement the policy of the Fourth Food Conference. Our deliberations have shown that you have stood loyally by the policy which you accepted at that Conference and have done everything in your power to implement it. I am confident that you will go forward with the same steadfastness to put into effect the further policy which you have defined in the last few days.

"Yours is an onerous responsibility. You are charged with the duty of setting India free from hunger—the spectre of want should no longer stalk this fair land of ours. I am confident of your ability and determination and I am proud of the fact that every one of you stands solidly behind me in my difficult task. I wholeheartedly rely on you and I wish you every good fortune in your undertakings."

The Conference then concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chairman by Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy, Minister of Civil Supplies, Bengal, who congratulated the Food Member on having taken up the question of nutrition on an all-India basis. He said it was not only a step in the right direction but something which all "valued."

MR. A. DIBDIN

Mr. A. Dibdin, Secretary, Economic and Overseas Department of the India Office, London, who attended the All-India Food Conference held recently in New Delhi at the invitation of the Government of India, is likely to visit Bombay, Cochin, Madras, Nagpur, Calcutta and Lahore. During his tour of the Provinces, Mr. Dibdin will be accompanied by Mr. N. N. Wanchoo, Deputy Secretary, Central Food Department.

Mr. Dibdin is expected to stay in India for a month.

SIR J. P. SRIVASTAVA ON INDIAN BISCUIT INDUSTRY

THAT the Government would not forget those industries which helped to win the war and that they would endeavour to do everything possible to assure the future progress of such industries was the assurance given by the Hon'ble Sir J. P. Srivastava, Food Member to the Government of India, while opening a biscuit factory in Begumabad, U.P., on January 27.

He said: The Food Department has been described as a team and that is exactly what we are and how we like to be thought of, and it is because we are a team and members of a still greater team that we have been able to make what contribution we have towards the solution of the country's food problems. Our task is by no means over because we have been able to secure some improvement in the supply of the basic cereals; not only is constant vigilance and unremitting endeavour still essential in that field but we have a long way to go to reach a satisfactory position in respect of other forms of food, the all important "protective" foods. This deficiency has always existed and has been accentuated by the war. Until it is removed we shall not have a population equipped for a proper part in the great future awaiting this country. The factory which I have the pleasure of opening today falls in our scheme to improve the nutritional standards of the country.

Need for Quality Products

Processed industries have a special importance as they enable conversion of surplus raw produce into a durable, portable and in the case of biscuits, into an extremely palatable form of food. I, therefore, regard your factory as piloting a development much to be desired.

The biscuit industry has shown a marked development during the period of the war. It has met the very large demand of the Army without wholly denying the civilian demand. It has also covered the shortage of about 1,500 tons of quality biscuits imported before the war. To do this, it has shown a capacity for improvement which we would like to advance.

The industry possesses the advantage of cheap raw products, labour and of a large internal market. The war appears to have enlarged the internal market by creating new incomes and as you have yourselves observed, training new tastes. The industry's handicap has been its late start comparatively with biscuit industries elsewhere in the world, which fact is reflected particularly in the standards of quality. That the industry is now capable of offering a product of the highest quality, I am certain, and I would exhort you to concentrate on quality production. This requires that you should spend generously on the best technical staff and equipment on the one hand and the best raw products and packing material on the other. The thought of large profits must take second place until the industry reaches quality standards comparable with, and superior to, those of biscuit manufacturers elsewhere. The wisest policy, therefore, is for you to plough your profits back into your concern so that by the end of the war, it will be strong, firmly established and able to hold its own with all competitors.

An Assurance

I am aware of your anxiety to win and extend your civilian market immediately in order that the problem of switch-over from war to peace economy may be smooth and simple. We are giving much anxious thought to the problem of switch-over. We realise that it should be gradual and that planning and assistance by Government must play their part. We shall not forget our obligation to those industries which helped to win the war and we shall endeavour to do everything possible to assure their future progress in peace. In this task co-operation and a free exchange of views is a necessity. We look to you for both, and if I may be permitted to offer a word of advice, I would ask you to put quality and sound business finance in the forefront of your programme.

I am glad, therefore, that you have adopted "purity, quality and reliability" as your hallmark. These are qualities essential for the future of our industrial development, and they will be the surest foundation for our future success.

CALCUTTA'S GRAIN STOCKS

Latest reports received in the Central Food Department indicate that the stocks of rice in Calcutta in the Bengal Government's hands amount to more than 1,60,000 tons which is equivalent to Calcutta's rice requirements for seven months. The total quantity of all foodgrains in Calcutta now amounts to over 2,00,000 tons.

FOODGRAINS POSITION IN BENGAL

Sir J. P. Srivastava Visits Calcutta

THE Hon'ble Sir J. P. Srivastava, Food Member, Government of India, who arrived in Calcutta on January 6 discussed the foodgrains supply and stock position in Bengal with His Excellency the Governor of Bengal; the Chief Minister; Minister for Civil Supplies and officials of the Civil Supplies Department.

In a 80-mile tour of 24-Parganas on January 7, the Food Member, accompanied by Mr. B. R. Sen, Director-General Food, Mr. Sinha, Regional Food Commissioner, and Rai Bahadur Chatterjee, District Magistrate, examined supply and distribution arrangements. They also visited storage godowns and inspected the condition of the stock.

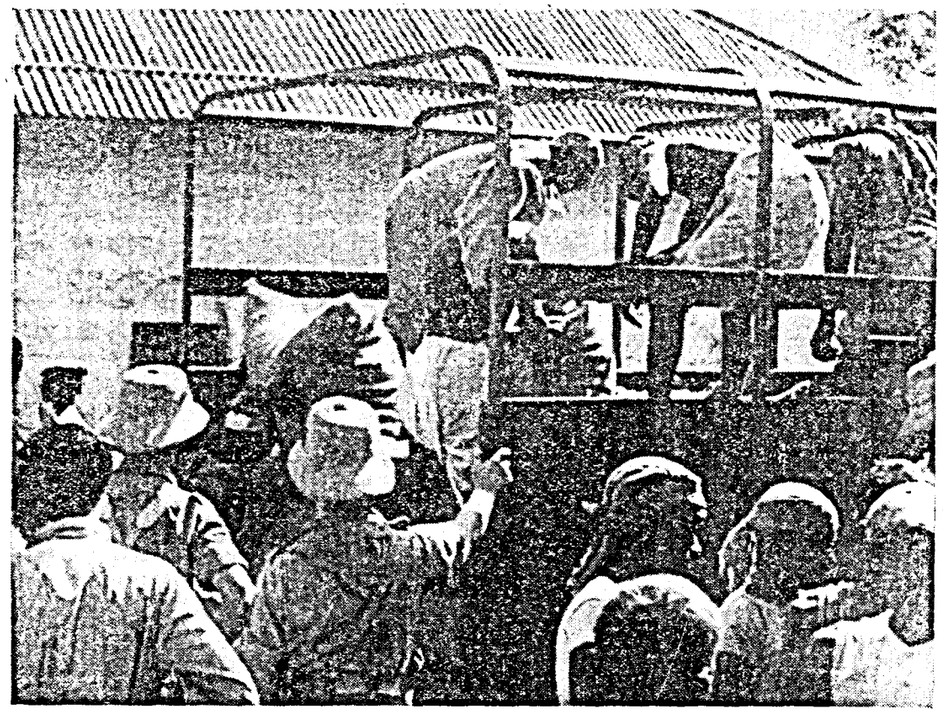
In this district which was one of the worst affected areas in the province in 1943, Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava went round a number of relief centres and emergency hospitals. He discussed rehabilitation problems, particularly of the fishing and weaving classes.

At Shircol

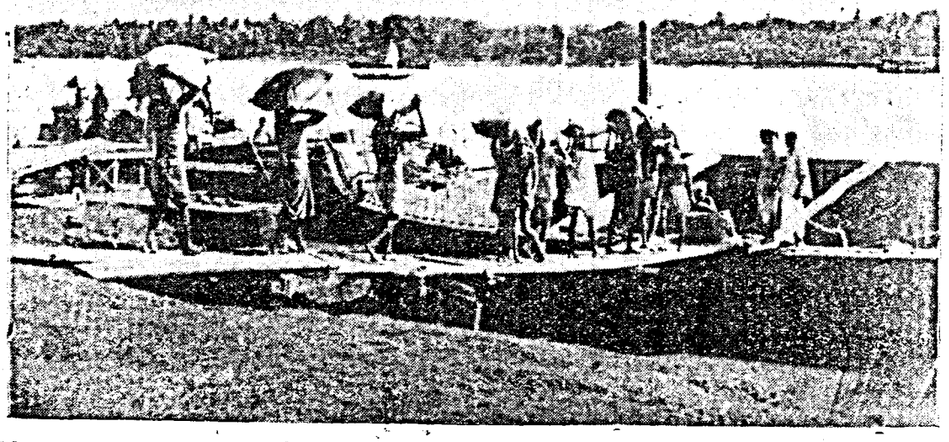
At Shircol, Khan Bahadur Jassimuddin, Chairman of the District Board, met the party. Sir Jwala Prasad walked through the wards of the emergency relief hospital here and talked to the patients. He also saw the rehabilitation section and orphanage where destitute women were employed in paddy husking. The Food Member discussed the working of the co-operative society in this locality and the extent to which co-operative societies could be employed in grain procurement and distribution.

At Harindanga, the party was present when free rations were being distributed to over 1,700 destitutes. Sir Jwala Prasad mingled freely among the people and, later, listened to the views expressed by leaders of the locality on the continuance of the cheap grain shop which had recently been closed down and problems relating to drainage and prevention of stagnant water in the fields.

The Party then proceeded to Falta, where they inspected a storage godown and also heard people of the locality in regard to the supply and distribution of food, cloth, kerosene and other essential commodities. Here they also visited the Bose Research Institute, where experiments in improved varieties of cotton were being conducted.



The Army has greatly helped in food distribution in Bengal. During the recent famine, the Army's "Food for the People" lorries were a familiar sight in the famine-stricken areas. Picture shows bags of rice being loaded into an army truck. (Below) Country boats, impressed into service, also carry food and other vital supplies.



Later, at the Ramakrishna Mission Industrial School at Sharisha they witnessed the distribution of Ata, freshly milled from whole wheat, to destitute people, at the relief centre which was organised and is still being run by the Mission. Sir Jwala Prasad announced a personal donation of Rs. 500 to the institution. The girls of the school then gave a demonstration of formation drill.

Inspection of Calcutta Ration Shops

The following day the Food Member inspected Calcutta ration shops and storage godowns. He was accompanied by Mr. B. R. Sen, Director-General, Food, Mr. S. K. Sinha, Regional Food Commissioner, and Mr. A. C. Hartley, Controller of Rationing.

At the storage godowns belonging to the rationing authorities which are supplied from stocks in the central godowns of the Civil Supplies Department, Sir Jwala Prasad made inquiries about stocks in hand, quality and the steps taken to prevent deterioration.

The Food Member also made inquiries about qualities which are popular with consumers and discussed the possibilities of giving the consumer a choice of rice at different prices.

At two of the ration shops, sales were in progress and Sir Jwala Prasad talked to those who were drawing their rations and asked them about their preference for Ata or whole wheat. He also inspected samples drawn from different lots.

The Food Member spent the morning at Writers Building.

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT'S MONTHLY ACCOUNTS

The Central Government's monthly accounts for November, 1944, show that, excluding periodical adjustments and the transactions of Railways and Posts and Telegraphs, expenditure in the first eight months of the financial year, 1944-45, exceeded revenue by Rs. 118½ crores against Rs. 83¼ crores in the corresponding period of the previous year. Revenue was actually better by about Rs. 54¾ crores but Defence expenditure increased by about Rs. 87 1/3 crores to Rs. 235½ crores and Civil expenditure by Rs. 2¾ crores. Net receipts from Railways and Posts and Telegraphs were better by Rs. 8 crores and Rs. 1 crore respectively.

There has been an increase of Rs. 154 2/3 crores under Permanent Debt during this period.

FERTILISERS FACTORY TO BE BUILT IN BIHAR

The Government of India have examined the Report of the Technical Mission appointed to advise on the production of artificial fertilisers in India, and have decided to establish, initially, a factory at Sindri, near Dhanbad in Bihar, for manufacturing 350,000 tons of sulphate of ammonia per annum. They are also investigating the prospects of erecting another unit of 100,000 tons per annum on a site somewhere south of the Vindhyas.

The U.K. Technical Mission were in favour of a single unit at Haruaganj near Aligarh. It was, however, considered that Sindri, in Bihar, had greater potential advantages than the site recommended by the Mission. Sindri being near the coal deposits, it may be possible to develop subsidiary industries from nitrogenous products.

The Government of India have also arrived at the conclusion that the factory at Sindri should be State-owned and State-controlled. While the factory will be managed by the Central Government, ways and means of associating the States and Provincial Governments in the scheme are being considered.

It has also been decided to send a Mission consisting of Sir James Pitkeathly and Dr. H. K. Sen, Director of Industries, Bihar, to the U.K. and the U.S.A. to negotiate for the purchase of the plant and its erection.

INCREASED RAILWAY EARNINGS

A Press Communique issued by the Railway Department (Railway Board) on February 12 stated: The total approximate gross earnings of the Budget lines for the period (10 days) ending December 20, 1944 (26th Period) amount to Rs. 578 lakhs. This is:—(*a*) Rs. 80 lakhs *more* than the actuals for the corresponding period of the previous year, and (*b*) Rs. 143 lakhs *more* than the actuals for the corresponding period of 1942-43.

The total approximate gross earnings from April 1 to December 20, 1944, amount to Rs. 148.30 crores. This is:—(*a*) Rs. 22.51 crores *more* than the actuals for corresponding period of the previous year, and (*b*) Rs. 41.16 crores *more* than the actuals for the corresponding period of 1942-43.

"BUILDING A NEW INDIA"

Mr. Tarlok Singh on Co-operative Farming

SPEAKING from the Delhi Station of All India Radio on January 20, on "Co-operative Farming" in the series "Building a New India," Mr. Tarlok Singh, I.C.S., of the Finance Department, Government of India, said that "we must plan for agriculture in such a way that the agricultural plan becomes in fact the first step, the spearhead, in a plan for a new rural society, a social and economic order, which is economically efficient, which provides full employment to all workers, and offers to all sections of the community, and particularly to the depressed classes, a sense of equal opportunity and equal freedom."

"We have reached a stage in the development of world economy," he said, "when countries like India, China and Burma, and the countries of the Middle East are face to face with a fundamental choice. If they seek economic progress by forced marches, if they want to abolish mass poverty, they must change the structure of their rural societies. Under modern conditions, rapid economic development is inconsistent with the retention of petty and uneconomic holdings. Every Asiatic country, and India, perhaps more than any other, owes it to itself to discover new patterns of social and economic life."

Essence of Efficient Agriculture

According to Mr. Tarlok Singh, the essence of efficient agriculture consisted in combining four separate factors in each farm *viz.*, an area sufficient for effective operation, organisation, capital and technique at a level which, in given conditions, yielded the greatest economies. The first and foremost object of all agricultural planning in India was, therefore, to devise means for securing a large increase in the size of the unit of management. "Joint Village management" was suggested by the speaker as the most suitable method for bringing this about. In this system, it was stated, the rights of ownership and other equivalent rights in the soil would be recognised and provided for. At the same time ownership would be dissociated from control over the use of separate bits of land within the village. Reorganisation on these lines would, in his opinion, ensure efficiency and the proper use of capital for productive purposes.

Explaining the system of joint management, Mr. Tarlok Singh said: "For purposes of management in peasant villages, the unit will ordinarily be the area of the village as a whole. Owners will be entitled to a return on account of the ownership of the land which they have contributed to the village farm. In each village the land contributed by each owner will be valued before the new system comes into operation. Differences in the extent of ownership will be met through the return which different owners get from the jointly managed village farm. When a village passes into joint management, in the first instance, the area will be divided into suitable work-units and each work-unit will be operated by a man, assisted by the labour of his family. As techniques develop and the village economy becomes more integrated, this system of decentralised family farm labour will give place to a wage system."

"If we act in time and strive hard", said Mr. Tarlok Singh in conclusion, "there is every reason to be confident that through joint management our peasant villages will become efficient and prosperous economic units. There are two major keys to that vast social process whereby our masses can be redeemed from their poverty. One of them is industrialisation; the other is joint village management."

EXTENSION OF WATER TREATMENT ON INDIAN RAILWAYS

To obtain the maximum utilisation of the locomotives available in India, the Railway Board have set up a Committee to investigate the extension of water treatment and water softening on Indian Railways, said a Press Note issued by the Railway Department (Railway Board) on January 30.

It added: The London, Midland and Scottish Railway have been good enough to place at the disposal of the Railway Board the services of Mr. J. S. Hancock, an expert of great experience in the treatment of water, for a period of four months for this purpose. With Mr. Hancock is associated Dr. D. R. Malhotra of the B.E. & C.I. Railway who has also considerable experience in the treatment of water used in locomotive boilers. It is hoped that the result of their investigation will be of great value to Indian Railways.

This Committee is undertaking a rapid tour of the major Railways and will visit most headquarter stations and important engine sheds, and will be accompanied over each Railway by a senior officer of the Mechnical Department of that Railway.

INDIAN RAILWAY CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION

Mr. G. E. Cuffe's Address

IN his presidential address, delivered at the Annual Session of the Indian Railway Conference Association held in New Delhi on January 19, Mr. G. E. Cuffe, B.A. (Cantab.), General Manager, Bengal and Assam Railway, said:

Gentlemen, First of all I must thank you for the great honour you have done me in electing me as your President this year; it is, I admit, an honour which I had coveted for a number of years, and I am most sincerely grateful to you all for enabling me to achieve it.

It is my pleasant task, on your behalf, to welcome here today Sir Edward Benthall, Hon'ble Member for War Transport, Sir Arthur Griffin, Chief Commissioner of Railways, Sir Satyendra Nath Roy, Secretary, War Transport Department, and the Financial Commissioner, Members, Directors and other officers of the Railway Board. I also welcome those Members of the Central Advisory Council for Railways who have been able to accept our invitation and to be here with us today; it is only at these times that the Members have any general opportunity to meet General Managers and I am sure that both sides welcome the chance of becoming better acquainted.

Sir Arthur Griffin Felicitated

We would all most heartily congratulate Sir Arthur Griffin on his appointment as Chief Commissioner. He has been well known to most of us for a number of years as General Manager of the North Western Railway and as a leading figure in the business and debates of this Association. This is however the first occasion when he has appeared on this side of the table, and I am sure we can congratulate not only him, but ourselves that we now have him here as our Chief Commissioner.

And now, Gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to offer on your behalf our sincerest congratulations to all those whose services have been specially recognised and who have received Honours during the past year. I would first congratulate Sir Lakshmipati Misra, Member (Engineering), Railway Board, and General Manager, B. and A. Railway, during its most difficult and strenuous days, on the honour of Knighthood conferred on him.

Next I would refer to those who have been made Companions of the Order of the Indian Empire. Mr. J. F. C. Reynolds, M.C., General



Mr. G. E. Cuffe, General Manager, Bengal and Assam Railway.

Manager, South Indian Railway, Mr. H. G. Salmond, Chief Government Inspector of Railways, Mr. R. W. F. Butterfield, until lately Financial Adviser and Chief Accounts Officer, Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, Mr. R. G. Manson, Deputy General Manager (Chittagong), Bengal and Assam Railway, Mr. H. A. Reid, Chief Mechanical Engineer, South Indian Railway, Major F. J. Salberg, M.B.E., V.D., until lately Engineer of the Dibru-Sadiya Railway and previously Chief Engineer, Assam Bengal Railway, Mr. G. A. R. Trimming, Machine Tool Controller and previously Chief Mechanical Engineer, East Indian Railway, Mr. E. R. Sesnu Ayyar, lately Director of Railway Audit and Mr. P. R. Leigh-Bennett, Transportation Manager, Bengal Nagpur Railway.

I would also congratulate those who have been made Officers of the Order of the British Empire. Mr. J. D. Michael, Divisional Superintendent, Dinapore, East Indian Railway, Khan Bahadur Ghulam Faruque, Deputy Coal Commissioner, Mr. W. M. McGregor, Controller of Stores, North Western Railway, Mr. W. G. Alcock, Liaison Officer and Secretary to the General Manager, Great Indian Peninsula Railway, Lt.-Col. S. J. P. Cambridge, V.D., Assistant Director-General of Railways, Calcutta Area, Mr. C. A.

Crawford, Regional Controller of Railway Priorities, Calcutta (West), Mr. D. M. F. Chisholm, Chief Operating Superintendent, East Indian Railway, Mr. K. J. McNeill, Regional Controller of Railway Priorities, Bombay, and Mr. R. S. Vipan, Regional Controller of Railway Priorities, Calcutta (North). We would also compliment all those other officers and members of the staff of Indian Railways who have received honours or titles.

I should like also to offer a special word of congratulation to an old friend, Sir Usha Nath Sen, Chief Press Adviser to the Government of India. Although he is not strictly a Member of this Association he has almost acquired "Squatters rights" by the regularity of his attendance for many years past at these Opening Sessions of Conference, and I am sure we were all very glad to see his Knighthood gazetted.

Next, Gentlemen, it is with great regret that we heard of the deaths during the past year of a number of eminent Railway Officers, some of whom were intimately connected with the work of this Association.

I would refer first to the late Sir Clement Hindley, K.C.I.E., V.D. There will be many here who knew, liked and respected him when he was Chief Commissioner of Railways from 1922-1928, and probably some who remember some of the friendly, encouraging and polished addresses that Sir Clement Hindley gave at the Opening Sessions of Conference in the years from 1923 to 1928.

Many also will remember and regret the death of Mr. F. C. Pavry, C.I.E., who was Chief Engineer of the North Western Railway from 1926 to 1930 and was afterwards for a short time a Member of the Railway Board until he retired.

Another very well known figure who has passed on was Lt.-Col. George Huddleston, C.I.E., V.D., who was General Traffic Manager of the East Indian Railway until he retired and who compiled and published the "History of the East Indian Railway". Subsequently he was for a number of years Managing Director of the Assam Bengal Railway Company and a Member of the London Board of His Exalted Highness the Nizam's Guaranteed State Railway.

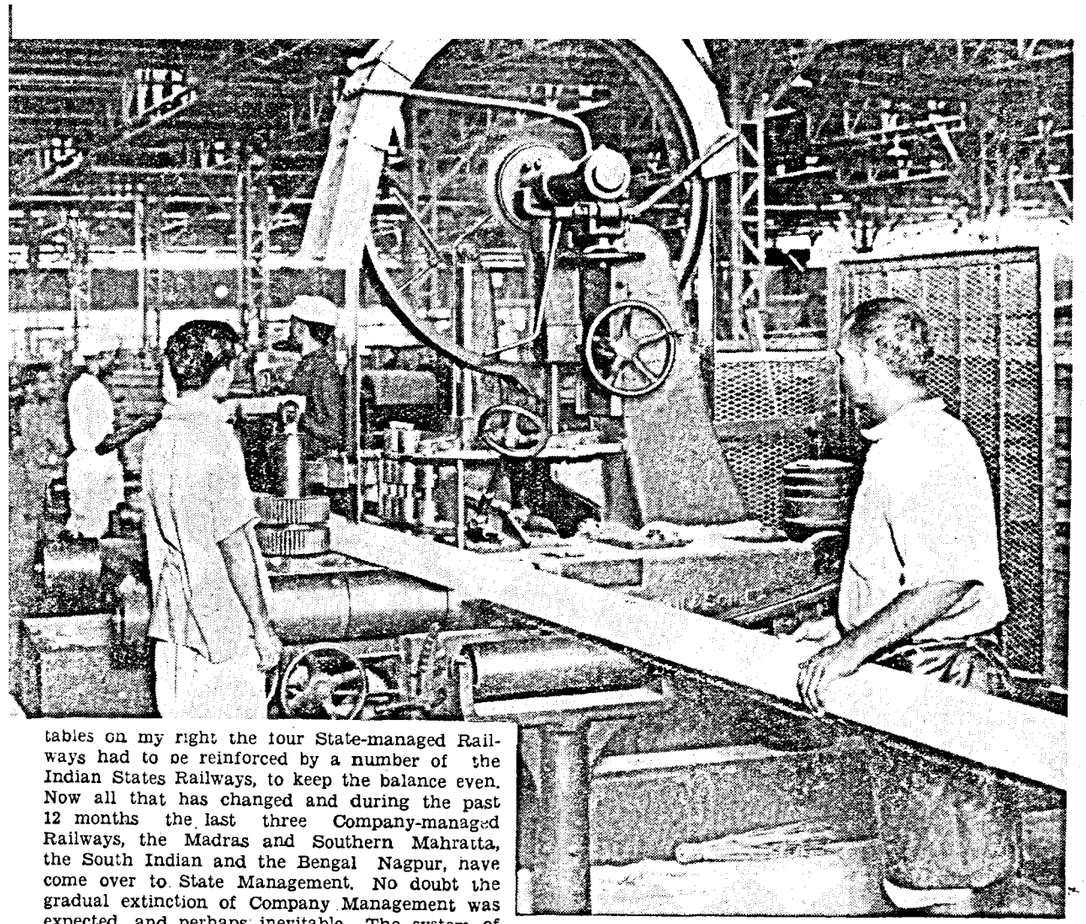
To an earlier generation also belonged the late Col. S. Longfield Crawster, C.B., C.I.E., who was Agent of the North Western Railway and retired in 1917.

We also, I am sorry to say, have to record the deaths of three officers who were either still in Railway service or on leave preparatory to retirement. I refer first to the late Mr. A. M. Robertson, C.I.E., M.C., V.D., Chief Mechanical Engineer, Bengal Nagpur Railway, who was a Member of the Mechanical Section of this Conference until his retirement which was so closely followed by his untimely death. Many here also will remember and regret the death while on military duty of Dr. W. D. Speedy, Chief Medical Officer, Bengal Nagpur Railway. Lastly I have to mention a very well known figure at these Conferences who passed on early in 1944. I refer to the late Mr. L. F. Jackson. He was for a number of years a distinguished Engineer Officer of the old Eastern Bengal Railway and took part in the Hukawng Valley Railway Survey in 1920-21. Later he was a Senior Government Inspector of Railways until he retired from State Railway Service in 1937 and became Manager of the Jaipur State Railway. When the war came this post was not sufficiently exciting for 'L.F.' and he soon got himself engaged on the reconstruction of the Nushki-Zahidan section of the North Western Railway in 1941-42 when that route became a vital supply line to Russia. Then when the war came to the other side of India he returned to the Bengal and Assam Railway and was responsible for the rapid and efficient carrying out of a number of important developments on that Railway in 1942 and 1943. In September, 1943, he became my Chief Engineer (Construction) and was given the rather fantastic task of building up the organisation required for the carrying into effect of the large schemes of development now in progress on the Assam Lines of Communication. Unfortunately this great task was too much for his strength (he was 62), his health failed early in 1944 and he had to retire; he only survived his retirement a few weeks.

Three Past Presidents

It is usual on these occasions to refer to changes in Delegates to the Conference that have taken place during the last year; this year changes have been so numerous that I shall not attempt to detail them all. It would almost be quicker to congratulate those who are so fortunate (or unfortunate) as to be still in the same place as they occupied this time last year, and leave it at that. I would however say how much we shall all miss this year our three past Presidents—Mr. G. C. Laughton, C.I.E., of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, Mr. J. W. Gordon, C.I.E., O.B.E., of the Jodhpur Railway and Mr. C. G. W. Cordon, C.I.E., of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway. We offer a friendly welcome to all those Delegates who are here for the first time.

The most notable event in the Railway World of India during the last year has, I think, been the final passing of the "Company-Managed" Railways. Only a few years back the Delegates and other Officers of the seven "Company-Managed" Class I Railways used to occupy the whole length of the tables on my left, while at the



Besides munitions, Indian Railway Workshops are producing a number of other items required by the Army. Here, timber for tent poles is being roughed out.

tables on my right the four State-managed Railways had to be reinforced by a number of the Indian States Railways, to keep the balance even. Now all that has changed and during the past 12 months the last three Company-managed Railways, the Madras and Southern Mahratta, the South Indian and the Bengal Nagpur, have come over to State Management. No doubt the gradual extinction of Company Management was expected, and perhaps inevitable. The system of Company Management may perhaps have become an anachronism, but it was none the less very efficient. The Companies were in some cases the descendants of the old Guaranteed Companies, of which the first three the East Indian Railway Company, the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company and the Madras Railway Company were incorporated in 1849 and 1853. These Companies, and others later, were responsible for nearly all of the early pioneering and set a great tradition of service for their officers and other employees. While we do not question the correctness of the decision we may be forgiven for shedding a silent tear at the final passing of the last of the large Indian Railway Companies.

A great loss to us in the last year has been the retirement of our Chief Commissioner, Sir Leonard Wilson. After a distinguished career, lasting nearly thirty years, on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway he came to Delhi as Chief Commissioner in July 1940 and has had the superhuman task of piloting Indian Railways through by far the most difficult four years of their existence. It is, I think, only those of us who, either as General Managers or as officers in the Board's office, have been in frequent contact with the Chief Commissioner, can know anything of the immense pressure of work and anxiety Sir Leonard Wilson has had to shoulder, and can realise how through everything he has kept a clear head and unruffled temper; no one could have more fully followed Horace's advice, "Aequam memento rebus in arduis servare mentem". Though he has gone, he is still working for India and for us. He served India nobly, and we were all very glad to see that he has

been created a Knight Commander of the Order of the Indian Empire in the New Year's honours list.

Next I should like to refer to the great experiment that was made on my Railway, early in 1944; I refer to the putting of the operation of a large section of the Assam Lines of Communication under the control of the United States Operating Battalions. Naturally such a change, involving the putting of several thousand Indian Railway staff under the orders of United States Officers, at first sight bristles with difficulties. But when these difficulties were really looked into it became clear that none of them were insuperable, given close co-operation, a frank exchange of ideas, and a reasonable degree of tolerance on both sides. As soon as I met Col. J. A. Appleton, who was originally in Command of the American Battalions, I was sure that the necessary co-operation could and would be achieved. After only a few months in this country Col. Appleton was summoned to other work elsewhere and was succeeded by Brig. General P. F. Yount, who had had previous experience in charge of the operation of the United States worked section of the Railways in Persia. I am glad to say that I and my officers have at all times received the fullest and friendliest advice and assistance from Col. Appleton and later from General Yount and their Battalion Commanders, and the minor difficulties that have occurred have been smoothed out. The results of the experiment have been most successful. While it would not be expedient to give figures, the tonnage handled on the Lines of Communication has risen at a rate which has, I believe, been very gratifying to all concerned.

Tribute to Indian Staff

The special problems and unexpected demands that arose last April were all successfully dealt with, and our Indian staff worked most praiseworthily, when large sections of our line were threatened by the Japanese, not only on the length where they had United States assistance, but also on another Section, which was perhaps the most seriously menaced, where the staff were working under B. and A. Railway officers. I believe that we shall obtain some permanent gain from this experiment, which will last after the United States forces leave us. They have set us a new standard of keenness, determination and cheerfulness, which I am glad to say is proving infectious. Certain also of the United States methods, such as their system of hand signalling without flags, I am copying and propose to standardise on the B. and A. Railway.

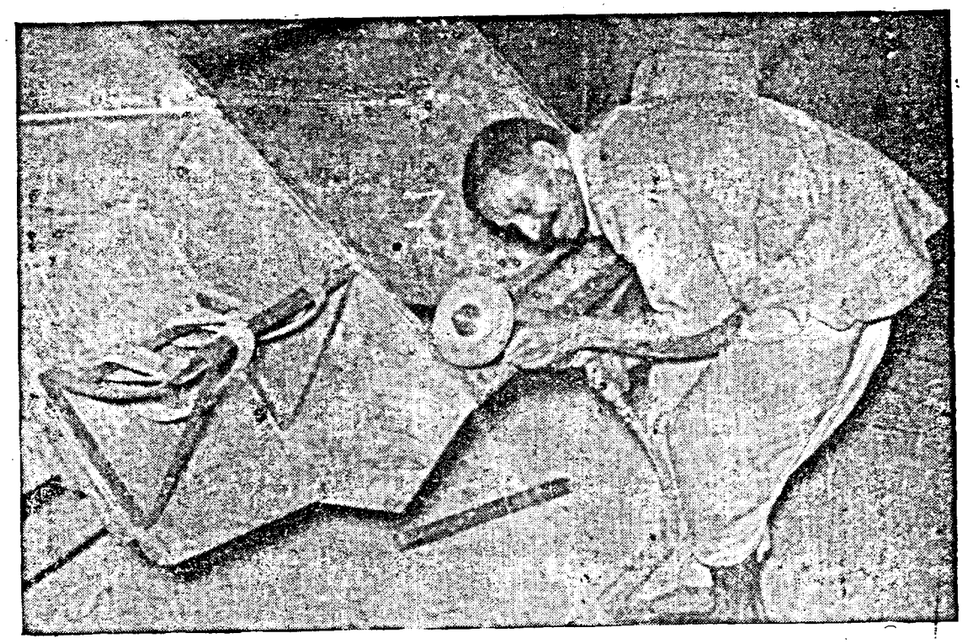
I do not propose to deliver a lecture on the difficulties with which Railways in India generally are at present faced, or the steps that we are taking to surmount them. It is now at least two years since many Railway Administrations felt that they had reached the limit of their resources and could not carry another ton of goods or another passenger. But we have continued to go ahead and to carry more and more, as the approximate traffic returns show. Unfortunately for the general public, the increased lift is all absorbed by war traffic and it is difficult to see any prospect of better facilities for public traffic being possible for some time to come.

Post-War Reconstruction Plans

As regards the future, major questions of Post-War Reconstruction have been actively studied, both in the Board's office and on Railways and some important, though necessarily provisional, plans have been prepared. One question that has been engaging the attention of the Commercial Committee is that very serious problem of Railway Rates in the Post-War period. The Committee have been greatly assisted by analyses of the rates charged for important commodities, which have been prepared by Mr. Higginson of the Bengal Nagpur Railway. These analyses indicate that for many commodities telescopic rates on the through mileage can be devised which would not greatly affect the revenue earned by Railways. Such a change would be a valuable simplification and would, I anticipate, be welcomed by the business community.

I do, however, feel that the greatest problem to be faced in connection with rates in the Post-War period is not so much what the rates will be as how and by whom they will be fixed. At present each Administration, has full discretion, within certain limits, to adjust its own rates. This has worked well in the past. The 20 years between the two World Wars have seen the great and rapid expansion of the steel industry in India, and the creation and growth of amongst others, the cement and sugar industries. This would have been impossible, had the present rate fixing system not afforded a reasonable degree of flexibility. The good sense and mutual co-operation of the Commercial Heads of Railways has ensured the quotation of special rates sufficiently low to foster the growth of these indigenous industries, but not so low as to result in uneconomic working.

We must, however, hope and expect that the growth of new industries and the expansion of existing ones in India after the War will be very much more rapid than it has been in the past, and it is at least doubtful whether the present system will assure that each new industry as it gets into production will have



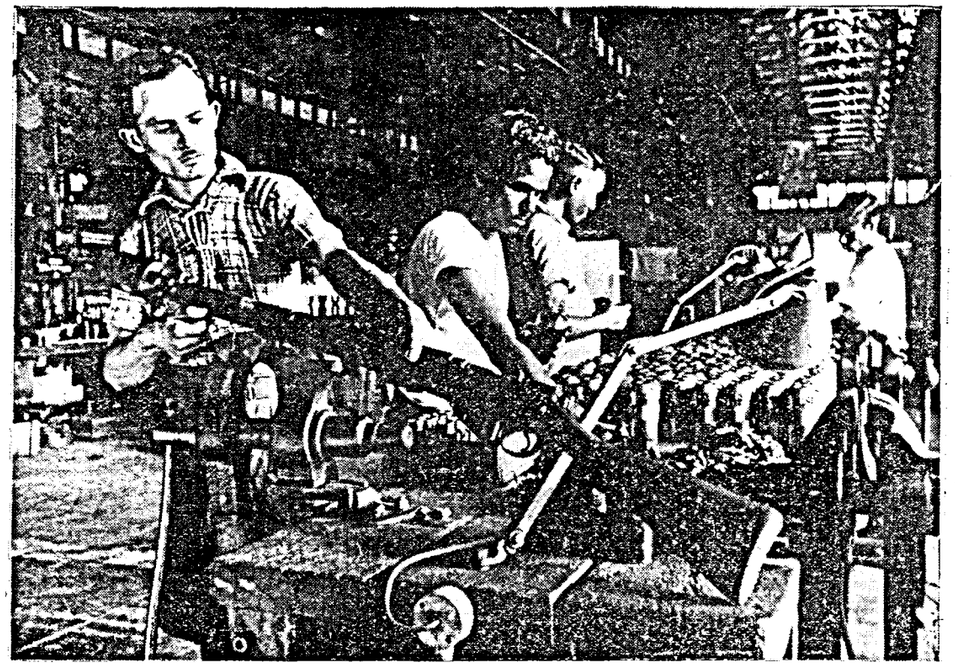
Electric welder at work on one of the armoured carriers which are being turned out in a steady stream in Indian railway workshops.

Railway rates arranged for it which will give the industry a reasonable chance of obtaining a market in a reasonably wide area. Further, there will be major questions of policy to settle, such as what in the best interests of India as a whole, should be the relationship between rates for indigenous products and rates for imported goods, or between the rates for goods moving to Ports for export and rates for the same goods moving to markets in India. Once the policy of the future Government of India on such questions has been settled, there must be machinery for carrying it out, and I believe that the best course will be to set up a Central Rate Fixing Authority, which would be assisted by subordinate Regional Authorities at the main business centres. Section 183 of the Government of India Act of 1935 seems to anticipate a Central Rate Fixing Authority more or less on these lines. I visualise this organisation developing in a similar way to the present Priority Control Organisation, and it might very well grow out of this Organisation after the war.

At present the Chief Controller of Railways Priorities and his Regional Controllers arrange



These men are using a pneumatic drill for riveting the plates of an armoured carrier.



Grenade dischargers which can throw a grenade some hundreds of yards are mass produced in this railway workshop.

what should move, and where, by means of orders under the Defence of India Rules and by instructions to the various Administrations fixing the relative priority of various classes of traffic. This is necessary in order to ensure that the best use, from the point of view of the country as a whole, shall be made of the limited transportation capacity available. After the war, we hope that we shall in reasonable time return to that happy state where our ability to produce transportation will equal the demand. Then the necessity for the Priority Organisation will cease, and I suggest that it should then become the Central Rate Fixing Authority.

I had better try to fill in some of the details of the picture as I see it. I anticipate that after the war the present nine Class I State-managed Railway systems will remain, territorially, very much as they at present are. No doubt there may be, and I think should be, some readjustments, and sections of line may be transferred from one Administration to another in order to make each system, as far as may be possible, a reasonably compact entity. But I should not recommend any further amalgamations of systems at this stage, nor on the other hand any carving up to produce new systems. Such major changes are, I believe, bound to result in some temporary loss of efficiency which would be likely to outweigh any gains that might be anticipated in the way of reduction in cost of administration. Further, I think it would be a mistake after the war to attempt to standardise organisation on Railways. At present there is wide divergence between the systems of organisation of the four Railways which have been under State-management for several years, and I think it is right that there should be. I do not suggest that present systems are all ideal and should not be varied—that would be fatal. The organisation of each Railway should be continually under review and changes and improvements made wherever any weakness shows itself. But I also consider that it would be a serious mistake to select the Divisional System as applied on one Railway and say "this is what we want, all State-Railways will adopt this particular organisation as soon as possible."

However, when we come to considering the Commercial, or Sales Organisation of Railways, I am all in favour of unification and, as I have already tried to show, I believe it would be greatly to the advantage of the country. The present Commercial Departments of Railways would remain as at present and most of their activities, including claims work, publicity, catering and so on would continue unchanged. It is only the Rates Organisation that would be centralised. The actual Railway Administration would only have very limited powers to vary local rates, to meet local conditions, and would have to refer higher up any questions involving variations of through rates, or important alterations of local rates that might have possible repercussions on other markets. The Regional Rates Controllers, who would probably make their Headquarters at Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Lahore, with perhaps a fifth at Cawnpore, would have wide powers and would arrange, or vary through rates, carrying out the policy laid down for them by the Chief Controller of Rating in Delhi. All really important rates questions, for instance variations in the coal scales, would in any case be referred to the Chief Controller.

A Suggestion

It may be argued that this would make for over-centralisation and that Provincial Governments and the larger industries would find it even more difficult than they do at present to get their grievances about rates and charges listened to. There is force in this argument. But if the Railways are to continue to be owned by the Central Government, who have to find the money for fresh development, and to make good any trading losses, then surely the Central Government must have the final say in fixing rates and fares. Probably a Central Rates Advisory Committee, comprising representatives of Provincial Governments, Industries and Agriculture, meeting with reasonable frequency, could keep their points of view well before the Chief Controller of Rating.

This would in the first instance apply only to the nine Class I Railways which are at present under State-management; the position of the Railways owned and managed by the Indian States is different and they can hardly be expected to take orders from the Government of India on their rating policy. However, the nine Class I State-managed Railways are at present responsible for about 92 per cent. of the goods ton-mileage handled in India so that in any case the main development of India's Post-War traffic will be dealt with by them. I have no doubt however that such problems as may

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 215)

SIR EDWARD BENTHALL'S TRIBUTE TO RAILWAYMEN

OPENING the Annual Session of the Indian Railway Conference Association in New Delhi on January 19, the Hon'ble Sir Edward Benthall, Member for War Transport, Government of India, said:

Before replying to the President's most interesting address, I must express my appreciation of the honour of being invited here once again to attend your meeting. This annual session of the Indian Railway Conference Association is a most important event in the railway year and if, on this occasion, it has had to be postponed for a month or two, there could be no better reason than that your President should have taken the opportunity to secure a very well earned holiday and to acquaint himself with the state of transport affairs in the United Kingdom and Europe.

Mr. Cuffe has opened his remarks in the traditional manner by giving what always sounds rather like a statement of births, marriages and deaths in the railway world. This is no formality, for the references show how many honoured names there are in the history of Indian railways, past and current, and how, even when the great men have passed on, their work is not forgotten. However, it is proper for me to take this opportunity to pay tribute also to all those faithful but unnamed servants of the railway whose fate it is to have honours and distinctions pass them by but on whom nevertheless the running of the railways equally depends. Many are called but few are chosen, but, if they are not chosen, they are not forgotten and I hope it never will be forgotten that the railways are run not by a machine but by a collection of individuals to whom an understanding of their personal problems is an incentive to loyal endeavour and to whom a breath of appreciation is as manna in the wilderness of criticism. The railwaymen as a whole can look back on the year's work since the last meeting with a satisfaction that they have deserved well of the country.

Tribute to Sir Leonard Wilson

If, however, I may single out one name for special reference, it gives me genuine pleasure to endorse all that the President has said of Sir Leonard Wilson. Wilson and I worked together very closely through two strenuous years, and he had carried the burden of two previous years of dark and dreary memory. I am under

a deep personal obligation for the consistent wisdom of the advice which he tendered on railway matters. The President's quotation from Horace is apt and I will cap it with another from the Ode beginning—*Justum et tenacem propositi virum.*

The words *Si fractus illabatur orbis*

Impavidum ferient ruinae,

my own translation of which is "If the world itself were shattered into fragments, the ruins would strike him unafraid," might have been written for Winston Churchill, but are not inappropriate to the character of our late Chief Commissioner. He would, I am sure, be the first to regard the K.C.I.E. with which he has been honoured as a tribute not only to himself but to the railwaymen who have followed his lead.

This is also unfortunately the last meeting which our trusted friend, Hugh Raper, will attend. Throughout the war he has been a tower of strength to the railways, and he has made a most notable contribution to the war effort and to the solution of the many difficult transportation questions which have arisen.

We shall greatly miss him. I as much or even more than most of you—and we wish him and Lady Raper god-speed and good luck.

American Contribution

I most cordially endorse the high praise given by Mr. Cuffe to our American friends for their work on the Assam Lines of Communication.

They have been in the position to bring to bear a volume of direct supervision and control which we on the Indian Railways unfortunately cannot emulate. No praise can be too high for the magnificent way in which they have got their coats and shirts off to the task and the superbly accommodating manner with which they have worked in with our own men. Their contribution has been outstanding. The highest appreciation of the Government of India is due to the leadership of Col. Appleton, Brig. Yount and all the other senior officers and indeed to all ranks who have made the experiment a success from the beginning. The target set by the Supreme Commander was the sky and we have recently received from him through His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief a generous letter of appreciation which shows that the progress made skywards has given those most concerned a high degree of satisfaction.

But in according to our friends the most hearty appreciation which they deserve, we must be careful to pay due tribute also to our own railwaymen. On the Lines of Communication to Assam they have given of their best and the same meed of credit is due to them for their fine work and the excellent spirit of co-operation existing as to our American friends. Elsewhere on the Lines of Communication in East Bengal and on the vast network of railways which covers India, in the face of very trying wartime conditions of living, handicapped by shortage of engines and wagons and unaided by any reinforcement of supervision, they have stuck to the task in the face of little public recognition. Once again I take this opportunity of saying "Well done, stick to it."

There is, of course, much to be done yet. After five years of war strain Government are calling for the biggest effort yet. It will be a hard task, but I am confident that they will succeed. The most strenuous part of the battle will be during the next six to nine months after which we shall get in growing abundance a reinforcement of rolling stock for which we have so long been praying. We have long said and say again "Give us the tools and we will deliver the goods," but to that I must now add "Give us the coal and the proper coal," for our efforts to increase speed and punctuality have recently been largely negatived by the quality of coal delivered to us and the burden on the railway personnel as a whole, but particularly of course on the firemen, has been heavily increased.

The President has rightly stressed as one of the outstanding events of the year the final passing of the large Indian Railway Companies. It is ironical that a businessman who believes in company management should preside at the liquidation, but Government policy was settled many years ago after a long controversy and it has been our duty to carry out the policy. Nevertheless, I believe that the objection to company-managed railways was fundamentally not so much an objection to company management as to management by a Board located in London. It may seem heresy to some opinion to say so, but I would not be surprised if political and other experience did not ultimately result in a reversion of public opinion towards company management under Central guidance.

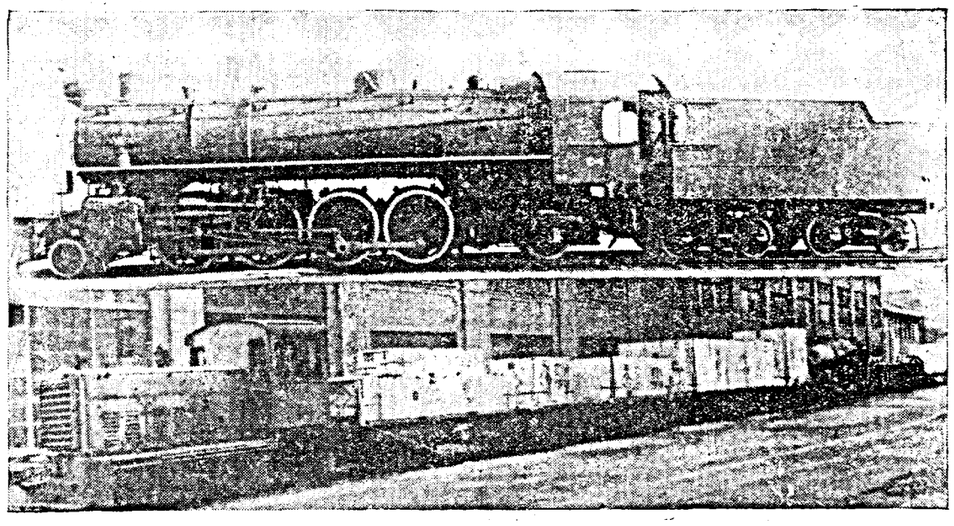
Turning to the most striking theme of the President's speech, it is most satisfactory that he and the Association should have taken up the challenge to examine the rating structure and to give Government the benefit of their advice. There is, I am sure, no more complex subject in railway administration and few so complex in other branches of commercial business and none concerning which your advice as an Association can be more valuable to the public. The I.R.C.A. will be doing a great public service if they can reduce the principles involved in this subject to formulae which can be easily understood by laymen and which will result in a simpler and more equitable and perhaps a more easily digested schedule of rates. Your recommendations are awaited with peculiar interest not only by Government but by an interested public.

Danger of Centralisation

Mr. Cuffe is almost certainly correct in his statement that his views on the machinery of rate fixing will stimulate controversy. What appears to be a suggestion that the Railway Board and the Railways should be divorced from the control of their revenue earning machinery is a case in point. It is true that in recent years and particularly in wartime there has been a tendency for Government independently to fix maximum and minimum prices for various commodities, but that is the usual limit of Government intervention and such a state of control already exists on the railways. To place on another Department of Government the responsibility for rate fixing would cut away one of the first responsibilities of the Railway Board and the General Managers, namely that of securing by efficient and economic general control an adequate return on the capital invested in the railways.

Nor is the prospect of the centralisation of rate fixing altogether alluring. There is indeed the danger that touch would be lost with the business communities and with Provincial Governments. In spite of modern communications there is still substance in the Moghal proverb *Dilhi dur ast.* There would be a danger of the growth of an inflexible, unwieldy Central machine which would tend by its very complexity to be a dead hand on development and particularly when the local co-ordination of road, steamer and rail rates is concerned. With the recent acquisition of company-managed railways, we have unquestionably reached the cross roads where we are for the first time free to choose which road we shall take in our rating policy. With all the principal railways state-managed, there should be a cessation of rate cutting and manipulation as between company and state railways and consequently an entirely new outlook.

Nobody, of course, will question the President's dictum that the main lines of policy must be laid down by Government. But there may be other and better ways of attaining co-ordination and simplification than that suggested by the President. For one thing, it might be a step forward permanently to strengthen the traffic section of the Railway Board with a rates expert



(Top half) A Canadian locomotive built for Indian State Railways. (Lower half) The same locomotive dismantled and packed in 17 crates for shipment.

as Director (Rating). There might also be a permanent Rates Committee of the major Railways consisting of rates experts from the different administrations which should meet regularly to co-ordinate the fixing of through rates and to study the effect of the rating structure upon industries as they develop, leaving local rates mainly to the individual administration. Whether or not a Rates Advisory Committee would be advisable is a matter of opinion. It must not be forgotten that the Government of India Act, 1935, makes provision for an *ad hoc* Railway Rates Committee and a statutory Railway Tribunal, but until we know what form the new Constitution is to take, and in particular what the Railway Administration of the future is to be, it is not possible to reach any final conclusion on this subject of rates machinery if indeed there is any such thing as finality in such matters.

In the meantime, however, we have also to think of the subject in close conjunction with a subject which has been engaging our attention and that of the Provincial Governments during the last few days, namely the nature of a Central organisation for dealing with the co-ordination of road rates with railway rates. I shall not attempt to propound a solution here if only because we want the benefit of your independent advice on the railway problem. The President's stimulating, if controversial, contribution to the subject is extremely valuable and will, I hope, lead to still more intensive discussion and the formulation of agreed recommendations by the I.R.C.A.

Uniformity of Administration

With Mr. Cuffe's remarks concerning uniformity of administration I am largely in agreement. It seems wise when all railways are coming under State management to preserve a healthy spirit of competition and rivalry in operational methods and organisation among the different units in the same way as has been achieved on the railways in the United Kingdom. There is no doubt, of course, that as time goes on, experience will show the evident superiority of one method over another and that all changes will be in the direction of standardisation so that a tendency to uniformity will develop, but it would be a mistake to force uniformity unduly at the expense of *esprit de corps* and the competitive spirit. The danger of State ownership resulting in leaden leadership and of a doctrinaire wielding of immense power at the top killing local initiative, must always be guarded against. So on the whole I agree with his policy of hastening slowly though there are a good many directions such as in the personnel organisation where speedy changes are in some Administrations desirable.

Before concluding I take this opportunity, which is suggested by Mr. Cuffe's remarks, of expressing to the Governments and the administrations of the railways in Indian States, as well as to the Company-managed railways, the appreciation of Government for the cordially co-operative way in which, following a long tradition, they have worked with us in solving the many insistent problems which have arisen out of war conditions.

Finally, Mr. President, I wish you and your colleagues every success to your deliberations and what is necessary to success for railwaymen as for everybody else, Good Luck in 1945.

RAILWAY PRIORITIES CONTROL

A Press Note issued by the War Transport Department, Government of India, on January 19 stated:

The Railway Priorities Control Organisation was set up with a view to ensure utilisation of the limited rail transport facilities of India in the best interests of the country as a whole. There has been, however, a gap in the organisation due to the special position held by the railways owned and worked by Indian States. Although these railways have in the past fully co-operated with the Government of India, it has been considered advisable that they should be brought into closer association with the Railway Priorities Control Organisation.

With the concurrence of the States concerned direct relations have, therefore, been established between the Railway Priorities Control Organisation of the Government of India and the Indian States Railways and revised arrangements came into effect from January 1, 1945. Under this extended organisation Indian States Railways will have their own State Controllers of Railway Priorities who will work in direct contact with the various Regional Controllers of Railway Priorities set up by the War Transport Department of the Government of India.

Applications for priority for movement of goods by rail to stations on such States Railways should, therefore, in future be made to the State Controller of Railway Priorities concerned instead of to the Chief Controller of Railway Priorities, New Delhi, as at present.

EQUALISATION OF SEA AND RAIL FREIGHT

A PRESS Communique issued by the War Transport Department, Government of India, on January 24 stated:

Owing to war conditions there has been a marked disparity in India between the cost of transport of goods by rail and coastwise by sea. The costs by sea are considerably higher than by rail, owing mainly to the cost of marine war risk insurance. The consequence has been that consignors have not infrequently preferred to use rail transport, even though this may involve delay in despatch, rather than bear the extra expenditure of sea transport.

To ensure the maximum use of all available forms of transport, it is necessary to encourage the use of sea transport round the coast to the greatest possible extent; but Government realize that before goods are forced on to the sea route, it is only just that the difference between rail and sea charges should be equalized as nearly as possible.

Marine Insurance Scheme

The Government of India have therefore prepared a scheme with this end in view. The scheme consists of two important measures and will in the first place be applied only to certain movements of specified commodities which are considered essential. First, port-to-port rail rates for the carriage of these commodities will be raised so as to make them comparable to the costs by sea exclusive of marine war risk insurance charges.

Secondly, by arrangement with the Underwriters of Marine Insurance, free marine war risk insurance cover will be provided at Government expense on all consignments of these goods which are sent by steamer or country craft, on the condition that the consignor has at his own cost obtained a policy of ordinary marine insurance from an Underwriter of his own selection.

The scheme, which will come into force from February 1, 1945, will in the first place be applicable to movements of the following commodities, which will thereafter normally be made by sea only:

1. Salt from Karachi-Kathiawar to Calcutta.

2. Commercial coal from Calcutta to all ports. (Rail rates for coal will remain unchanged).

3. Raw cotton from Karachi to Kathiawar, Bombay, Cochin, Tuticorin, Madras and Calcutta; from Bombay to Kathiawar, Mormugoa, Cochin, Tuticorin, Madras and Calcutta; from Mormugoa to Bombay, Cochin, Tuticorin, and Madras; from Cochin to Bombay and Mormugoa; and from Madras to Calcutta.

4. Cotton yarn from Bombay to Karachi, Mormugoa, Cochin, Madras and Calcutta; from Mormugoa to Bombay, Tuticorin and Calcutta; from Cochin to Bombay, Tuticorin and Calcutta; from Tuticorin to Karachi, Kathiawar, Bombay, Mormugoa and Calcutta; and from Madras to Karachi, Kathiawar, Bombay, Mormugoa, Tuticorin and Calcutta.

5. Cotton piecegoods from Bombay to Karachi, Kathiawar, Mormugoa, Cochin, Tuticorin, Madras and Calcutta; from Mormugoa to Bombay; from Cochin to Karachi and Bombay; and from Madras to Karachi, Bombay and Calcutta;

6. Tea, jute and jute goods, iron and steel —from Calcutta to Bombay.

7. Paper from Calcutta to Madras and Bombay.

8. Coir and copra from Cochin to Bombay and Karachi.

9. Leather and E.I. Kips from Madras to Calcutta and Bombay.

For the purposes of this scheme it has been decided that the Government of India will bear the cost of marine war risk insurance on a declared value computed as follows:

(a) the actual wholesale market value or the controlled wholesale selling price, whichever is less, of the commodities at the port of shipment on the date when the application for marine war risk insurance is made;

(b) Freight and other charges incidental to the shipping of the commodities:

(c) 10 per cent for profit; and,

(d) the actual marine insurance premium, the total to be calculated to the nearest rupee.

Claims arising under this scheme will be adjusted by Underwriters in strict accordance with the above basis of valuation and deduction will be made from the amount otherwise recoverable in respect of any freight or other charges which are neither recoverable in respect of any freight or other charges which are neither paid nor payable.

Consignors should approach their usual Underwriters for further details of the scheme.

POST-WAR OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIAN AIRLINE PILOTS

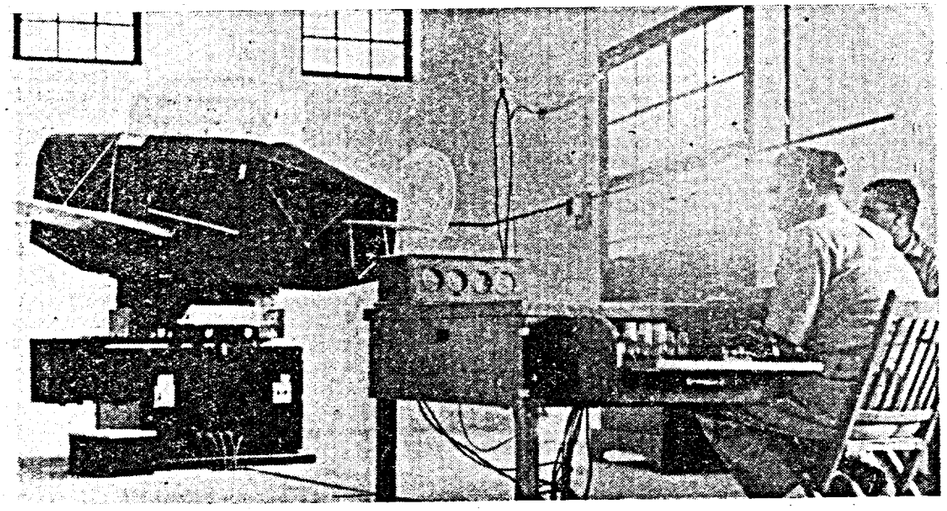
FROM a pre-war level of 1½ million miles flown annually, Indian civil airways now manned almost without exception by Indian aircrews, are this year scheduled to fly more than 2½ million miles, with a very large increase in loads transported due to the use of better aircraft of greater load capacity, said a Press Note issued by the Posts and Air Department, Government of India, on January 19.

It added: The position of India as one of the main bases for operations against Japan and its future place as an indispensable link in the world's airways between East and West is creating an opportunity for Indian airline pilots. On the Indian civil airlines which exist today, Indian pilots are flying as much as 7,000 route miles daily on regular transport operations, almost wholly in connection with the war effort. Some of these pilots have been flying with Tata Sons Ltd. and Indian National Airways Ltd. for more than ten years, and their record of air experience, running up to 5,000 hours in the air in some cases, entitles them to be regarded as fully experienced and matured captains of mercantile aircraft. Having begun as pilots of such light aircraft as Fox Moth and Leopard Moth, which were used in the early years of the Indian air mail services, most of these men are now qualified as captains or second pilots of such transport aircraft as the D.C.3, with an all-up weight of about 11 tons.

Individual Records of Pilots

The individual records of some of these pilots in miles flown, variety of aircraft which they are licensed to fly and the standards attained in safety and regularity of operation bear favourable comparison with those of any country in a similar stage of aviation development. They offer strong encouragement to Indian pilots now flying in the Air Forces who look forward to a career in civil aviation after the war.

The declared policy of Government to develop Indian air services, internal and external, and the particulars that have been published of the post-war technical requirements for air transport pilots, open up a wide field of post-war opportunity for those now flying on Air Force duties. Employment for air transport pilots will arise in scheduled air services, taxi and charter operations, air survey, and the flying of private aeroplanes maintained by companies and individuals for their own use, whilst flying and gliding clubs will provide employment for pilot instructors. The system of internal air transport services outlined in the post-war plans which have been submitted to Government will alone require the services of over 100 pilots—commanders and second pilots. This plan will undoubtedly form the foundation for further development. Other air transport services and ancillary activities will grow around it.



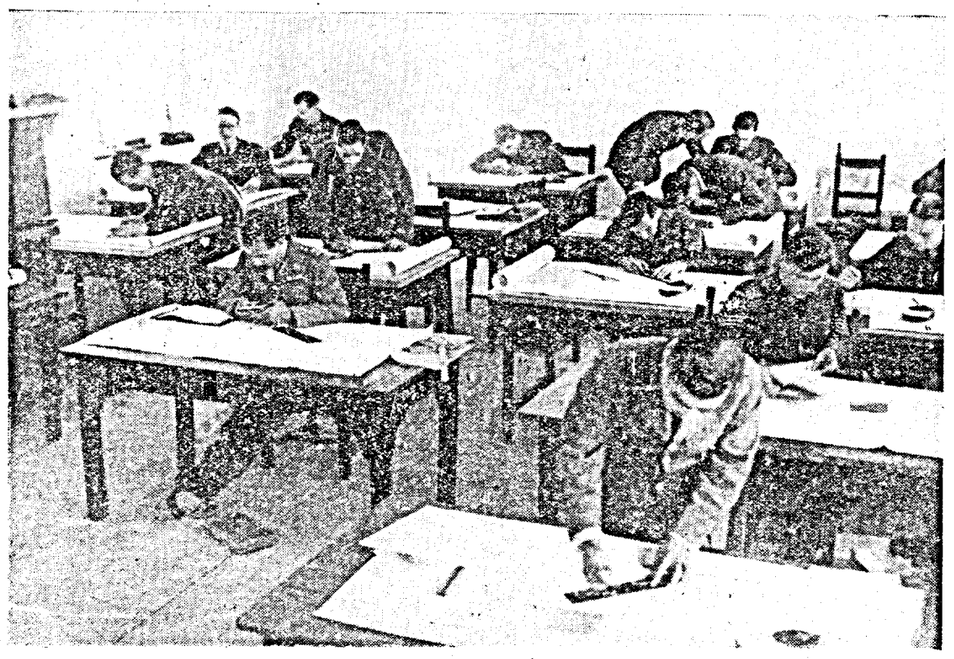
The Link Trainer at work. It is a most ingenious ground trainer for pilots.

Post-War Plans

At the recent International Aviation Conference in the U.S.A., it was clearly recognised that every country has a reciprocal right to operate air services to deal with its traffic to other countries and the Government of India have given consideration to the programme of international air transport operations which India may undertake. No detailed plans have yet been worked out for these overseas services and the requirements of pilots will naturally vary according to the routes and frequencies.



Before flying their planes, pilots have to understand their engines.



Not all of the pupils' training is flying. Many hours are spent in the classrooms. Here, a navigation lecture is in progress.

Taking all the prospects that can reasonably be foreseen in the period of 10 to 15 years after the war, it is calculated that employment will arise for not less than 300 pilots in Indian internal and external air services, other commercial operations and flying and gliding clubs. This figure is estimated on a conservative basis and takes no account of the possibility that new technical advances will arise in aircraft design and greatly accelerate the rate of commercial development of air transportation. Comparatively small advances in economic efficiency will have large effects on the rate of progress.

The technical qualifications and experience proposed by Government for airline pilots in the post-war era are high, ranking with what will be the international practice on public airways. To assist those pilots who have served in the war and whose training and experience fall short of the requirements, the post-war plans include a Government School of Air Service Training, where technical personnel of all categories will be given the opportunity of attaining the high level of skill and experience that post-war airways will demand.

MR. CUFFE'S ADDRESS TO I.R.C.A.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 211)

arise in connection with rates on traffic interchanged between State and Indian States Railways can and will be quickly settled by negotiation and in this I think that this Association can play a very useful part.

Much of what I have said above is, I admit, extremely contentious, and I expect there are many in this room as well as out of it who may profoundly disagree with every word I have said on the subject of Centralised Rate Fixing. My object will have been attained however if I have succeeded in focussing on this problem the degree of serious attention, on the part not only of Government, but also of Railway Officers, and leading Chambers of Commerce, that I know it requires.

In conclusion, I am sure you would all wish me to record our appreciation of the efficient manner in which Mr. S. G. Pick, our General Secretary, and all his assistants and staff have carried on the work of the Association during the past year. In the discharge of his other responsibility, that of Director of Wagon Interchange, Mr. Pick has continued to work under the direction of the Railway Board. We have to thank the Board, and particularly Sir Hugh Raper, Transportation Member, for the general supervision of this vital problem of wagon interchange and we greatly regret that this is the last occasion when Sir Hugh will be with us here.

SCHEME FOR DISPOSAL OF AIRCRAFT SCRAP

A scheme intended to secure the orderly disposal of aircraft scrap through normal trade channels and to ensure that this scrap is put to best beneficial use without disturbing the existing aluminium industry, has been prepared in the Directorate General of Disposals in consultation with representatives of aluminium manufacturing and other allied industries, said a Press Note issued by the Supply Department, Government of India, on January 22.

It added: Under the scheme aircraft scrap, which is composed of different alloys of aluminium and for which there is no guarantee as to the percentage of aluminium in any one lot, can be usefully employed in various ways by casting. It is considered that it might be regarded as a substitute for brass rather than as a competitor of virgin aluminium.

It has already been demonstrated that it can be cast into numerous articles of household use and for ornamental purposes.

Rs. 660 Per Ton

The scrap is likely to be available at Lucknow, Cawnpore, Karachi, Jodhpur, Lahore, Madras area, Ambala, Trichinopoly, Calcutta and Bombay. Government are prepared to sell the scrap either in its existing form at a rate of Rs. 660 per ton with no guarantee of any specific percentage of any grade of scrap, or in the form of ingots, prices for which will be announced later.

Large purchasers who are in a position to enter into long term contracts agreeing to purchase specified quantities will be allowed a suitable discount up to 10 per cent. Normally Government will not make any sales of less than 10 tons, the intention being that the small scale buyers should obtain their requirements from the large buyers at the controlled rates. If, however, the small scale users are unable to obtain their requirements from the large scale buyers, Government will arrange to release the requisite quantities from their depots at the controlled rates.

The Cochin Government have generously contributed a sum of Rs. 10,000 to His Excellency the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund for the purchase of a Mobile Canteen.

TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES IN COMMONWEALTH

The Government of India understand that His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom have after consultation with the Governments of the Dominions and India invited the Rt. Hon. Lord Reith, P.C., G.C.V.O., G.B.E., C.B., to visit the Dominions and India for the purpose of discussing with the Governments concerned the future organisation of the telecommunications services of the Commonwealth. He will be accompanied by Sir Edwin Herbert, Director-General of the Postal and Telegraph Censorship Department, Sir Stanley Angwin, Assistant Director-General of the British Post Office, Mr. J. Buckley of the War Cabinet Office, and Mr. L. V. Lewis. This mission is expected to leave England shortly.

It will be recalled that last year the Commonwealth Communications Council submitted certain proposals to the Governments of the Commonwealth for the re-organisation of the Commonwealth Telecommunication Services on public utility lines and a public announcement in this connection was made by the Government of India on August 23, 1944.

The mission is likely to arrive in India early in March, 1945.

RAILWAY STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Standing Finance Committee for Railways met on January 29 and 30, 1945, under the chairmanship of Mr. Zahid Hussain, C.I.E., Financial Commissioner of Railways, to consider the Railway demands for grants for the year 1945-46 and the supplementary demands for 1944-45. They approved of all the demands placed before them.

They also approved of notice being given for the purchase of Sialkot-Narowal Railway, a branch line of 39 miles, the purchase price of which is estimated to be a little over Rs. 38½ lakhs. The Committee were also informed of the latest position of gross earnings and working expenses.

The total approximate gross earnings up to January 10, 1945, are estimated to be Rs. 160.46 crores, that is, Rs. 23.91 crores more than the actuals for the corresponding period of last year, while the approximate ordinary working expenses excluding appropriation to and from Depreciation Fund up to the end of November, 1944, were Rs. 62.65 crores i.e., Rs. 4.85 crores more than for the corresponding period of last year.

ASSAM TEA GARDEN LABOUR'S WAR EFFORT

THE creation of a special "Shadow Labour Force" to meet the demands on labour for Defence projects in Assam, is mentioned in the latest Annual Report (separate publication of the Report has been stopped due to reasons of paper economy) on the working of Tea Districts Emigrant Labour Act for 1942-43.

This labour force, consisting of 50,000 men, was made available from the estates in Assam and Bengal. It has enabled the gardens not only to continue supplying large contingents of labour to an increased number of Defence projects but has ensured that the contingents supplied will consist mainly of settled labour already inured to conditions in the Province, leaving the newly imported labour to accustom itself to the more stable and comfortable conditions of garden life.

To create this force labour was recruited intensively from outside the Province in areas which normally send labour to the tea districts.

A Tribute

Some 27,000 labourers were thus recruited for the Shadow Labour Force of which more than 19,000 were sent to estates in Assam and nearly 8,000 to estates in Bengal. In addition, estates recruited fresh labour to meet their own needs.

The demand for tea labour for work on urgent Defence projects began at the end of 1942. The exodus from Burma in the spring and summer of 1942 produced the first of many emergency calls on the industry for labour. "The service and sacrifice given and made by the industry in this connection," says the Report, "has earned the praise of the Military Commanders in Assam and the gratitude of a large number of humble wayfarers who travelled to safety over roads and tracks made by the tea garden labourers with few mechanical aids."

The Government of India have now authorised persons and concerns in British India to have correspondence with persons and concerns in Belgium through letters also which should not exceed 1 oz. in weight. Business correspondence will continue to be confined to exchange of facts and information only, said a Press Communique issued by the Government of India on January 24.

TO STRENGTHEN INDO-IRANIAN CULTURAL RELATIONS

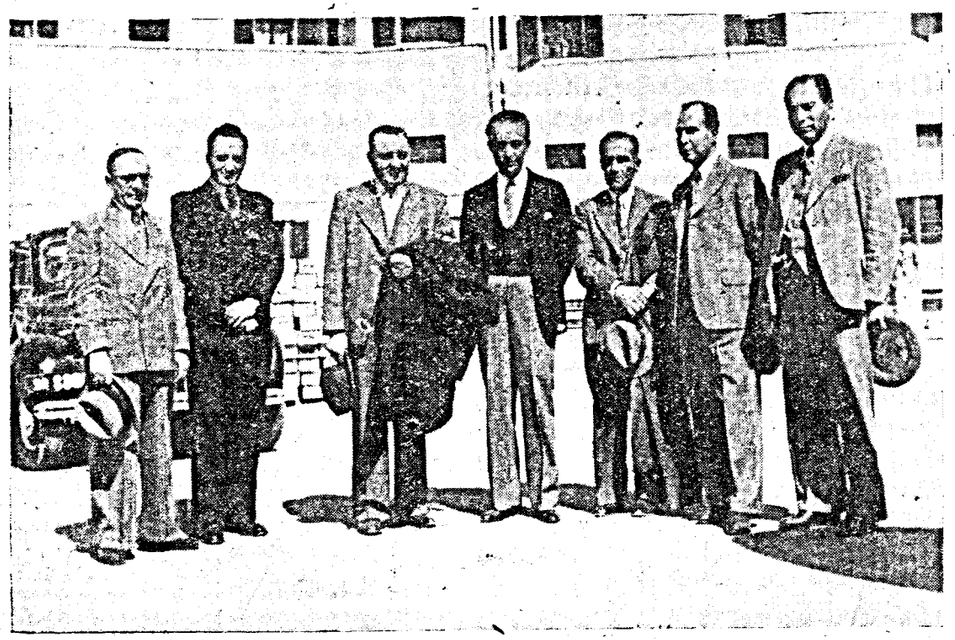
Committees Formed in Delhi and Teheran

A STIMULATING suggestion made by His Excellency Agha Hikmat, Leader of the Iranian Cultural Mission which toured India last spring, was the constitution of two Standing Committees, one in Teheran and the other in Delhi, to give effect to ideas which were put forward by the Mission and to consider further proposals for drawing closer the cultural ties between Iran and India and generally to bring two great traditions into even greater harmony, said a Press Communique issued by the Education, Health and Lands Department, Government of India, on January 25.

It added: An Indo-Iranian Cultural Society has already been set up in Teheran and a body designated the Indo-Iranian Standing Committee has now been formed in Delhi with the Hon'ble Sir Jogendra Singh, Member in Charge of the Education, Health and Lands Department, as Chairman and eleven other members among whom are Agha Ali Motamedy, Consul-General for Iran in India, the Right Hon'ble Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, Dr. Panna Lall, Professor Hadi Hassan of the Aligarh University, Dr. Zakir Hussain, Principal of the Jamia Millia Islamia, and Professor I. H. Qureshi of the Delhi University, as well as officials concerned with Indo-Iranian affairs.

Inaugural Meeting

The inaugural meeting of the Delhi Committee took place in New Delhi on January 22, 1945. After the President and the Consul-General for Iran had welcomed the members various proposals were considered for promoting closer cultural relations between Iran and India, and a Sub-Committee was appointed to study proposals for the formation of an Indo-Iranian Cultural Society, which was envisaged as a learned body with a wide membership designed to foster academic activities as well as schemes for the exchange of students and professors between the two countries as well as to encourage the study of modern Persian in Indian universities.



The Iranian Cultural Mission which visited India last year consisted of His Excellency M. Ali Asghar Hikmat (third from left) Leader, Prof. Ibrahim Pour-Davoud (third from right) and Prof. Rashid-i-Yasemi (first from right). In the centre is Mr. Motamedy, Consul-General for Iran in India.

"The following schemes, already undertaken or under consideration, were reported: the offer of scholarships to Iranian students in Indian technical and other educational institutions; proposals for mutual assistance in archaeology and co-operation between libraries and the very special need to establish in India schools of learning in modern Persian to supplement the study of the classical language.

"The Committee noted with satisfaction the inauguration of an Indo-Iranian Cultural Society in Calcutta, and the many evidences to be found in Bombay, Delhi, Hyderabad and other centres of the genuine and spontaneous enthusiasm in India for the traditions of Persian culture and civilisation. The Committee's efforts will be devoted to the stimulation and co-ordination of all these activities, to the end that modern Iran and modern India, conscious of their great common heritage in the past, may enrich the future through an exchange of ideas and aspirations."

SIR JOGENDRA SINGH'S SPEECH

Presiding over the meeting of the Indo-Iranian Standing Committee in New Delhi on January 22, the Hon'ble Sir Jogendra Singh, Member for Education, Health and Lands, Government of India, said:

By the grace of God the privilege of inaugurating the movement to strengthen Indo-Iranian cultural relations has been given to me. I was still in my teens when my maternal uncle gave me a rare old copy of *Shahnama*, which was given to his grandfather by a King of Kabul, whose escape from the Punjab he had managed to arrange. Then I wandered into the realm of Persian poetry in company of my friends, Sardar Umrao Singh Majithia and Sir Mohd. Iqbal, and enjoyed its rich red wine of love and devction, its wisdom and its search for truth. I learnt then that tangle on tangle is the path of intellect and for those who believe there exists nothing but God. I heard voices of wisdom say: 'they who like Mansur ascend the gallows, reap the fruit, or those who become soft like earth, in the words of Maulana Roome, provide the soil on which virtue prospers, for on hard stone nothing grows. With him I realised the wailing of the pipe, pining with the pain of parting. Human love is nothing but this search for union. No human union is perfect, say the Persian mystics, so they seek union with God. I no more frequent these realms of beauty: even the little Persian that I knew I have forgotten. It is the Western thought that dominates the mind; the West has learnt not only how to harness forces of nature, but how to move minds of men.

I remember a couplet which Professor Browne quoted in the first volume of his Literary History of Persia. It was a cry for independence which came from the heart of Iran.

Indo-Iranian Link

I must no more dwell on the personal phase. The story of Indo-Iranian civilisation is scattered everywhere, in the ruins of Babylon and under the sands of Sind. The link between the two countries extends as far back as the Indian civilisation can be traced, in the ancient civilisation which flourished in the Punjab and the Indus Valley between four and five thousand years ago, a civilisation which produced cities such as Harappa and Mohenjodaro. Eminent scholars and archaeologists have traced the unity of Indo-Iranian culture and called up witnesses from the ruins of palaces and pleasure houses in the two countries. They have made the stones speak. They have laid bare the mounds and revealed what lay covered under the earth. These explorations, both in Iran and in India, must be carried out much further than it has been possible hitherto. It is a field of enquiry in which Iran and India should, and indeed must, work together. In it the horizon of India includes Iran, the horizon of Iran includes India. We hope that our Director-General of Archæology—Dr. Mortimer Wheeler—will be able to undertake a visit to Iran shortly and establish closer relations between our own scholars and archaeologists and those of Iran.

It is impossible to say whether the Aryans wandered out from Central Asia or from the Arctic regions which Tilak thought was their original home, but wherever they went, they stamped the country with their name, whether they called it Iran or Aryavarta or even Ireland.

It is a fact that Aryans came from the same stock whether they settled in the East or the West and developed on similar lines as far as their environments permitted them to do so. These valiant people aspired not only to the conquest of earth but even to that of heaven. The story of the battles of Kings of Persia is enshrined in Firdausi's *Shahnama* and that of Kurukshetra in *Mahabharata*. The *Vedas* proclaim the oneness of man with God and Persian mystics assert the same truth. Shams Tabrez submitted to untold tortures proclaiming this truth. It is true that the Arabs conquered Iran. It is nonetheless true that it is the Iranian culture that pervades the Middle East.

In recent years the contact between India and Iran has not been so close, though Omar Khayam and Hafiz and the proverbs which are a heritage of the race, have never allowed these ancient links to be sundered. Now that aeroplanes and the wireless are linking the world, how can the two countries fail to seek and find their common heritage? For centuries their cultures, economics and politics have constantly intermingled through the achievements of their soldiers, statesmen, merchants, philosophers, poets and adventurers. Agha Motamedy, whom it is my privilege to welcome here to-day, will be able to say in what way these contacts have affected his country: in India they have been kept alive not only by the memory of the beauty and wisdom of Nur Jehan but also by the glories of Persian literature which has influenced our poets, our scholars and our statesmen.

Our Government just over a year ago extended an invitation to the Government of Iran to send a Cultural Mission to this country. I am glad to say that our invitation was readily accepted. His Excellency Agha Ali Asgar Hikmat, who is both a scholar and a statesman, came last spring with a mission and visited some of the important cultural centres including Delhi. I am happy to say that the visit of this Mission was a great success and has had important results.

Cultural Society

On the conclusion of his tour, H.E. Agha Ali Asgar Hikmat made certain valuable suggestions. He proposed that Standing Committees should be set up in Teheran and in India, consisting of representatives from both the countries. These two Committees would keep contact with each other and promote consideration and decision in matters of common concern and thus strengthen the cultural links between the two countries. This proposal was further discussed by H.E. Agha Ali Asgar Hikmat with Sir Olaf Caroe when he visited Teheran. I am informed that the Indo-Iranian Cultural Committee has not only already been set up in Teheran under the Presidency of H.E. the Minister of Education with the Government of Iran, but on its foundations a Cultural Society has been established. We have received a copy of the statutes of the Teheran organisation. The first thing we must do is to welcome its formation and to send a message of cordial cooperation and abiding goodwill. We hope the Standing Committee which we are setting up today will get in touch with the Standing Committee in Iran and the two together will explore their heritage of the past and the possibilities of the future. The Standing Committee will have also to consider how to broaden the basis of its activities.

In the composition of our Committee we have been guided by a sense of the importance of associating in our discussion scholars as well as men of affairs—scholars whose knowledge of things Persian will be of value to us, as well as those who, by reason of their official position, are closely connected with Indo-Iranian affairs.

Tribute to Agha Motamedy

We are particularly happy to have associated with us Agha Motamedy, who represents his country as Consul-General. He has ever since his arrival in Delhi spared no pains not only to establish the friendliest personal contacts but also to foster closer relations between our two countries.

Our aim is not only to strengthen our cultural bonds with Iran but also to pay due regard to other matters which are of no less importance to the well-being of the common man. We feel that India can be of assistance to Iran in many fields, both by reason of her long experience of agriculture and by her general industrial development. We have, therefore, offered scholarships to Iranian students at the Agricultural College at Lyallpur, the Indian Forest College at Dehra Dun, and the Delhi Polytechnic, as well as at the Aitchison College at Lahore and we look forward to the early arrival in India of the first batch of Iranian scholars.

The statement which has been placed before the meeting is not, however, an exhaustive record of our activities. We have already sent four Indian teachers of English to different centres in Iran and hope shortly to send two more. We propose also to project in that country a fuller knowledge of India both through the medium of the written word and by other modern methods. We have been much encouraged by the response accorded in Iran to translations of Indian classics. We hope before long to send a film unit which will bring back to India a record of the glories of that land and in due course to establish a system for the regular exchange of students and professors between India and Iran. We trust that these small beginnings will draw modern Iran and modern India together in the cause of their ancient civilisation and their present aspirations.

Finally, may I say that there is much in the wisdom of the East which the West may need, if it is going to save itself from forces which it has unleashed and which the ancients

held could only be used after complete purification and control of the mind. In the future, India and Iran, holding together, may lead the way to a better understanding of human problems. We are today unfurling the umbrella of goodwill and peace and cultural union between India and Iran. It may sound a forlorn hope with the world war still in progress but we must never move our heads away from the shelter of patience in the words of Hafiz: Perchance our heart's desire may finally find fulfilment.

AGHA MOTAMEDY'S ADDRESS

Addressing the meeting Agha Motamedy, Consul-General for Iran in India, said:

Hon'ble President, Gentlemen, As you have noticed in the circular letter issued by Sir Olaf Caroe, Secretary to the Government of India in the External Affairs Department, the Iranian Cultural Mission who visited India last year, had at the end of their tour in this country, recorded their observations based on their contact with men of letters and on their visits to centres of learning and culture. Summarising their report they have put forward certain recommendations suggesting that the promotion of the spirit of fraternity and love, and the strengthening of the ties of friendship and brotherhood between India and Iran can only be achieved through co-operative efforts in the spheres of knowledge and culture.

In this report, they have also discussed the ways and means which would help to develop and further cultural relations between the two countries and I am pleased to say that the Government of India have approved of and started to give their recommendations a practical shape. The constitution of this Standing Committee of which I have the honour to be a Member, is a clear evidence in support of my above statement. I am glad that this Committee consists of such personalities as command outstanding positions in the spheres of learning and knowledge and we are confident that their glorious past in the culture of this country will serve as a veritable guarantee to the attainment of the desired destination.

Committee Formed in Teheran

Gentlemen, I have received an official communication from my Government and you will be pleased to know that a similar Committee has already been formed in Teheran which set to work in October last. It consists of the representatives of the Ministries concerned, appropriate authorities of the Iranian Academy, His Britannic Majesty's Ambassador in Teheran and a number of educationists both Indian and Iranian.

The object of founding these Committees simultaneously in Delhi and Teheran which as a matter of fact, can be called one Committee, is to explore the means which would prove efficacious in bringing India and Iran closer to each other in matters cultural and educational, which would include *inter alia* exchange of students and scholars, visits by Cultural Missions and Press Representatives, formation of debating societies, holding of athletics and physical competitions, exchange of books and publications, holding exhibitions of fine arts and music, establishing relations between the museums of India and Iran, studying the antiquities and past common history, archaeological survey and other means which the Committees might come across during their deliberations. These Committees will in fact serve as guide to the two Governments in devising the best means of strengthening the Cultural relations and of understanding the spirit of each other.

Iran Society in Calcutta

It is evident that after the inauguration of this Central Committee in Delhi its branches will be opened in the other centres of education and culture in India, like Bombay, Calcutta, Hyderabad, Aligarh, Allahabad, etc. These branches will be co-related to the Central Committee but will operate independently in their respective spheres of jurisdiction. I am informed that a Society known as Iran Society has lately been founded in Calcutta mainly due to the efforts of Dr. Mohd. Ishaque, Lecturer in Arabic and Persian in the Calcutta University. The aims and objects of this Society include mainly the same items which are before this Committee for discussion and I am glad to inform you that the Calcutta Society has already taken practical steps in the propagation of the Persian language, namely by offering a gold medal and a scholarship for sending one student to Iran and establishing an Arabic and Persian seminary. I am to thank Dr. Ishaque and the Members of the Council who are so much interested in popularising the Persian language and literature.

I may here inform you that during my recent visit to the Hyderabad State I had the opportunity to meet many of the educationists and litterati of the State. They all unanimously affirmed that they had great love for the Persian language and they were very enthusiastic about the opening of a centre in the State which would keep the Iranian language and literature alive. It is very fortunate that His

Exalted Highness the Nizam's Government have already taken useful steps in that direction and have already printed and published numerous books in Persian, amongst them being a dictionary in Persian in five big volumes compiled, printed and published by the State.

Gentlemen: You have noticed and you all know that the cultural relation between India and Iran is but natural and I am sure with a bit of attention from the two Governments very fruitful results will be produced.

On the other hand it is essential that in Iran also sub-committees should be formed in other big towns than Teheran with the co-operation of the Central Committee and that these sub-committees should be guided in policy by the Central Committee.

In my opinion the Central Committees in Delhi and Teheran should have in view, taking the particular conditions prevalent in each country, similar statutes, the same programme and a common line of action and that these Committees should be in touch with each other either directly or through the diplomatic channels and that they should exchange their ideas, views and the result of their deliberations. It will not be out of place to suggest that for the information of those interested in the activities of the Committee a periodical Magazine should be published containing useful information and articles. In this connection I have got in mind some more points which I shall table for discussion in due course.

I do not mean to take much of your time and I conclude my statement with a lot of thanks to the Government of India for the initiative taken by them in establishing and strengthening the cultural relations between Iran and India.

RAILWAY MECHANICAL ENGINEERS MEET IN DELHI

The Mechanical Section of the Indian Railway Conference Association has just concluded its annual session in New Delhi.

Among the subjects discussed was the treatment of boiler water so as to ensure greater serviceability of locomotives; much progress is being made in this matter. Performance data of Diesel rail cars was examined with a view to the extension of these services as a post-war measure.

The meeting also considered improvement in the design of covered wagons and miscellaneous questions concerning maintenance.

Measures to Frustrate Gold Looting Policy of Axis Powers

THE United Kingdom and certain others of the United Nations some time ago issued a warning to all concerned and in particular to persons in neutral countries that they intend to do their utmost to defeat the methods of dispossession practised by the Governments with which they are at war against the countries and peoples who have been so wantonly assaulted and despoiled. said a Press Communique issued by the Finance Department, Government of India, on January 27.

It added: One of the particular methods of dispossession practised by the Axis powers has been the illegal seizure of large quantities of gold belonging to the nations they have occupied and plundered. The Axis powers have purported to sell such looted gold to various countries which continue to maintain diplomatic and commercial relations with the Axis, such gold thereby providing an important source of foreign exchange to the Axis to obtain much needed imports from these countries.

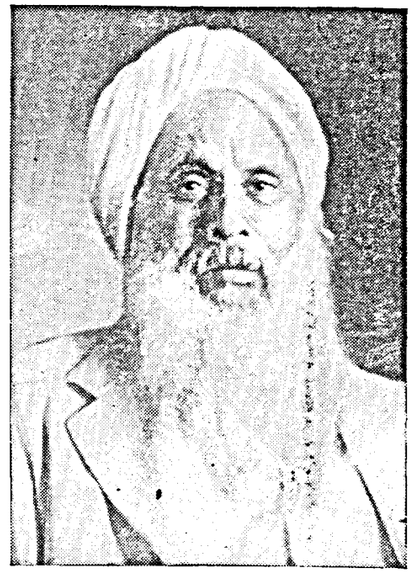
With a view to frustrating this policy of the Axis, the Government of India formally declare that they do not and will not recognise the transference of any title to the looted gold which the Axis at any time has held or may yet hold or has disposed of in world markets. They further declare that it will be their policy not to buy any gold from any country which has not broken off relations with the Axis or from any country which acquires gold from any country which has not broken off relations with the Axis, unless and until they are fully satisfied that such gold is not gold which was acquired directly or indirectly from the Axis Powers or is not gold which any such country has been or is enabled to release as a result of the acquisition of gold directly or indirectly from the Axis Powers.

PRICES OF VICTORIA AND CARLTON'S CIGARETTES

By a notification issued under the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance, published in the *Gazette of India* dated February 10, 1945, the Central Government have fixed the wholesale selling price of Victoria cigarettes at Rs. 13-12 per thousand; and that of Carlton's special magnums Rs. 33-8 per thousand (in packets of 10) and Rs. 35 per thousand (in tins of 50).

NEED FOR AN ALL-INDIA EDUCATIONAL POLICY

Sir Jogendra Singh's Speech



Sir Jogendra Singh.

"NO educational plan in any country, let alone India, will succeed unless steps are taken to secure efficient teachers upon whom education depends," said the Hon'ble Sardar Sir Jogendra Singh, Member for Education, Health and Lands Department, Government of India, while opening the 11th meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Education in India held at Karachi on January 16.

Here is the full text of Sir Jogendra Singh's speech:

It is my pleasant duty to welcome the new members particularly Lady Thackersey, who has travelled all the way from Bombay to be with us to-day. I am happy that Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, Sir B. N. Rau, Nawab Sir Mehdi Yar Jung Bahadur, Dr. Mohan Sinha Mehta and Mr. G. Gowda have also accepted our invitation to join the Board. I am sure we can count upon the valuable advice and active co-operation of these eminent statesmen, representing some of the leading States. What is more, their presence implies recognition of the need of an all-India educational policy and a united effort on the part of all the Provinces and States in implementing it.

The Board has lost in the death of Sir Meverel Statham one of its oldest members. He rendered great service to the cause of education in Madras and South India.

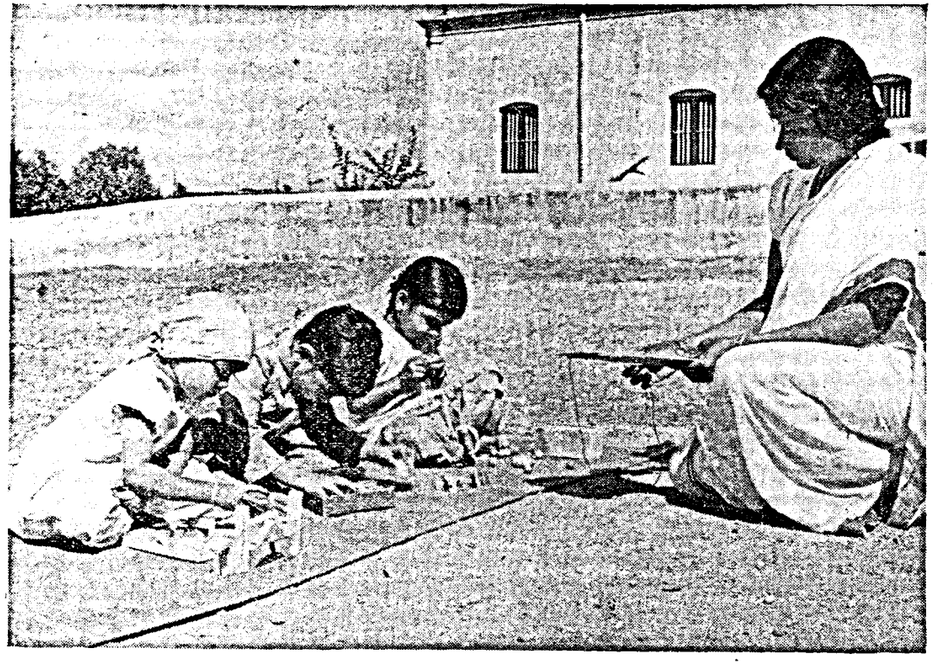
Acclaimed in three Continents

I feel I must congratulate the Board on the reception which its report has received. In the words of a leading Indian statesman, it has been acclaimed in three Continents. The Board has been aware of the modern educational trends and our cultural heritage shared alike by all the people—those who enjoyed the gifts of literacy and others who were without it. The aim of education is to enrich *tan, man, dhan*—body, mind and factors which produce wealth, and above all to release the soul from the slavery of the self. As long as individual, sectional or material interests count for more than vital human interests of all the people, education has failed to accomplish its purpose, that is, to kindle the light of wisdom to show that we are limbs of one another and in hurting others we are hurting ourselves.

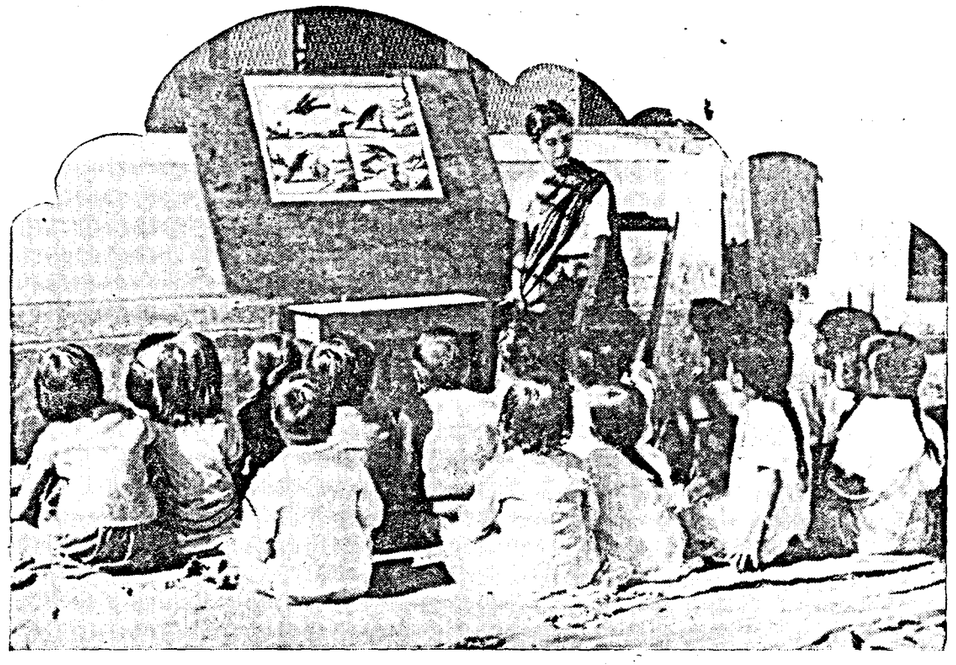
In the Central Advisory Board of Education's Report, we may claim to have surveyed the entire field of education, and we are fortunate in having an educationist in the true sense of the word in Mr. John Sargent to help us all in giving its working a good start. The report of the Board has not escaped criticism. It would have been a matter of concern if this had been the case. For criticism is always an evidence of interest and we desire nothing better than to mobilise interest of all the thinking men in favour of education.

I would now refer to some of the points that have been raised. Four decades which the report lays down as the period for the implementing of the plan has naturally evoked comment. The Board would have been only too happy if it could fix a shorter period, but there are obvious limitations. To take the principal one, there are not at present the trained teachers or the educated population from whom to draw the trained teachers. The full scheme envisages the employment of 2¼ million teachers at the final stage.

In 1940-41 we were only turning out 20,000 trained teachers a year, a little more than the annual wastage of our present quite inadequate educational system. No educational plan in any country, let alone India, will succeed unless steps are taken to secure efficient teachers upon whom education depends. The present status and remuneration of teachers at all stages of



A modern Nursery School.



A picture lesson in progress.

education and particularly those in primary schools, are deplorably low. The recommendations in regard to training, recruitment and conditions of service of teachers, which are prescribed in the report of the Committee, represent the minimum compatible with the success of a national system of education. These should be adopted and enforced everywhere. There is nothing to prevent any Province or State, if it has the will and the means, to shorten the 40-year period. Provinces and States that carry surpluses can immediately take steps to train the teachers. In any case, compared with the uncounted years that have sped their way, what is a period of forty years? And even this may well be reduced as an all-India educational drive gains in momentum.

Cost of Scheme

Again, some people hold that the estimated expenditure is beyond India's financial capacity. I do not at all agree. Apart from the fact that the scheme itself envisages a graduated increase in the financial burden, post-war development, if it means anything at all, must mean a progressive increase in the country's ability to spend on its social services. The scheme will take advantage of this. Translated into expenditure per head of population, the recurring cost of implementing the scheme in British India in forty years, comes to about 0.4 of a rupee in the 5th year, 2.5 in the 20th year, 12.5 in the 40th year. It is my hope that as we build up our man power by providing proper nourishing food, universal education and means to secure health, the new productive power of our people will add immensely to the wealth of India; our income per head may approach nearer to that of England which proposes to spend on education Rs. 66 per head of population.

Another item which has been adversely commented upon is the proposed system of selection, but just as in a family parents select the career for their children, the Education Department too hopes to guide the students towards studies for which they are fitted. Unless we provide higher education for all boys and girls—and this may not be practicable for a long time to come—some form of selection will be inevitable. The Board has recognised that this will require the most careful consideration and they have emphasised in many places that care must be taken to see that boys and girls are not debarred by poverty or other causes from any course of higher education from which they show the capacity of benefiting fully.

The Board has indicated that in this connection they realise the necessity for making such provision for members of the Scheduled Castes and other backward or minority communities, and I am sure that everyone realises the need for safeguarding their interests and accelerating their progress during the period which must elapse before equal educational opportunities are available for all. I cannot, however, agree that it was the Board's business to prescribe exactly how this should be done throughout India. The character and incidence of this problem must necessarily vary from Province to Province and from State to State. It is in accordance with the Board's general policy that areas should be left as free as possible to interpret the Board's plan in the way best suited to local conditions.

I must confess that our plan since we met in Baroda has not made any spectacular progress. I can say, however, that it has gone to the Government of India with the acceptance and blessings of my Department for consideration along with the development plans of other Departments and it has been under examination in the Provinces and the States and detailed proposals have been received from them. These appear to follow the general lines indicated in the Board's report. It is hoped that the schemes of the remaining Provinces will be received in the near future.

I believe that throughout it has been the Board's intention to indicate a framework within which Provincial and State schemes suited to local needs might be prepared, and not to prescribe any rigid structure which all Provinces and States would have to follow. The plan is not rigid; it is neither self-executing: no plan is. It lays down broad outlines, defines targets, shows the ways and means of attainment. It makes the general objective practical and realistic. It recognises that the Provinces will have to relate its recommendations to the environments and occupations that are readily available for the students. The provinces and States could shorten the period of achievement and make a start in training the teachers. If they are confident that they can make a larger provision for secondary and higher education, there is

nothing to prevent them from doing so. Theirs is the freedom and the responsibility to carry out the plans.

So far as the Centre is concerned, the Government of India have already taken steps in regard to those matters which the Board suggested should be our primary responsibility. Provincial Governments have already been addressed in regard to the setting up at the earliest possible date of the proposed All-India Council for Technical Education, which, in the first instance, will be an advisory body and will survey the requirements of the whole of India for development in higher technical education. I am hoping to announce the personnel as early as possible.

University Grants Committee

The Central Government also propose to set up a University Grants Committee to deal with the Central Universities in the first instance. I hope that in due course Provincial Governments and the other Universities will also avail themselves of the services of this body. In this connection I am sure the Board will be interested to hear that Sir Walter Moberly, Chairman of the University Grants Committee in Great Britain, is expected to visit India next month, and his experience in this connection will be placed at the disposal of the Central Government and of Provincial Governments and Universities and of such States as it may be practicable for him to visit. He will be accompanied by Sir Cyril Norwood, a well-known British educationist, who is a recognised authority on Examinations. He has been Chairman for many years of the Secondary Schools Examination Council set up by the Board of Education.

The Government of India have accepted the view that development on a large scale will not be feasible unless substantial financial assistance is forthcoming from the Central Revenues. The Government of India have already indicated in general terms the amount of the subvention which they will be prepared to make during the next five years. I hope that with this figure before them, the Provinces will feel assured and encouraged to plan on the lines of our scheme.

In conclusion, I must express my gratitude to the members of the Board and in particular to the Chairman and members of the Special Committees of the Board who have devoted so much time and care for many years past to the preparation of plans for giving India the provision of education which is an essential condition to the realisation of her future destiny. I must also thank the Sind Government for their hospitality on this occasion and in this connection I should like to pay a special tribute to the Minister of Education, Pir Illahi Bakhsh Nawaz Ali who has been one of our most keen and regular members.



H.E. Sir Hugh Dow, Governor of Sind.

SIR HUGH DOW ON SIND'S EDUCATIONAL PROBLEMS

Addressing the 11th meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Education held at Karachi on January 16 H. E. Sir Hugh Dow, Governor of Sind, said:

I am very pleased to welcome the Chairman and members of the Central Advisory Board of Education to this session, and it has been a great disappointment to me that the exigencies of my annual tour should prevent me from remaining in headquarters throughout your visit, and thus from showing you hospitality and improving my acquaintance with you in the way I should like to do. I understand, and have indeed gathered from your agenda, that your deliberations here have no particular reference to this province, but that you will take advantage of your presence here to see Sind educational institutions and to familiarise yourself with our problems and needs. We may therefore expect the results of your local enquiries to be reflected in future meetings rather than to influence this one; but I have great hopes that more immediate benefits to the province from your visit will ensue from the contacts which our own educationists, both official and non-official, will be able to make with the more eminent and experienced men and women who form your Board.

There are many circumstances which combine to make us here in Sind too parochial in our outlook; our imported intellectual pabulum consists mainly of slogans, which we are apt to assimilate without too much considering whether they are good for us. Anything therefore which shakes us up a little and brings us into living touch with wider administrative problems is likely to be good for us.

I have been somewhat exercised in my mind as to the limits within which it is proper, on such an occasion as this, for a constitutional Governor, working with a responsible Minister whose advice he is normally bound to accept, to attempt to express opinions of his own. On the one hand I have been advised that I ought to confine myself strictly within the circle of compliment and platitude; on the other, that this occasion gives me a heaven-sent opportunity to air my own views. The conclusion I have reached is that either course would be equally presumptuous on my part, and perhaps equally useless to you. The best thing I can do is perhaps to invite your attention to some of our particular problems, as to the existence of which my Ministers and I are agreed, and for advice on which we shall both be equally grateful.

During the last year a great many comfortable consciences have been galvanised into uneasy activity by the publication of the report which this Board has submitted to the Reconstruction Committee of the Viceroy's Executive Council, and which will go down to history (you will probably agree deservedly so), under the name of the Sargent Report. I think everyone has been impressed with the extreme moderation—I am tempted to say the undue moderation—with which the case has been stated.

The Sargent Report

Some years ago, I read a most depressing book called "How to Live in England on a pension". The author proceeded to enumerate the various items of necessary or conventional expenditure and to give what seemed very modest estimates of their cost. These items were then added up to a figure far beyond any pension that I was ever likely to draw, and the lamentable conclusion was reached that if I never had a holiday, never had a drink, never rode anything but a bicycle, never had any new clothes, and worked hard all day and every day cultivating my garden, I should in the end just be able to die of something else than starvation. Let me admit that the first reading of the Sargent Report had a somewhat similar effect on me. The total figure of cost arrived at by the addition of a long series of under-estimates was so large that it seemed it could never be met by so poor a country as India.

These however were only first impressions, or perhaps I should say, depressions. When you ask yourselves, "Why is India, with its vast natural resources, a poor country" it seems to me you must always arrive, ultimately, at the same answer, ignorance. Now the only cure for ignorance is, in some form or another, Education. We have in fact to realise that expenditure on it will not only produce the needed funds, but will finance a great development of all India's resources. No doubt some of you are familiar with the history of the agitation which preceded the introduction of compulsory education in England some 70 or 80 years ago, and you must have been struck with the similarity of the arguments used to oppose it then with those advanced by its opponents in India to-day. It was then argued that we should produce a race of clerks and that nobody would be willing to do menial, manual, agricultural or technical work. People would not see, as they refuse to see in India to-day, that it is the very lack of educational facilities that gives even the half-educated a scarcity value, and so tends to divert into purely clerical avocations people who would willingly work in other fields if they could find in them the same intellectual companionship.

Compulsory Primary Education

I have long been convinced that compulsory primary education is the greatest need of the people of Sind, and it is a matter of great regret to me that my influence has availed so little to help it forward. On paper some progress has been made, and the area within which compulsory education is supposed to prevail is being extended year by year. We know that within those areas large numbers of children do not go to school, and they are not compelled. There are many reasons for this; the poor cultivator wants the services of his children at an early age; the zamindar is lukewarm because he fears education will either withdraw labour from agriculture, or will make labour stick out for better conditions; and the politician is also lukewarm, because compulsion is unpopular and means losing votes.

Compulsory education in Sind cannot be considered without reference, too, to the communal question. The Muslims are much more numerous, but education is more widely diffused among the Hindu community. It is easier and cheaper to provide schools in towns than in rural areas, and in a town a school can serve a greater number of children, and it is natural therefore that, up to the stage we have reached, facilities for education should be mainly provided in the towns and larger villages. The Hindu population is concentrated in these, the Muslim population being mostly in the fields and small villages. It is these circumstances, and not any conscious desire on the part of the community to profit at

the expense of the other, and not any perversity on the part of Governments, which have led to the present disparity, but this has now to be deliberately corrected, in order to bring the Muslim community at least to the same standard of education as the Hindus.

This work is urgent, and I think it will be found that compulsion will have to be tempered by persuasion, and the poorest will have to be compensated by scholarships for the loss of the labour of their children. There will have to be more schools for the rural areas, smaller schools which are relatively more costly, and to which teachers must be attracted by the necessary inducements. It will mean that is to say not only a larger expenditure, but a larger expenditure per head on education in rural areas than is incurred in urban areas, and this means a complete reversal of the present practice.

Higher Education

It seems to me that there is too great a tendency amongst those who are interested in education in Sind to confine their attention to higher education. When compulsory primary education really gets going, the pressure from below will soon produce the necessary number of high schools, and these again an increase in the number of colleges.

I am not an expert educationist and shall not presume to say what is wrong with our colleges. But speaking with a long and fairly continuous experience of administrative work in this province, I feel bound to say that the colleges are not keeping pace with our administrative needs. "Sind for the Sindhis" is a popular cry, and it seems that we must continue to rely more and more on our own colleges to produce the men to fill higher administrative posts. I think the colleges are producing men of the same type, and qualified in the same way, as they were doing 30 years ago; but in the meantime the sphere of Government activity has widened, and the problems of administration have become infinitely more difficult. I find—and I believe my Ministers will agree with me—that we have greater difficulty than ever before in finding within the ranks of the Provincial Service men who are really adequate to the higher responsibilities which they are now called upon to fulfil. There are plenty of men who can keep routine administration going, but very few who have that flexibility of intellect which is demanded by the new problems which modern Governments must solve. It may be admitted that some part of this deficiency is due to inadequate training and handling after entry to Government service, but I do feel strongly that at present our colleges are not supplying us with a good enough article to begin with.

This brings me to the question of a University for Sind, which is at present engaging the attention of my Minister. I have no doubt that he will take the opportunity to discuss his plans with some of you, and to seek your guidance. This is a difficult problem, and a vital one for Sind, for the influence of a University extends through its constituent colleges and the high schools which feed them, and ultimately controls the curricula even of the primary schools. The same circumstances which were held to justify the creation of Sind into a separate province seem also to demand that it should have its own University, for no province which has and aspires to maintain a separate culture of its own can continue to acquiesce in having an outside body, in which its own sons have little effective voice, prescribe the pattern on which its future citizens should grow up. Some way therefore has to be found which will at the same time satisfy the demands of the dominant political community, which has hitherto ruled educational policy. There are many members of this Board whose experience entitles them to advise on such problems and I am sure that the Hon'ble Minister will welcome such advice, however informally it is given.

In conclusion, I think I can assure you that my Government will do its best, while maintaining its independence in matters of educational policy to co-operate with your Board. The Board is indeed, both by its representative character and by the individual eminence of its members, placed in such a position that a strong presumption must arise that anyone who disagrees with it is wrong, though there are of course occasions on which even the strongest presumptions are rebutted.

Gentlemen, I will now leave you to your agenda, with the hope that your stay among us may prove both enjoyable and fruitful.

MAILS FOR ITALY

The Letter Mail Service to Italy has now been extended to the provinces of Ancona, Perugia, Arezzo, Siena, Livorno, Rieti and to the Cities and Provinces of Pisa and Florence, said a Press Note issued by the Posts and Telegraphs Department, Government of India, on January 16.

" It added: Correspondence for areas of the Provinces of Pisa and Florence north of River Arno will be held by the Italian Post Office till delivery is possible.

While other conditions remain the same as at present, letter mail articles to Italy may now be registered.

INDIAN STUDENTS FOR OVERSEAS TECHNICAL STUDIES

Central Government's Scheme

A Press Communique issued by the Education, Health and Lands Department, Government of India, on January 22 stated:

Numerous enquiries are being received from students desirous of proceeding overseas for courses of study in the near future. As has already been announced by the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Planning and Development (Sir Ardeshir Dalal), it is hoped to send abroad in the autumn of this year about 500 students for courses in technical subjects directly related to the various plans for post-war development now under consideration or in preparation.

Financial Aid

Some of these students will be selected direct by the Central Government; others will be selected in the first instance by Provincial Governments. In the former case the Central Government will provide the financial assistance required to enable the students to complete an approved course. In the latter case the cost of such financial assistance will be shared equally between the Central and Provincial Governments. The selected students will be required to give an undertaking that on completion of the course abroad they will enter such employment in this country as may be indicated by the Central or Provincial or State Government as the case may be. Although no guarantee can be given, every effort will be made on the student's return to this country to find him employment on terms commensurate with the qualifications which he may have obtained.

Selection Committees

A special selection committee will be established by the Central Government to deal with applications received. It has been suggested to Provincial Governments to appoint similar selection committees in Provinces. Special arrangements will also be made to place the students selected in suitable Universities or similar institutions abroad and to look generally after their welfare while they are overseas. Free passages and reasonable travelling expenses from India to the institution selected will be provided as well as return passages on the satisfactory completion of the prescribed course.

The main courses for which awards will be available are set out below:

1. Agricultural Subjects (including Animal Husbandry).
2. Educational Science and Practice.
3. Mechanical Engineering.
4. Electrical Engineering.
5. Civil Engineering.
*6. Chemical Engineering.
*7. Aeronautical Engineering.
*8. Marine Engineering.
9. Architecture, Regional Planning, Building Construction.
10. Applied Chemistry (including preservation and distribution of foodstuffs).
11. Applied Physics.
*12. Geology.
*13. Metallurgy.
14. Other forms of Applied Science.
15. Technical subjects not covered above.

Courses other than those set out above will be considered only if directly related to probable post-war needs.

(N.B.—Separate arrangements are being made by the Central Government in consultation with Provincial Governments in the case of students who may be sent abroad for courses in Medical Subjects. These will be announced shortly.)

The numbers selected for each course will be strictly limited and will be determined solely by post-war requirements. Preference will normally be given to students who have already completed a degree at a University in India or elsewhere but this will not apply to students who possess special qualifications or experience that would make them suitable for one of the courses specified above.

Advertisements inviting applications will shortly be issued by the Governments concerned and applicants residing in a Province are advised to comply with the instructions which wil be contained in these advertisements as to the method of submitting applications. Applicants resident in the Centrally Administered Areas or areas administated by the Crown

Representative (or those for awards for the courses starred) should submit their applications to the Secretary, Education, Health and Lands Department, Government of India, marked "OVERSEAS STUDENTS".

The subjects starred on the above list at present concern the Central Government only, but there are other subjects in which both the Central and Provincial Governments are interested. Applicants for courses in these subjects may submit their applications either to the Central Government or to their Provincial Government.

Students Advisory Bureaux

It is anticipated that in addition to the students mentioned above who will be sponsored by the Central and Provincial Governments for technical courses in connection with post-war developments, a large number of students will no doubt desire, as in the past, to proceed overseas for study at their own charges. Others may be sent abroad by firms or private bodies or persons who will bear the whole cost or will share it with the student. The Government of India are anxious to do more than has been done hitherto to provide advice and guidance to such students in regard to suitable courses of training abroad, and as to the qualifications which they would require for admission to such courses.

With this end in view, the Central Government have asked Provincial Governments and Universities to set up Students Advisory Bureaux as soon as possible with a view to affording such advice and assistance. It is also the Government of India's intention to establish machinery for helping these students to obtain admission to Universities and other Institutions abroad and for looking after them generally during their stay in the foreign country. Here again, it has been generally agreed by the educational authorities both in India and in Great Britain and U.S.A. that students will derive the greatest benefit from courses abroad if they have first completed a degree at an Indian University and it is understood that preference will as a rule be given to those who have done this.

It is, therefore, suggested that all students, who desire to proceed abroad at their own expense for courses of study as soon as travelling conditions permit, should ascertain from their Provincial Governments or from their Universities whether such Advisory Bureaux or Committees have been established, and if so, should take full advantage of the facilities offered. It is intended that these Advisory Bureaux should deal with all students, other than sponsored students, whatever the nature of the studies they may intend to pursue abroad.

Students from States

It should be emphasised that the arrangements set out above apply only to British Indian subjects and not to subjects of Indian States. It is understood that a number of Indian States contemplate making similar arrangements. So far, however, as the placing of students in institutions abroad and looking after their general welfare are concerned, the machinery referred to above will be available for those students from Indian States who desire to take advantage of it.

ENLARGEMENT OF FEDERAL COURT'S JURISDICTION

A Press Note issued by the Legislative Department, Government of India, on January 19 stated:

Much speculation regarding the intentions of Government with reference to the enlargement of the jurisdiction of the Federal Court will be set at rest by a Resolution published in the Gazette of India of January 20.

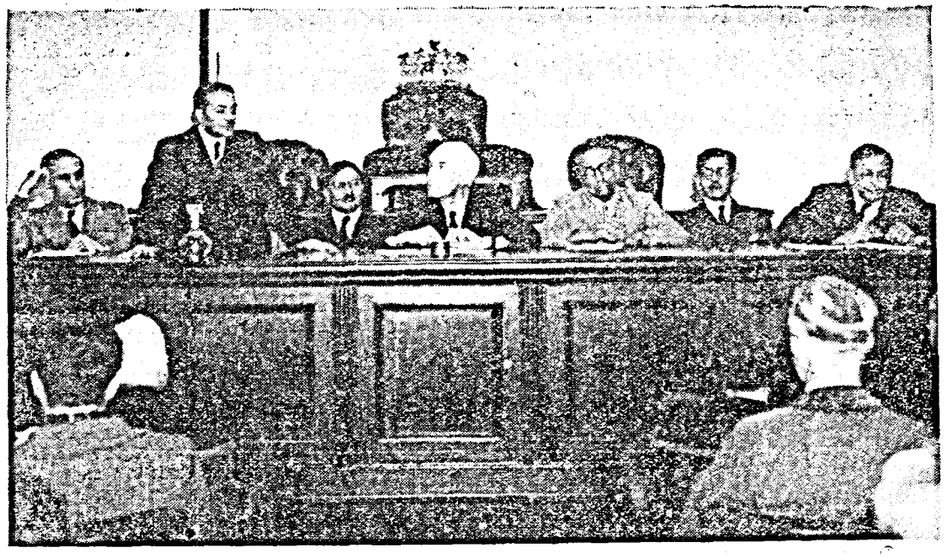
Briefly the main proposals are:

(1) that outside the constitutional sphere in which direct appeals from High Courts lie to the Federal Court alone, the Federal Court and the Privy Council should have a concurrent appellate jurisdiction from High Courts in civil cases, the option between the two forums lying with the party seeking to appeal;

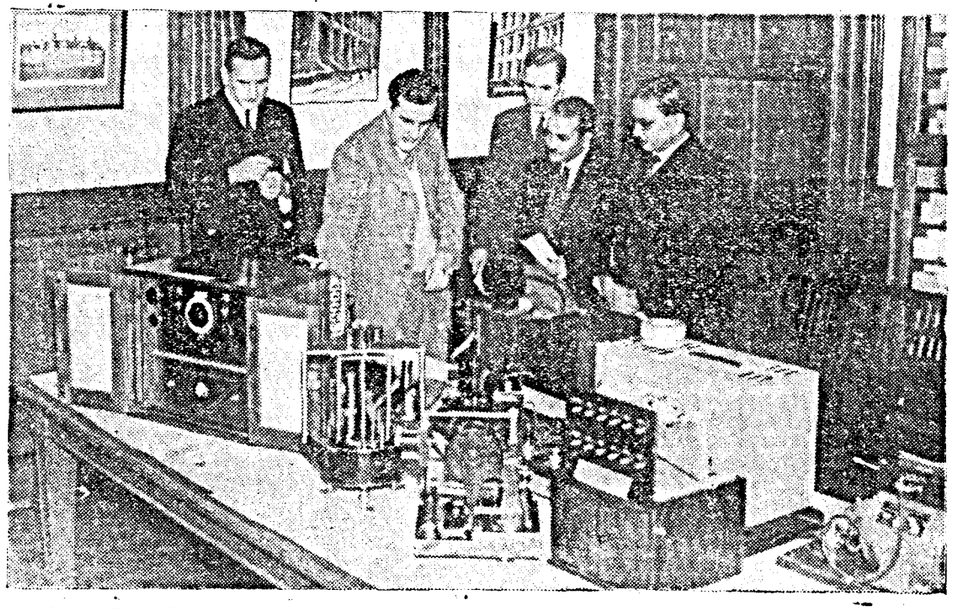
(2) that the Central Legislature should be empowered to transfer to the Federal Court the referential jurisdiction now exercised by High Courts under the Indian Income-tax Act.

These and certain other minor proposals are fully set out in the Resolution which explains that the proposals are published for the purpose of eliciting opinion in India, that they will in due course be debated in the Central Legislature and that the Secretary of State will not proceed to the enactment of the necessary Parliamentary legislation unless he is satisfied that the proposals are acceptable to Indian opinion. Any person or association desiring to offer an opinion is invited to furnish the same to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Legislative Department by May 1, 1945.

INDIAN SCIENTISTS IN U. K.



On the eve of their departure for U. S., the Indian Scientific Mission met the British Press at the Royal Society. Picture shows (L. to R.) Dr. Nazir Ahmed, Sir S. S. Bhatnagar, Sir J. C. Ghosh, Prof. A. V. Hill (Secretary of the Royal Society) who introduced them to the Press, Prof. S. K. Mitra, Prof. J. N. Mukherjee and Prof. M. N. Saha. (Below) The Building Research Station at Watford was among the places visited by the Mission during their seven weeks' stay in U.K. A member of the Engineering Staff demonstrates testing and measuring instruments developed at the Research Station to Sir S. S. Bhatnagar and Sir J. C. Ghosh. Mr. Evans, Director of the station, and Dr. Lea, Assistant Director, look on.



INVESTMENTS OF LIFE INSURANCE FIRMS

Computation of Premium Tables

"WHEN large funds belonging ultimately to a large body of policyholders, which in most cases form the mainstay for their old age or for their dependents on premature death, are in the hands of private persons, it behoves Government to legislate, keeping in mind how most of the institutions would manage their affairs, although a few prudent ones might have done better without restrictive legislation." Thus observes the 1944 Indian Insurance Year Book dealing with the subject of rate of interest and the restrictions imposed by the Indian Insurance Act on the investments of Life Insurance Companies.

The Report emphasises that the relationship of the policyholders to the Company is such that the former cannot resile from it, except at a huge loss to themselves even if they find that the Company is badly managed. In most cases they have staked their entire life savings in the concerns, and unless they are protected by special laws, the very livelihood of their dependents may be in jeopardy if the management indulge in speculative investments.

Maximum Rate of Interest

Referring to the advice given in the last Report regarding the maximum rate of interest that should be used for computing premium tables, it is pointed out that what has happened since the date of the last Report has only confirmed the view that, on the basis of the ruling rate at present and what could be expected to prevail during the years to come, so far as it could be prognosticated in matters of this type, even a rate of 3½ per cent. errs, if anything, on the high side.

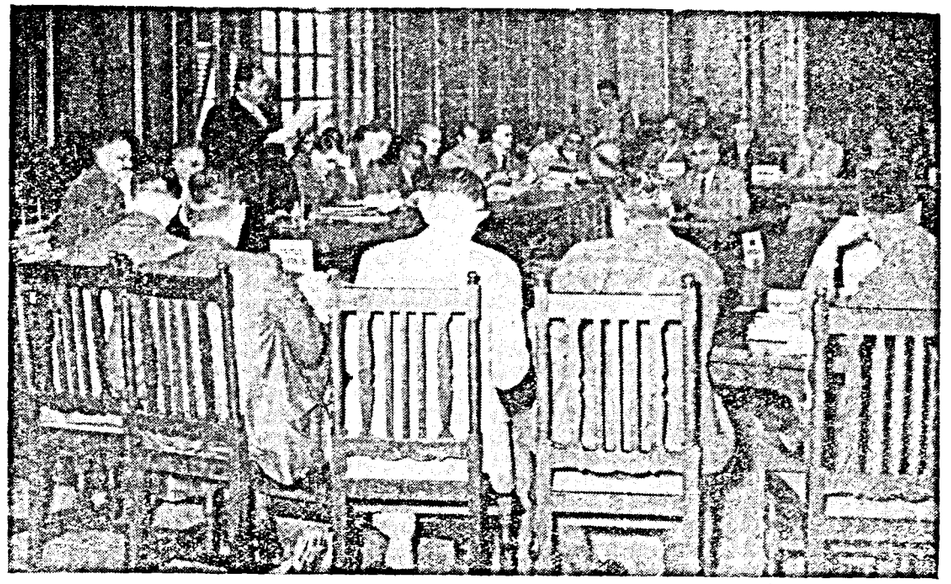
Dealing with the question of the rate of interest at which the post-war programmes of the State and the public would be financed, the Superintendent remarks, "the bitter lesson taught by financing the last war and the programme of reconstruction in the post-war period at a high rate of interest points to every nerve being strained to keep interest rates as low as possible."

On the vexed question of the consequent increase of the premium rates to uneconomic levels by assuming lower rate of interest that can be earned in the future, the Superintendent of Insurance suggests a way out of the impasse that premiums should be recalculated at a rate of interest of 3 per cent. or even less, and the loading of bonus, which uptil now used to form a prominent factor in deciding the size of the premium, should be substantially diminished with a view to arriving at premium rates not significantly higher than the average present rates of sound insurers and there should be no no-profit premiums for whole-life and Endowment Assurance. Bonuses will then be the result of prudent management fostered by healthy competition.

An interesting feature of this year's issue of the Year Book is a statement of lapse rates of life Insurance business of all the Indian Life Offices, given according to "mean duration" (calendar year of lapse less calendar year of entry) for the new business transacted in each of the years 1940, 1941, 1942 and 1943. The Superintendent warns against any feeling of complacency that might be entertained as a result of comparatively better lapse experience for the year 1943. "The very conditions," says the Report, "created by the war which were responsible for the large increase in the volume of new business transacted have also helped to keep lapses and surrenders low."

Level of Premium Rates

Referring to the great disaster caused by the explosion in Bombay on April 14, 1944, the Report enumerates a few of the lessons taught by the unfortunate event. First is the oft-repeated dictum that persons and property of any value should be insured. The Superintendent rightly asks: "Must then we undergo the untold misery and suffering of such a great tragedy before we learn this elementary lesson in our present stage of development?" Secondly, that some young insurers who have not yet acquired strength by building up necessary reserves, have disregarded the teachings of prudence and the elementary lesson in the theory and practice of sound underwriting as regards re-insuring that part of risk undertaken over and above what one can retain safely in one's own portfolio and of spreading the risk geographically. "Whether this is due to a desire to maximize one's profits in the hope that nothing untoward may happen or to a desire to prevent one's competitors from taking a share of the business that one has secured, the underlying idea," says the Report, "is deplorable and savours of a gamble which is in exact opposition to the very idea of insurance." Thirdly, that there is a necessity of providing not only the usual reserves for unexpired risks for meeting usual losses but also the reserves in respect of catastrophic events leading to major losses which do occur, though once in a number of years.



Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Labour Member, addressing the Policy Committee on Public Works and Electric Power.

POST-WAR ELECTRIC POWER DEVELOPMENT

A schedule of heavy power equipment required by India as soon as possible after the cessation of hostilities has been prepared and steps have been taken to reserve for India the necessary manufacturing capacity," said the Hon'ble Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Labour Member, Government of India, in his address to the second meeting of the Policy Committee on "Public Works and Electric Power" held in New Delhi on February 2.

Here is the full text of Dr. Ambedkar's speech:

I should like to begin by extending to all the representatives, old and new, present at this meeting a most hearty welcome. I say old and new because we have on our Committee new members who were not on the Committee when we met last. They are the nominees of the Federation of Electrical Undertakings in India and of the Indian Trade Union Congress. Electrical undertakings and organised labour are both vitally concerned in the future of electrical development in India and whatever they may have to say about the subject must receive due consideration in any decision that may be arrived at. I am sorry that an omission to have them with us should have occurred last time. I apologise for it, for it was indeed a very serious omission. I am sure we are all very glad to have them with us today and will be looking forward to their contribution to the discussion of the subject we have before us.

Power Engineers' Conference

I believe it would be of some advantage if I were to begin the few observations I have to make as Chairman by referring to what has been done by the Government of India in furtherance of the post-war planning for electrical development since the Committee last met on October 25, 1943, as most of you may have no knowledge about it. Soon after the last meeting of this Policy Committee, Mr. Mathews, the Electrical Commissioner with the Government of India, with the approval of Government, called together a Conference of leading power engineers in the country, both official and non-official, to consider post-war electric power development. The first thing the Conference did was to prepare a schedule of the heavy power equipment required by India for electric development immediately after the war. In addition

to this the Conference passed certain resolutions all of which, to use the language of the report, "represented the unanimous conclusion of their studies, investigations and discussion." These resolutions fell under four heads:—

(1) Under the first come recommendations which set out some general and specific suggestions to the Provinces and States to be observed by them in regard to electrical development within their jurisdiction.

(2) Under the second were grouped those which concerned the appointment of the Technical Power Board.

(3) Under the third come those related to certain prospective power developments considered by the Conference to be *prima facie* worth investigation without delay.

(4) Under the fourth head were placed those which relate to railway electrification, manufacture of synthetic fertilisers and rural electrification.

As the members of the Conference said in the letter accompanying their findings, "this is the first occasion on which the power development programme has been reviewed as a co-ordinated whole and that the presence of engineers whose experience covers in the aggregate the varied conditions of the whole of India, has introduced an extremely valuable element in co-ordinating regional needs."

Heavy Power Equipment

I am sure you will agree that we owe the Conference a great debt for unfolding to us the prospective electric power development for the whole of India in the period immediately succeeding the cessation of hostilities in such clear cut manner. The Conference asked the Government of India to take appropriate action on the several recommendations made by them. The two recommendations in regard to which action lay with the Government have been already put into effect. They relate to he securing of equipment and the establishment of the Technical Power Board.

A schedule of heavy power equipment required by India as soon as possible after the cessation of hostilities has been prepared and steps have been taken to reserve for India the necessary manufacturing capacity. The total capacity reserved comes to over 850 magawatts, at an estimated cost of Rs. 50 crores approximately. The aggregate of new capacity represented by these schedules comes to nearly 65 per cent of India's existing installed capacity. A more detailed inquiry might show that our requirements for equipment are larger than what has been booked for. But as it was impossible to delay the matter without putting India's interest in grave jeopardy, we had to take action immediately on such data as could be collected within the limited time that was available to us.

Technical Power Board

As you must have noticed from the Press Note issued on November 8, 1944, the Government of India has constituted a Technical Power Board. Besides the Chairman, the Board will initially have two full-time members and three part-time members. The Government of India has appointed Mr. Mathews, Electrical Commissioner with the Government of India, as the Chairman and has obtained the services of Mr. W. L. Voorduin from the United States of America as another member of the Board. Before he came to India, Mr. Voorduin was employed as a Project Officer of the Tennessee Valley Authority. It is proposed to have a third member to be called the Utilisation Member. Effort is being made to recruit a suitable Engineer who is conversant with Utilisation. These appointments of high level experts will assure you how very anxious the Government of India is to make the Board a strong technical organisation designed to collect ideas, conduct surveys and prepare schemes for the electrical development in consultation with Provincial and State Governments. I have referred to this because it is necessary you should know what has happened in the interval and also to show that the Government of India has been pursuing the matter in all earnestness and with all speed.

The Triple Programme

There is another important development in electrical policy to which I would like to draw the attention of all of you here. You will recall that at the last meeting of the Policy Committee, Mr. Collins, on behalf of the Bombay Government, made certain references to the contemplated introduction of the "Grid" system in the Bombay Presidency. During the last year, we in the Government of India have given a great deal of thought to the regional as distinguished from the local development of electricity in different parts of this country. We have felt more and more that if the services offered by electricity are to be brought to the door of producers as well as the consumers at the cheapest possible rates compatible with efficiency, we may have to follow albeit cautiously and graudally, the triple programme on which the Central Electricity Board in the U.K. have worked from the very beginning, viz:—

(a) The creation of large-scale power stations located in the main industrial areas under the control of public supply undertakings;

(b) the construction of main transmission system (with smaller secondary lines attached to it for tapping agricultural and other outlying areas) so that the entire region to be developed by the main system can be held in a power ring or a series of power rings radiating out from the large scale power stations; and

(c) standardisation of frequency as far as possible within the region to be developed by the power system.

This triple programme constitutes the foundation of the "Grid" system, as we know it, to be operating in the U.K. since 1926 and it is my hope that if such a scheme of regional development is adopted in this country, we may before long bring the great boon of cheap electricity service to the door of everyone, high or low.

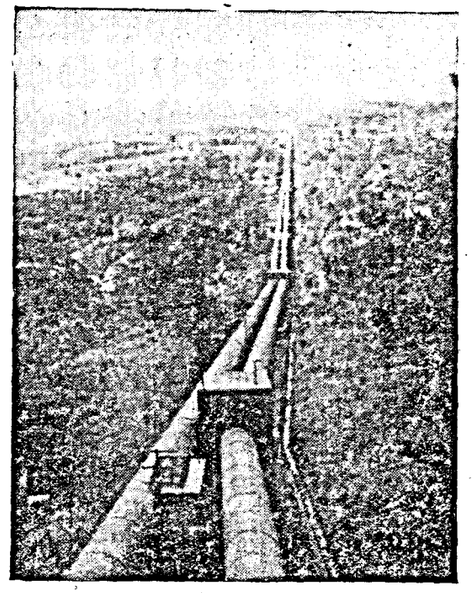
You may be interested to know that when the "Grid" system on a large scale was first contemplated in the U.K. it was estimated that by 1940-41 the national production of electricity would reach the colossal figure of 25,000 million units and the working cost of electricity would by that date fall from 9.4d, as recorded in 1925-26, to less than 4d. per unit, while the large industrial consumer would be able to obtain his power requirements at ½d.

Items on Agenda

I will now turn to the Agenda for our meeting to-day. As you will see, there are altogether four items or the Agenda. Item 4 places before you for your consideration two schemes, one for the Technical Power Board and the other for sending Indians to foreign countries for training in electricity. Neither is a controversial subject. I will not therefore take your time in dwelling upon them

Item 2 on the Agenda is unfortunately not quite so uncontroversial as item 4. Item 2 relates to the question of applying to electrical undertakings certain accounting principles for ascertaining their income, expenditure and profits. This item is not as controversial as it appears. The issue raised by this item covers two questions and not one, and the controversy would be very much narrowed if they were considered separately.

The first question is whether the dividend of an electricity supply undertaking should or should not be related to the charges for the consumption of electricity. The second question is how to determine reasonable dividend. On the first question, I venture to say, there can be very little dispute. Electricity is to be a prime



Piped Power—High-grade steel pipes bringing water for an Indian hydro-electric system from the catchment area

necessity of the people both for production and consumption. The price of such a prime necessity cannot therefore be at the will of the supplier. The whole industrial future of India will be put in great jeopardy if India could not ensure cheap and abundant supply of electricity. The necessity of correlating dividends to charges is therefore paramount. If this is granted, the necessity of enforcing rules of accounting which will give the undertaking a reasonable return but no more and choke all holes for concealed profits cannot be disputed.

Principles of Accountancy

The issue then becomes a secondary one. In pressing for enunciating principles of accountancy we are not introducing any revolutionary idea. We are following the lines laid down in British Legislation on Electricity contained in the London Electricity Act of 1925 and the Electricity Supply Act of 1926. The Electrical Commissioner with the Government of India has drawn up a Memorandum in which he has proposed a set of such accountancy principles for being applied to electricity undertakings. His Memorandum was circulated to the Provincial Governments and to Electrical Undertakings for their opinions. There has been unfortunately some divergence of opinion. As a means of bridging the gulf, the

Government of India proposes to appoint an Advisory Board to advise on principles which may be just and proper. I hope you will regard this solution as a satisfactory one.

There remain items 1 and 3 of the Agenda. They are indeed the most important items of our Agenda and you will bear with me if I take some of your time to deal with them.

With regard to item 1, it might be well to refresh your memory by telling you how the position stood at the last meeting of the Policy Committee. At the close of the discussion of the items on the Agenda the Policy Committee desired that the Labour Department should draft a Resolution embodying the measure of agreement reached and that it should be placed for discussion at a subsequent meeting of the Policy Committee. A draft Resolution was accordingly drawn up which is in the following terms:—

"That this meeting recommends that the further development of electricity supply in India be actively pursued as a State or quasi-State enterprise and that steps be taken to eradicate any factors that retard the healthy growth of electrical development in the Provincial, State or Local authority-owned undertakings as well as the commercially owned undertakings."

It was felt that the draft Resolution was not very clear. The Resolution spoke of further development. It said nothing about the undertakings that have already come into existence. The Resolution spoke of the necessity of controlling factors likely to hamper or retard the healthy growth of electrical development but did not specify what the factors were. It was therefore felt desirable that the Resolution should be again carefully considered in the Policy Committee to clear up elements of doubts. This is how item 1 comes to be what it is.

State Control and Ownership

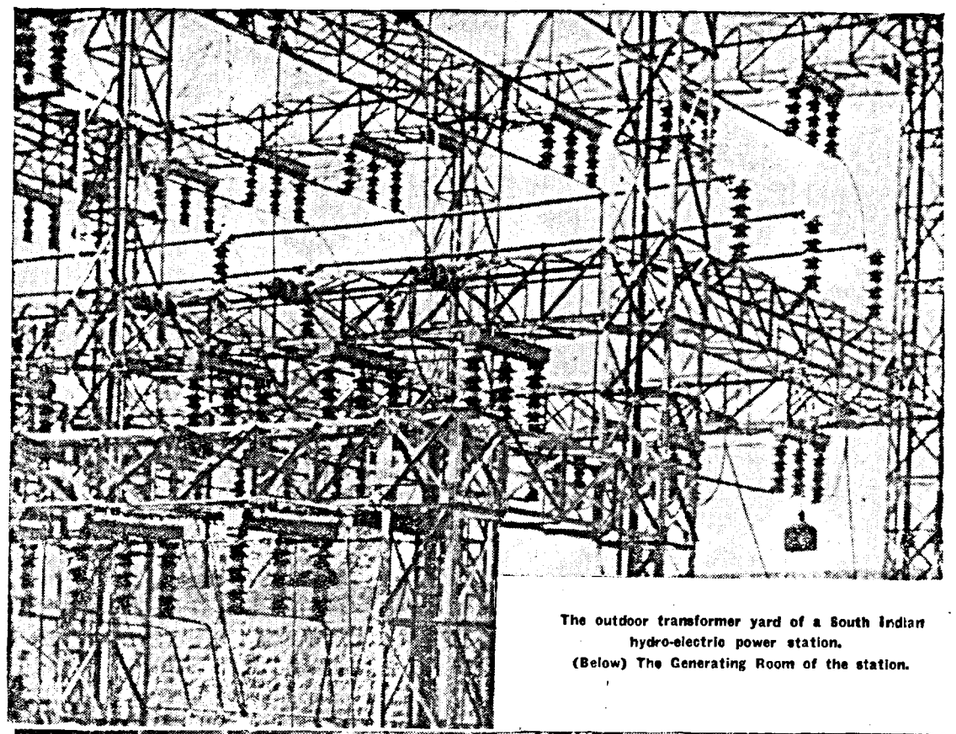
The discussion at the last Policy Committee meeting seemed to indicate clearly the intention that electrical supply enterprise in areas where there is none at present should be pursued as a State or a quasi-State enterprise; but there remained an element of doubt as to the extent to which the State should come in in those areas in which electrical undertakings were already functioning. For instance, is it advisable that the State or other authority should as a general rule exercise an option to take over an undertaking whenever under the terms of an individual licence such option arose? And is it advisable that the State should exercise control over existing privately-owned undertakings for the purpose of securing bulk supply for regional development or control of generation? There may be cases in which in order to secure suitable regional development bulk supply from some other undertaking should be given to some existing undertaking and that it may be that the manner in which an existing undertaking operates and expands may have to be brought into line with general schemes for regional development. We wish, therefore, in this discussion to get clarification not only as to the extent to which State ownership should come in but also as to the extent to which the State should control where State ownership cannot immediately become operative.

Jevons's Economic Criteria

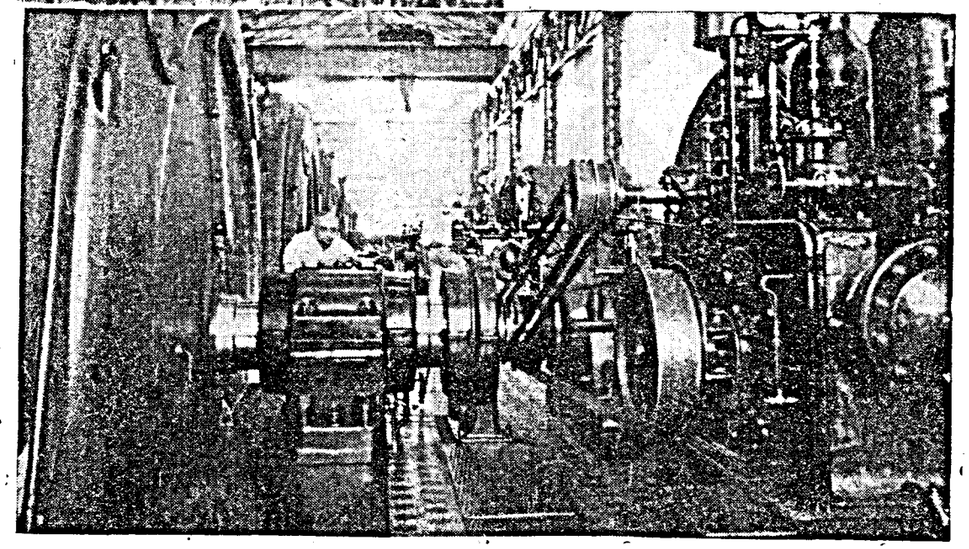
The issue between State enterprise and private enterprise has ever been a matter of controversy. This controversy is now resounding in India in full blast since we have started the project of planned economy. Old Jevons in his tract on *State in relation to Industry*, attempted to formulate certain economic criteria by which the line between State enterprise and private enterprise can be drawn and which have been the gospel of the opponents of State enterprise. According to Jevons, there were four criteria which earmarked an industry for State ownership. They were (1) small capital account; (2) routine operations; (3) the co-ordination of several services such as Posts, Telegraphs and Telephone and (4) the sufficiency of a single all-embracing plant as in the case of water and gas supply.

The followers of Jevons in this country propose to add some more criteria, the object of which is to restrict the field of State enterprise except in one case, viz., they are prepared to enlarge the field by allowing the State free field in such cases which could not be profitable for private enterprise to undertake. The controversy may have had some solid basis when private enterprise was a fact. But to-day private enterprise is only a phase. There is nothing private in an economic order when industry is carried on by huge Public Joint Stock Companies. There is nothing of individual enterprise in an economic order where the slogan of a business firm is caution and not adventure and where the prime consideration is to stabilise profits by seeking to maintain in an orderly permanence existing economic conditions. It is unnecessary for me to enter into this controversy. For there are very few opponents of State ownership and State control who do not make an exception in the case of electricity.

Item 3 raises the question as to who should exercise the option when it falls due by reason of the termination of the licence issued to an electrical undertaking for the supply of electricity.



The outdoor transformer yard of a South Indian hydro-electric power station.
(Below) The Generating Room of the station.



It raises the question of right to pre-emption in the matter of purchasing an electrical undertaking. This question is now regulated by the provisions of Section 7 of the Indian Electricity Act. According to this section, the authority to exercise the option to purchase vests in the first place with a Local authority and where the Local authority does not elect to exercise the option it passes to the Provincial Government. The question raised by item 3 on the Agenda is whether it is not desirable that option should also be given to the Central Government and, if so, at what stage and under what conditions. It is proposed that the Central Government should also have an option to purchase. Having regard to the fact that electricity is a public utility, there ought to be no difficulty in vesting the Central Government with such an authority.

Provincial or Central Control?

Unfortunately, there seems to be some reluctance to accept this principle. Planning in India has been confronted with two issues, the issue of State versus Private enterprise and the issue of Provincial or Central control. With both issues we are all quite familiar and item 3 deals mainly with the second issue To those who believe in State enterprise it should be a matter of small consideration whether the enterprise should be Provincial or Central and little or no objection should be raised to Central control in cases where a Province does not desire to take on such control, or where in the interests of regional development extending beyond the boundaries of a Province, Central control may be considered necessary. In the case of electricity, as in the case of waterways, suitable schemes cannot be limited by provincial boundaries, and though there must clearly be the closest co-operation and co-ordination between the Centre and the Province, it does seem advisable that the Centre should be able to step in in cases where State control is found necessary for regional development and where a Province does not itself wish to bring an undertaking under State control.

I don't think I can usefully add anything to what I have already said about questions arising out of the Agenda. However before I close, I would like to say how very necessary it is for you to bear in mind that whatever decision you take it must accord with the public opinion in the country regarding the future of Indian Economy. Unfortunately we are only allowed to hear what Indian public opinion has to say about the political situation. We seldom hear what Indian public opinion has to say about the future of Indian Economy. It would be a mistake to suppose that there is no Indian public opinion on the future of Indian Economy because one does not hear of it much. I am sure there is. What that opinion is I do not wish to dogmatise although I am sure that it is far more Leftist than many are inclined to allow.

The point I am anixous to emphasise is that the need for an accord between the plan and public opinion can hardly be exaggerated in a country like India which has as its ideal a Parliamentary system of Government. People talk about the success of planning in Russia. But they forget that the success is due largely to the fact that Russia has no Parliamentary Government. Planning in a Parliamentary Government where those who plan live under the constant threat of no confidence motions and cannot be sure whether they can remain long enough to put their plans through is a very doubtful proposition. Whether planned Economy is inconsistent with Parliamentary democracy and, if it is so, how the two can be reconciled is a very large theme and this is not the place to deal with it. All, therefore, I wish to do is to caution you that if our plans are not to be scrapped by our successors, we must take care that they are in accord with what the large majority of people believe to be for the greatest good of the greatest number.

COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS

The Policy Committee on "Public Works and Electric Power." recommended that the development of electricity supply for areas outside existing licenced areas should be actively pursued, as far as possible, as a state or quasi-state enterprise. If for any reasons the State was not prepared to undertake such development in any area within a reasonable time, private enterprise should not be excluded. They further recommended that, provided efficient and economic operation could be assured to the public, options existing under any licence to acquire an undertaking should, as a general rule, be exercised when they arose. Steps should be taken to eradicate any factors that retarded the healthy and economical growth of electrical development on regional lines whether in Provincial, State or local authority-owned or in commercially-owned electrical undertakings.

In another recommendation the Committee accepted the necessity of laying down financial principles for the control of electric public utilities both in the interests of public utilities as well as of the general public. An Advisory Board should be set up under Section 35 of the Electricity Act to advise Government on the nature, extent and method of application of such principles. On this Advisory Board there should be two representatives of the Central Government, two representatives appointed by agreement with the Provinces, and one representative of the Federation of Electricity Undertakings. The Board may appoint such assessors as may be necessary.

The discussion on the proposal to amend Section 7 of the Indian Electricity Act of 1910, with a view to evolve a systematic and coherent policy for planning electrical development, raised a number of points for examination by the Central Government. The Committee agreed that the Act should be so amended as to give the Provincial Government the first option to take over an undertaking. The question of amending the Act so as to give power to the Centre to take over electric undertakings, if Central control was considered necessary for inter-Provincial development, was discussed. There was difference of opinion on some aspects of the question, and it was decided that the matter should be further examined in consultation with the Provinces.

Government's Training Schemes

The Policy Committee welcomed the appointment of the Central Technical Power Board, and the Central Government's scheme for sending ten Indian Engineers to receive training abroad on the commercial and administrative side of electricity supply industry. Four of these officers will receive training in the U.K., four in the U.S.A. with the Tennessey Valley Authority, and two in Canada. Two officers belong to the Central Government, four to Provincial Governments, two to State Governments and two to Public Electricity Supply Undertakings. The Government of India will bear the entire cost of the training of the two Central Government Officers. It was stated that while under this scheme Indian Engineers would be trained in the commercial and administrative aspects of electrical industry, Government intended to send two more batches for training in the technical aspects.

The meeting which was presided over by the Hon'ble Dr. B. R. Ambedkar was attended by the Hon'ble Sir Ardeshir Dalal, Planning and Development Member, Government of India, the Hon'ble Mr. K. Shahbuddin, Minister of Commerce, Labour and Industries Department (Bengal), the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Gokuldas, Minister for P.W.D. (Sind), Sir Mirza Ismail and Raja Dharam Karam Bahadur. Official representatives of the Central and Provincial Governments and non-officials representing the All-India Trade Union Congress, Federation of Electrical Undertakings and Indian Engineering Association also participated in the discussions.

THE ROLE OF THE STATE IN RELATION TO INDUSTRY

"WE should leave ample scope for private initiative and enterprise and at the same time we should take effective steps to ensure that there is no abuse of individual freedom," said Dr. B. G. Ghate of the Planning and Development Department, Government of India, in a broadcast on "The Role of the State in Relation to Industry" from the Delhi Station of All India Radio on January 24. The talk was the third in the series, "Building a New India."

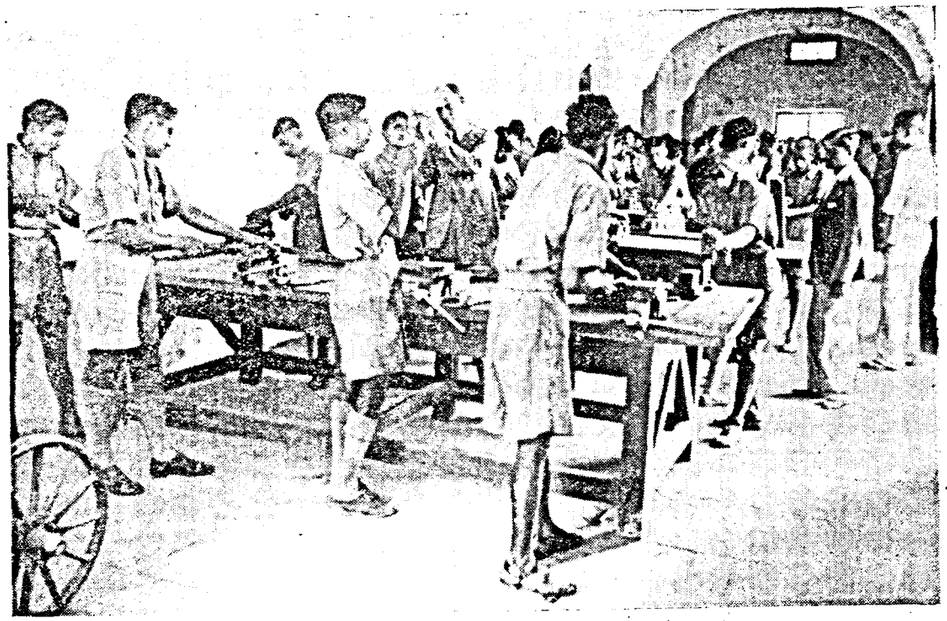
Dr. Ghate said: The foremost general function of the State will be to create conditions which will promote the general economic development of the country and to establish services which cannot be undertaken by any private agency. For example, it must be the function of the State to survey the natural resources of the country. This task cannot be undertaken by any organisation working on a profit basis, as it involves heavy expenditure and must be performed on a uniform, nationwide basis. The State must therefore undertake these surveys and interest the community at large in the commercial exploitation of those resources which promise adequate returns.

Power Generating Stations

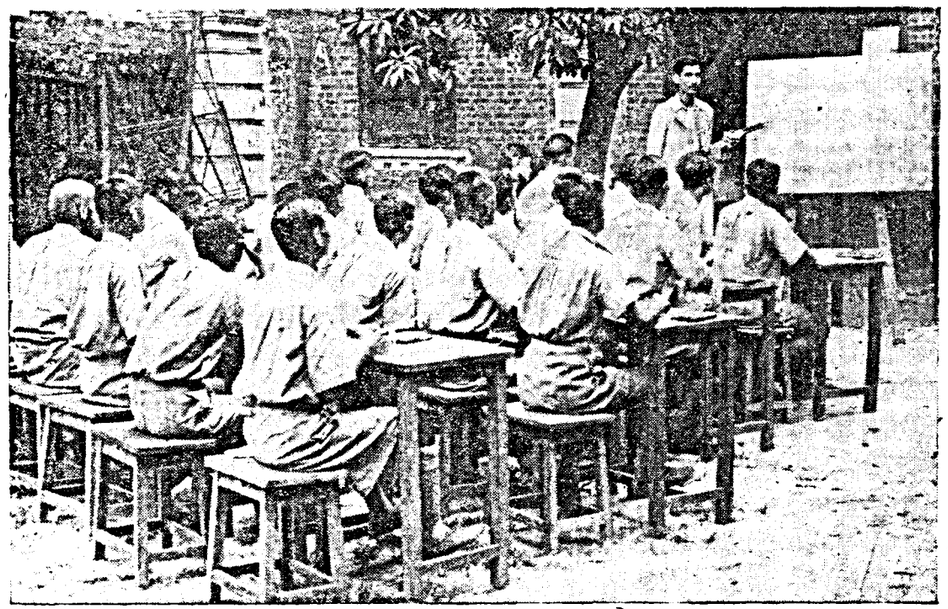
To take another example, the State may establish a chain of electric power stations all over the country. Power generating stations are highly capitalised and their financial returns in the initial stages may be meagre and uncertain. It is nevertheless necessary that cheap power should be made available to industries; and there are strong arguments that this should be the function of the State. There is great scope for State action in this field, as less than a tenth of India's hydro-electric resources have so far been exploited.

Another equally important function of the State will be to promote a co-ordinated system of transport all over the country. In this task, special attention will have to be paid to the needs of the rural population; so that the cultivator will be able to sell his produce and to buy his goods in the best market. Even if the State does not own the road vehicles, it must at least control the rates charged, so that the financial cost of transport is equalised as much as possible throughout the country.

Similarly, the State will have to establish a net work of technical training institutions all



Technical trainees at work in the Government Technical Training Centre, Allahabad. (Below) A drawing class at the training centre.



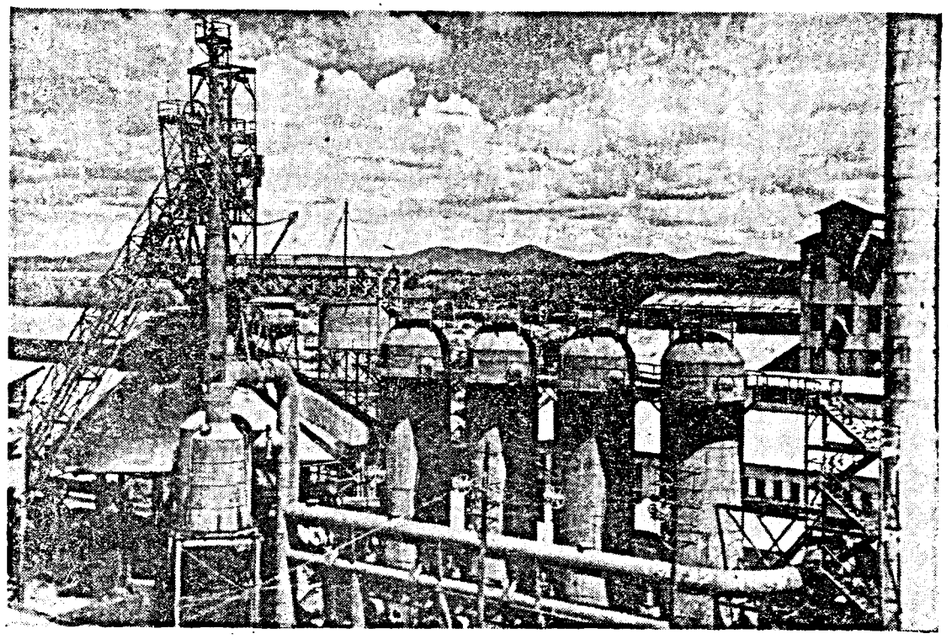
over the country. Technical education must be given in State schools or State-controlled classes as well as by manufacturers or industries themselves. India is rich in natural resources; she is also rich in man-power; but she is unfortunately very poor in respect of technical personnel. It will be the function of the State therefore to rectify this anomaly as early as possible. No other agency could be expected to undertake adequately this extremely important but difficult task.

Labour Welfare

At this stage I would like to emphasise that the ultimate object of all planning is to raise the standard of living of the people and to ensure employment for all. We must therefore raise the purchasing power of the people; but our purchasing power is unfortunately limited by our productive capacity. A man who earns two rupees a day, cannot purchase goods or services worth more than two rupees. His earning capacity will be raised only if his efficiency is improved, that is, if he is made more skilled at his work and if the losses brought about by sickness, unemployment and physical strain are reduced to the minimum. It is the function of the State to see that this is done, and the State must act as a vigilant guardian of the health and welfare of the working classes. The State must therefore whenever possible enact and enforce uniform rules for minimum wages, sickness insurance, factory hygiene, industrial housing, etc.

Apart from the increase in physical efficiency, there are also other factors which can increase the productivity of labour, namely, the internal organisation of the factory and the machinery used in it. If the factory is insanitary, or if the machinery is defective, the workman, however efficient he may be, will not be able to attain a satisfactory output. It becomes the duty of the State therefore to assist in any possible improvement in the internal organisation of factories and to ensure that the best machinery and tools are readily available. Towards this end, the State must promote industrial and scientific research and do everything possible to encourage the installation of up-to-date machinery and the replacement of that which is obsolete.

The State must also accept as one of its primary aims and responsibilities the maintenance of a high and stable level of employment after the war. Employment, as you know, is the result of economic and industrial



A view of the Mysore Iron and Steel Works.

development, and depends, to a large extent, on the financial policies followed by Governments. It is therefore desirable to initiate policies which will promote employment and assist industrialists and bankers to do the same. The Government must also keep a constant watch on the factors which tend to create economic depressions and take the earliest action to check them. In order to create general confidence industrialists must be assured that unforeseen factors will not be allowed to dislocate industrial activity and that they will be protected against unfair competition and other harmful practices.

We have so far discussed the general functions of the State in relation to industry as a whole; and shall now consider some of the specific problems of State control, State management and State ownership in respect of particular industries.

Economic Controls

The war has shown the importance of the centralised direction of industries, and the wartime controls have mobilised India's industrial capacity and facilitated equitable distribution of its products over a number of competing needs. Controls are an essential feature of an economy in which demand is generally greater than supply; and we must accept the fact that the short-supply conditions which have prevailed during the war may continue for a period after the war. To facilitate planning and ordered development certain controls may be a necessary feature of post-war economy. They may relate to capital investment, location of industry, imports and exports, movement of raw material, etc.

The ultimate object of all these controls will be the same, namely, to ensure that all our resources are mobilised to the greatest extent possible and that the factors in short supply are conserved in the best interests of the nation.

These controls will no doubt require much expert knowledge on the part of the administration. Industrialists do not naturally like interference in the day-to-day administration of their industries, nor will they tolerate the delays involved in red tape. We must endeavour to ensure that any controls that are necessary work fairly and efficiently and we should try to devise machinery to minimise the inevitable friction between the controllers and the controlled.

It is likely that a number of new industries will ask for tariff protection after the war; some of these industries may also need direct or indirect financial subsidies. These forms of assistance will no doubt be essential; but it should be recognised that it is given at the public expense and that it imposes certain obligations on the industries concerned. I have not the time to discuss these obligations at length; but I shall briefly mention them here. The first obligation of such protected or subsidised industries is to see that labour gets a fair deal; the second obligation is towards the consumer or the general public in the matter of the price and quality of its products and the third obligation is towards other non-subsidised industries. In my opinion, the best method of ensuring the fulfilment of these obligations is to subject these industries to periodical investigation by a powerful and permanent Tariff Board. If a particular industry is inefficient or if it has failed to carry out any one of its obligations, it should be open to the State to withdraw its assistance.

Financial Participation

There will be other industries which will require not only protection and subsidies, but also the capital borrowed from the Government or guaranteed by it. It may be pointed out that in certain of the industrially advanced countries, the State was in the initial stages directly concerned with the finance and the actual management of industries. The Government of India has however taken little direct part in industrialisation so far. But during wartime, it has done much to encourage private industries and experience shows that Government's financial participation may sometimes be very beneficial. We may, therefore, hope that if necessary the Government will be prepared to give financial guarantees to deserving industries and take steps to assist these industries to reach a high standard of efficiency.

It is not necessary, in this talk, to discuss the methods by which Government could ensure good management; but I believe that it will not be difficult to do so.

State-ownership of Industries

It is possible that the State may own some of the basic and strategic industries. There is nothing revolutionary in this. The Government of India is already the biggest industrialist in India, as the owner and manager of State Railways and other public works.

The questions we should consider are: should other industries be also State owned? How should the State manage these industries? What principles should govern the extent of the profit or loss involved in the ownership of these industries?

I shall not attempt to answer these questions in this talk. I shall merely name a few industries which I personally think should be State-owned and possibly State-managed. They are: electric power; artificial fertiliser industries; some of the mining industries; certain forms of transport; all big irrigation and public works, etc. You may extend this list if you like. You might, on the other hand, argue that you believe in keeping down State action to the minimum and that, wherever possible, industries should be the function of private enterprise.

Whatever way you argue, I am sure, you will agree with me on two points; namely, the State must encourage industrialisation and that India must be industrialised as soon as possible.

INDUSTRIAL STOPPAGES IN BRITISH INDIA

One hundred and fifty-nine industrial stoppages, involving 1,63,126 workers and resulting in the loss of 11,80,877 man-days, occurred in British India during the first quarter of 1944. In the same quarter of the previous year there were 311 stoppages involving 2,86,515 workers and resulting in the loss of 13,54,263 man-days.

There were 8 stoppages involving 5,000 or more but less than 10,000 workers and one involving 10,000 workers or more. In two stoppages 1,00,000 or more man-days were lost; in one of them the number of workers involved was less than 5,000.

Cotton, silk, woollen and jute mills accounted for 31 per cent of the number of stoppages, 56 per cent of the workers involved and 80 per cent. of the man-days lost. In 100 stoppages or 63 per cent the demands related mainly to wages or bonus.

The number of stoppages in which the workers were wholly or partially successful was 53 or 63 per cent. of the total number of stoppages which ended during the quarter and in 89 cases or 60 per cent. the workers were wholly unsuccessful.

RAJA OF KHAIRAGARH'S CONTRIBUTION

The Raja of Khairagarh has generously contributed Rs. 10,000 to be used for amenities for British Troops in India.

SCHEMES FOR WELFARE OF COAL-MINE WORKERS

The Mines Welfare Advisory Committee, constituted under the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund Ordinance, at their meeting held at Dhanbad on January 23, unanimously recommended that provision be made for an anti-malaria scheme for 1945-46, with a recurring expenditure of Rs. 7 lakhs and non-recurring expenditure of Rs. 3 lakhs. The staff for the scheme should be selected on a permanent basis and the scheme directed by the Director of Malaria Institute. It should also cover areas within individual collieries.

It was felt that the Labour Welfare Fund could not afford anti-malaria measures in outlying areas. Its functions being also within the provincial field, the Provincial Governments should be asked to assist in taking anti-malaria measures in the outlying areas. The estimated expenditure on anti-malaria drive for 1944-45, was over Rs. 2 lakhs.

The provision of two regional hospitals in the Jharia coalfields at an estimated capital cost of Rs. 3,00,000 and two hospitals for the Raniganj coalfields at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,34,000 were among the other budget items approved by the Committee.

The Committee also approved part provision of a grant of Rs. 3,00,000 each, towards the capital cost of Central hospitals in Jharia and Raniganj. Provision was also made for propaganda measures and for growing vegetables. Token grants were made for a water supply scheme costing Rs. 5 lakhs and a housing scheme costing Rs. 10 lakhs. The Committee felt that all welfare expenditure, both capital and maintenance, should be met from the Fund and that the cess may be increased, if necessary.

Mr. H. C. Prior's Statement

Mr. H. C. Prior, Chairman of the Committee, emphasised, in his opening remarks, that the workers should take a real interest and share in the common enterprise of welfare work.

Referring to certain broad questions which would arise in considering detailed items now or in future, he said that the Labour Welfare Fund could not provide for full capital and for the capital and recurring cost of all possible measures. The mine owners and provincial Governments, who were responsible for public health, would have to share some responsibility. He further indicated that it might be necessary to impose, on colliery owners, certain minimum statutory obligations regarding medical relief.

Capital expenditure was a fair charge on the Fund but the Jharia and Raniganj Mines Boards of Health were not at present levying their rates to the maximum possible limit and it might be necessary to ask them to increase their rates to meet maintenance charges.

As these suggestions raised important issues, the Committee agreed that all interests should consider them.

Referring to the work already done by the welfare staff, Mr. V. K. B. Pillai, Coalmines Welfare Commissioner and Vice-Chairman to the Committee, said that over 250 collieries had been inspected with the full co-operation of colliery owners and that a survey of the medical, educational and recreational facilities had been carried out. He said that in smaller collieries arrangements were generally unsatisfactory, and compliance with legal requirements was often only technical.

COAL PRICES REVISED

A Press Note issued by the Supply Department on January 31 stated:

By a Notification published in to-day's *Gazette of India* (Extraordinary) the Government of India has revised the prices of coal produced in the Bengal, Bihar and Central Provinces coalfields.

The Price Control Notification of July, 1944, classified coal, for the purposes of price fixation, into three broad sizes, i.e. (1) Run-of-mine, (2) Large coal, Dust coal, and slack and (3) rubble and smithy-nuts. The prices of large coal, dust and slack were fixed at eight annas per ton higher than the prices of run-of-mine coal and the prices of rubble and smithy-nuts were fixed four annas per ton higher still.

Under the Notification just issued, the sizes or categories have been revised to two only, i.e. (1) Run-of-mine, Dust coal and Slack, and (2) Steam coal, Rubble and Smithy-nuts; and the prices of steam coal, rubble and smithy-nuts have been fixed at Re. 1 per ton higher than for the corresponding prices for run-of-mine, dust coal and slack. The basic prices for the various grades of coal have been adjusted so as to secure to the collieries on the normal proportions of supply of different sizes the same over-all return as at present.

The new prices will come into effect from February 1, 1945.

The Government of India have decided to purchase the Hoshiarpur Doab Railways on April 1, 1946. A notice has accordingly been served on the Hoshiarpur Doab Railways Company, said a Press Communique issued by the Railway Department (Railway Board).

PAPER SUPPLY POSITION NOW BETTER

As a result of the paper control measures introduced by the Government of India some time ago, the paper supply position is now slightly better and economy has also been achieved in the use of paper for non-essential purposes. It is therefore now possible to make a slight relaxation in the provisions of the Paper Control (Economy) Order, 1944, said a Press Note issued by the Industries and Civil Supplies Department, Government of India, on January 24.

It added: Accordingly, the Government of India in the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies have decided to increase by 10 per cent the percentages of basic consumption permitted to different types of consumers under the Paper Control (Economy) Order, 1944. All presses and stationers can, with effect from the current quarter, use paper to the extent of 40 per cent of the consumption in 1943. Publishers of text-books can consume paper to the extent of 60 per cent of their consumption in 1939 and publishers of other books to the extent of 40 per cent of their consumption in 1943. Periodicals and newspapers can likewise print now 40 per cent of the number of pages printed by them in the basic period applicable to them in accordance with the provisions of the order.

In addition to the general concession referred to above which has been notified by means of a Gazette Extraordinary issued on January 24, 1945, the Government of India have also decided to increase by 10 per cent all concessions granted before January 24, 1945, to individual consumers. This concession applicable to individual cases already decided by the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies is, however, subject to the condition that the additional 10 per cent does not raise the concession now admissible to a figure above 70 per cent of the basic consumption.

MR. H. F. SIMPSON

Mr. H. F. Simpson of the Bengal Nagpur Railway and lately Deputy Director, Railway Board, has assumed the office of the General Secretary, Indian Railway Conference Association and Director of Wagon Interchange, from January 22, 1945, from Mr. S. G. Pick, M.C., E.D., who has been appointed Chief Traffic Manager, B.B. and C.I. Railway.

INDIAN INDUSTRIALISTS TO VISIT AUSTRALIA

"THE Government of India are providing facilities for a party of six Indian industrialists to visit Australia. They are expected to arrive in Australia early this month and will be the guests of the Australian Government during their tour," said a Press Note issued by the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies on February 2. It added:

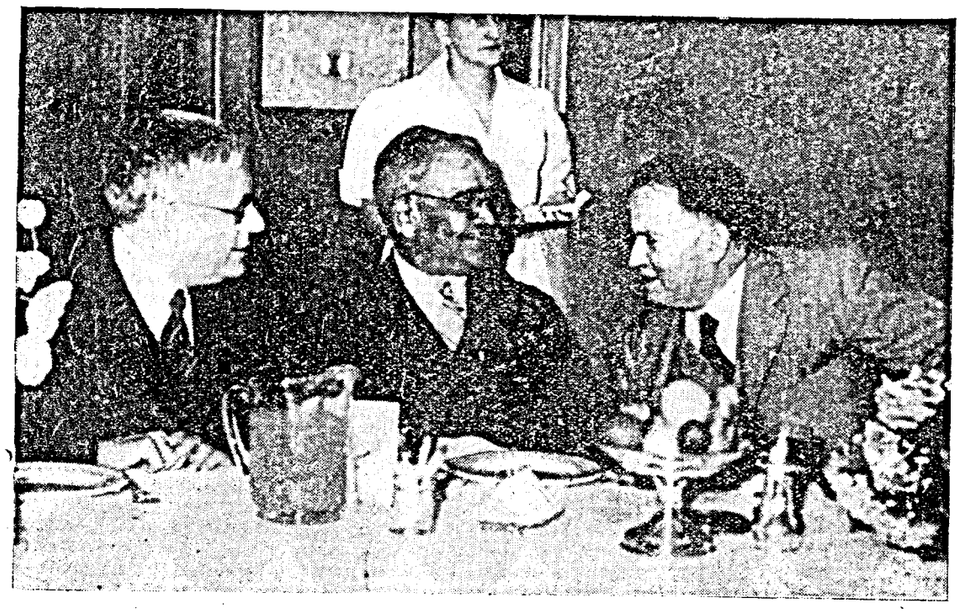
"The purpose of the tour is to foster contacts between the industrialists of the two countries. In view of the many similar problems facing India and Australia in the field of industrial development, it is considered that contacts between Indian and Australian industrialists should be of the greatest value to both countries.

"The party will consist of:—Sardar Bahadur Sir Datar Singh, Montgomery; Mr. Neville N. Wadia, Bombay; Mr. Abdul Wahed Adamjee, Calcutta; Mr. Shantiprasad Jain, Dalmianagar; Mr. B. Viswanath, Bangalore; Mr. Ramratan Gupta, Cawnpore."

In an interview, the High Commissioner for Australia (Lieut.-Gen. Sir Iven Mackay) expressed pleasure at the decision of the Government of India to send a party of industrialists to Australia. He had already met members of the party and could assure them of a very warm welcome in Australia.

The High Commissioner added that he had just received the preliminary itinerary and it was clear that the Indian industrialists would see as much of Australian life and industrial and commercial developments as could be fitted into the six weeks of their visit.

Another advantage was the presence in Australia of the Australian Government Trade Commissioner in India (Mr. Gollan) who would accompany the party throughout their tour. The High Commissioner hoped that this visit would be the forerunner of many similar visits, as he was convinced that there was no effective substitute for first-hand knowledge.



Sir R. P. Paranjpye, High Commissioner for India in Australia, was entertained at luncheon at the Parliament House, Canberra, by senior Government Ministers. Picture shows Dr. H.V. Evatt (left) External Affairs Minister, Sir R. P. Paranjpye and Mr. F. M. Forde, Acting Prime Minister.

INDUSTRIAL USES OF BITTERNS SALT

BITTERNS salt, till recently considered a waste product, is rapidly developing into a valuable aid to industry. Bitterns is the name given to the concentrated mother liquor remaining behind after edible salt has crystallized from the original brine. The suggestion that bitterns salt may be issued as self-denatured salt for industrial purposes was put forward by Khan Sahib Rahim Baksh in 1938 when the failure of the rains with a consequent shortage of brine supply from the Sambhar Salt Lake and the attendant difficulty of producing salt necessitated looking for hidden or unexploited sources of salt in this area. Results of investigations carried out by the Central Revenue Control Laboratory on possible industrial uses for the self-denatured bitterns salt are reported in an article appearing in a recent issue of the *Journal of Scientific and Industrial Research.* These investigations showed that bitterns salt is preferable to edible salt for the hide and skin industry to which it was first issued in January 1943 and which has since enthusiastically taken to its use.

The article also discusses other possible uses of bitterns salt in the electro-chemical industries, chemical industries, soap, refrigeration, water softening, glass and glazing industries, agriculture, fish curing, etc.

Industrial Furnaces

The subject of efficiency of industrial furnaces is receiving increasing attention in India, as the need for utilising coal, which is the principal industrial fuel in India, to the best advantage has assumed urgent importance. The glass and ceramic industries employ high temperature furnaces both for batch melting of glass and enamel and for fixing green articles, the temperature required in the various operations ranging from 1,000-1,600 C. The success of these industries is, in fact, dependent on the efficiency of the furnaces employed.

A survey of the furnaces in use in Indian factories reveals the overall backwardness of the industry. In an article appearing in the Journal, Mr. Varshney discusses the present position, and points out that both as regards designs and fuel consumption, Indian industry has not made much progress. Industrial furnace technique is a subject which has received little attention so far. Bearing in mind its importance to industry in general, and to the glass and ceramic industries in particular, there is urgent need to train a large number of specialists in furnace design and operation, not only in the interests of coal conservation, but also to increase the efficiency of Indian industry.

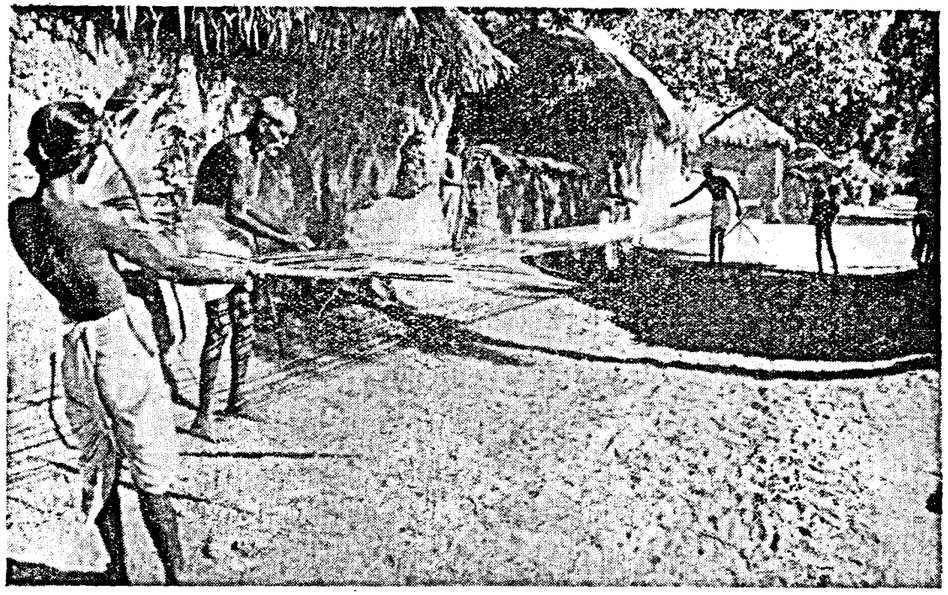
Barium Minerals

Barium occurs in nature mostly as barite; whiterite is less abundant. The principal mineral occurring in India is barite and workable deposits occur in the Ceded Districts of Madras and in Rajputana. The principal occurrences, mining operation, uses, production statistics and other relevant information relating to barite are discussed in an article appearing in the Journal. Barite finds extensive use in the paint industry as an extender, and in the paper, linoleum and rubber industries as a filler. The largest single use for barite is in the manufacture of lithopone. It is also used as an ingredient in the heavy drilling muds employed in oil-well drilling. The Indian deposits are extensive and can supply domestic requirements for a number of years to come. The availability of barite should serve as a fillip for the paint industry, and for the manufacture of barium chemicals in India.

Active Carbon From Press-Mud

One of the three by-products of the sugar industry is press-mud. Its profitable utilisation has engaged the attention of the Imperial Institute of Sugar Technology for some years and results of great commercial interest have accrued from these studies. These have been described briefly in an article appearing in the Journal. Among the commercially important products which can be obtained from press-mud through the appropriation processing are cane wax, activated carbon, distempers, industrial solvents, foaming solution and filter aid. Some of the processes developed at the Institute have been protected by patents.

Among other articles of interest in the Journal are: standardization of filter papers for gas purity tests, and the chemistry of surface active compounds which find use as wetting agents in the textile industry. The need for evolving one standard filter paper for use in all the testing stations which have been started in several parts of India for testing producer gas plants has become urgent and the article appearing in the Journal suggests criteria and standards for filter papers used in the estimation of dust concentration.



Hand spinning and weaving is the wholetime job of this South Indian village. The men do the weaving and the women the spinning.

DR. P. J. THOMAS ON FUTURE OF COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

"IT is indeed desirable that cottage industries should survive, but it is no good their surviving as a relic of primitive economy, as a symbol of sweating and low living standards. They must survive and grow strong as the corner-stone of a healthy decentralised modern economy which will maintain in freedom millions of families on a reasonable standard of comfort." So said Dr. P. J. Thomas (Director of Research, National Investments, Finance Department) in a talk broadcast from the Delhi Station of All India Radio on January 7. The subject was "Small Scale Industries," in the series on post-war planning.

Dr. Thomas was formerly University Professor of Economics, Madras University. He was Chairman of the Handloom Fact-Finding Committee, which was appointed in 1941 to consider the question of the handloom industry in relation to the mill industry. The Committee submitted its report in 1942.

Dr. Thomas said: Small-scale industries in India are mostly carried on in cottages as handicrafts, and the great bulk of industrial production in this country is still of this category. Of the 15 million people returned as industrial workers in the 1931 Census, more than 13 millions were engaged in such industries, and only about 1½ millions were employed in factories. The largest of the small-scale industries is handloom weaving, which gives full or part-time employment to about 6 million persons and supports nearly 10 million people.

Cotton Mill Industry

The cotton mill industry, indeed, looms much larger in the public eye, but it employs only one-tenth of that number. Next come various handicrafts working up metal, wood or stone, and others engaged in processing agricultural products or meeting the multifarious needs of the rural folk. Some produce artistic wares, while others make ordinary articles of consumption. Some are pursued by agriculturists as part-time occupation for supplementing their scanty earnings from tillage. But to most cottage workers, especially those in towns, these industries provide the sole means of livelihood. A more material difference perhaps is between those cottage workers who pursue their industry independently, purchasing raw materials and selling

From Cotton To Carpet



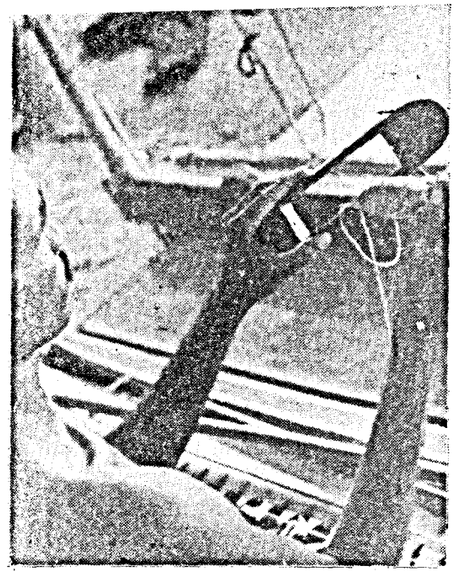
Cured cotton is turned into twisted yarn by the Charkhas plied by women. The yarn is then measured and made into skeins of definite length each (right).



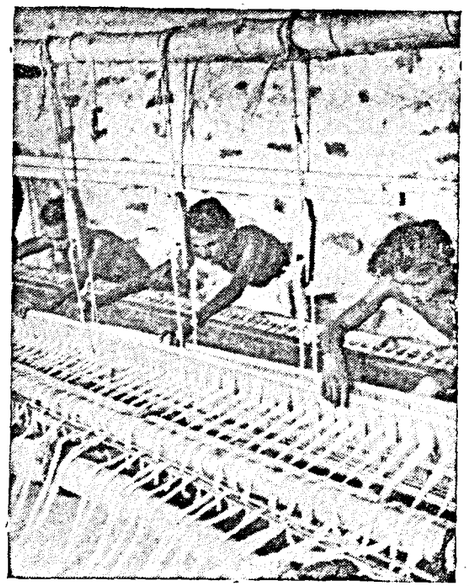




After dyeing the yarn is sorted into different colours (above) and rolled up (right) in packs of convenient lengths to fit into the shuttle.

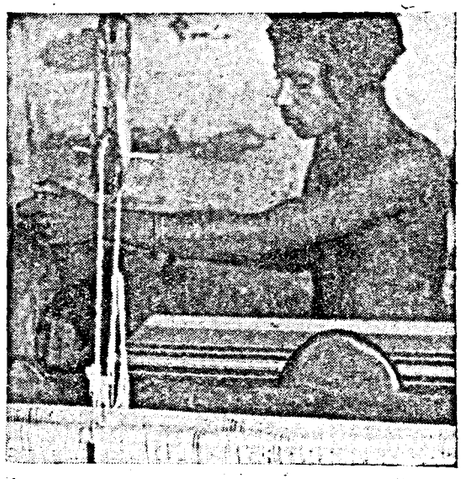


Shuttles carrying coloured yarn (above) are wefted in by passing them through the warps and then fixing them in position with the dexterous ply of the hand at the loom (below).



A small carpet is woven by a single person while a bigger one—a half carpet—is done by three persons. Two, one at each end of the loom, pass the shuttle from one end to the other alternately while the man in centre fixes the weft thread in position.





As the carpet is made, the frame is brought nearer and the carpet rolled up until its end is cut from the loom.



A gypsy woman making baskets.

finished products, on their own account, and others who are depending on middlemen for raw material and for advances, and perhaps for sale also.

The total production coming from our small-scale industries is not so large as indicated by the numbers employed, but this is not the criterion by which their importance in the national economy is to be judged.

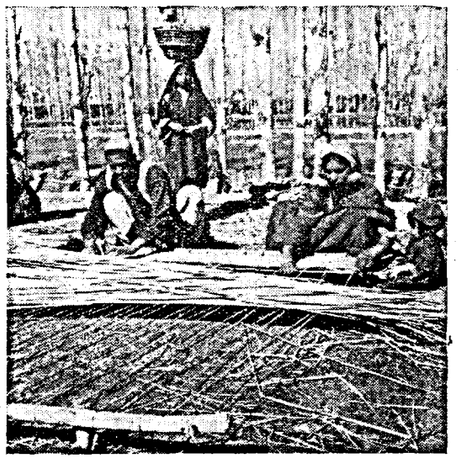
Causes of Decay

Most of the cottage industries are in a state of decay. The production per worker has gone down and most of the workers are unemployed wholly or partly. In fact, the occupation given in the Census returns is based on hereditary calling and does not give a true idea of the state of things. Large numbers who are returned as hand weavers get work only occasionally and are unemployed most of the time, with the result that several of the weaving centres have fallen on evil days. Not much better is the condition of other handicrafts, and some are worse off. Technological unemployment of the severest type is going on among the cottage workers all over India. But as they are quiet people living in out-of-the-way places, this fact is not widely known.

Why have cottage industries declined? In the case of industries producing ordinary consumption goods, at any rate, the chief cause of the decline is competition, not only from imports but from internal factory-made goods also. Spinning has suffered most by such competition, because not only are power spinning costs so low, but the machine can produce stronger and more uniform yarn than made by the *charkha*. This advantage is much less pronounced in the case of coarser yarns, essential for the thick coarse cloth required for wear in Northern India; in the Punjab, not less than 60 per cent of the total yarn used is hand-made. Hand-weaving has also suffered, but the advantage of the powerloom is not so pronounced and in spite of heavy odds, between 25 and 30 per cent of the total cotton textile production still comes from the hand-loom.

In the case of artistic products, however, the real cause of decline is not machine competition but the loss of patronage from the better-off classes in India, largely due to change of fashions. In the case of textiles the *khaddar* movement has lately counteracted this tendency but in spite of the active propaganda carried on by the All-India Spinners Association, the total production of hand-spun yarn under its auspices came to only three million pounds in 1940. This is not very impressive, seeing that the total consumption of mill yarn in India is about 1,300 million pounds. Nor is the proportion of genuine *khaddar* cloth worn in the country considerable. The rough hand-made cloth common in North India cannot be included in this category.

Thus, cottage industries are in decay, and if special efforts are not made, they may die out, as has happened in most other countries. Should this be allowed to happen? This is a crucial question for us to consider, especially now when reconstruction is thick in the air.



A Kashmir family busy at making mats.

1. First and foremost there is the question of employment, which is most important for a country like India with a large unemployed population. Cotton mills have come to supply more than 60 per cent of the cotton textiles required for consumption in this country; while this has given employment to 600,000 persons, unemployment and misery have been the result to the six million persons engaged in the hand-weaving industry.

There has been an expectation that industrialisation would relieve the pressure on land, but this has not materialised. The fact is that modern machine-driven industries need only a comparatively small labour force. India produced even before the war a good part of our consumption goods; yet the total number of labourers employed in the factories came to only 1¼ millions.

We are now proposing to strengthen our basic industries. No doubt, these industries are essential for our economic improvement; even our very security depends on them. But they cannot be counted on for giving employment. The whole of our basic industries may not require many more than 100,000 labourers for some time to come. India needs large quantities of fertilisers, but all this can be made by employing about 2,000 workers. This is disconcerting for a country like India, where very large numbers are unemployed or underemployed. Even the industrial countries in the West producing vastly for export depend largely on trade, transport and other services for employment. But in India these are undeveloped Therefore we cannot afford to throw away the employment which is now given by the small industries to about 15 million persons

2. The paucity of our capital resources is also another reason for giving an important place to cottage industries. Machine-driven industries require large investments of capital, but our capital supply is meagre. In Western countries, where labourers are few and capital resources large, machine-driven industries cannot give such trouble, but our position is just the reverse. We have abundant labour and meagre capital. Therefore we must pursue our industries, as far as possible, in such a manner as to occupy our plentiful labour supply and economise on capital. Hence the special need for small-scale industries in India.

3. The scattered and decentralised character of our cottage industries has many military and tactical advantages, which have lately become patent, especially in the case of China. Such production alone can defy modern warfare. The enemy can destroy concentrated power-driven industry by bombing, but not a decentralised industry like hand-weaving. It was this advantage that enabled China to defy Japan for long, in spite of odds. In a world subject to periodical outbreaks of intense and prolonged war, each area must have its food, clothing and other essential requirements from nearby, to avoid risks. The help which cottage industries could give in this matter must be fully utilised, in the interests of security.

4. The aesthetic claims of handicrafts are even more formidable. No doubt owing to prolonged neglect, the artistic standards of some of them have fallen, but even now work of high quality is going on. Three years ago, I had occasion to make an all-India survey of hand weaving and I was amazed at the high artistic beauty of the superb saris made in many places. The sari is perhaps the most befitting garment for a woman, and the best is made on the hand-loom. The handicraftsman, once the pride of India, may still come to his own.

5. On social grounds also, the survival of cottage industries is desirable. They can avoid the overcrowding, regimentation, strikes and lock-outs which industrialism leads to, and can enable the worker to lead a calm and independent life in the midst of his family.

High Cost of Production

Thus the preservation of cottage industries is desirable on many grounds. What stands in the way is then high cost of production and the consequent inability to compete with machine-made goods. In other words, handicrafts are inefficient. But the inefficiency is not so great in all cases. The hand-loom, at any rate, is able closely to compete with the powerloom in many classes of goods, and even in the case of certain staple goods the difference between mill and hand-loom prices is only about 10 per cent. Of course, this is only possible by depressing the hand-weaver's earnings. This is how the hand-loom survives. Lord Curzon in 1904 said that the powerloom would drive out the hand-loom as surely as the electric fan has replaced the handpulled punkah. Indeed this has not come true, but at what cost? Only in producing goods which call for variety and distinctiveness can the handicrafts successfully compete with the machine, but as such goods have only limited markets, these industries cannot give lucrative employment to a large number of people.

Cottage production can be made much more efficient by the use of electricity, as has been done in many European countries and in Japan. In this way, many consumption goods industries can be successfully pursued on a small scale in cottages or in small workshops. Advancing on this line, small-scale industry can be made to compete successfully with factory industries. But



The village potter with his wheel.

such small-scale industries will hasten the decay of handicrafts and will lead to greater unemployment among cottage workers. This has already happened in the case of weaving; the single powerlooms and small powerloom establishments in Bombay Province have seriously affected the hand-loom's markets. Thus the introduction of cheap power into the cottage sphere has created another menace to employment in handicrafts.

The Bombay Plan has made a special plea for fostering small industries as a means of affording employment, but how this objective will be carried out has not been explained. Unless the small industries stick to inefficient methods, the numbers now engaged in them are largely superfluous. Even as there is pressure of population on the land, there are to-day too many workers depending on cottage industries. In both cases, the use of cheap power will lead to serious unemployment, unless in the meantime special steps are taken to step up consumption, and this crucial point has so far escaped the attention of our planners.

The question of small industries therefore calls for urgent solution. We have first of all to decide as to which of them should be fostered and for what kind of production. We have also to decide which should be allowed to use electric power. Having made these decisions we have to take steps to safeguard these industries against machine competition, by marking out definite sphere and in other ways.

In general, it may be best for cottage industries to stick to products which call for variety and distinctiveness, rather than range over ordinary consumption goods, for which mass production methods have a clear advantage. In many cases, it would be possible to link cottage workers to the factory as has been done in many European countries. Under this system, the factory will give partially prepared materials to cottage workers to be returned as finished products; or handicraft products will be finished in the machine, so that they may become more attractive. In such a system, it is possible for handicrafts to specialise and attain high levels of efficiency, but this calls for great technical skill in the cottage worker, and special training will have to be given to him.

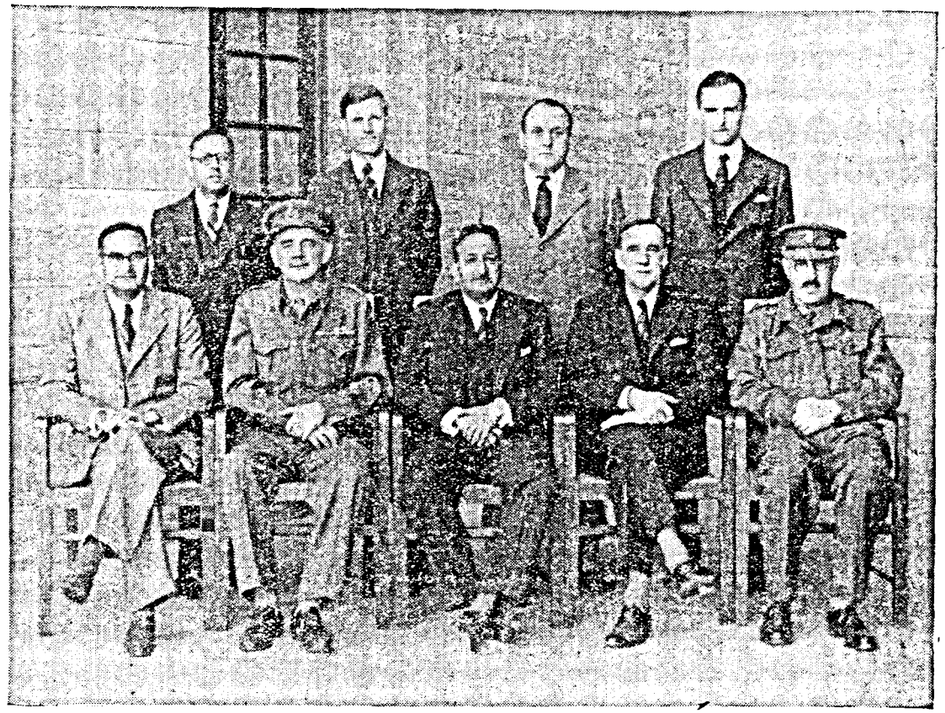
The weakness of cottage workers to-day is largely due to the high cost of raw material and the poor marketing methods followed by them. The State may do a great deal, either on co-operative lines or otherwise, for supplying raw material at reasonable prices and for the orderly marketing of goods. Improved methods must also be demonstrated to him. A reorganised village economy on a co-operative basis will be able to place cottage industries on more stable foundations. Along with these, all-India organisations for marketing cottage products both here and abroad are essential. The country will therefore welcome the formation of an All-India Hand-loom Board, on the lines suggested by the Fact-Finding Committee.

It is indeed desirable that cottage industries should survive, but it is no good their surviving as a relic of primitive economy, as a symbol of sweating and low living standards. They must survive and grow strong as the corner-stone of a healthy decentralised modern economy which will maintain in freedom millions of families on a reasonable standard of comfort, and this is possible if the present generation in India has the will to tackle this crucial problem.

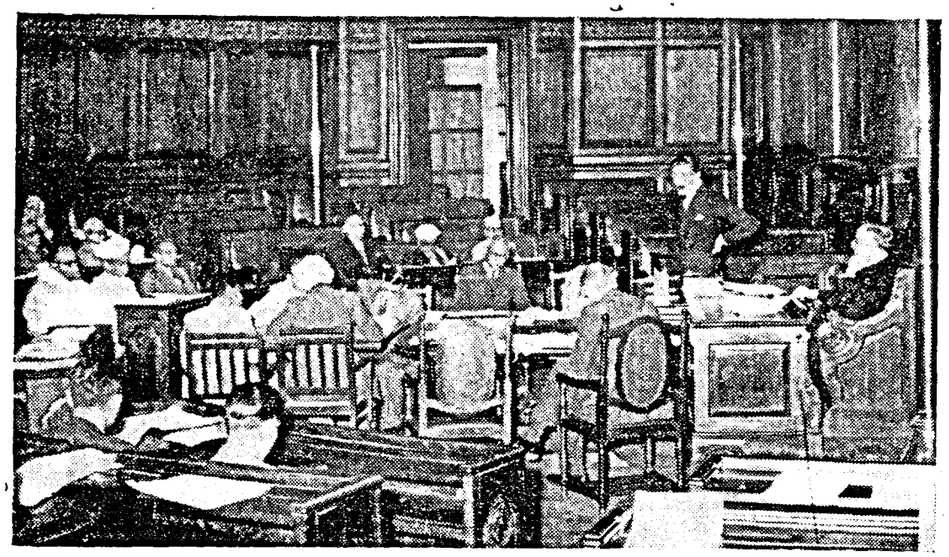
HONGKONG AND MALAYAN PENSIONERS

A temporary increase on account of increased cost of living has been sanctioned by the Colonial Office in the pensions of the pensioners of the Government of Hongkong and the Malayan Government drawing their pensions in India, said a Press Note issued on February 12 by the Commonwealth Relations Department, Government of India. The increase will be on the same scale as sanctioned by the Government of India to their small scale pensioners.

Pensioners drawing pensions on abolition of Office owing to the occupation of Hongkong and Malaya by the Japanese, however, are not entitled to these increased rates.



THE HYDARI MISSION: A photograph taken on the eve of their departure from India of the members of the official Mission headed by Sir Akbar Hydari (Secretary of the Industries and Civil Supplies Department) which is proceeding to the United Kingdom to discuss with His Majesty's Government the extent to which war demands on India can be reduced or offset by help in other directions. Picture shows Front Row (L. to R.): Mr. Mohammad Ali, Lt.-Gen. K. M. Loch, Sir Akbar Hydari, Mr. A. A. Waugh and Col. D. S. Woolf (Staff Officer to General Loch), Back row (L. to R.): Mr. S. Bhoothalingam, Mr. R. V. Fenton, Mr. J. B. Langford and Mr. N. O'H. O'Neill.



The meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Archaeology

SIR JOGENDRA SINGH ON CULTURAL HERITAGE OF INDIA

"ARCHAEOLOGY is not merely a matter for departmental investigators or an item in a University curriculum. It is concerned with the exploration, preservation and above all the interpretation of much of the cultural heritage of India and, therefore, concerns every educated citizen," said the Hon'ble Sir Jogendra Singh, Member for Education, Health and Lands, Government of India, inaugurating the first meeting of the newly constituted Advisory Board of Archaeology in New Delhi on February 3.

The Hon'ble Member said:

"The Archaeological Survey was instituted more than three-quarters of a century ago when in the year 1862 General Cunningham with a small staff was appointed to survey the monuments of Northern India. Lord Curzon was deeply interested in Archaeology. If my memory serves me right, it was one of the twelve projects which it was his purpose to promote, and the Government of India, under his inspiring leadership, reorganised and reinforced the Department. A comprehensive survey of the condition of ancient monuments was carried out. Extensive measures for repair and preservation were put in hand and legal powers were taken to secure the protection of monuments by the passing of the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act.

"Before the Archaeological Survey started its work, in the words of Omar Khayyam

They say the Lion and the Lizard keep
The Courts where Jamshyd gloried and drank deep:
And Bahram, that great Hunter—the Wild Ass
Stamps o'er his Head, but cannot break his sleep.

"In the past 40 years the Archaeological Department has done notable work for the preservation of our ancient heritage and the advancement of knowledge. Our archaeologists have removed the deep shroud of earth which entombed the ancient cities of Mohenjodaro and Harappa. It has revealed that 5,000 years ago men and women lived a cultured life. It has discovered Buddhist seats of learning at Taxila and Sarnath and freed the caves of Ajanta from the wilderness that invaded them.

"In this eternal city of India, where Pandawas and Prithviraj held their sway and successive Muslim Kings ruled, reigned and passed away, ruins have been retrieved and their surroundings improved. Not far from here at Agra, Taj Mahal, which Shah Jahan raised as if blown out of pure marble, in memory of his beloved consort and watched it from his prison near Pearl Mosque to which his son confined him, now attracts visitors from all parts of the world. What treasures lie under the earth undiscovered who can tell? In the words of Ghalib 'Not all have blossomed out in tulip and the rose'. Many new sites await exploration.

Association with Learned Societies

"I felt as soon as I assumed office that if our work is to escape stagnation and avoid decay, it should no more be carried on in departmental isolation. I thought it would gain in value and serve the cultural interests more effectively if it could be brought into closer and more intimate contact with Universities and learned societies. It has been said that the roots of the present lie deep in the past. It is true that there can be no real comprehension of present problems without a knowledge of the past.

"The Archaeological Survey has of course always endeavoured to maintain touch with learned societies and with independent scholars. But there has been a growing realisation, which is fully shared by the Survey itself, that arrangements for the association of the Survey with outside interests should be placed on a more organised basis and that the Survey should be brought into closer and more intimate contact with the Universities, with learned societies and with representatives of the general educated public, as well as with Indian States. Collaboration and informed criticism from scholars and the educated public is essential for healthy development. That is one reason for the constitution of the Board. Its function, however, extends beyond the limits of departmental archaeology. It is hoped that the Board will concern itself with the whole field of archaeological science in India. Archaeology is not merely a matter for departmental investigators or an item in a University curriculum. It is concerned with the exploration, preservation and above all the interpretation of much of the cultural heritage of India and, therefore, concerns every educated citizen.

"You are entering upon a heritage rich in its treasured wealth. Many devoted workers have laboured in the field without any other motive but to lift the curtain and survey the achievements of the ages that are gone, to learn something of the transitoriness of earthly greatness and of the soul of man, as it reveals itself from age to age in his works, touching brick and stone with its own inner harmony and immortal beauty. I have no doubt that the deliberations of this Board will advance the cause of archaeology and truth in the widest sense. I should like to add the assurance that the Government will attach the greatest weight to any recommendations the Board may make.

"I will not keep you longer from the rather heavy agenda. It includes, as you see, important suggestions for the amendment of the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, and for the establishment of a national museum in India. We are also to receive a report from the Director-General—Dr. Mortimer Wheeler—on the current affairs of the Department. Dr. Mortimer Wheeler is, as you know, a distinguished archaeologist who has come to India for a term of years to assist us in organising the Department on modern lines. I have no doubt you will be glad to have from him a report on the work he and his Department have been able to do since he arrived in April last."

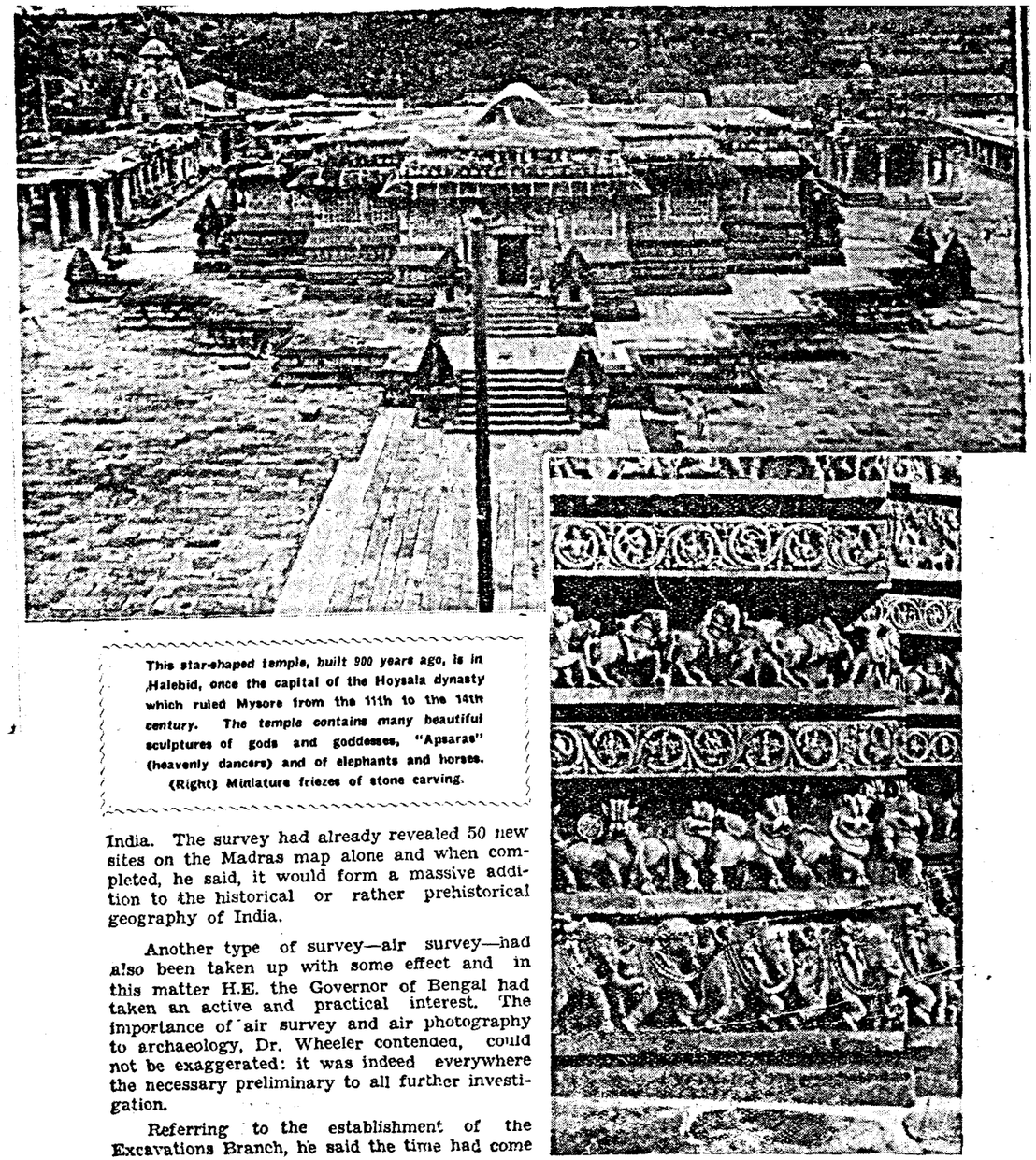
DR. MORTIMER WHEELER ON THE TASK AHEAD

A call to action in furthering the task of preserving India's cultural heritage was made by Dr. Mortimer Wheeler, Director-General of Archaeology in India, in his report to the meeting.

Dr. Wheeler emphasized the endless variety and superlative quality of the structural, sculptural and other remains of Indian civilization in the past and the tremendous value of that heritage to India in the present. Pointing out that the staff and the budget were entirely incommensurate with his Department's responsibilities, he feared that in many parts of India works of architecture and art and relics of the political and social history of the country were not merely in a shabby condition but were deteriorating at an increasing rate.

If the Archaeological Survey had to carry out both its tasks—conservation and exploration—in accordance with modern standards, scientific training of staff was an urgent necessity. A beginning had been made with the departmental training school of archaeological technique at Taxila. The school trained potential archaeologists and gave students or teachers of history some practical insight into the nature and value of the evidence upon which so much of their history depended. He, however, hoped that the universities would develop their own archaeological teaching on modern lines. Up to the present time no university in India had tackled the problem.

Among other activities of the Department, Dr. Wheeler especially mentioned the beginning of a systematic survey of the famous megalithic and other prehistoric remains of southern



This star-shaped temple, built 900 years ago, is in Halebid, once the capital of the Hoysala dynasty which ruled Mysore from the 11th to the 14th century. The temple contains many beautiful sculptures of gods and goddesses, "Apsaras" (heavenly dancers) and of elephants and horses. (Right) Miniature friezes of stone carving.

India. The survey had already revealed 50 new sites on the Madras map alone and when completed, he said, it would form a massive addition to the historical or rather prehistorical geography of India.

Another type of survey—air survey—had also been taken up with some effect and in this matter H.E. the Governor of Bengal had taken an active and practical interest. The importance of air survey and air photography to archaeology, Dr. Wheeler contended, could not be exaggerated: it was indeed everywhere the necessary preliminary to all further investigation.

Referring to the establishment of the Excavations Branch, he said the time had come to bring archaeological excavation in India into line with modern international standards. To this end the Survey had established a training school through which over 50 students from all parts of India had already passed.

Mentioning the immediate task before the Archaeological Survey, Dr. Wheeler said that the famous mosque at Fatehpur Sikri, irreplaceable among the surviving architectural monuments of the world, was showing serious signs of subsidence. He proposed to overhaul it thoroughly and to consolidate it on a permanent basis. Systematic work on the conservation of the famous Bhubaneswar temples in Orissa would be shortly completed and the third task would be to rescue from jungle and rapid decay the best surviving example of early European colonization in India, namely, the famous 16th century trading town at Bassein near Bombay.

Referring to excavation, the Director-General said that attention would be paid during the year to the South of India where it was hoped for the first time to secure a firm basis for early South Indian chronology by the partial exploration of a dated site near Pondicherry. This site was that of an ancient town in which had settled traders from the Mediterranean whose relics were familiar and would serve in turn to date associated Indian cultures.

Further, the Survey would proceed with the exploration of medieval Delhi and it was hoped it might be possible to carry out a little essential work in connection with the celebrated Indus Valley civilization of Harappa in the Punjab.

The Director-General then announced that he hoped to visit Persia to assist in promoting that liaison between Persia and India which had historical roots not only in the Muslim period but also far back in the early Indus Valley phase. On all grounds, he said, it was highly desirable that ancient and modern India should march hand in hand with ancient and modern Persia.

Board's Recommendations

The Board made a number of recommendations one of which was that a committee be set up to consider the establishment of an Indian National Museum of Art, Archaeology and Anthropology.

Another recommendation stressed the need to establish closer cultural contact with Iran, China and other adjacent countries. One way of doing this, according to the Board, was to set up Wings for each country in the proposed Indian National Museum. They should also exchange professors and students with these countries from time to time.

Government were urged to provide the necessary funds and facilities for resuming publications of the Department. The Board advised the starting of a periodical bulletin that would chronicle the activities of the Department and describe the "New finds" and current work.

The Board also recommended that the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act be amended so as to empower the Central Government to deal more effectively with the protection of ancient archaeological sites and monuments.

FUNCTIONS AND PERSONNEL OF BOARD

A Press Note issued by the Education, Health and Lands Department on January 30, stated:

The Government of India have decided to constitute an Advisory Board of Archaeology. The need has been felt for closer contact between the Archaeological Survey of India and Universities, where archaeological and other related studies are pursued and where the archaeologists of the future are trained. There is also need for closer association of learned societies with the Archaeological Survey. It is considered that such contacts can best be secured by the establishment of a Board which will meet at periodical intervals for discussion of matters related to Archaeology in India and in particular the needs and policy of Archaeology as an independent study and as an ancillary to historical studies and education generally. It will be the function of the Board to advise on matters related to archaeology in India referred to it by Government or by members of the Board and to make suggestions to Government on any such matters to which the Board considers that Government's attention should be drawn. The composition of the Board will be as follows:

(a) Chairman—The Hon'ble Member in charge of Education, Health and Lands.

(b) The Director-General of Archaeology.

(c) Superintendents of the six principal circles of the Archaeological Survey of India.

(d) The Government Epigraphist for India.

(e) Six members representing the Universities of India nominated by the Inter-University Board.

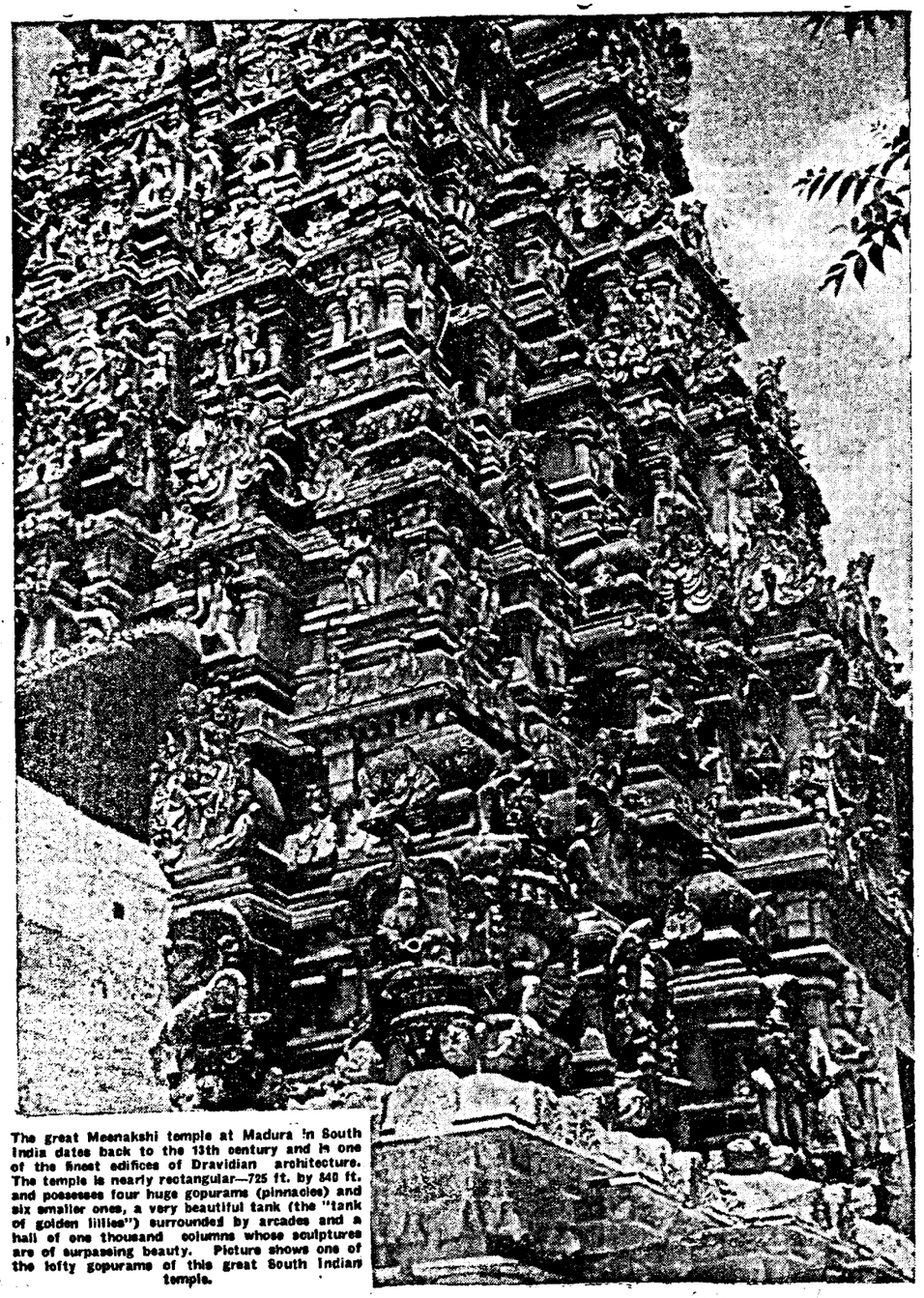
(f) One member nominated by each of the following Societies:

(i) The Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal.

(ii) The Indian Science Congress Association.

(iii) The All-India Oriental Conference.

(iv) The History Congress.



The great Meenakshi temple at Madura in South India dates back to the 13th century and is one of the finest edifices of Dravidian architecture. The temple is nearly rectangular—725 ft. by 849 ft. and possesses four huge gopurams (pinnacles) and six smaller ones, a very beautiful tank (the "tank of golden lillies") surrounded by arcades and a hall of one thousand columns whose sculptures are of surpassing beauty. Picture shows one of the lofty gopurams of this great South Indian temple.

(v) The Indian Historical Records Commission.

(g) One member elected by the Council of State.

(h) Two members elected by the Legislative Assembly.

(i) Four members nominated by the Government of India in consultation with the Crown Representative to represent Indian States.

(j) Not more than eight members nominated by the Government of India.

(k) The Deputy Director-General of Archaeology (Secretary).

Representatives of the Legislature will cease to be members of the Board on ceasing to be members of the Council of State or the Legislative Assembly as the case may be. The tenure of non-official members and representatives of Indian States will be three years. Official members will continue until they are replaced by others. The representatives of the Universities will be persons not below University Professor rank and will not be eligible for immediate re-election on the expiry of their tenure of three years.

PALLAVA INSCRIPTIONS

The Archaeological Survey of India has issued Vol. XII of the South Indian Inscriptions Series containing 265 inscriptions of the Pallava rulers of South India.

The records have been arranged in dynastical and chronological order and each inscription has a prefatory note in English drawing attention to salient points of the contents, so that the publication may prove useful even to scholars who are not conversant with South Indian languages.

The Pallavas were great builders; their legacy to India includes the interesting group of monuments at Mahabalipuram, popularly known as the Seven Pagodas.

CENTRAL ADVISORY BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Governor-General in Council has nominated the following as members of the Central Advisory Board of Education in India for a period of three years with effect from November 21, 1944: Rt. Rev. G. D. Barne, Bishop of Lahore; Rao Bahadur Sir V. T. Krishnamachari; Sir Maurice Gwyer, Vice-Chancellor, Delhi University; Sir Mirza Mohammad Ismail, Prime Minister, Jaipur; Mrs. Renuka Ray, M.L.A. (Central) and Dr. (Mrs.) Malini B. Sukthankar, J.P., Bombay.

DRUGS TECHNICAL ADVISORY BOARD

The third meeting of the Drugs Technical Advisory Board was held under the chairmanship of Lieut.-Col. H. W. Mulligan, I.M.S., in the absence of the ex-officio chairman, the Director-General, Indian Medical Service. Comments of the Provincial Governments and of the general public on the Draft Drugs Rules to implement the Drugs Act, 1940, were discussed.

Representatives of the Indian Medical Association, Indian Chemical Manufacturers' Association, the Pharmaceutical and Allied Manufacturers and Distributors Association, Indian Merchants Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, and the Pharmaceutical and Fine Chemicals Group explained points arising out of the comments.

The chief discussion centred on the Rule making it necessary for manufacturers of Biologicals in other countries to have one sole agent in India for the importation of biological and other sterilised products. Importers pointed out the difficulty of there being only one importer for the products of a firm making sera, vaccines, etc., instead of allowing anyone to import these products. The Board felt it was necessary to have one sole agent for these drugs to ensure effective control.

Another contentious Rule was that forbidding the import of patent and proprietary drugs except in containers for retail sale. This rule is to prevent repacking and labelling in India of drugs which are not manufactured here. The question of including the control of homoeopathic medicines under the Rules was referred to a sub-committee of the Board, with powers to co-opt.

CONTROL OF CAPITAL ISSUES

In a Press Note dated June 21, 1943, it was stated that the re-issue by companies after Rule 94-A of the Defence of India Rules came into force of shares previously allotted but forfeited was illegal without the consent of the Government. The position has been re-examined and it is now held that such a re-issue does not constitute an "issue of capital" within the meaning of the Rule. It is therefore not necessary to apply for Government's consent to the making of such re-issues, said a Press Note issued by the Finance Department, Government of India, on January 20.



Pathans, Gurkhas, Rajputs, Garhwalis and other Indians are in training as members of the Indian Parachute Regiment whose formation has been approved by H.M. the King. All are volunteers.

INDIAN PARACHUTE REGIMENT FORMED

THE King has approved the creation of an Indian Parachute Regiment. This New Year distinction marks a notable addition to the proud scroll of regiments of the Indian Army.

Indian parachute units, whose vital role in modern warfare is to-day fully recognised and who have already fought valiantly in an infantry role to defend India's Eastern frontiers at the bloody battle of the Sangshak Plateau, will be absorbed into the new formation.

India has not been behind other nations in training and using these "soldiers from the skies." The nucleus of the first parachute training battalion was formed three and a half years ago

In this aspect of modern war, as in so many others, Gurkha troops are particularly distinguishing themselves.

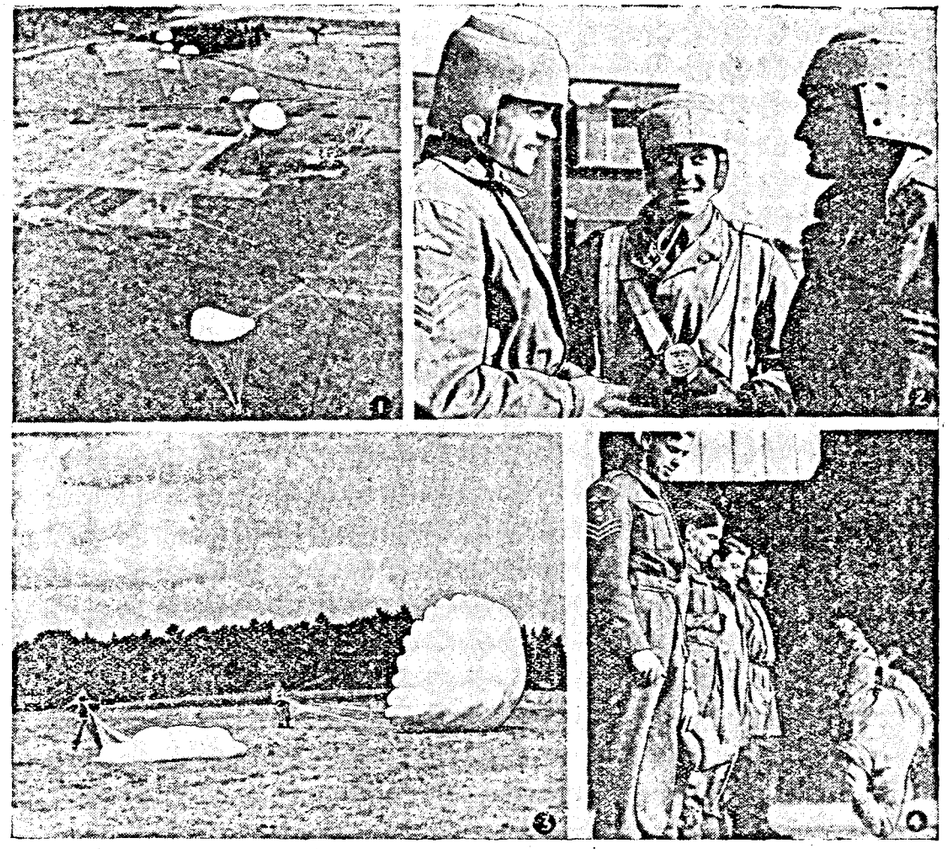
The tasks which confront parachute troops in action demand a high degree of military skill and physical fitness. The men, fully trained soldiers before they arrive at a training centre, have already undergone a gruelling physical training course. All are volunteers.

When the pupil is proficient he makes the first of the five jumps he must complete before he may wear the coveted sky-blue badge of the paratrcopers.

Special Pay

The efficiency of this training and toughness has been demonstrated in actual warfare. Together with a battalion of the Fifth Mahratta Light Infantry, two companies of State forces and British and Indian gunners, men of an Indian parachute formation for six days denied the plain of Imphal to the oncoming Japs and thus won a valuable respite in which the relieving Fifth Indian Division could be flown in from Imphal.

Special pay for Indian parachute troops has just been announced in an Indian Army Order. It is given to mark the unusually high standard



of skill, fitness and discipline which parachute troops must always maintain.

Well trained and fully aware of their superiority over the enemy, India's parachute troops look forward to the time when they will descend from the clouds like an avenging host upon the Japanese hordes in their ill-gotten territories and oust them by sheer fighting spirit.

THE MAKING OF A PARATROOP

Enormous strides have been made in the training of British and Indian paratroops in this country since the nucleus of the first training battalion was got together three and a half years ago, reports an Indian Army Observer who recently returned from a tour of a large paratroop centre in Northern India.

1. *Aerial view of a "stick" of paratroops coming down to the earth.*
2. *A specially made helmet is worn by the paratroops while making their descent.*
3. *Paratroops manipulate their parachutes on landing.*
4. *Demonstration of the correct way to land when making a parachute descent.*

All volunteers, the men who come here from all parts of India are fully trained soldiers before they arrive and have already completed a gruelling P.T. course.

There are many things that they must learn before they can put up their sky-blue wings. They must learn how to fall correctly; they must learn how to get safely out of the door of a fast-moving aircraft. They must know how to control their descent.

The recruits begin by taking their turns at swinging from the lofty roof of the huge training hangar in a parachute harness, getting the feel of the thing.

Jumping Training

Then jumping training starts. Higher and higher the jumper goes until a free jump from 15 feet—the equivalent of the greatest impact a parachutist will ever encounter—is reached.

Dummy fuselages, raised several feet off the ground, are used for instruction in how to jump out of an aircraft. The pupils learn how to jump clear so as to make sure that none of their impedimenta catch in the exit.

"The patience and thoroughness of these R.A.F. instructors," writes the Indian Army Observer, "is amazing. No matter how many mistakes may be made the instructor never loses his patience but keeps on gently and quietly in his advice until the man is perfect."

At last comes the great day to which all this has been leading—the day when the men must make their first jump. As the huge aircraft taxis down the runway, the recruits are lined up and numbered; an order is barked out. The men begin to file into the plane, odd numbers taking one side, even numbers the other. As they take up their positions they clip the static lines of their parachutes to the stout steel cable running along behind the seats.

Over the jumping ground the red bulb glows for a second, then the green....the instructor calls "'One'—the first man in the line jumps quickly through the open doorway. "Two! Three! Four! Five!"

Men hurtle after each other out of the aircraft into space.

The second jump, they say, is the worst. In all you have to make five, including one at night, before you can wear the coveted sky-blue badge of the paratroopers.

GIFT FROM ZAHIDAN

Sardar Mehar Singh Chadha, a British Indian resident in Zahidan, has contributed a further sum of Rs. 2,500 to H. E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund.

KITCHENER INTER-SERVICES PRECADET COLLEGE

BRITISH and Indian candidates for commissioning into the three services now have a special course for initial training at the old Kitchener College—renamed Kitchener Inter-Services Precadet College—at Nowgong, near Jhansi.

Of those from the ranks and civilian life who appear before the selection boards some are successful and sent direct to officer training establishments. Others have the necessary qualities but require further development before the candidates can be trained as officers. It is to give these deferred candidates a good chance of passing the selection boards that the college has been started.

The course at the college, which lasts five months, has been designed to develop initiative, personality and self-confidence, to improve physical standards and extend knowledge of English.

General Swayne's Visit

The college was recently visited by the Chief of the General Staff, Lt.-Gen. Sir John G. des R. Swayne, who was accompanied by the Director of Military Training, Maj.-Gen. D. R. Bateman, and by the Military Assistant to the Chief of the General Staff, Lt.-Col. J. C. D. Bruce.

Gen. Swayne spent two days at the college, watching the instruction, talking to the students and taking his meals, together with the officer-instructors, in the students' mess. He expressed his pleasure at the excellent beginning which had been made and at the spirit of enthusiasm and good fellowship which was evident among both instructors and students.

On leaving he gave the following message to the students: "Remember that you are not being trained to be sailors, soldiers and airmen; you are being given a golden opportunity to develop your minds, bodies and character so that you can later be trained to serve your country as officers of one of the three services.

"The task of an officer is service—service to his country and service to the men whom he has the honour to command and for whose well-being and lives he carries a great responsibility. What you learn here will help all of you in your careers but, what is far more important, it will help you to serve India."

TRAINING FOR SEA CAREER: 719 CADETS TRAINED BY THE "DUFFERIN"

FROM the time the Mercantile Marine Training Ship "Dufferin" was instituted in 1927 and up to December last, 719 cadets had joined the ship for training for a sea career. A large number of them are employed in various capacities in the R.I.N. and the Merchant Navy and are now actively serving the country both afloat and ashore. There are 118 officers in the R.I.N. and Reserves and 249 officers and apprentices in the Merchant Navy. Cadets under training at present number 145.

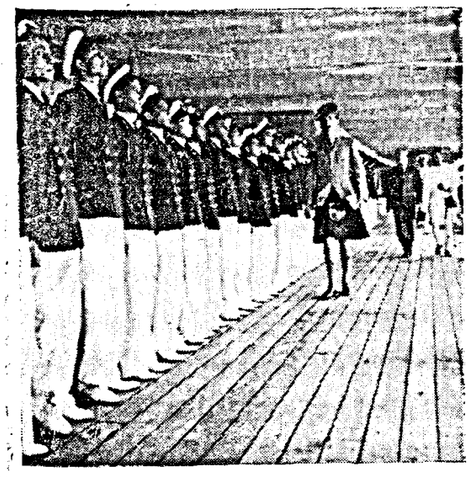
Normally one or two vacancies in the R.I.N. are reserved and offered every year for a competition exclusively among the "Dufferin" cadets at a special "Dufferin R.I.N. Examination." There are 10 "Dufferin" cadets in the Bombay Pilot Service and 14 in the Bengal Pilot Service. As an experimental measure, the Government of India have restricted recruitment to the latter to duly qualified cadets selected from the 'Dufferin."

The "Dufferin" provides preliminary training in both the branches of the Mercantile Marine, viz. executive and engineering. The Government of India have arranged with some of the principal shipping companies operating on the coasts of India to grant facilities to "Dufferin" cadets for proceeding to sea as apprentices.



H.E. the Viceroy presided over the Annual Prize Distribution of the I.M.M.T.S. Dufferin during his recent visit to Bombay.

Facilities for training of engineering cadets are available in the major marine workshops of Bombay and Calcutta.





His Excellency inspecting the cadets. (Right) Ceremonial march past by cadets and band. The Viceroy took the salute.

As a measure of assistance to engineering cadets, 15 scholarships of the value of Rs. 50 each and tenable for 3 years are awarded to them every year by the Government of India for undergoing workshop training.

Recently, a Government scholarship of £260 has also been sanctioned for a cadet who stands first in the special "Dufferin R.I.N. Examination," to enable him to meet the expenses of his training in the United Kingdom.

Decorations for War Service

Four ex-cadets of the "Dufferin" have been the recipients of decorations in the present war for acts of exceptional bravery.

Lieut. N. Krishnan, R.I.N., mentioned in despatches, has been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for courage, initiative and leadership. He captured an enemy vessel in a hand-to-hand fight.

Acting Commander S. G. Karmarker, R.I.N.R., has been awarded the M.B.E. for outstanding services in command of his ship during operations on the Eritrean coast.

Lieut. J. S. Mehra, R.I.N.R., has received the same Order on the occasion of the sinking of his ship.

Lieut. Syed Mohammed Ahsan, R.I.N., has been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for gallantry in the Arakan operations.

Midshipman Kirpal Singh, an ex-"Dufferin" cadet, is understood to have passed out second in the examination of the Royal Naval College; he was within an ace of obtaining the highest mark for the award of the King's Prize, which is equivalent to the Viceroy's Gold Medal, and lost the coveted prize by one mark in 500. He was also presented to Their Majesties the King and Queen when they visited the Home Fleet and was an Officer of the King's Bodyguard during that Royal visit.

RAILWAYMAN'S WAR EFFORT

An interesting award in the New Year's Honours List was that of the British Empire Medal to Mr. Bazlal Haque, flotilla clerk or head chargeman to the B. and A. Railway ferry at Amingaon. He first came into prominence over his splendid work in expediting the evacuation of refugees from Burma and since then he and his men have been largely instrumental in increasing the numbers of wagons transported over the Amingaon-Pandu ferry to no less than 9 times the pre-war average figure. It is the first occasion and richly deserved too, when the medal has been awarded to an Indian railwayman for this sort of work.

CENTRAL COMMAND ECONOMIC CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE

FORTY Civil Government delegates from the provinces and States in Central Command were present among the 77 representatives at the opening of the second session of the Central Command Economic Co-ordination Committee held at Agra on January 23 under the chairmanship of Major-General C. M. P. Durnford, Administrative head at Central Command headquarters.

The conference was opened by Lieut.-General Sir G. A. P. Scoones, the new General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Central Command, who said: "It gives me great pleasure so early in the tenure of command here to have the opportunity of welcoming the very important Economic Co-ordination Committee to Agra. Until just recently it has been my privilege to command a formation in the forward area against the Japanese, and the point which I should like to put to you is that the scope of the operation which a Commander in the field can undertake depends largely on the resources of men, equipment, munitions and stores which are placed at his disposal by the provisioning agencies in the rear.

"While it is essential for the successful prosecution of the war that the needs of the fighting services should be fully and punctually met, yet it is obvious that in the interest of the country and of the war effort as a whole immediate necessities of the fighting services should be procured with the least possible disturbance to the economic structure of the country. It is for this purpose that the Government has set up these joint Economic Co-ordination Committees in all Armies and Commands.

"It is impossible to over-estimate the value of the work which is being carried out by this machinery and I am confident that the present conference will materially contribute to a solution of the many problems which must inevitably arise. I will now withdraw and leave you with your chairman to start work on the formidable agenda with which you are confronted."

The Committee has done valuable work in the past year in ensuring an equitable distribution of local produce and commodities for military and civil use throughout the Central Command, and at the same time has taken measures to step up production of all commodities and supplies and has so employed price control as to maintain and protect the economy of the country from inflation.

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL SEA TRANSPORT OFFICER, INDIA



Commodore D. A. Casey.

Commodore D. A. Casey Appointed

KEY appointment in India's wartime shipping organisation changed hands recently when Commodore H. A. B. Digby-Beste, C.I.E., O.B.E., R.N., was succeeded by Commodore D. A. Casey, C.B.E., D.S.O., D.S.C., R.D., R.N.R., as Deputy Principal Sea Transport Officer, India.

As deputy head of the Sea Transport Service under the Flag Officer Commanding the Royal Indian Navy—who is Principal Sea Transport Officer, India—Commodore Digby-Beste has shown tremendous drive in fitting the Service for its vital part in building up India as a base for operations against the Japanese. The Service in India is part of the vast organisation which, based on London, provides lines of communication from the heart of the British Commonwealth to all theatres of war.

Responsible for the carriage of all Service personnel and goods by sea to and from Indian ports, it has been described as a maid of all work for the Navy, Army and Air Force. Its functions include not only shipping operations but also loading and discharging at ports, arrangements for freight in commercially-operated ships in conjunction with the Ministry of War Transport, and the utilisation of country craft. This work has expanded enormously in recent times with the pouring into India of personnel and stores for the Eastern war theatre.

Sea Transport Work

When Commodore Digby-Beste returned to India in 1943 he brought with him unrivalled knowledge of sea transport organisation in Eastern waters. While serving in the Royal Indian Marine—which he joined in 1905, and which was 50 per cent a Trooping Service—he was engaged in Sea Transport work at Bombay and Central Headquarters, India, in the war of 1914-18, being Divisional Naval Transport Officer from 1917 to 1921.

In 1924, he was deputed to England to redraft the present Sea Transport Regulations. Appointments as Deputy Port Conservator, Madras, and Port Officer, Bombay, followed, and



Commodore H. A. B. Digby-Beste.

from 1927 to 1937 he was Captain Superintendent of the I.M.M.T.S. *Dufferin*, training hundreds of Indian youths for the sea. He retired from the Royal Indian Navy in 1938.

In 1940, Commodore (then Captain) Digby-Beste joined the Royal Navy in the Sea Transport Service, being Chief Staff Officer to the Principal Sea Transport Officer, French Ports, at G.H.Q., B.E.F. On the collapse of France he came out with Rear G.H.Q. through Boulogne, passing through the enemy lines. With headquarters at Dover he helped to organise the evacuation from Dunkirk, and then proceeded to the Bay of Biscay to divert British ships from ports menaced by the enemy, having the unusual experience of arriving at all the major ports at the same time as the Germans and narrowly escaping capture.

As Admiralty Berthing Officer at a large United Kingdom port—one of the termini of our lines of communication across the Atlantic and assembly point for convoys to Russia—he handled an immense volume of tonnage. During this period when the Battle of the Atlantic was at its height, the anchorages developed into a port distinct from the port inland, and the Commodore's duties covered not only berthing but also co-ordinating and supplementing organisations necessary in creating a port.

MAJOR P. S. BHAGAT

Major Premindra Singh Bhagat, Royal Bombay Sappers and Miners, first Indian V.C. of this war, has been selected to attend a course at the Staff College, Camberley.

Son of Mr. S. S. Bhagat, I.S.E., formerly an Executive Engineer in the U.P., Major Bhagat is aged 26. He was commissioned in July, 1939, as the most outstanding cadet of his term at the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun.

As a second lieutenant, ordered to clear the road to Gondar for Indian and British troops pursuing the Italians after the fall of Metemma in Abyssinia in July, 1941, Major Bhagat put in 48 hours of almost continuous work clearing mines, a difficult and extremely hazardous task. He collapsed from exhaustion and shock, with both ear drums damaged, after clearing 15 minefields on a 55-mile stretch.

This action, described by his commanding officer as "the longest continued feat of sheer, cold courage", won him the V.C. He was presented with the medal by the then Viceroy, Lord Linlithgow, at a special parade in Delhi on November 10, 1941.

FOUR BROTHERS—ALL PILOTS—IN I.A.F.

FOUR brothers—all pilots—are serving in the Indian Air Force. The eldest is a Wing Commander and the youngest, a Flying Officer.

The brothers are Wing Commander Aspy Engineer, D.F.C., Squadron Leader J. Engineer, Flight Lieutenant M. Engineer and Flying Officer R. Engineer. Their home is in Bombay.

W-Cdr. Engineer received his training at Cranwell in 1932. When he was 18 he flew solo to England and back in a Tiger Moth and was awarded the Aga Khan Prize for the first Indian to make the trip. In 1942, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his work on the North-West Frontier, while on operations.

Twenty-six-year-old S-Ldr. J. Engineer joined the I.A.F. on the outbreak of the war. A one-time civil pilot, he has flown more than 2,500 hours. A few weeks ago he took over command of an Indian Air Force rocket-firing squadron.

The third brother, F-Lt. M. Engineer, enlisted in the summer of 1940. He is now commanding a flight of an I.A.F. close support squadron operating on the Arakan Front.

The youngest of the four, 21-year-old F-O. R. Engineer, is also flying on operations in the Arakan.

Between them the Engineer brothers have flown about 8,500 hours.

A fifth brother is a Captain in the Indian Engineers and has been on active service on the Assam-Burma Front.

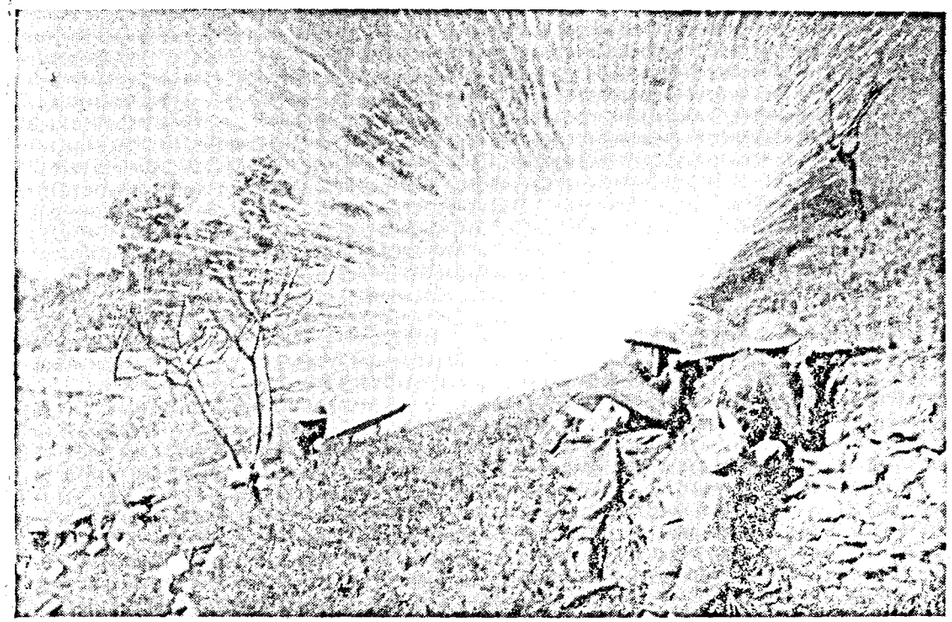
The Engineer brothers are the sons of the late Merwan I. Engineer, of Bombay.

WACS MAY SERVE OUTSIDE INDIA

Members of the W.A.C. (I) are now permitted to serve outside India, according to an Ordinance issued recently. Such members, who must be volunteers, will undertake work similar to that which they are doing in India.

The Ordinance will allow volunteers to go forward with units into Burma or Malaya. Women who have lived in these countries may be of great value in view of their special knowledge and the training they have received in the Corps.

Volunteers for service outside India will be called for as soon as they are required.



Infantrymen of the 8th Indian Division in Italy attack an enemy position under cover of phosphorus smoke bombs.

12TH FRONTIER FORCE REGIMENT'S EXPLOITS IN ITALY

THIS is the story of the men of the 12th Frontier Force Regiment from June to October, 1944, as they pushed the Germans northwards along the craggy spine of Italy.

First came a period of steady pursuit, the battalion advancing 220 miles in two months. Then on the banks of the Upper Tiber, South-East of Perugia, came strong enemy resistance at last.

For ten days the men were pinned down under intense shell fire. A daylight attack by Sikhs broke the German front and the battalion got its first rest for eight months.

Sweep Towards Gothic Line

On the left bank of the Arno, South of Florence, the 12th Frontier Force men put in some successful patrol actions in country where visibility on flat ground was reduced to 20 yards by a "jungle" consisting of vines, orchards and high standing crops.

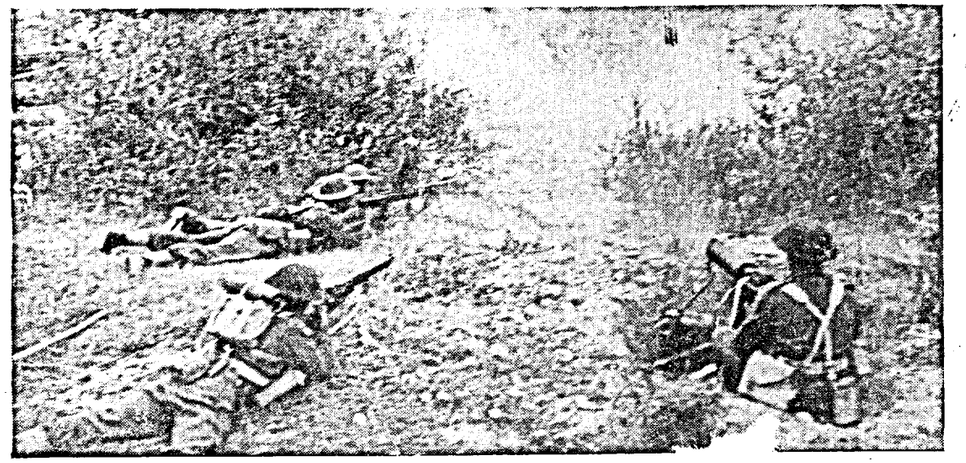
Crossing the Arno with unexpected ease the battalion swept on towards the Gothic line. One of the havildars, Jamal Din, distinguished himself by manning a breakdown van abandoned by its crew under heavy shell fire and clearing a road block of knocked-out vehicles.

On August 31, the enemy went back to his last height before the Gothic Line, the 2,500-foot Mount Giovi, and the Frontier Force men received an unexpected reinforcement in the shape of a group of Italian patriots, armed to the teeth. Heavy rain postponed the attack; the enemy again withdrew.

The Germans fell back to the much-vaunted Gothic Line. But again the advance continued with remarkable precision and speed.

The Punjabi Mussalmans in their three-tonners drove in full view across the plain to within 1,000 yards of the enemy defences. The Pathans with a cunning manoeuvre captured a German listening post on the final ridge of the Gothic Line.

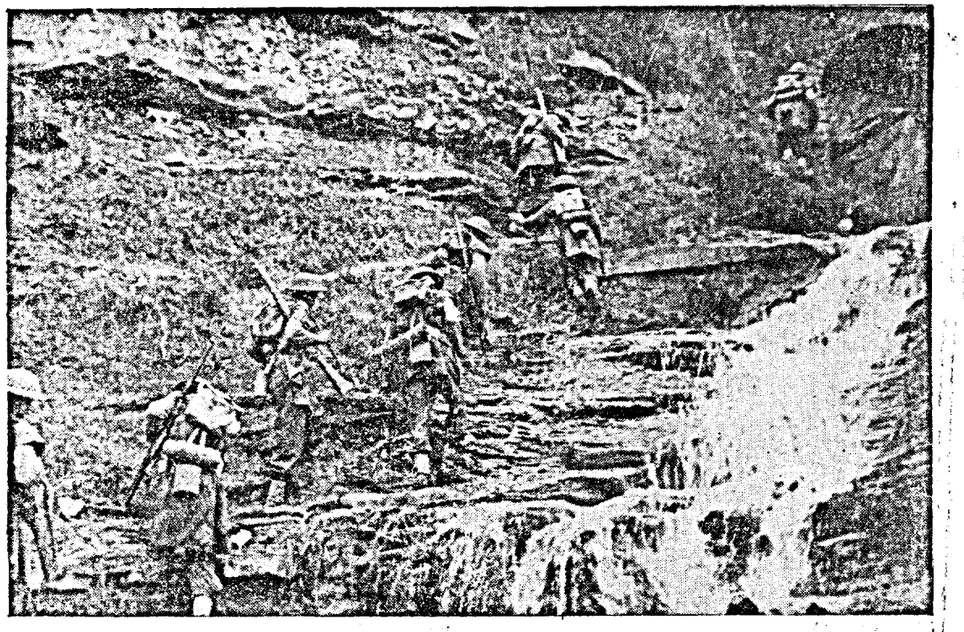
The Sikhs prepared the way for the Gurkhas to go through. And the Gurkhas, after a massive artillery bombardment, captured the next high feature, called "the Dead Woman", without



Machine-gunners of the 5th Mahrattas in Italy give covering fire to the crossing of a river.

firing a shot.

From then onwards the weather turned against the advancing armies and German resistance strengthened, their automatic weapons blazing away from the knife-edge ridges along which the Frontier Force men must fight their way. But these men had come far and learned much; they would not, they know, be halted now.



Punjabis of the 8th Indian Division climb up a steep hill under cover of a water course to attack an enemy post in Italy.

Issued fortnightly by J. Natarajan, Principal Information Officer, Government of India. Printed in India by E. G. Tilt (Manager) at The Civil & Military Gazette, Ltd., Lahore: Communications for the Editor should be addressed to the Bureau of Public Information. Government of India, Lahore, and not to the Printers.

INDIAN INFORMATION



...155: March 1, 1943
...rtnightly by the
...formation Officer,

• THE RAILWAY BUDGET



British troops with children of Mohyin village (Burma). The local inhabitants gave Allied troops a big welcome when they entered it at the end of January. Picture shows (L. to R.) Pte. H. Starkey, of Tamworth, Staffs, Pte. J. Martin, of Little Bardfield, Essex, and Pte. F. Tubbs, of Moordown, Bournemouth.

Vol. 16, No. 155. INDIAN INFORMATION March 1, 1945

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

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

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

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

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

MAIN CONTENTS

	Page
Two more V.C.'s for Indian Fighting Men	280
Railway Budget: Sir Edward Benthall's speech in Central Assembly ..	284
Mr. H. M. Mathews on National Planning of Electrical Development in India ..	296
Future of Sugar-cane Industry in India ..	301
Research for More Profitable Farming ..	302
Scientific Research in India: Prof. A. V. Hill's Report ..	305
The Radio-Sonde ..	307
The Indian Audit Department ..	310
Ceremonial W.A.C. (I.) Parade at New Delhi	322
Fauji Sevadarni Scheme: Radio Talk by Maj.-Gen. H. V. Lewis ..	330
Maj.-Gen. Roland Richardson ..	333

COVER PICTURE: A Bren-gun position covering a forward patrol on the Italian Front.

C.-IN-C. ON INDIA'S CONTRIBUTION TO VICTORY

War Review in the Council of State

"I have no hesitation in saying that we can be proud of the part which India is playing in this tremendous struggle and of the contribution which she is making towards final victory over our enemies. I know this House will join me in saying that the Indian fighting man deserves well of his country and that this should not be forgotten when peace returns to the world," said the Commander-in-Chief in India, General Sir Claude Auchinleck, in a review of the war in the Council of State on February 15.

After tracing recent developments in Europe and the Pacific, the C.-in-C. dealt with events in Asia. He said:

"On the mainland of Asia the past few weeks have witnessed a most reassuring development, namely, the reopening after three long years of the Burma Road. True, it is not the same Burma Road throughout its length as was closed when the Japanese Overran Burma, but in its present form it is capable of carrying as much traffic as the original road. As Hon'ble Members know, the road leads from Ledo in North-East Assam down through the Hukawng Valley in North Burma until it links up with China at the small border township of Wanting.



Gen. Sir Claude Auchinleck.

"Although the final planning and construction of the Ledo Road was in the hands of our American Allies, we in India can take pride in the knowledge that its inception was Indian and the initial work was carried out by Indian engineers and pioneers. Indian brains and Indian brawn have contributed largely to the reopening of the Burma Road, which will assuredly play a material part in building up China's capacity to resist Japanese infiltration.

"This opening of the Burma Road, of course, is a sequel to the major military successes which our armies in the South-East Asia Command have won under the supreme leadership of Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten. We in India can legitimately claim a share in the credit for these successes. The Fourteenth Army commanded by General Sir William Slim (himself an Indian Army Officer) is predominantly Indian in its composition, and is dependent almost entirey for all that it needs to enable it to fight, on our vast base organisation in India.

"The vaunted Japanese 'March on Delhi' of which we heard so much in the spring and early summer of last year will still be fresh in the minds of Hon'ble Members. So will its sequel—the flinging back in utter confusion of these arrogant and reckless invaders and their virtual annihilation in the jungles and mountains of the Burma-Assam border.

"How well our troops acquitted themselves in the long drawn out and bitter fighting which ranged from Manipur to Mandalay is now a matter of history. On behalf of this House I should like to pay tribute to the prowess of the British, East and West African, Nepalese and Indian soldiers who frustrated the overwhelming ambition of the Japanese. Their efforts have been nobly partnered by our American and Chinese Allies in the Northern Combat Area Command.

"Not less noteworthy are the victories which have attended our arms on the Arakan coast. Here too, we have shown that we are

more than a match for the Japanese at their own game. Some of our landings on the coast of Burma have been unopposed as at Akyab. Others have been sternly contested as at Myebon and Ramree. But in every case, we have proved that we can fight our way ashore, and given support from the air as well as the requisite guns and armour, can chase the Japanese from whatever defences they can devise.

India Command's Task

"I do not wish to strike too confident a note. Hon'ble Members must realise, as our fighting men do, that the Jap is a tough and relentless foe who in most cases must be exterminated before he is defeated. We all know that a great deal of bitter fighting, involving heavy casualties, lies ahead before Burma can be liberated and the war carried into other Japanese-occupied territories further East. Nevertheless we can fairly say that we have got the Japanese on the run no less surely than the Americans have in the South-West Pacific, and this is a heartening thought.

"Meanwhile the India Command continues to discharge its primary task, that of training and equipping as large forces as possible to be used by the Supreme Allied Commander, South-East Asia, to drive the enemy ever further away from our shores. Hon'ble Members travelling around the country must have seen for themselves what great strides have been made in the building up of India as an offensive springboard. The economy of this country is now geared up for large-scale war production, and its manpower is harnessed for the struggle both on the battlefield and in field and factory.

"It is our proud boast that we have raised the largest volunteer army in history and the exploits of this army in the field speak for themselves. Their skill at arms is ably backed by the many hundreds of thousands engaged in the less exciting but no less strenuous and essential tasks of providing the fighting man with all that he requires to enable him to destroy his enemies.

"Not only on the land, but also at sea and in the air, India's sons have given and are giving a good account of themselves. Off the coast of Arakan the Royal Indian Navy is adding almost daily to its reputation. As at present constituted, it is ideally suited to the task in hand; its Landing Craft wing, its Coastal Forces and its deep-sea ships have all

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 295)



The R.I.N. played a notable part in the Akyab landing—the first Allied amphibious operation on the Arakan Coast. Here, the first wave of landing craft is on the way to the beaches north of Akyab Island.

14TH ARMY TROOPS ESTABLISH NEW IRRAWADDY BRIDGEHEAD

FOURTEENTH Army troops have made another crossing of the Irrawaddy just over 30 miles west of Mandalay and have established a bridgehead some five miles long and two miles deep at the point where the river turns south near Myinmu, recently captured by British, Indian and Gurkha troops, says Captain A. R. Sethi, Indian Army Observer, writing on February 19.

After the initial landings six nights ago—which were practically unopposed—the Japs have reacted strongly and, fearing a threat to Mandalay from the west as well as that from Kyaukmyaung to the north, they have thrown in a considerable number of troops to stem the attack.

For the past two days artillery fire on both sides has increased with a good deal of counter-battery firing. The enemy has brought up fresh troops and, having located the extent of the bridgehead area, has been attacking it with grenade dischargers. But the bridgehead has been well established and operations are now in progress to consolidate our gains.

The first act of the assault had its overture a week ago when Liberators and Lightnings in an afternoon attack smashed into Jap gun positions on the south bank of the Irrawaddy in an area 400 by 500 yards. From this position our troops assembling on the north bank had been shelled for some time.

A pall of black smoke hung over the ground as the preparations for the night's attack continued on the opposite bank. The spasmodic rattle of automatic weapons and the "crump" of mortars provided the background as commanders issued their final orders, rifles were cleaned, ammunition inspected and a hot meal prepared for the men who would shortly launch themselves across the river.

Japs Taken by Surprise

As the night deepened, a high wind blowing down the Irrawaddy increased the current and as midnight approached the men filling to their boats and power-driven rafts had this additional element with which to contend. Some of the boats stuck in midstream against treacherous and shifting sandbanks but they were eased off and the first troops were soon scrambling up the opposite shore and taking up their allotted positions.

The Japs seem to have been taken by surprise and the Indian and British troops had an hour or two to dig in before the enemy began to react. In the early light our forces began to expand their small foothold and by 8 a.m. the bridgehead was two miles long and 700 yards deep.

After the first three days' fighting the bridgehead was enlarged to three and a half miles in length by one and a half in depth.

Jap bombers came over on the third morning and strafed the bridgehead area causing a few casualties and damaging some boats. That night the first big Japs counter-attack was put in.

For four hours our troops had to resist attacks not only from the ground but also from parties coming along the river in boats. In the end the enemy were driven back with heavy losses.

After that night's fighting the bridgehead was further expanded and as more troops were brought into the area it fanned out to the south and east. Nine inhabited localities were cleared of the enemy and by the end of the fifth day Jap casualties were estimated at some 300 or more.

The operations continue and the Japs show no signs of decreasing the intensity of their efforts to stem our advance. This bridgehead now presents the nearest trans-Irrawaddy threat to Mandalay. Its further expansion is likely to cause fierce fighting.

GEN. SLIM VISITS IRRAWADDY BRIDGEHEAD

Lt.-Gen. Sir William Slim, 14th Army commander, has visited troops on the Kyaukmyaung bridgehead. For three desperate weeks these men have held on to their footholds on the eastern bank of the Irrawaddy against the fiercest Jap fighting since the battle of Kohima, and against the biggest concentration of enemy yet encountered in the Burma War.

Lt.-Gen. Slim saw Indian field gunners—who have played such a notable part in the defensive actions—working their guns to bring down fire on enemy artillery positions, writes an Indian Army observer.

He also spoke to men of the Gurkha Rifles who for many days held on to Minban Taung ridge against nightly Jap assaults and finally, on relief, had to fight their way back to the bridgehead base.

On to Mandalay..



The drive towards Mandalay. Punjabis move up in force through cornfields. (Below) Punjabi troops, with bayonets fixed, search for lurking Japs. They pass by a dead Burman, bound hand and foot, with bayonet wounds.



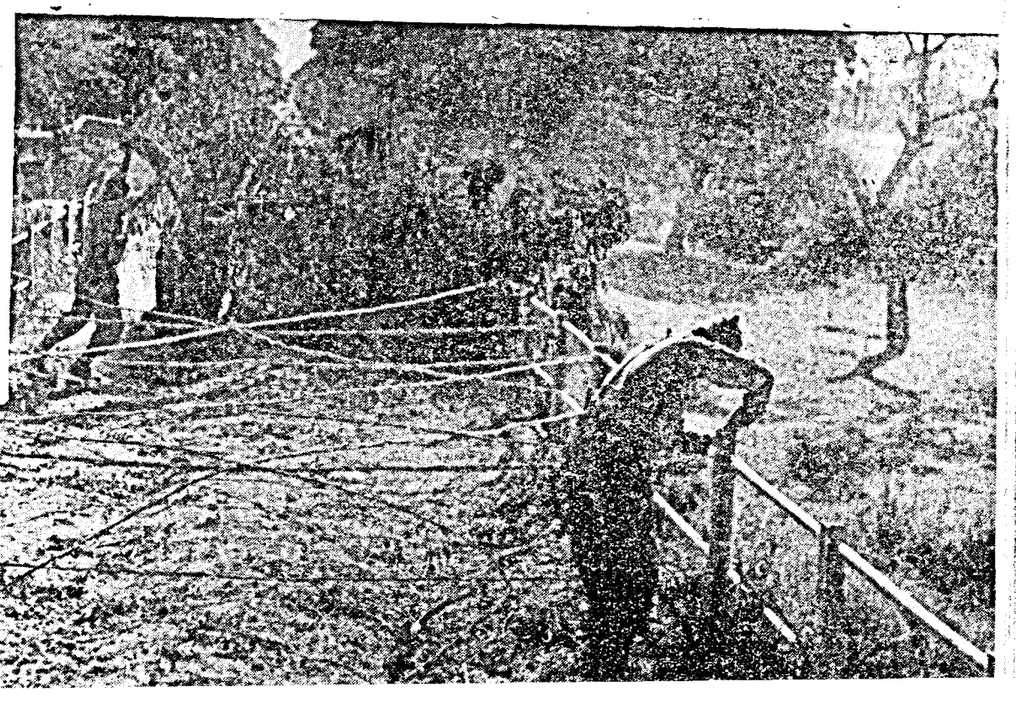
Newly Jug but never used: Indian troops in heavily armed jeep and trailer speed past a Jap position.



This was once one of Monywa's main streets.(Below) Men of a Punjabi Regiment cut wires and remove branches on a well constructed Japanese bridge road block.



Evidence of the hurried Jap pull-out from the Monywa area litters the route of British and Indian troops pressing on towards Mandalay.



PUNJABIS' PART IN THE CAPTURE OF MONYWA

ADVANCING for days over flat country riddled with enemy foxholes and bunker positions, the men of the 14th Punjab Regiment paved the way for the capture of the rail and river communications centre of Monywa, now fallen into the 14th Army's bag.

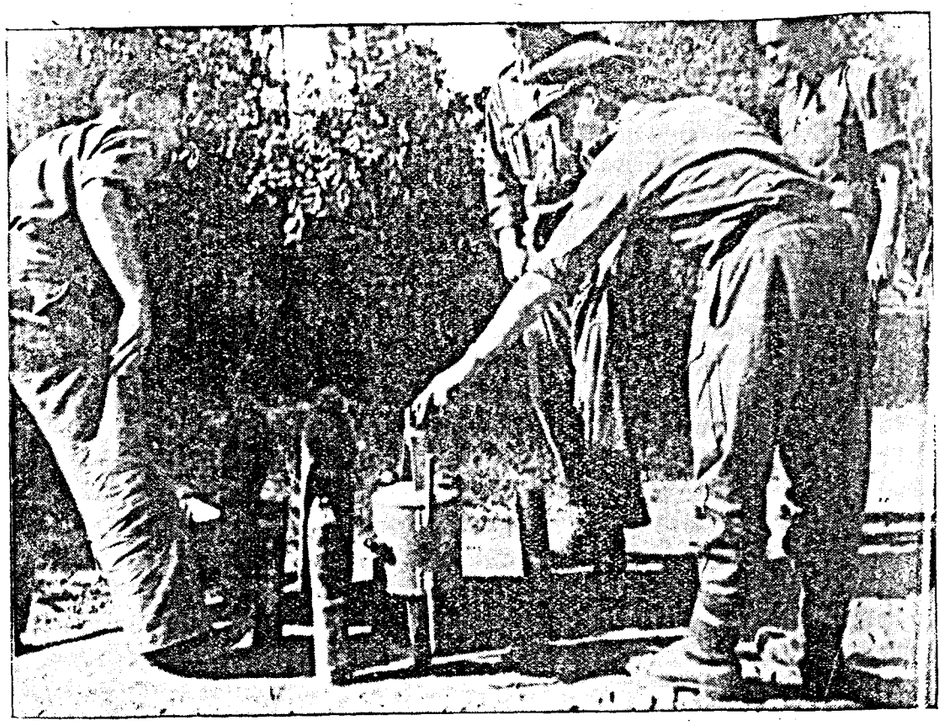
The final stage in the preparations for the final assault was marked by the Punjabis' capture of Gwegy—a village where the Japs had prepared defences on Monywa's north-western outskirts.

The only opposition the Punjabis met as they advanced on Gwegy came from a few snipers. The Japs had abandoned the village. Our men found a deserted Jap workshop and a wireless station.

Heaviest casualties during the patrol encounters that preceded the capture of Monywa



Punjabi troops of the 14th Army examine a letter box near the ruins of Monywa Post Office.



Sappers inspect a Jap mine on the Monywa road. Artillery shells are attached to it.

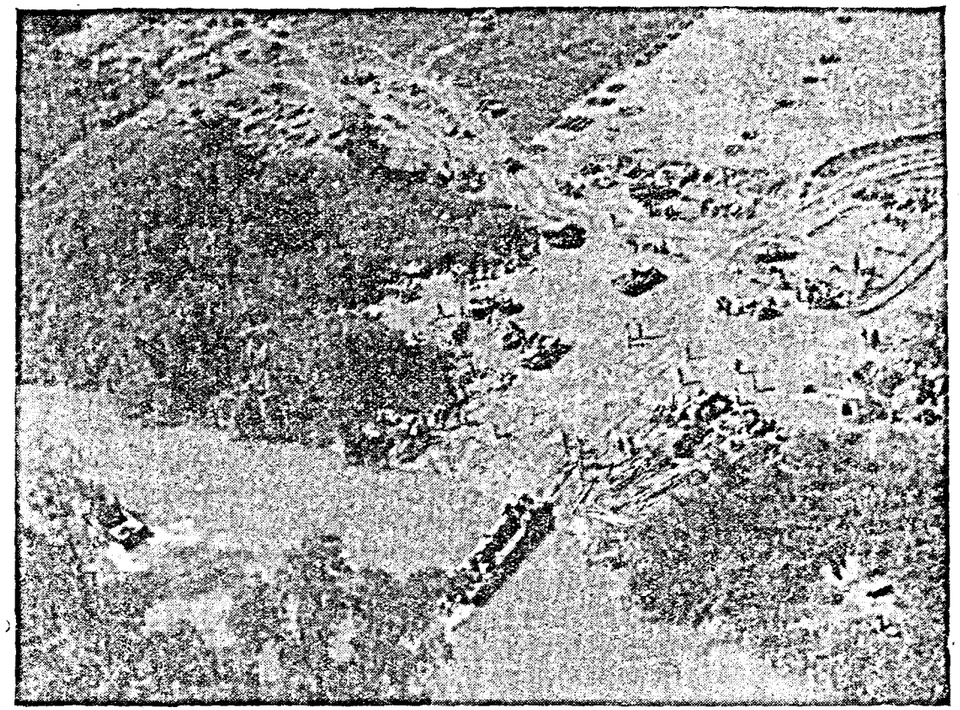
were inflicted by an ambush party of Gurkhas when they captured a strongly defended village.

Some distance away a handful of men of the Dogras bagged 20 Japs in hand-to-hand fighting. The Dogras—one section led by a havildar—spotted the Japs having tea and charged with bayonets. In the first assault, they killed most of the Japs near them, while the rest dispersed.

The havildar immediately returned to Company H.Q. and went back with more men. The Dogras again charged with bayonets and killed a second lot of Japs. The Dogras' losses were one sepoy killed.

INDIAN MERCHANT'S GIFT FROM TEHERAN

Mr. Feroz Madon, a prominent Indian merchant in Teheran, has contributed Rs. 5,102 to H. E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund.



Aerial view of a chaung beachhead in the Kangaw area.

NAVY HELPS ARMY AT KANGAW

SEA-BORNE to Myebon, the 25th Indian Division is now chaung-borne by landing craft to the Kangaw road-block on the mainland further east. Its lines of communication have, in fact, been kept going solely by landing craft, which, operating along the *chaungs*, have put ashore every man and every ounce of equipment and have evacuated casualties.

Some of these craft are manned by Royal Marines, but most are manned by the Landing Craft Wing of the Royal Indian Navy. These Indian crews are living up to the high reputation they earned in recent amphibious operations on the Arakan coast, writes an R.I.N. Observer.

After the 25th Indian Division had secured the Myebon peninsula, an unorthodox creek

landing was made eight air miles further inland, opposite the Japanese supply road at Kangaw. The second beach for the Kangaw area was no promenade. It was a mud bank barely double the width of a small landing craft, up a *chaung* slightly broader than a craft's length.

Jap artillery concentrated on this vital strip, and bitter fighting ensued towards Hill 170. Between this hill and the beach on one day alone 340 Jap dead were picked up from an area not much larger than a football pitch.

LANDING CRAFT'S WORK "FIRST CLASS", SAYS GENERAL

Artillery was firing over us into the Japanese positions barely a mile away on the other side of a narrow *chaung* in the Kangaw area when, talking to an R.I.N. Observer, the General Officer Commanding, 25th Indian Division, paid tribute to the Landing Craft Wing of the Royal Indian Navy.

"The work of the landing craft has at all times been really first class," said the General.

"I wouldn't ask to see men fight better in such long and trying circumstances as they have here. I am very proud to be with them."

GENERAL CHRISTISON'S TRIBUTE TO R.I.N.

Latest tribute to the prowess of India's sailors comes from Lt.-General Sir Philip Christison, G.O.C., 15th Indian Corps, who in a letter from the front praises the splendid work done by the Royal Indian Navy in the recent Arakan combined operations.

"I watched the Akyab operations from the air and from the beaches later on," General Christison writes, "and I was most impressed by the determination and seamanship of the R.I.N. crews of the landing craft, and their fine spirit and willingness to work long hours in order to ferry the troops across with the utmost possible speed."

That this impression of great keenness and sense of duty was correct (adds General Christison) was amply borne out in the heavily opposed landings at Myebon, where R.I.N. crews, after tackling formidable beach obstacles, rammed their craft home on the beach in exemplary manner despite heavy fire.

Subsequently the Indian sailors worked for 72 hours without a halt in the most willing way under desultory fire most of the time. They were attacked later by Jap fighter bombers, of which two R.I.N. sloops shot down two for certain and probably three. The landing was covered by the guns of these sloops as well as by H. M. ships. M.L.s of the Arakan Coastal Forces have done magnificent work cutting all possible Japanese escape routes by the inland waterways.

Summing up the work of H.M.I. ships and landing craft, General Christison writes: "Everybody is singing their praises. I would gladly go with them anywhere in the future. We are proud to have had them serving with us."



R.I.N. ratings serving in H.M.I.S. "Jumna." They are: (L. to R.) Able Seaman M. A. Rehman, of Nadia; Leading Signalman A. N. Ziaul Haque of Sibsagar (Assam); Signalman T. M. Barol, of Faridpur; Able Seaman M. A. Haque of Chittagong. Back row (L. to R.) Signalman N. C. Mandal, of Comila; Able Seaman M. Rehman, of Noakhali; Stoker I. M. Rehman, of Dacca.

VICE-ADMIRAL J. H. GODFREY VISITS ARAKAN FRONT

Vice-Admiral J. H. Godfrey, Flag Officer Commanding the Royal Indian Navy, has returned to New Delhi after a flying visit to Akyab and Ramree Islands, where he inspected officers and men of the R.I.N. whose skill and courage in recent amphibious operations have won high praise.

On Ramree Island he received first-hand accounts of the landing from officers and ratings and congratulated them on their performance.

Among units visited was a landing craft flotilla five of whose ratings have been mentioned in dispatches during the past year. Everywhere officers and men were glad to be in action and eager to move on to the next objective.

At Akyab the Admiral visited a hospital where casualties were being cared for. He conferred with naval and military authorities, among the subjects discussed being arrangements for naval ratings' accommodation and welfare.

INLAND POSTAL PARCEL SERVICE

A Press Note issued by the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, on February 24 stated:

With immediate effect the maximum limit of weight for inland parcels posted at all post offices in India is fixed at 800 tolas. This limit will not apply to official parcels, parcels addressed to, or posted by, members of His Majesty's Forces or Allied Forces in India and parcels exchanged with the Indian post offices in the Persian Gulf. In these cases the limit of weight prescribed in Clause 80 of the P. and T. Guide will continue to apply.

NABHA RULER VISITS STATE TROOPS IN ITALY

On a visit to frontline positions in a thick snowstorm, H. H. the Maharaja Malvendra Bahadur, 24-year-old ruler of the Punjab State of Nabha, experienced at first-hand the rigorous conditions under which the troops of his State battalion have lately been battling in the 8th Army sector.

Accompanied by Captain M. N. Nagar, Household Minister, the Maharaja undertook an exhaustive tour of the forward positions held by Nabha Akal Infantry, trudging vigorously through deep snow on visits to scattered outposts that directly overlook the German defence lines on the western bank of the Senio River.

The culminating day of His Highness's visit was fittingly celebrated by his troops. A strong enemy raid across a river on the Nabhas' positions was repulsed with casualties.

The programme also included a day in the line with a battalion of the 11th Sikh Regiment, in which the Maharaja holds the honorary rank of captain.

Summarising the impressions gained in the course of his tour, His Highness told an Indian Army Observer: "I found my men cheerful and in good fighting trim in spite of the unbelievable hardships of an Italian winter. We have heard much of their exploits in India and I firmly believe that we shall hear a great deal more of them before this campaign is finished."

DISTRICT SAILORS', SOLDIERS' AND AIRMEN'S BOARDS

During October last, 5,567 petitions were dealt with by District Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Boards in Bombay Province, C.P., and Berar. Of this number the District Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Boards, Satara and Poona, disposed of 1,446 and 775 petitions respectively, said a Press Note issued by the Defence Department on February 9.

These figures give a very good indication of the increasing volume of work handled by D.S.S.A.B.s.

A large number of false and frivolous petitions continue to be received which is making the task of D.S.S.A.B.s increasingly difficult and is responsible in no small measure, for retarding the investigation and disposal of genuine cases.



Jem. (A-Sub.) Ram Sarup Singh, 1st Punjab Regiment, was posthumously awarded the V.C. for outstanding gallantry on the Burma Front. He led a section in a bayonet charge against the Japs in the Tamu Area. This sketch drawn by Lieut. H. H. Sheldon, Official War Artist, two hours after the incident, shows the Japs lying as he saw them. Sub. Ram Sarup Singh is depicted bayonetting one of his four victims.

TWO MORE V.C.s FOR INDIAN FIGHTING MEN

TWO more Victoria Crosses have been won by men of the Indian Army—one a sepoy and the other a subedar. They are the 19th and 20th winners of the Empire's highest award for gallantry.

The subedar, whose award is posthumous, is Jem. (A-Sub.) Ram Sarup Singh, 1st Punjab Regiment, a Rajput of Khere village, Patiala State. The other is Sepoy Bhandari Ram, 10th Baluch Regiment, a Dogra of Serunia village, Bilaspur State, Simla Hills.

Sub. Ram Sarup Singh's Gallant Deed

"Subedar Ram Sarup Singh's gallantry will inspire the regiment for all time," says the citation. On October 25, 1944, he was in command of a platoon allotted the exacting task of capturing "Big Hill", south-west of Sialum Vum, in the Tamu area of the Burma front, which the Japs had held for three weeks and turned into a very strong position.

Before his platoon formed up for an attack about twenty yards from the enemy position, the young subedar went up to Major Ram Singh, his company commander, shook him by the hand, and said "Sahib, either the Jap or myself today."

When the forward section climbing the slope came under heavy fire, Sub. Ram Sarup Singh, realising the danger to the whole platoon, at once led another section in a determined bayonet charge against the enemy position. This instant diversionary action bewildered the Japs. They were dislodged from their bunkers.

Knocking out one of our machine-guns, the enemy launched a ferocious counter-attack, crying out in Urdu "Don't fire". Wounded twice, the subedar unwound his short puttee and bandaged his thigh which was bleeding profusely. He rallied his men and, hurling abuse at the enemy, led a bayonet charge and himself bayoneted four Japs before, five yards in front of the enemy bunkers, he received a burst of machine-gun fire in his chest.

With his last breath he shouted to his platoon havildar: "I am dying but you carry on and finish these devils." These words infused a new fighting spirit into the whole company. When



Sepoy Bhandari Ram, V.C.

volunteers were called for to bring in Sub. Ram Sarup Singh's body under fire, every man in the company stepped forward.

Sepoy Bhandari Ram

Sepoy Bhandari Ram won his V.C. for outstanding bravery in dislodging the Japs from a strongly held hill bunker which was the key to the entire enemy position. The incident occurred on November 22 in East Mayu, Arakan.

In order to reach its objective, Bhandari Ram's platoon had to make its way along a narrow ridge with sheer sides. As it came within about 25 yards of the Jap bunker, the enemy opened up with heavy and accurate machine-gun fire.

"I saw Bhandari Ram and two other sepoys knocked over and go to ground," says an officer who was with the platoon. "The two sepoys lay where they were. We were all this time under intense fire.

"I then saw Sepoy Bhandari Ram crawl over these wounded men and carry on towards the enemy machine-gun post. He was not using his left arm, which hung limp at his side.

"He became the target for the enemy's fire and grenades. Bullets were flying. He was hit again and momentarily checked. Grenades were bursting all round him.

"One of these burst right on him, but as soon as the dust and smoke cleared I saw him crawl on towards the Jap machine gun post. When he was within a few yards of it I saw him put a grenade to his mouth, remove the pin, and hurl it.

"The Jap gun was silenced. We rushed the position and took it.

"I went up to Bhandari Ram who was drenched with blood, full of wounds and semi-conscious. He asked me if the position had been taken. I said: "Yes". He said 'I don't mind dying now. I have done my job."

Sepoy Bhandari Ram, says the citation, "showed outstanding bravery, selflessness, and qualities far beyond the call of duty."

He is now in hospital recovering from his wounds.

C.-IN-C. CONGRATULATES V.C. BATTALIONS

As an "old First Punjabi" the Commander-in-Chief in India, H. E. General Sir Claude Auchinleck, has sent his congratulations to a battalion of the 1st Punjab Regiment on the award of the Victoria Cross to the late Subedar Ram Sarup Singh.

"I am sorry that he did not live to receive his reward," says the C.-in-C. "The whole regiment will, I know, mourn his loss and honour his name."

In a telegram to the 1st Punjab Regimental Centre, the C.-in-C. says: "That the regiment should have won its first V.C. by such superlatively gallant action on the part of the late Subedar is a matter of great pride and joy to me as Colonel of the First Battalion."

His Excellency has also congratulated a battalion of the 10th Baluch Regiment on the award of the V.C. to Sepoy Bhandari Ram and asks that his personal good wishes be conveyed to him for "his matchless courage, initiative and determination."

In a message to the Commandant, 10th Baluch Regimental Centre, Gen. Sir Claude Auchinleck says, "I send my warmest congratulations and good wishes. Sepoy Bhandari Ram's actions will be an inspiration to the regiment and to the whole army."

AMERICAN SILVER STAR FOR THREE CHINDITS



Naik Balbir Pun.



Captain J. E. D. Wilcox.

ON an improvised jungle airstrip somewhere in India Major-General Frank D. Merrill presented the American Silver Star to Captain J. E. D. Wilcox, Jemadar Rikhi Ramiale, and Naik Balbir Pun of a famous Chindit Brigade, for outstanding gallantry in action against the Japanese. The brigade carried out successful operations behind the Japanese lines in North Burma from March to August 1944, and did much to dislocate the enemy plans for the invasion of India in 1944.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Maj.-Gen. Merrill spoke to the Gurkha recipients of the awards. Maj.-Gen. W. D. A. Lentaigne, D.S.O., the Chindit Commander, translated the Major-General's words into Gurkhali. Maj.-Gen. Merrill (of Merrill's Marauders" fame) said he himself had been in the combat area at the time and was witness to the many splendid deeds of gallantry performed by the Chindits.

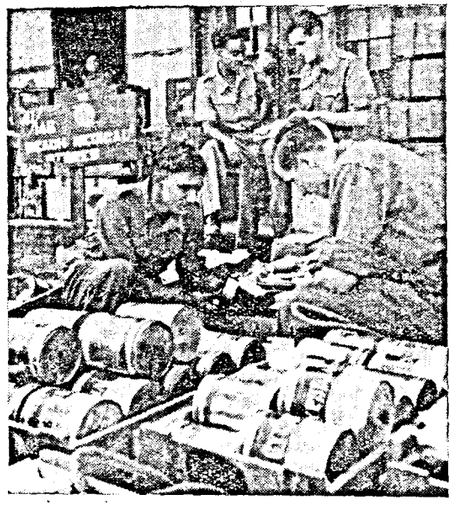


Jemadar Rikhi Ramiale.

During a series of engagements from Pinbaw, to Mogaung Capt. J. E. D. Wilcox, South Staffordshire Regiment of 18 Jubilee Road St. George Bristol, though severely wounded on two occasions, refused to leave his platoon until their objectives had been seized and held. He continually exposed himself to enemy fire thereby causing them to disclose their positions.

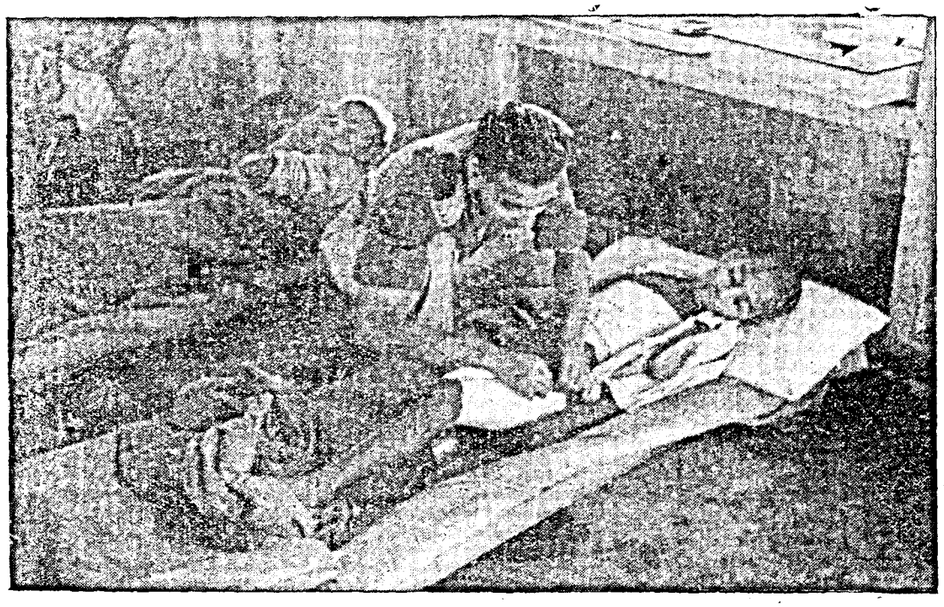
(CONTINUED ON PAGE 321)

INDIAN BEACH MEDICAL UNITS—





With all combined operations are Indian Beach Medical Units which render rapid medical aid to Commando and assault troop casualties while they await the landing of hospital units. These pictures show: (Left) Medical Stores being checked by Sgt. R. Shipcott, R.A.M.C., of Portsmouth. With him is Capt. A. David, I.M.S., of Madras Presidency; (Right) Havildar dispenser Arunachalam; I.A.M.C., of Pudukottah State, at work on a prescription; (Below) A small boy found wounded on Akyab Island on D-Day is cared for by Capt. K. K. Bose, I.A.M.C., of Calcutta.





Sir Edward Benthall (centre) Member for War Transport, Sir Arthur Griffin (left) Chief Commissioner for Railways, and Mr. Zahid Hussain, Financial Commissioner for Railways, giving the finishing touches to the Railway Budget statement.

RAILWAY BUDGET FOR 1945-46: SIR EDWARD BENTHALL'S SPEECH IN CENTRAL ASSEMBLY

PRESENTING the Railway Budget for 1945-46 in the Indian Legislative Assembly on February 15, the Hon'ble Sir Edward Benthall, Member for War Transport, said that the Indian Railways were now almost one hundred per cent. Indian owned, that they were an "asset of which India can be proud, but the lessons of the past show that their financial resources must be handled with sedulous care." He claimed that if the policy underlying his budget proposals was continued, Indian Railways would be "in a fit state financially to give a fair chance to the Governments of the future."

The Hon'ble Member said:

Sir,—The figures which I am about to disclose in presenting the Railway Budget for 1945-46 are, judged by pre-war figures, phenomenal; but it is of still greater importance that they reflect the success of the railways in performing the task laid upon them.

Assisted by the welcome absence of serious natural disasters in the shape of floods and cyclones or man-made hindrances to movements, performance has shown a satisfactory improvement. The Bombay explosion caused a small amount of damage to the railways and dislocated traffic in the Bombay area for some considerable time but this and a series of minor floods, unlike the misfortunes of the two previous years, had no major effect upon the carrying or earning powers of the railways.

In the first eight months of the year the railways loaded 7¼ per cent more wagons and carried nearly 2,000,000 tons more goods than in the same period of the previous year. Coaching traffic, judged by earnings, showed a remarkable increase of some 30 per cent, spread over all railways. The heaviest regional increase in goods traffic has, of course, been on the lines of communications to the Burma front where rolling stock was concentrated and where we had the invaluable assistance of our American friends over a large section of the metre gauge; but other railways less fortunately placed have also shown creditable increases.

Continuous efforts are being made to speed up traffic and expedite the turn round of wagons but several factors have tended to offset further improvements such as the more stringent operation of the priority system, the longer delays at terminals resulting from war conditions and the quality of coal which in some areas particularly has led recently to frequent engine failures and consequent dislocation of traffic. Considering the increasing difficulties under which railways have been working, the statistics of operating efficiency have been fairly well maintained.

The Civil and Military Load

The military operational demands have been met to the satisfaction of the Service chiefs. The expansion of capacity on the lines of communication to Assam has been in excess and in advance of the target and over the rest of the Indian railway system military movements generally have had a high degree of priority which has enabled military programmes, with the inevitable minor hitches, to be carried through. This must be attributed not only to the good work of the Railway and Priority authorities but also to the close co-operation of the Services. A notable example of this is the work of the Panel in Calcutta which regulates not only the military lift to the front but also the civil supplies to Assam and East Bengal. The special thanks of the Railway Department are due to General Lindsell, Principal Administrative Officer, General Headquarters, and his British, Indian and American colleagues for their help and support.

On the civil side essential programmes have on the whole been successfully carried out, though many trade movements of low priority have been of necessity held up. The machinery established by the Priorities Branch of the War Transport Department has functioned with increasing smoothness and efficiency largely owing in the same way to the closer co-operation established with other Departments of the Government of India and with Provincial Governments. Particular mention may be made of the inter-provincial distribution of foodgrains and sugar in association with the Food Department; of the distribution of cotton cloth in co-operation with the Textile Commissioner and the Industries and Civil Supplies Department; and of the movement of timber, iron and steel and cement under arrangements with the Supply Department.

In the case of many other major commodities, there has been progress both in distribution and in collection of raw materials combined with economy in transport by means of zoning and rationalisation. As regards foodstuffs in particular, there were local shortages of particular commodities from time to time in certain areas due to congestion of traffic but these were on a greatly reduced scale owing to the improved system of distribution and the railways can claim with satisfaction that in 1944 nobody in India went short of the necessaries of life because of failure of rail transport.

Coal Transport

Coal supplies for the railways have been a continual source of anxiety owing to the low coal raisings. A vigorous campaign of fuel economy has been in force and one of the steps taken has been the closing of numerous stations. On one occasion the curtailment of passenger services for a short period was also necessary. Railway coal stocks are at a dangerously low figure and must be increased. The demand for wagons for coal loading for the year was on a slightly reduced scale and has been a particular cause of watchfulness by the Wagon Interchange Control. Over the year, however, all coal offered was moved.

Reduced coal raisings during the later months of the year as usual afforded a temporary chance to catch up arrears of movements of other goods but with the coming of the present good coal raising season, and with heavier demands for traffic and particularly a large increase in military traffic a period of great wagon stringency is likely to ensue this spring and to last at least until substantial deliveries of wagons mature in the second half of the year.

In order to interest the public in the difficulties and achievements of the railways we are holding a Railway Exhibition at New Delhi station in the beginning of March and I hope Hon'ble Members will give it their hearty patronage.

Construction Work

The magnitude of the work accompanied by the Engineering departments of the railways to increase the line capacity and to supply military depots and airfields is not generally appreciated. Since the war began over 1,400 miles of military sidings have been constructed, 70 miles of permanent and 153 miles of temporary sidings for airfields, 21 miles of new single line and 400 miles of doubling or quadrupling have been completed up to the end of January 1945 and the programme is by no means finished.

In addition 198 crossing stations, additional loops at 174 stations, lengthening of loop at 145

stations and remodelling of 30 large station yards have been completed. In all some 3,500 miles of track material have been arranged for including 1,205 miles for overseas so that in spite of the difficulties arising from shortage of materials and labour and the pressure of every day maintenance work, the engineering departments have succeeded in providing the equivalent of a good sized railway system with a speed and reliability of which, considering the circumstances, they may well be proud.

Passenger Traffic

As foreshadowed last year, the upsurge of passengers has continued. Some 10,000,000 passengers more were carried monthly in 1944 than in 1943 and 25,000,000 more now than in 1942 in spite of the relatively small increase in war activity of which the figures of coal consumption and rail movements of goods are a good index. This fact, coupled with the comparatively large percentage increase in upper and inter class passenger traffic, demonstrates beyond doubt that apart from military passengers the increase in travel is due to the increased availability of money.

The publicity campaign to restrict travel proved largely fruitless and expenditure on this has been heavily reduced. Certain other steps which were discussed by the Central Advisory Council for Railways have been taken, notably the promulgation of a new Defence of India Rule No. 85-C to provide police help to railway servants to prevent travel on foot-boards, the restriction of travel by Mails and Expresses to journeys of not less than a certain distance, the encouragement of bus services in congested areas, and stricter measures to combat ticketless travel. Special military leave trains have been run to reduce the military demands on the space available for the public and further extension of this practice is under consideration.

Vigorous efforts to improve the lighting, fitting, and cleanliness of trains have been and are being made but thefts of fittings have reached phenomenal proportions, any brass work is systematically stolen and the wastage of electric light bulbs is of such dimensions that imports and local manufacture in spite of pressure for priority are unable to meet more than 50 per cent of our demands, while the intensive use of stock makes it difficult to service the carriages to pre-war standards. Continuous efforts are, however, being made by all railways to improve conditions and we have renewed assurances that the electric bulb supply will soon be on a more satisfactory basis.



Railways carry food for the people. Bags of rice being unloaded from railway wagons at a river siding in Bengal for distribution in the interior of the province.

The only cure for the present congestion is to increase passenger services, but it is impracticable for the railways to apply this remedy effectively owing to the demand for coaching stock for the transport of armed Forces. the shortage of supplies, particularly of timber, for constructing new coaches, and finally the coal shortage which necessitates the conservation of coal in whatever ways are possible. In spite, however, of the shortage of materials all possible efforts are being made to bring into service every coaching vehicle which can be made to run and to construct more coaching stock, if necessary of inferior wartime specification, in order to relieve the pressure.

Post-War Plans

Good progress has been made with the details of the post-war plans which were discussed by the House during the last Budget Session. A tentative programme of construction of new railways has been prepared in consultation with Provincial Governments. This can be put into operation at reasonably short notice and will keep the railways occupied for several years. Standards for improved rolling stock and plans for amenities for third class passengers and staff are being finalised.

As regards the manufacture of locomotives and boilers in India, it is hoped to complete the agreement with Messrs. Tatas at an early date and to hand over the Singbhum shops to them on April 1, 1945. With assistance from the Tata Iron and Steel Works and from the East Indian Railway it is planned to produce 100 boilers within 15 months of that date which, even if not fully achieved will afford substantial relief owing to the late deliveries of boiler orders from overseas.

The lay-out and equipment for the manufacture of locomotives at Kanchrapara under State management are also being finalised and sufficient progress has been made to enable orders for certain heavy machinery to be placed so as to prevent any avoidable delay in commencing manufacture as soon as the works have been remodelled after release from their war functions.

Proposals for an overhaul of the rating system and for a regrouping of railways are in hand but nothing useful can be disclosed at the present juncture. A Committee has been set up under the chairmanship of Mr. John Sargent to examine the question of encouraging tourist traffic after the war both by Indians and by tourists from overseas. Generally it is safe to say that railway plans for post-war reconstruction are as well ahead as or in advance of those of any other department of Government.

As regards the question of road-rail competition, Government have very recently had the advantage of a full discussion of the post-war problems at meetings of the Transport Advisory Council and of the Policy Committee on Transport. These bodies were unanimous that effective co-ordination is essential, although there is, naturally, still some difference of opinion as to the best methods of achieving it.

Government are approaching the problem in the post-war period in the light of the advice tendered by those two bodies, and from the point of view of securing the utmost productivity of all forms of transport on a basis of rationalisation with the maximum possible co-ordination between the various transport media. In particular they seek to secure a close co-ordination between railway and road interests, whether the latter be those of road-operating companies or of Provincial Governments who may in future participate in road transport operation. In order to regulate competition, they seek, within the general framework of the Motor Vehicles Act, to secure that control of fares, routes and traffic on roads shall be exercised in accordance with principles to be agreed upon between the Centre and the Provinces, such control to be exercised through Provincial Transport Authorities.

Road and Rail Development

A still closer community of interests will be sought, where possible, by the railways negotiating financial participation in road transport companies where the Provincial Government concerned is prepared that they should do so. In short, the Central Government are willing to consider any methods of securing the joint interests of road and rail development and to accommodate the means of co-ordination so far as possible to the policy found to be most suitable to the varying needs of Provinces.

This policy appears to be suited to the prevailing conditions and to be best calculated to result in a rational, rapid and prosperous development of internal transport. This would allow for further developments in the direction of the organisation of road transport through public utility corporations should that be accepted by the Central and Provincial Governments of to-morrow as the goal to be aimed at. In the meantime road transport services are being organised to afford relief on congested sections and to encourage movement of essential supplies.

The Wedgwood report in 1937 expressed the view that the Indian Railways had an excess of engines. It must be remembered, however, that they were then regarding the problem solely from the point of view of economy in

normal peacetime conditions and in pre-war days there was regularly a shortage of rolling stock during the busy season, as the result of maintaining only a minimum stock, which was said to have had some hampering effect on industry. The war has shown that the railways have been much handicapped by the shortage of power and stock.

As the result of pre-war economy no less than 29 per cent of India's locomotives are now over 35 years old, but all serviceable rolling stock has had to be kept in operation, often at a high cost in repairs and in efficiency in order to meet the emergency. As soon, therefore, as the Japanese aggression showed in 1942 that an increased burden would fall on Indian railways, orders were placed for engines abroad and for wagons in India to the maximum capacity of the Indian wagon industry. As the mounting military load on Indian railways became evident, combined with the heavy wear and tear on existing stock, it became necessary, with the approval of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways and as reported in my last two budget speeches, to increase the orders and, owing to the fact that the Indian wagon industry was already filled to capacity, to place in addition large orders for wagons overseas.

Locomotives

The total stock ordered for use in India since 1942 has been 937 broad gauge engines, 415 metre gauge engines, 46,734 broad gauge wagons, 12,481 metre gauge wagons of which 17,934 broad gauge and 661 metre gauge wagons have been ordered in India. The liability for the cost of the metre gauge engines and wagons is a matter which is still under discussion between the Railway and War Departments. Of these 255 broad gauge engines, 334 metre gauge engines, 4,029 broad gauge wagons and 8,790 metre gauge wagons were in service by the middle of January, 1945. In addition to this metre gauge engines and wagons sent overseas from the Indian railways in the early part of the war are now being returned in considerable numbers. It is expected that the whole of the orders from overseas will be in the service by the early part of 1946 and the latest order for 10,000 wagons placed on the Indian industry is now scheduled for delivery in 1946 or early 1947.

The orders placed are by normal pre-war standards immense but so was the emergency which faced Indian railways. It is no secret that the situation has been one of great anxiety for the last two or three years. It has only been by the narrowest of margins and with considerable delays that the railways have succeeded in moving the requirements of the services in addition to the people's food and the raw materials and products of industry. Much less essential traffic has not moved at all.

The military load planned for the railways in the ensuing year is higher than ever and for this reason and in order to safeguard essential civil movements, a resolute attempt had to be made to place the rolling stock position on a sound basis. There was, of course, no time for a leisurely purchase in the cheapest market and at the cheapest time. We had to act vigorously. There is no doubt that the timely arrival of metre gauge engines and wagons played a significant part in the victory of Imphal and the replacements and reinforcements which broad gauge railways have received, though relatively small hitherto, have just turned the scale in maintaining the civil life of the country.

Movement of Goods

In a few months when wagons come rolling in, we hope to be in a happier position altogether to supply the war-time needs of the country for the movement of goods and subsequently, after making allowance for the necessity for overtaking arrears of maintenance and for a return to more normal operating methods involving better service to the public, to be in a better position to meet also the high hopes for post-war industrial and agricultural expansion.

The public will, however, naturally be anxious, with an eye to the future, to know what will be the effect of these deliveries of rolling stock on the Indian locomotive and wagon industries. There is no difficulty in giving an assurance on this point. In the case of locomotives, the deliveries will barely replace the overage locomotives which ought to be scrapped and no provision at all has been made for deliveries of passenger engines so that there is no doubt that there will be plenty of orders available for the new locomotive works which are being established provided funds are conserved for the purpose.

In the case of wagons our present orders have had the effect of anticipating future demands to some extent and will provide for some overall increase in our stock, but in the 10 years from 1945-46 an average of 5,400 wagons will become overage each year against an average of 480 which were still due replacement in the previous 10 years. There, therefore, appears from the technical aspect to be room

from 1947 onwards for wagon orders on the Indian industry in excess of the pre-war average. It will also be necessary to initiate a programme for the reconstruction, to conform to Indian standards, of the wooden bodies of certain stock of war specification received from America and there is the possibility of the wagon builders undertaking the provision of coaching stock of all-steel construction.

According to the principle adopted in Indian finances, commercial departments of the Government of India bear the full cost of capital assets acquired whether under Lease-Lend terms or otherwise. The Railway Department is not therefore concerned with the arrangements made by the Government of India in the Finance Department with the United States of America. The effect of these large purchases on the finances of the railways must clearly be abnormal, especially since they have been made at war prices and in some cases the stock delivered has been below Indian standards.

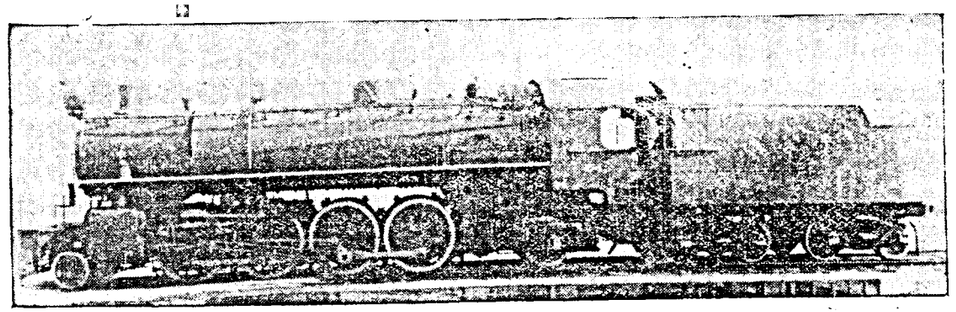
Fortunately, the railways have been and will, we hope, continue to be able, aided by this additional equipment, to offset these abnormal charges by earning abnormal profits which the Government propose to allocate in large part to paying for the abnormal cost of war purchases and the cost of works undertaken for war purposes, costs which would be a charge against the War budget but for the fact that Railways are a commercial department. I will now proceed to describe the special measures which Government have decided to take to bring the above principle into effect.

The amounts expected to be spent on locomotives and wagons in the four years 1943-44 to 1946-47 will be about Rs. 94.75 crores. If this expenditure is allocated under the ordinary rules, there would be a debit of Rs. 16 crores to capital and of Rs. 78¾ crores to the Depreciation Reserve Fund. The figures of expenditure incurred on works are not so striking, but they are, nevertheless, substantial. The application of the ordinary rules would result in some degree of over-capitalisation and a very serious depletion of the Depreciation Reserve Fund, which would be crippled thereby for future renewals programmes, more especially those of the immediate post-war period.

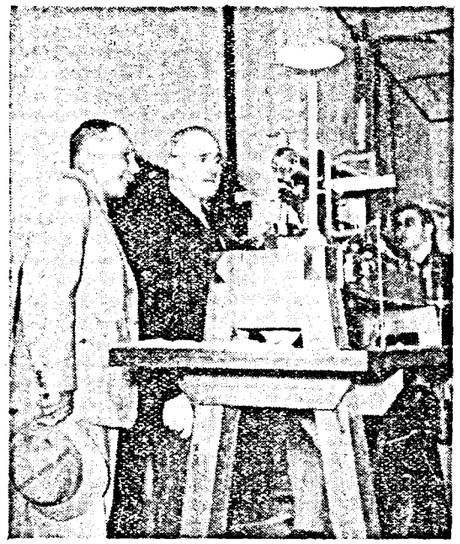
To deal first with the works it has been decided that all works of general traffic utility executed at the instance of the War Department to meet the needs of war-time military traffic will be charged to military estimates and the Railways will pay interest and depreciation at agreed rates subject to the arrangement being reviewed at the end of one year after the war. This arrangement will give a considerable measure of relief to Railway capital. In addition there are numerous other works such as military sidings, depots, etc., constructed for the sole use of the War Department. The costs of such works are shared between the Railways and the War Department according to certain prescribed code rules.

Although the Military sidings, depots, etc., constructed during the war should be treated as temporary the Railway share of the cost, which is estimated at about Rs. 3 crores, has been charged to capital. It is now proposed to transfer this expenditure to working expenses in accordance with the principles of allocation of temporary Railway works.

As regards other important capital and Depreciation Fund works for purely railway purposes, we propose that 50 per cent of the expenditure incurred after 1942-43 should be debited to working expenses in view of the high cost of these works resulting from the war. Under this head, we have for the present made a provision of Rs. 1.50 crores to cover the expenditure for which particulars are available.



A Canadian locomotive built for Indian State Railways.



H.E. the Viceroy watched precision tool testing in the North Western Railway Workshops during his recent tour of the Punjab.

The rolling stock presents a much greater problem both in intricacy and magnitude. We are, however, able to solve this problem by making a change in the rules of allocation as a temporary measure for the period of the war. All rolling stocks will be treated as being on replacement account. Under the existing rules a newly acquired wagon or locomotive is compared with the corresponding unit that is treated as having been replaced. If there is any increase in the capacity of the wagon or in the tractive effort of the locomotive the proportionate cost of such increase is debited to capital. The increases to capacity thus made render some wagons or locomotives superfluous, and their cost at original prices is credited to capital by charge to Depreciation Fund.

There may actually be no increase in total capacity but there would be a net debit to capital because on individual unit basis the cost of increases in capacity is charged to Capital at present day high prices while credit is afforded at original prices. We now propose that a charge to Capital should be raised only when the total capacity of wagons or the aggregate tractive effort of locomotives is increased on any railway after making allowance for difference in estimated lives of the old and the new stock. If under this new rule any debit is involved to capital we propose to apply a suitable formula to write off the element of excess war-time costs by debit to working expenses. Actually under the programmes so far sanctioned there is no increase in the aggregate tractive effort of locomotives while the increase in the aggregate wagon capacity is very small.

In respect of the charge to the Depreciation Reserve Fund we propose with the approval of the Standing Finance Committee to adopt the following measures:

(i) debits to the Fund will be limited to the amount accumulated therein for the items that are treated as replaced;

(*ii*) the difference between the accumulations in the Fund and the original cost of the items treated as replaced will be found from the Railway Reserve. This difference represents the arrears of depreciation which as provided for by the Convention of 1924 form an appropriate charge on the Railway Reserve;

(*iii*) the balance will be charged to working expenses.

Summarising the financial results of these proposals in respect of wagons and locomotives, the charge to capital will be about a crore; that to Depreciation Fund will be reduced from Rs. 78¾ to Rs. 22 crores; there would be a withdrawal of Rs. 10¼ crores from the Railway Reserve and a sum of Rs. 61½ crores will be debited to working expenses. Adding Rs. 3 crores for Military sidings, depots, etc. and Rs. 1½ crores for works the particulars of which are available, the total amount that is proposed to be debited to working expenses is Rs. 66 crores of which Rs. 24 crores will be accounted for in 1944-45, Rs. 30 crores in 1945-46 and Rs. 12 crores in 1946-47.

Capital and Depreciation Fund, 1944-45

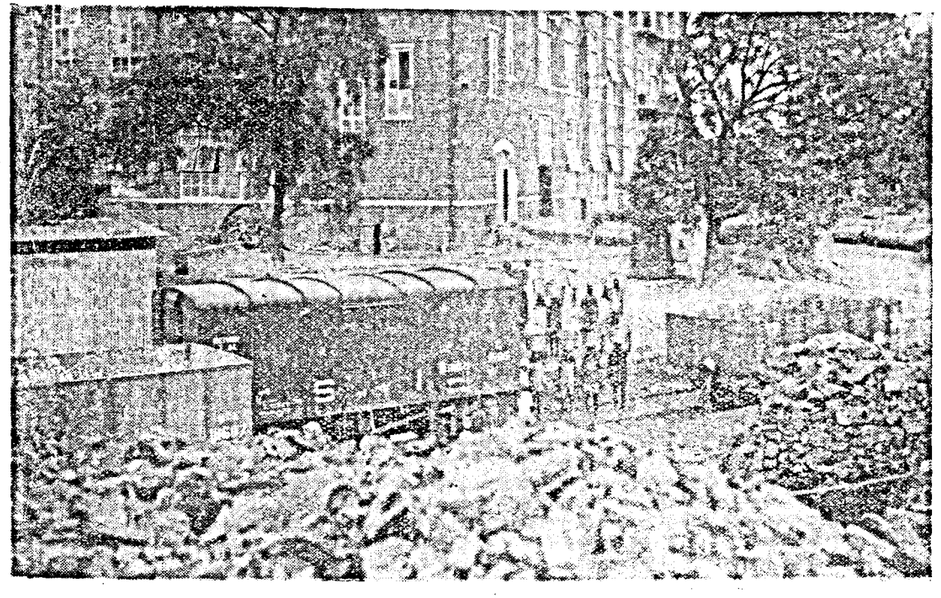
Having explained this background, I turn to the capital and depreciation expenditure in the current year. When I presented the budget last year I estimated an expenditure of Rs. 52.22 crores, Rs. 28.7 crores chargeable to capital, Rs. 23 crores to the depreciation fund and Rs. 52 lakhs to revenue. During the course of the year we arranged to terminate the contract of the Bengal Nagpur Railway by paying Rs. 4.8 crores of which Rs. 4 crores will be charged to capital and Rs. 80 lakhs representing compensation for loss of profits to working expenses. In parenthesis I must observe that the acquisition of the last big Company managed railway by the State is an event which in peacetime would have been a source of more than passing comment, and in war time has been a notable achievement having regard to the volume of other work.

Under suspense we anticipate an increase of Rs. 1.85 crores while the estimate for released material is now Rs. 1.77 crores against the original expectation of Rs. 4 crores. Due to delay in the final settlement with Liquidators of the Bengal and North Western and Rohilkund and Kumaon Railways we expect a bigger throw forward from 1943-44 and the expenditure now expected is Rs. 1.25 crores against the budget provision of half a crore. This additional expenditure has been more than counter-balanced by the relief afforded as a result of the measures I have outlined above for the avoidance of over-capitalisation and the protection of the Depreciation Fund. Against the original estimate of Rs. 52.22 crores we now expect to spend Rs. 56.24 crores, of which Rs. 12.3 crores will be charged to depreciation fund, Rs. 20.84 crores to revenue, Rs. 2.17 crores to railway reserve and Rs. 20.93 crores to capital.

For 1945-46 our total demand for expenditure chargeable to capital and Depreciation Fund is Rs. 32 crores of which Rs. 22½ crores will be met from the Depreciation Fund. We propose to purchase three Railways—Podanur-Pollachi, Jacobabad-Kashmore and the Dibru-Sadiya—at the aggregate cost of Rs. 2.83 crores of which Rs. 2.26 crores will be charged to capital. Our works programme is for an expenditure of Rs. 15.92 crores. After making a lump sum cut of about 20 per cent we have provided Rs. 12.6 crores, Rs. 5.4 crores chargeable to capital and Rs. 7.2 crores to depreciation.

Our total rolling stock programme for 1945-46 is Rs. 72.60 crores, but to provide for throw-forwards for the next year we have made a lump sum cut of 25 per cent leaving the net provision at Rs. 54 crores, of which Rs. 30 crores will be chargeable to revenue, Rs. 5.8 crores to railway reserve, Rs. 15.9 crores to depreciation fund and Rs. 2.3 crores to capital. Our suspense balance is likely to increase by about Rs. 3 crores but we expect a credit of Rs. 4 crores, Rs. 1½ crores for released materials and Rs. 2¾ crores for dismantled lines and abandoned assets.

I turn now to the income and expenditure of the past, the present and the coming year. Beginning with 1943-44, it was estimated that the year would end with a surplus of Rs. 43.77 crores. But the receipts during the last three



Railway wagons being loaded outside an Indian Cotton Mill.

months proved better by Rs. 6.93 crores entirely due to passengers and parcels traffic while our working expenses exceeded the revised estimate by Rs. 11 lakhs only. The net result was a surplus of Rs. 50.84 crores, out of which general revenues received Rs. 37.64 crores and railway reserve Rs. 13.2 crores.

Our estimate of receipts for the current year was Rs. 182 crores. Our revised forecast is Rs. 214.30 cores. To this increase of Rs. 32.30 crores 'Goods' have contributed Rs. 6 crores, 'Passengers' Rs. 9.36 crores, and 'Other Coaching Traffic' the high figure of Rs. 17.4 crores on account of more military specials and of a phenomenal growth in our parcels traffic.

Our budget estimate of gross working expenses including appropriation to the depreciation reserve fund was Rs. 114.28 crores. We now expect an expenditure of Rs. 147.49 crores. To make a proper comparison with our budget, however, we should exclude a sum of Rs. 24 crores, representing adjustments on account of temporary military sidings and of works and rolling stock under the various decisions I have already described, so that our revised estimate exceeds our budget only by Rs. 9¼ crores. This is due mainly to dearness allowance Rs. 2.15 crores, additional staff Rs. 1.76 crores, more expenditure on repairs and maintenance and stores Rs. 2.26 crores, other miscellaneous increases about Rs. 3 crores, which includes provision for Rs. 25 lakhs for wireless installation and Rs. 35 lakhs for road transport services.

Our interest charges would be Rs. 94 lakhs less than our budget and our surplus is expected to be Rs. 42.01 crores, which is the result of a surplus of Rs. 43.81 crores on commercial lines and a loss of Rs. 1.8 crores on strategic lines.

Budget, 1945-46

We place our earnings for budget purposes for the next year at Rs. 220 crores, which is Rs. 5.7 crores above our revised estimate for the current year. They may well be higher dependent upon the character of the traffic but so may the working expenses. It is only possible in wartime conditions to budget on the revised estimates of the current year and to make a modest estimate of additional traffic which can be relied upon.

Our estimate of ordinary working expenses for the next year is Rs. 140.65 crores, out of which Rs. 30 crores would, but for the revised procedure introduced for the allocation of rolling stock, have been charged to capital and depreciation fund. There is an adjustment of about Rs. 2½ crores on account of dismantled lines and abandoned assets. Other points worthy of mention are that our coal bill will go up by Rs. 1.35 crores, our losses on working of grain shops will be Rs. 1.39 crores more than this year and our staff charges including dearness allowance at present rates will be Rs. 1.32 crores more. We have made a provision of Rs. 82 lakhs for road transport services. The appropriation to the depreciation fund will be Rs. 17.12 crores, which is Rs. 11 lakhs more than this year. Our net miscellaneous receipts are estimated to be Rs. 3.77 crores, an increase of Rs. 76 lakhs over this year while our interest charges will be Rs. 27.39 crores, Rs. 42 lakhs less than this year. Our surplus is estimated to be Rs. 36.51 crores.

Disposal of Surpluses

I budgeted for a surplus of Rs. 42.02 crores for this year of which Rs. 31.18 crores was the share allotted to general revenues, after meeting the loss on strategic lines.

Our estimated surplus for the next year is Rs. 36.51 crores (a surplus of Rs. 38.34 crores from commercial lines less loss of Rs. 1.83 crores on strategic lines).

As I have already explained to the House our ordinary working expenses include in 1944-45 about Rs. 24 crores and in 1945-46, Rs. 30 crores which if we had continued to follow our ordinary rules of allocation would not have been charged to working expenses. To enable the Railways to finance this special liability and bearing in mind the needs of both the General Revenues and Railways, Government propose that the Railway contribution to the General Revenues should be fixed at Rs. 32 crores in 1944-45 as well as in 1945-46. With the substantial improvement in our revenue position reinforced by this favourable arrangement with the general revenue we are able to relieve capital of the debit of Rs. 15 crores and depreciation reserve fund of Rs. 56¾ crores.

We, however, have to be content with smaller net contributions to the Railway reserve but this is not a high price to be paid for the effective protection that is ensured for the depreciation reserve fund and the capital account. The arrangement made with the general revenues whereby the contribution is stabilised at Rs. 32 crores for two years is subject to review if the actual position next year turns out substantially different from what we are able to forecast now.

Next year we shall have the problem of providing ways and means in the budget of 1946-47 for financing the expenditure of Rs. 12

crores left over from previous years under the special procedure I have explained to the House, as also any further expenditure which it may be necessary to meet under the principle on which that procedure is based. The basis for sharing the surplus in 1946-47 will be determined in the light of conditions next year with due regard to any further special liabilities which may have to be defrayed from Railway revenue.

After contributing Rs. 32 crores in each year to General Revenues we shall therefore credit to the Railway Reserve Rs. 10.01 crores in 1944-45 and Rs. 4.51 crores in 1945-46.

Railway Reserve

The objects of the Railway Reserve, as laid down by the Convention of 1924, are specifically to form reserves for securing the payment of the percentage contribution to General Revenues, for arrears of depreciation, for writing down and writing off capital and for the improvement of services rendered to the public and the reduction of rates. It is now apparent that there are other specific purposes for which the Reserve might have to be used in particular (a) for covering arrears of maintenance during the war, (b) for covering a possible fall in prices in the inflated stores values resulting from high war time prices and (c) for the improvement of post-war amenities for the public, particularly third class passengers, and for the staff.

A careful review following the observations of the Railway Convention Committee and of the Public Accounts Committee on the accounts of 1940-41 shows that arrears of maintenance, in particular for ballast renewals, for new minor works which have been postponed and for maintenance of coaching stock to the extent of Rs. 5 crores should be provided for in 1944-45 and that Rs. 2 crores yearly should be set aside until such time as conditions make it practicable to resume a normal programme of maintenance. We are not making a special allocation to the Reserve to meet this requirement, but propose that a corresponding amount should be earmarked in the Reserve Fund for arrears of maintenance so that when funds are needed to overtake them it should be possible to seek help from the Reserve in case the revenue position of Railways renders this course necessary.

Stores balances held in suspense account by railways have increased from Rs. 10 crores in 1938-39 to Rs. 20¾ crores in 1943-44 largely owing to the rise in prices and the increased stocks of foodstuffs. It is not feasible to suggest any specific earmarking of reserves to meet the possible consequences of a rapid fall in prices making it desirable to draw on reserves rather than to charge stores at high prices to working expenses but the contingency should not be over-looked.

As regards capital for amenities, this must either come internally from the accumulated resources of railways or be raised as fresh capital. Since such expenditure will not be directly remunerative it is clearly sound finance to build up reserves for this purpose, especially as the other resources of the Government of India for capital expenditure will be under competition from demands for roads, education, health, agriculture and a thousand and one objectives of the post-war development plan.

The Railway Reserve which stood at Rs. 22½ crores on March 31, 1944, is expected, under the present proposals, to stand at Rs. 30.4 crores on March 31, 1945, and Rs. 29.1 crores on March 31, 1946. Of this Rs. 7 crores represent the sum earmarked for deferred maintenance. From the point of view of sound railway finance and post-war railway development, it is clear therefore that determined efforts should be made during years of good surpluses thereafter to build up the reserve to a far higher figure.

Depreciation Fund

The Depreciation Fund opened with a balance of Rs. 92.3 crores on April 1, 1944, and is expected to close at Rs. 98 crores on March 31, 1945, and at Rs. 92.71 crores on March 31, 1946. But for the financial measures proposed above it would have been reduced by March 31, 1946 to some Rs. 36 crores which would obviously have been grossly inadequate. The measures taken therefore at least preserve the Depreciation Fund in the neighbourhood of the existing figure, the adequacy of which has been under consideration by the Railway Convention Committee.

In accordance with the recommendation of this Committee a comprehensive enquiry into the lives of the assets was commenced by a special committee under the chairmanship of Mr. Sankara Iyer, who submitted a valuable report but found that, owing to war conditions, a thorough and satisfactory investigation could not be completed. This subject will, therefore, have to be taken up again at a more convenient time.

It is not proposed to make any general increase in rates and fares. I say "general increase" because the House will have observed

that we have recently issued a press notice indicating that from February 1 it has been decided to increase port-to-port rates on certain goods in order to bring them into line with the cost of shipment by sea. This has been done purely as a war measure with the object of ensuring that shippers who are forced by the controls to send their goods coastwise by sea shall not be unfairly penalised by the cost of doing so and is designed to make the maximum use of all forms of available transport in the present emergency. If successful, it will mean not an increase but a decrease of earnings to the railways to the extent that goods are diverted to the sea route.

It is perhaps proper to emphasise once again that the large earnings have been due in the main to increased efficiency in hauling the large volume of traffic temporarily offering and that railway rates and fares, in spite of the increases in 1940 which were relatively light and totally excluded such things as foodgrains and short distance passenger traffic, stand far below the general level of prices prevailing now or likely to prevail for some years to come. Transport is still cheap though, it must be confessed, not comfortable.

Railway Staff

I have comprehensively surveyed the financial and general position of the railways but have left to the last the most important of all aspects of railway operation, the railwayman himself.

An exceedingly heavy burden is falling on the gazetted officers of the railways. The strain has increased and 150,000 extra men have been added to the railway services, but, owing to the number of officers lent to the Armed Forces and the Supply Department for posts of great importance, the number of experienced officers on the railways is less than before the war even after allowing for a considerable number of extensions of service.

It is not generally realised that on the railways there is in any case only one officer to about 450 men which is a fraction only of the proportion in the Army and except on the Lines of Communication it has not been possible so far to obtain reinforcements of trained supervisory personnel. The task of keeping the machine running efficiently and speeding it up is therefore no light one, apart altogether from the extra construction work to which reference has been made and such extraneous work as creating and operating the enormous grain shop organisation.

In these difficult circumstances the officers under the leadership first of Sir Leonard Wilson and now of Sir Arthur Griffin have put up a very fine performance. They deserve, and shall get, all the support which Government can give them in their task. As in the case of all Government officers, the relief which they have received to meet war-time living conditions has been small or non-existent, but I can assure them that any further relief which Government may be able to extend to their officers will be shared by the railways and the small relief afforded by cost price canteens will be expanded to the uttermost.

We have fortunately been able to do more for other classes of railway servants. During 1944, the conditions under which they were working were almost continuously under review. The cost of living did not on the whole rule so high as in 1943: nevertheless relief in cash in the form of a dearness allowance was increased on two occasions in March and in July. On the last occasion, a considerable extension of this relief was sanctioned by giving all non-gazetted staff an allowance of 10 per cent of their pay, subject to minima which, in some places, is as much as Rs. 18.

There was some criticism among the lower paid staff that this extension gave them nothing extra. This was not in fact correct or a fair representation because at the same time the benefits arising out of the grain shops were extended to a point which was calculated to give the lower paid worker an average addition of Rs. 3-8 per head. The selling prices at the grain shops were reduced by 10 per cent so that foodgrains and other miscellaneous necessaries of life for the low-paid worker are being sold at the prices which obtained in the spring of 1942 and the benefits were at the same time extended to a larger number of dependents Relief so afforded measured by what the worker has to pay at the grain shop compared with what he would have to pay for a similar amount of commodities in the local bazar is in the region of Rs. 11-8.

The aggregate relief in cash and in kind is such that workers in the lowest wage ranges have been completely compensated for the rise in the cost of living, so far as that rise can be ascertained with accuracy. This method of relief in kind has other advantages. It affords greatest relief to the man with large domestic liabilities, i.e., it gives most relief where most is required. The worker is moreover free from anxiety in regard to increasing bazar prices as the grain shop prices are fixed.

Finally, the benefits of inculcating the cash habit among the workers must not be lost sight of. In December, 1944, there were 689 Grain Shops functioning on State-managed Railways selling 1,300,000 maunds per month to over 866,000 ration card holders, so that with their families probably no less than 3½ million individuals were being provided for. The cost of this elaborate system of relief in cash and in kind is already in the neighbourhood of the very large sum of Rs. 20 crores per annum.

The question of granting further relief to Government civilians of all ranks is one which has been having the very close attention of Government and although the relief afforded to non-gazetted railway staff compares well with that of employees of other departments, they will be included in any further extension of benefits and the question will be further discussed with the All-India Railwaymen's Federation in the next few days. As a small but important concession the allotment to the Staff Benefit Funds of the railways is being trebled both this year and next. This will give much needed relief where it is most required for hard cases and will assist in providing amenities for the staff.

Government fully appreciate the difficult conditions under which the men are performing their more than normally arduous duties. The great body of railway servants have worked most loyally in shouldering the immense burden which Indian Railways are now being called upon to bear and will, I am confident, make the tremendous additional effort necessary to tide the country over the next twelve months.

The Indian railways are now almost one hundred per cent Indian owned and they are 99¾ per cent operated by Indians and Anglo-Indians. They are an asset of which India can be proud, but the lessons of the past show that their financial resources must be handled with sedulous care. Government are determined that the mistakes in railway finance made in the last war and commented upon in the Acworth report shall not be repeated and these proposals are an attempt to face squarely up to all the problems involved.

I commend this somewhat unorthodox budget to the House in the firm belief that, if it is adopted, the Indian railways will enter the post-war period, with their war duty to the country faithfully performed, in a fit state technically to cope with the expansion of trade and industry which we all look for, and, if the present policy is continued, in a fit state financially to give a fair chance to the governments of the future.

DISTRIBUTION OF RAILWAY SURPLUS

The Standing Finance Committee for Railways met on February 13 and 14, 1945, under the chairmanship of Mr. Zahid Husain, C.I.E., Financial Commissioner of Railways, to consider the proposals for distribution of the Railway surplus in the years 1944-45 and 1945-46 between Railways and General Revenues.

The Committee considered a memorandum explaining the measures which the Government propose to adopt for the protection of the Railway capital account and the depreciation fund rendered necessary by the heavy Railway programmes, particularly the rolling stock programme, financed at the present wartime high costs. These measures provided a background to the proposals for the distribution of the surplus between the Railways and the General Revenues. The Committee approved of the proposals as being based on principles of sound and prudent finance but suggested that from 1946-47 onward a specific provision be made by an appropriation of Railway surpluses for a comprehensive programme for amenities of lower class passengers after the war.

C.-IN-C.'S WAR REVIEW

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 272)

played their part in the amphibious operations which have progressed so satisfactorily. The Supreme Allied Commander and the Army Commander in the Arakan have paid tribute to the excellent work done by them.

"So also in the air, Indian Air Force squadrons are flying side by side with the Royal Air Force and assisting in the spotting and destruction of the enemy. They have earned the highest praise from those responsible for the conduct of the operations and have rendered valuable service in air reconnaissance, in bombing and in the attack on ground targets."

RAI BAHADUR BHUVANESHWAR PRASHAD PANDE

The Governor-General has appointed Rai Bahadur Bhuvaneshwar Prashad Pande, retired District and Sessions Judge, to be an Additional Judge of the Patna High Court up to the beginning of the High Court's vacation of 1945.

NATIONAL PLANNING OF ELECTRICAL DEVELOPMENT

Mr. H. M. Mathews' Speech

MR. H. M. MATHEWS, Electrical Commissioner with the Government of India, and Chairman of the Central Technical Power Board, speaking on "National Planning of Electrical Development in India", on February 1, at the Institute of Engineers in Delhi, said:

"I think we can view the future for electric power development in India with a considerable degree of encouragement. The fact that the area of the country is some 1.58 million sq. miles is an indication of the size of the task before us. Proper organisation of our technical resources and a considerable degree of uniformity in technical and administrative practice will be necessary if we are to achieve much with our available man-power. We must simultaneously take steps to increase our technical resources both human and manufacturing if the pace of development is to be sufficiently accelerated to approach the goal we have before us.

"What is this goal? I suggest that our ultimate goal is almost limitless. We might, however, set ourselves a first objective of three times our present output of electrical energy to be available on a really wide-spread scale and not merely concentrated in our cities. With schemes conceived on an adequate scale electricity itself is the best sales promoter. Given a sufficiently far-sighted policy in implementing projects I feel confident that this goal could be attained within a few years."

Vast Scope for Development

Giving statistics of electric power at present available in the country, Mr. Mathews said that the total energy generated in 1943 was approximately 3,578 million KWh. about the same as the weekly production of energy in the United States. In the United States about 180 times as much energy was used per head of population as in India, while in the United Kingdom the figure was about 100 times as much. These comparisons gave an indication of the vast scope for the development of electricity in India.

Broadly speaking, most of the development so far in India had been limited to satisfying the demands of urban areas for power for industrial purposes. Over 42 per cent of electrical energy generated throughout India was at present utilised in the cities of Bombay and



Mr. H. M. Mathews.

Calcutta alone. Including Cawnpore and Ahmedabad over half the output of the Indian electric supply industry was absorbed in these four cities which contained less than one and a half per cent of the population of the whole country. Less than 7 per cent of the electricity used in India was consumed on domestic premises. In fact, India used a larger proportion of the total electrical energy generated for driving industry than the much more highly developed western countries.

In Rural Areas

Referring to the scope for electric service in rural areas and the ways in which electricity could play a part in improving economic standards of some 390 million people, Mr. Mathews said: "To do this we must first of all remember that over 89 per cent of the population live in 657,000 communities each of less than 10,000 persons. Incidentally, out of these 657,000 communities only about 1,200 have any sort of electric service available at present . . . . This

scope for expansion and the large numbers of people concerned forces us to the conclusion that to make a real impression on the great mass of people in India, by the use of electricity, we must look to rural development."

The narrow view of comparing the direct revenue from the sale of electricity in rural areas, with the capital investment involved in giving the necessarily widespread electric service was altogether illogical. No extensive rural development scheme for electricity would ever be carried out if we did not take considerable account of the indirect benefits accruing to the population to whom electric service was made available.

Nursery Power Schemes

Speaking from the Power Engineers' point of view, Mr. Mathews made a plea for Nursery Power Schemes for Rural Load Development, on the principle of building up load in rural areas by laying down the simplest possible network of lines radiating from a small and temporary Power Station having an installed capacity of not more than about 500 K.W. Each nursery scheme might cover about 225 sq. miles in rural areas. Nursery power development could only be carried out by agencies in a position to take a very long view and certain technical requirements should be fulfilled. He suggested that the small village should, for the first two years, pay almost nothing for the energy it consumed. Rather it should pay a small monthly fixed charge and be entitled to use as much electricity as it could obtain from the village transformer, without blowing the fuses. Later on, when the population had come to understand and appreciate the uses to which electricity may be put in rural communities, regular charges would be introduced; but even then for many years to come, tariffs of a highly promotional type would be necessary.

"One of our major problems in India," Mr. Mathews said, "is the length of time involved in the development of major hydro-electric projects. The procedure I have just described appears to be the only way by which the population in a given area can obtain electric service quickly, become accustomed to the uses of electricity, and at the same time the major hydro-electric site in the vicinity can be brought to the commissioning stage with a reasonably satisfactory load already built up for it."

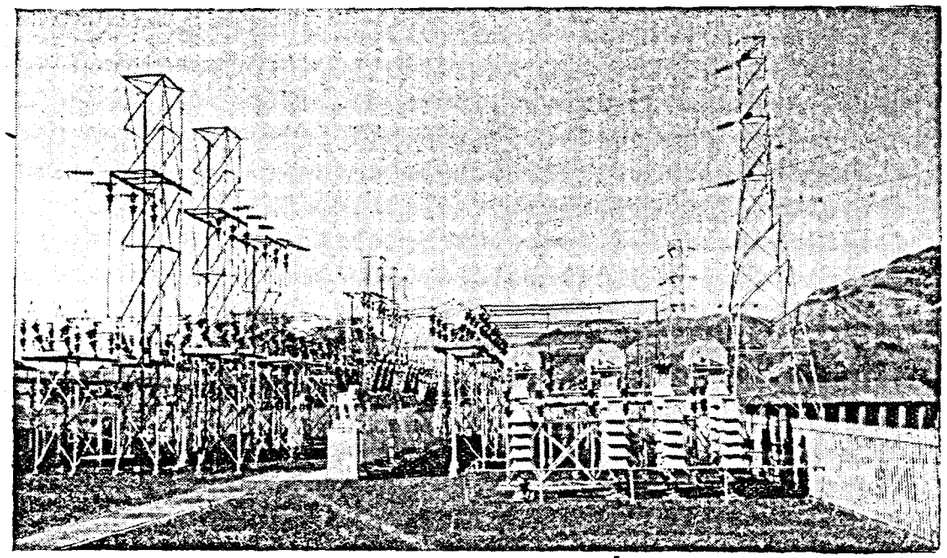
Feeling confident that there would be a large expansion of industries after the war, the speaker emphasised that wherever practicable such industry should obtain its power from electric public utilities rather than by individual factory generation. In that way the greatest benefit from the use of larger and more efficient units would be available to all.

The basic industries of steel, textiles, and engineering should come in for substantial developments. In the case of textiles, he expressed his personal hope for social reasons, that a greater degree of dispersal could be expected, and that might help in the development of electric service in non-urban areas. The speaker also hoped to see the establishment of the lighter classes of manufacturing activity occurring outside the present industrial centres. Modern developments in manufacturing technique particularly in light engineering, tended to the use of electricity much more than in the past. For example, quality production and higher standards of precision generally demanded a greater extension of such heating processes as hardening and annealing where electricity could play a large part. Quite handsome electrical loads from modest sized establishments might therefore be expected. The old assumption that appreciable industrial load could only be expected from the largest mills and engineering works should not hold good for long. Large electro-metallurgical and electro-chemical developments could also be expected but those would require power at very low rates to make economic production possible.

Fertiliser Production

Mr. Mathews doubted whether there would be an expansion of fertiliser production using electrolytic processes. The amounts of electric power required with such processes were very large indeed and there were men who opined that this was a prodigal use of these resources. The plant which was announced to be erected in Bihar with an output of 350,000 tons per annum of ammonium sulphate would use the water gas process for hydrogen manufacture but even so would require some 27,000 K.W. of power—a very substantial load. The large amounts of process steam required in that plant would almost certainly demand that it should have its own generating plant and although it would no doubt be interconnected with a neighbouring power system it would probably be more or less-contained.

The speaker looked forward to the economic production in India of electrical distributing equipment like transformers, switchgear, line hardware, etc. That there would be a very large market for distribution equipment and the like from the major power developments foreshadowed went without saying and it was highly desirable that its manufacture in India should be economic. A start should be made



A general view of 100,000-volt outdoor switch yard at a power house showing dead-ending structure, group operating switches, high speed circuit breakers and lightning arresters.

with the manufacture in India of heavy electric plant, beginning, perhaps, with the manufacture of waterwheel alternators and high power switchgear, large transformers, etc. This class of manufacturing activity would necessarily create a wide range of other allied industrial operations.

Electrification of the railways was described by Mr. Mathews as another possibility in the post-war period particularly as the cost of locomotive coal in India after the war would probably be much higher than it was before the war. The load of railway electrification would thus become of considerable interest in electric power planning.

Planning Experts

Turning to the considerations which affect the attainment of a real increase in electric development, Mr. Mathews referred to the tremendous amount of planning studies and design work which was necessary before any electric power scheme could be implemented. Electric power schemes did not just grow by themselves—they needed a lot of engineers to work them out. When power schemes of any magnitude were under consideration the organisation carrying out the planning must be quite independent of any interest in the sale of equipment. This completely independent status of the planning staff was necessary in order that they may be motivated entirely by what was best for the region under consideration, on economic and technical grounds alone.

He said that one of our most urgent needs was to extend on the widest possible scale a properly organised survey of the hydro-electric resources of India. The Provincial and State Governments had been conducting surveys of hydro-power resources and the Central Government had recently established a Central Technical Power Board. One of the most important functions of this Board was to encourage and assist in the development of hydro-electric surveys. There was no suggestion that the work of collecting hydro-graphic records, hydrological data and river surveys should be taken over by the Centre from the Provincial Government. But it was clear that some central direction, and particularly technical assistance, was needed in the vital matter of basic river survey records especially as rivers so often crossed Provincial and State boundaries. The most useful contribution which the Board could make at this stage towards the development of widespread electric service in India was the establishment of a strong engineering organisation at the Centre. Its main function would be to assist Provincial and State Governments in the preparation of major schemes for extending electric service. An organisation such as this

Board should be useful in advising the Central, Provincial and State Governments, and in bringing to the notice of any administration, the possible methods of providing electric service on the widest possible scale. Another function of the Board would be to initiate the broad lines of research programme which may seem desirable for the requirements of special conditions in electric power development in India.

Mr. Mathews said that to tackle hydro-electric development on a large scale a far greater degree of co-operation and co-ordination, than was at present apparent, would be necessary to operate the various services which could be rendered by a river passing through the boundaries of more than one Government. Plans for developing a river as a multi-purpose undertaking brought in questions of flood control, irrigation, soil erosion, reafforestation, malaria control and navigation, as well as the generation of power. It was under these conditions that the Government of the United States had set up the basin administration which came to be known as the Tennessee Valley Authority and which had achieved great success in improving conditions of the people living in the 40,000 sq. miles covered by its operations.

Power Engineering College

The Government of India were giving consideration to the possibilities of more than one such arrangement at the present time, in conjunction with the Governments likely to be concerned. It was necessary to be extremely clear and precise as to the functions with which such an authority should be charged. A proper compilation of these functions could only be based on a preliminary technical survey of both the resources and the deficiencies in the economy of the region under consideration.

Referring to the shortage of manpower with adequate technical experience, which would be necessary, Mr. Mathews pointed out that it would entail a major expansion of the facilities for the higher training of power engineers—Civil, Hydraulic, Mechanical and Electrical. He said that he would like to see a new Power Engineering College, open to any Indian who had attained an engineering degree at a recognised University, where he could then undergo a most intensive form of training both theoretical and practical, on lines exclusively designed for the production of men needed for electric power systems.

Mr. Mathews further indicated the work being done by the Electrical Commissioner's Office which would have to operate in very close collaboration with the new Central Technical Power Board.

POST-WAR ADMINISTRATION OF LABOUR PROBLEMS

Scheme to Train Officers in U. K.

ARRANGEMENTS are being made to send the first batch of trainees, under the scheme for training labour officers in the United Kingdom, by the middle of March. It is proposed to send three batches, each consisting of 20 officers of the Central and Provincial Governments.

This Training Scheme will provide the personnel necessary for labour administration in the post-war period. Owing to the importance of war production and the necessity for rapid industrial expansion labour problems have come into greater prominence in India during the present war, and further important developments are inevitable in the post-war period.

Labour policy in India is moulded on the experience and practice of other more highly industrialised countries and it is necessary to have trained and experienced staff for labour administration. Officers of the Labour Departments of Central and Provincial Governments, who will be sent for training under this scheme, will return with knowledge of certain aspects of labour administration which are of immediate importance, e.g. industrial relations including the settlement of labour disputes, factory inspection and labour welfare, wage regulation and inspection, employment exchanges, demobilisation and resettlement, welfare and dock labour and port registration schemes.

The Course

The course in the United Kingdom, theoretical as well as practical, will take six months and, in special cases, may be extended to 8 months. The training will be divided into two parts viz., training at the headquarters of the Ministry of Labour and National Service and training in the regions. At the headquarters the training will be theoretical and elementary dealing mainly with the underlying principles of policy and procedure and with the organisation and functions of the Ministry of Labour and National Service. The training in the regions will be more detailed and practical.

In view of the contemplated expansion of the machinery of employment exchanges, a large number of officers will be specially trained in this subject.

TECHNICIANS FOR POST-WAR INDUSTRY

Training in U. K. and U.S.A.

THE Central Government have requested Provincial Governments, Chambers of Commerce and employers' organisations in India to expedite their recommendations regarding candidates who are to be sent to the U.K. and U.S.A. for higher technical training. It is pointed out that the Government of India have decided to send the first batch to the U.K. so as to reach there not later than June, 1945.

This training scheme, which is different from Education, Health and Lands Department's scheme for higher technical education, is intended to make good the deficiency in skilled technicians, particularly of higher categories, which will constitute one of the most serious bottlenecks in the post-war industrial development of the country.

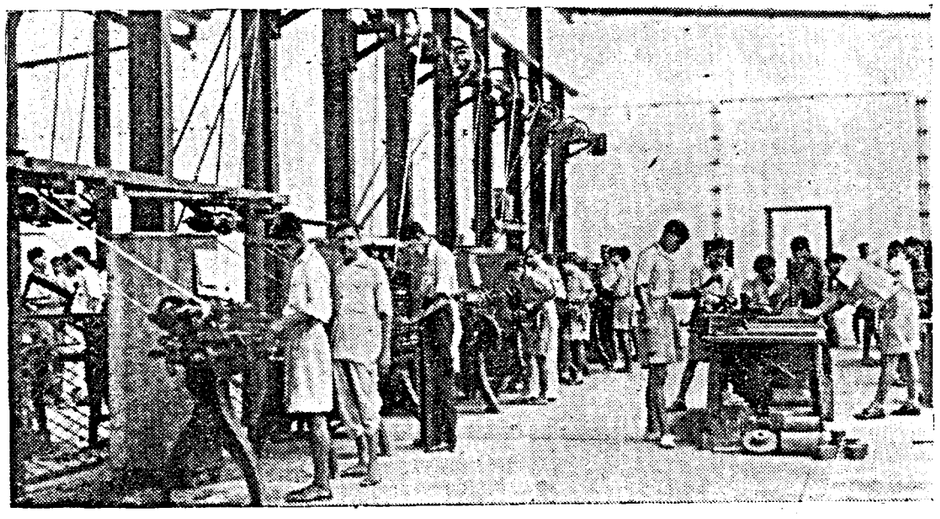
Candidates required for training abroad, under this scheme, will be persons possessing a University degree in Science or Engineering or equivalent diploma and at least three years industrial experience in India. The duration of training will be about a year but in special cases it may be extended up to two years. The trainees will be required to take refresher courses in theory but industrial experience in factories and workshops abroad, of the kind on which they will be employed in India, will constitute the most important part of the training. Among the trades for which the Government of India contemplate providing training facilities are: mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, radio engineering, aeronautical engineering, shipbuilding, marine engineering, civil engineering, structural engineering, metallurgy, generation of electricity, locomotive construction, chemical engineering, fertilizers, plastics, glass and steel manufacture.

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT'S MONTHLY ACCOUNTS

The Central Government's monthly accounts for December, 1944, show that, excluding periodical adjustments and the transactions of Railways and Posts and Telegraphs, expenditure in the first nine months of the financial year, 1944-45, exceeded revenue by Rs. 134¼ crores against Rs. 106½ crores in the corresponding period of the previous year. Revenue was actually better by about Rs. 65¼ crores but Defence expenditure increased by about Rs. 88 crores to Rs. 272 crores and Civil expenditure by Rs. 5 crores.

Net receipts from Railways and Posts and Telegraphs were better by Rs. 10½ crores and Rs. 1 1/3 crores respectively.

There has been an increase of Rs. 162 crores under Permanent Debt during this period.



Technical trainees in the machine shop of the Orissa School of Engineering, Cuttack.



A sugarcane field.

FUTURE OF SUGARCANE INDUSTRY IN INDIA

A Planning Sub-Committee to consider and make recommendations on the part which sugarcane production should play in the future economy both of the country as a whole and of the various sugarcane growing provinces and States has been appointed by the recently constituted Indian Central Sugarcane Committee which held its second meeting in Delhi under the chairmanship of its President, Mr. H. R. Stewart, Vice-Chairman of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. The Sub-Committee will submit its report at the next meeting of the I.C.S.C.

Cess on Sugarcane

Several matters which may have an important bearing on the future of the sugarcane and sugar industry were discussed at the meeting. The levy of a cess on sugarcane supplied to factories in Provinces and States, where such a cess did not exist already, was strongly recommended by the Sugarcane Committee, its full proceeds to be utilised for the improvement and development of cane and other connected purposes, including the improvement of roads leading to sugar factories.

It was also resolved that the cane-growing Indian States should be asked to contribute to the funds of the Indian Central Sugarcane Committee which derived its finances at present entirely from the excise on sugar manufactured in British India.

Another decision of the Committee of considerable importance for the future was that of financing a small expedition to collect all the wild forms of *Saccharum spontaneum* in Northern India. The discovery that cultivated cane could be crossed with this wild grass and the subsequent production from that cross of the world-famous Coimbatore varieties had revolutionised the sugarcane growing and the sugar manufacturing industry in India in the last quarter of a century.

The Committee felt that the possibilities in that connection had not yet been exhausted and the potentialities of the fresh material which this expedition would provide, for further improving existing varieties of sugarcane, would be determined at the Central Sugarcane Breeding Station at Coimbatore.

A technical Sub-Committee was set up to examine the present programme of work at the Imperial Institute of Sugar Technology, Cawnpore, which is being placed under the Committee, and to make recommendations to the next meeting in regard to the lines along which the Institute could best serve the needs of the sugar manufacturing industry.

The Committee also had before it the results of a survey, recently completed by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, of the existing position of the various aspects of agricultural research on sugarcane which the Council had been financing for the last decade. On the basis of its decisions on that report, provinces and States are to be invited to submit revised proposals for future research and for financial assistance connected therewith.

RESEARCH FOR MORE PROFITABLE FARMING

I.C.A.R.'s Annual Report

THE working of village schemes to improve the economic as well as the nutritional conditions of villagers is reviewed in the Annual Report of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research for 1943-44.

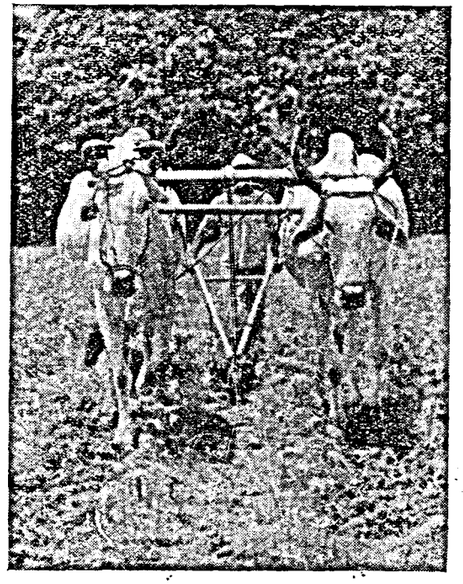
The schemes, which are still in the initial stages, were started in some villages in Bombay, the United Provinces, the Central Provinces and Berar, and Travancore during the year. Each village was placed in charge of an agricultural assistant. The improvement of nutritional conditions of the villagers was later included in the scope of work and it was decided that the agricultural assistant should receive intensive training in nutrition for about six weeks at the Nutritional Research Laboratories, Coonoor. Other features of the schemes were to help agriculturists to increase acreage yields and production by the adoption of all proved agricultural improvements and to develop marketing in the villages. The progress of the schemes was recently reviewed by the Development Research Committee of the Council.

Mixed Farming

Another feature of the year under review was the successful experiment in mixed farming in the United Provinces, Central Provinces and Berar, N.-W.F.P., and Sind. The results indicated an increase in income in cash and food crops in the mixed farming units as compared with the control units. The Development Research Committee which examined the working of the schemes emphasised that the experiment should provide two sets of data, (i) the average yield per acre for each of the principal crops under trial, year by year, both in the mixed farming and in the control units and (ii) the actual cash value of the total production year by year in the control units and in the mixed farming units.

Study of the various methods of dry farming for the conservation of soil moisture and for its best and fullest utilisation for successful cultivation continued in Sind. The introduction of trees to provide shade and fodder for cattle was also included in the investigation.

A special grant of Rs. 1,07,000 was given by the Government of India during the year for the improvement of agricultural statistics. The Council initiated two schemes; one for conducting an inquiry into the existing system of preparing agricultural statistics and crop forecasts in the Punjab and the C.P. and Berar and suggesting improvements; the second for conducting crop cutting experiments on the 1943-44 wheat crop in the U.P. and the Punjab.



At the plough.

An achievement of the year under review was the solution of the wild rice problem in the C.P. by the production of purple leaf varieties of commercial rice which can be easily distinguished from the wild rice. These would enable the farmers to rouge out wild rice plants and thus save Rs. 65 lakhs per annum. In Assam, improved strains of paddy are being distributed to cultivators and double transplanting has been introduced, leading to a large increase in the yield of rice in that province.

Disease-Free Seed

While hybridization work to develop rust resistant varieties of wheat is being continued, an exceptionally good variety of wheat, known as Niphad-4, has been developed in Bombay which has proved so far the best milling and baking quality wheat in India. Research work to combat diseases and pests of various pulses and oilseeds continued and attempts were made to develop disease-resistant, highly-yielding types. The Council succeeded in setting up centres of production of English vegetable seeds in Kashmir and Baluchistan. They have also set up a central station at Kufri, in Patiala State, for certification of disease-free potato seeds. It is expected that 50,000 maunds of seeds, carefully inspected, would be ready for issue as certified seed by September, 1949.

The Council received a grant of Rs. 2,25,000 for the rapid introduction of the "Bangalore" process of converting town refuse into manure in all the important municipalities of the country. According to the programme 14 officers from provinces and States were trained at the Indian Institute of Science and they are now working in various provinces and states. Schemes for dry farming developmental research were sanctioned for Madras and Hyderabad. The Council undertook a countrywide survey of sugarcane and suggested an all-India committee to deal with all aspects of sugarcane and its products.

The Council during the year under review investigated the possibilities of utilising and assisting the existing *gowshallas* and Pinjrapoles for an increased supply of milk and for salvaging city cows. To conserve the cattle wealth of the country, the Advisory Board of the Council recommended measures prohibiting indiscriminate slaughter of animals and undertook schemes to improve village livestock. At a number of provincial and state livestock breeding farms work has been in progress to evolve better breeds of woolly and meat sheep.

The problem of maintaining animals in health has received close attention and the existing animal Diseases Investigation Schemes in the provinces and Hyderabad State have been recommended by the Advisory Board for extension for a further period of five years. Developmental schemes have been invited from several provinces for reorganising ghee industry in order to meet the rapidly increasing demand for ghee from the forces. The Council also sanctioned a scheme for improvement in the manufacture and grading of yellow ghee and for the study



A Cattle Show in a village in Aligarh District (U.P.).

of chemical and nutritive qualities of vegetable oils, hydrogenated oils, ghee and other animal fats. The question of prevention of adulteration in ghee received attention and counteracting measures suggested by the Advisory Board have been passed on to the various governments for necessary action. Experimental mixed farming units in the United Provinces, Central Provinces, North-West Frontier Province and Sind showed better results in cash income from milk and milk products to the cultivator than in the control units.

To evolve a balanced ration for milch cattle, several schemes on animal nutrition were sanctioned during the year and work on the use of alkali-treated straw for breeding cattle, horses and mules had been started in some provinces. To meet the demand for superior quality of leather goods by the Army, the Council established flaying demonstration centres in Bombay and N.-W.F.P. Work was also undertaken for the control of the common hides and skins pests. Progress was maintained in the standardised grading and marketing of commodities, such as ghee, butter, oils, eggs, etc. The total value of such products rose to Rs. 546 lakhs as against Rs. 241 lakhs in 1942.

CEILING PRICES OF BRASS UTENSILS REDUCED

A further reduction in the ceiling prices of brass utensils will take effect from February 10, 1945, said a Press Note issued by the Industries and Civil Supplies Department, Government of India, on February 9.

It added: The prices of utensils manufactured from brass sheets released by Government have hitherto ranged from Rs. 1-13-0 to Rs. 2-1-0 per lb. The Industries and Civil Supplies Department have decided that the prices will now range from Rs. 1-10-0 to Rs. 2-0-0 per lb. They have also reduced the ceiling prices of utensils manufactured from uncontrolled metal at Moradabad from Rs. 3-0-0 to Rs. 2-12-0 per lb. The ceiling prices of all other brass utensils will be reduced from Rs. 2-9-0 to Rs. 2-5-0 per lb.

H. E. the Viceroy has sanctioned a grant of Rs. 10,000 from the War Purposes Fund to the Women's Voluntary Service, Kashmir, for providing accommodation and amenities for troops visiting Kashmir.

DEVELOPMENT OF SHARK LIVER OIL INDUSTRY

THE phenomenal development of the shark liver oil industry in India during the past four years, is due no less to the increasing recognition of its therapeutic value as to the wartime shortage of the imported product. India's present output is estimated at 1,500,000 lbs. of cod liver oil standard. The scope of its use for nutritional purposes is wide and manufacture on a commercial scale is expanding rapidly throughout the coastal tracts developing a new source of income by the organisation of new and prosperous fisheries. Questions vital to the development of this important industry are discussed in a recent issue of the *Journal of Scientfic and Industrial Research.*

Saccharification of Cereals

Efficient conversion of the starch present in cereals into sugar and its solubilisation are of great economic significance to the brewing and other fermentation industries. The traditional method of bringing about the saccharification of cereals is through malting. More recently, however, microbes have been utilised for this purpose and at the same time the extent and speed of solubilisation have been greatly enhanced. The possibilities of utilising a fungus belonging to the Aspergillus group for saccharifying ragi, jowar, bajra, maize and wheat, and its value to fermentation industries, are discussed in an article in the Journal.

Industrial Applications of Ultrasonics

Among other contributions is a well-illustrated article on the industrial applications of Ultrasonics. These high-frequency, inaudible sound waves, which can be generated by the use of piezo-electric quartz oscillators, find a large number of applications in such diverse fields as submarine detection, testing materials, television, metallurgy and agriculture. The industrial applications of ultrasonics are being studied in the laboratories of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

The Presidential Address of Sir S. S. Bhatnagar, to the Indian Science Congress, which held its recent annual session at Nagpur, appears as a supplement.

PROF. A. V. HILL ON SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN INDIA

PROF. A. V. HILL, M.P., Sc.D., F.R.S., who visited India last winter at the invitation of the Government of India to discuss and advise on Indian scientific, technical and research problems, has submitted his report on "Scientific Research in India." He recommends, *inter alia*:

Close scientific and technical liaison between India, Britain, America and the Dominions is essential.

An Indian Scientific Office should be set up in London with specialists in agriculture, defence, engineering, industry, and medicine. Representative Indian scientists should be attached to the British Commonwealth Scientific Office in Washington.

Young Indian teachers, research workers and members of technical staffs must be provided with facilities for advanced study abroad, especially in Britain.

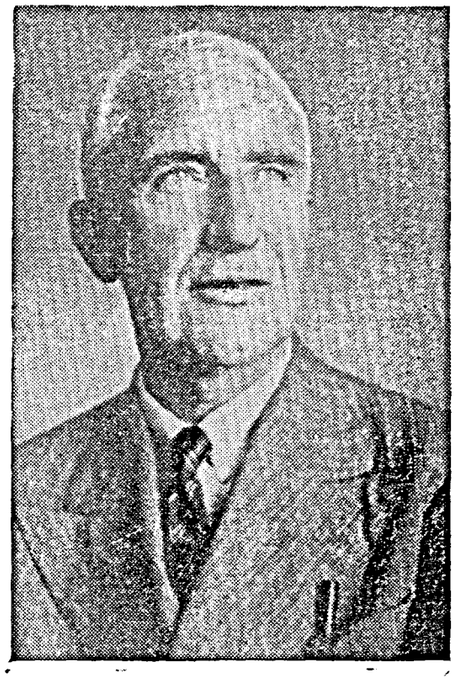
In medical colleges full-time teachers and research workers are essential in all subjects. Staff, buildings, equipment and salaries should be increased. An All-India Medical Centre should be established in Delhi where selected students, preferably graduates in other subjects should be trained and financial assistance given in the form of scholarships. The Centre must be entirely free from racial, religious, political or provincial bias, since it is to provide the best type of teacher and research worker and thereby provide a high type of doctor throughout India. There should be a special hospital for the clinical study of malaria. Existing research institutes should now be brought into close touch with medical colleges.

Agricultural Research

Statistics on the population of India require more accurate data and more detailed analysis to guide the future direction of national development. The statistical work could be entrusted to the Expert Committee on Population.

The excellent work on agricultural research requires extension, particularly by large scale trials.

The great national resources of India are inadequately known. Increased effort must be devoted to geological work and the Geological Survey expanded, the Botanical Survey restored and enlarged, the Zoological Survey extended. The proposed Research Institutes on marine and freshwater fisheries should be set up as soon as possible. Other subjects such as water power, water supply, forests, soil, population, etc. require fuller investigation. A Research Board on Surveys and Natural Resources should be set up.



Prof. A. V. Hill.

All these proposals depend on an increase in trained workers, in equipment and expenditure. Funds must be found and plans for training developed in detail and put into practice as soon as possible.

The headquarters staff assisting the Director of Scientific and Industrial Research in India is too small and quite inadequate for the work of the immediate future. Industry itself must also do more to maintain and further its prosperity by keeping well ahead with scientific research and technical development. Indian industry and agriculture require Indians highly trained in original research and technical experience. This requires not only technical institutes at all important centres, of which an

insufficient number now exist, but one or two technical institutes of the highest standing newly founded or developed from existing ones, comparable with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Agriculture is the greatest Indian industry and will require the resources of engineering and technology in addition to special agricultural research.

Research in Meteorology

Proposals for the development of fundamental research in meteorology have already been accepted and should be attached to a Central Organisation for Scientific Research.

A free post-war distribution to universities of surplus government scientific and medical equipment and machine tools would assist the universities at small cost without the disturbance of existing essential trades, which would follow public sales.

A proper scientific organisation of research for the fighting services is essential not only for the present war, but for the future; when a self-governing India must maintain security from aggression. There should be a Scientific Adviser to the Commander-in-Chief with an organisation similar to that of the Advisory Committee for Scientific Research in the Ministry of Supply in the United Kingdom. This would be the War Research Board of a Central Organisation for Scientific Research. In a free India the Scientific Adviser would be a member of the War Council with direct access to the War Minister. A services Medical and Personnel Committee should be set up as a joint committee of the War Research and Medical Research Boards.

There should be a Central Organisation for Scientific Research, under a Minister without ordinary departmental duties such as the Member for Planning and Development, with six boards, for Medical Research, Agricultural Research, Industrial Research, Surveys and Natural Resources, Engineering Research and War Research. Each board would have a Director as secretary and principal administrative officer, who would be *ex officio* a member of the other five boards. The members of the boards would be research scientists and not more than an equal number of professionals. Each Board would appoint committees whose chairman would be encouraged to take initiative: joint committees would be appointed for special subjects. There would also be a Research Grants Committee and a Research Studentships Committee, set up by the six boards jointly. Research should be brought into a single organisation and existing government research institutes transferred, perhaps gradually, from their present Departments to the Central Organisation.

An Indian Central Register for Scientific and Technical Personnel should be constructed.

The pay and status of scientific workers in government service should be raised to a degree comparable with that of workers in universities and industry. A small committee should be set up to consider the subject.

Central Scientific Academy

India requires a central scientific academy comparable with the Royal Society of London. The best suited body for this purpose is the National Institute of Science of India.

The Government of India should assist the specialist scientific societies in various ways without diminishing their independence.

Scientific research in universities is the basis of scientific progress. A carefully thought out national policy with regard to grants to universities is necessary. Medicine, biology and geology particularly need development.

Research should not be solely dependent on government support, but should have independent resources and an independent existence. Private benefactions endowing scholarships, studentships and research fellowships are urgently needed in India.

ADMISSION TO MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Information has been received that at present the Massachusetts Institute of Technology is refusing admissions as it is full up. Considerable notice, it is pointed out, will be necessary for students to get admission to it and it is advisable that those wanting admission next October should apply as soon as possible, said a Press Note issued by the Education, Health and Lands Department, Government of India, on January 13.

It added: There are now enrolled at the Institute a larger number of students from foreign countries than has ever been the occasion before and the Institute has more students from India, or on the way, than it has ever had before. At the same time the staff and facilities available at the Institute have been considerably restricted by wartime conditions. The Institute has also to save as many places as possible for men returning from the armed forces. This has compelled the authorities to place on the waiting list a large number of applicants from foreign countries.

THE RADIO-SONDE

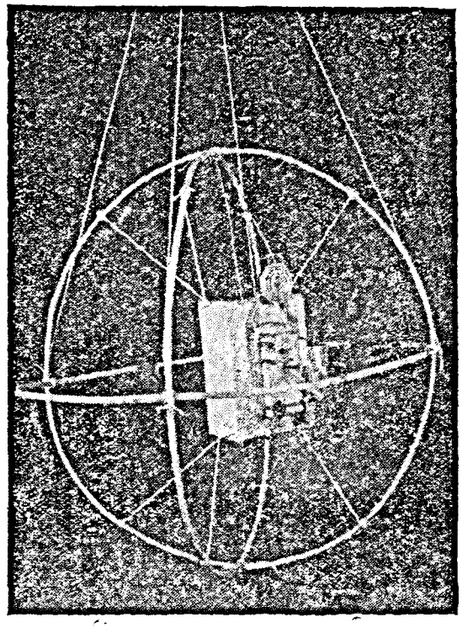
Remarkable Instrument Which Reveals Secrets of Upper Air

TWO types of a remarkable radio instrument, called the Radio-sonde, have been developed by the Indian Meteorological Department. This instrument ferrets out the secrets of the upper air, knowledge of which is essential for the work of the modern meteorologist.

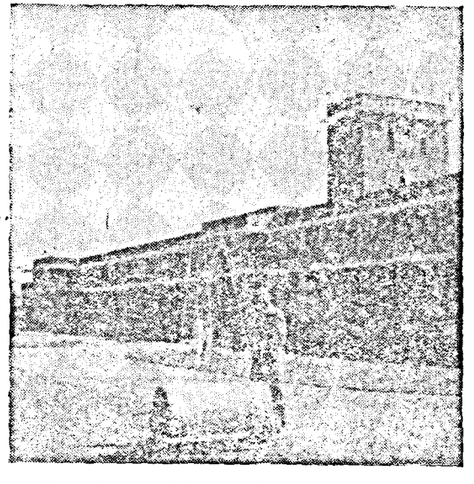
The Radio-sonde, weighing only a few ounces and tied to a balloon filled with hydrogen, goes up into the air and sends radio signals of the pressure, temperature and humidity at higher altitudes. The signals are recorded automatically by a receiving apparatus on the ground. These observations are telegraphed to the various forecasting offices in India and enable them to get an accurate picture of the physical processes affecting weather and to estimate the course of its evolution. This knowledge is of great value in the issue of weather warnings to aviators, irrigation engineers, agriculturists and the general public.

Of the two types of Radio-sonde developed in India, one is the fruit of research at the Upper Air Office at Delhi and the other came into being in the Upper Air Section of the Meteorological Office at Poona.

These instruments ordinarily give soundings of the air up to a height of 8 to 10 miles. On some occasions they reach considerable height. The instrument developed in the office at Delhi reached on one occasion a height of about 18 miles. Both instruments and all their parts excepting the wireless valves are made in the departmental workshops on a mass scale for daily ascents at a few selected stations.



The radio-sonde.



The radio-sonde tied to a balloon being launched.

RAILWAY EARNINGS

The total approximate gross earnings of the Budget lines for the period (10 days) ending January 10, 1945 (28th Period) amounted to Rs. 591 lakhs. This was (*a*) Rs. 77 lakhs *more* than the actuals for the corresponding period of the previous year, and (*b*) Rs. 160 lakhs *more* than the actuals for the corresponding period of 1942-43.

The total approximate gross earnings from April 1, 1944, to January 10, 1945, amounted to Rs. 160.46 crores. This was (*a*) Rs. 23.91 crores more than the actuals for the corresponding period of the previous year, and (*b*) Rs. 43.84 crores *more* than the actuals for the corresponding period of 1942-43.

BRITISH EDUCATIONISTS VISIT INDIA

FOLLOWING upon the visit of Professor A. V. Hill last year, the Government of India have invited two other eminent British educationists, this time on the Arts side, to visit India on a short tour, said a Press Note issued by the Education, Health and Lands Department, Government of India, on February 13.

It added: They are Sir Walter Moberly and Sir Cyril Norwood and they have now arrived in this country. While in India, they will visit certain Provincial capitals and Indian Universities. Calcutta, Benares, Madras, Mysore, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Bombay, Agra, Delhi, Aligarh, Lucknow, Dehra Dun and Lahore will be some of the places these educationists will visit in the course of February and March 1945.

Sir Walter Moberly

It is believed that at a time when educational reconstruction is engaging much of the country's attention, the presence in India of these two eminent educationists will be of great advantage not only to Governments who are engaged in planning educational developments but also to Universities and other authorities who will also be facing the problems which the post-war situation is bound to thrust upon them.

Sir Walter Moberly has since 1935 been the Chairman of the University Grants Committee in Great Britain. Before this he was Vice-Chancellor of Manchester University and has also held a number of University appointments. He possesses an unrivalled knowledge of university organisation and problems in Great Britain.

Sir Cyril Norwood

Sir Cyril Norwood is the President of St. John's College, Oxford, and before that was successively Head Master of Bristol Grammar School, Marlborough College and Harrow School. He has been for some while Chairman of the Secondary Schools Examination Council set up by the Board of Education and has been prominently connected with many commissions and other bodies dealing with education generally.

The Governor-General has been pleased to appoint Mr. Rajaram Shripad Bavdekar, I.C.S., District and Sessions Judge, and Mr. Pralhad Balacharya Gajendragadkar, Advocate, to be Additional Judges of the Bombay High Court till February 28, 1946.

ALL INDIA HANDLOOM BOARD TO BE SET UP

THE Government of India have decided to set up an All India Handloom Board in order to help the weaver in procuring dyes, chemicals and stores, in design and in marketing of products, said a Press Note issued by the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies on February 17.

It added: The Board will make recommendations on the yarn required in each Province and State for the handloom weavers. It will assist the handloom weavers in obtaining dyes, chemicals and stores at fair prices and will carry out research into methods of marketing and production. The Board will also advise on the administration of Government grant-in-aid and will be responsible for the general conditions of work of weavers.

This would help to rectify a position in which the handloom weaver has usually been a mere serf of the Mahajan from whom he bought his yarn and to whom he sold his cloth. Even the war, while it has given the weaver an assured market at remunerative prices, has aggravated his difficulties by making it difficult for him to obtain yarn, dyes, chemicals and other stores.

The Board will consist of 30 members, including the Textile Commissioner who will be the Chairman, 3 non-officials nominated by the Government of India, 17 members nominated by the Provinces, 4 members nominated by certain States and 5 members nominated by the Textile Control Board.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH HOLLAND

In accordance with the action taken by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, Government of India have authorised, subject to certain conditions, persons and concerns in British India to have private and business correspondence with persons and concerns in certain parts of Holland, details of which can be had from any post office. The conditions are that correspondence should be conducted only through non-illustrated post cards and that business correspondence should be confined to ascertaining facts and exchanging information, said a Press Communique issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on February 2.

EDUCATIONAL AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Standing Finance Committee Approves Proposals

PROPOSALS relating to the setting up of the Labour Investigation Committee to collect necessary data for drawing up a social security scheme for Indian labour, the re-organisation of the Indian Statistical Institute of Calcutta as recommended by the Economic Adviser to the Government of India, better geological survey to meet the needs of post-war industrial development, more staff to work out the post-war educational plan, continuance of grants-in-aid to certain cottage industries, further capital expenditure on the telecommunications scheme, sustained publicity for post-war planning activities, and improvement of storage facilities for foodgrains, were approved of by the Standing Finance Committee at a meeting held in New Delhi on February 2, 1945, the Hon. Sir Jeremy Raisman, Finance Member, Government of India, presiding.

Labour Commissioners' Organisation

The proposal to set up a Labour Commissioners' Organisation under the Central Government, at an annual recurring expenditure of Rs. 1,70,000, was approved. This organisation, it was explained, would consist of one Labour Commissioner at the Headquarters and three Deputy Labour Commissioners at Calcutta, Bombay and Lahore, respectively, with the necessary establishment. It would be responsible, among other things, for taking steps to prevent or settle (by conciliation) labour troubles in Central Government's undertakings and in undertakings for which they were responsible, the Labour Commissioner at the headquarters guiding and co-ordinating the work of the machinery as a whole. The post of Conciliation Officer (Railways) would be absorbed in this organisation and the present arrangement extended to all railways.

The Committee was informed that the Labour Investigation Committee, set up in January, 1944, to collect necessary data so as to enable the Planning Committee to be constituted to draw up a programme of social security for labour in India, was expected to complete its investigations by July, 1945. Besides giving data relating to wages and earnings, employment, housing and social conditions of labour and in particular industrial labour in India, its report was expected to deal with such matters as the risks which brought about insecurity, the needs of labour by various classes to meet such risks, the methods most suitable for meeting such risks and housing and factory conditions. The setting up of the organisation and the total expenditure thereon aggregating Rs. 5,37,459 were approved of.

The cost of Living Index Number Scheme, entailing an expenditure of Rs. 1,70,600 in 1945-46, was also approved of. Explaining the scope and progress of the scheme, it was stated that it was initiated in 1942-43, on the recommendation of the Rau Court of Inquiry, to collect up-to-date cost of living index figures in certain selected urban and rural centres in respect of labourers employed in industrial undertakings. It was expected that all the inquiries started under the scheme relating to family budget investigation would be completed in the course of 1945-46.

It was proposed, with the approval of the Committee, to strengthen the superior staff of the Geological Survey of India, as a part of the policy for the post-war economic and industrial development of India, for taking up a more systematic and comprehensive mapping programme and a more detailed mineral survey, undertaking in some cases actual prospecting and proving of minerals.

Appointment of Town Planning Expert

The proposal to construct residential and office accommodation for Central Government servants at Calcutta and Bombay, at a non-recurring cost of Rs. 35,52,300 and Rs. 13,61,600, respectively, met with approval, as also the one relating to the appointment of a Town Planning Expert in the Central Public Works Department to plan a suitable layout for New Delhi for the post-war period.

Another proposal, which met with the approval of the Committee, related to the strengthening of the educational staff of the Education, Health and Lands Department, for three years in the first instance, at a recurring cost of Rs. 2.48 lakhs in 1945-46, and Rs. 2.73 lakhs in 1946-47 and Rs. 2.83 lakhs in 1947-48, for dealing with certain aspects of the post-war education plan submitted by the Central Advisory Board of Education. The most important of them were the speedy development of facilities for technical education and the sending to overseas at an early date of a large number of Indian students for technical training.

Arising out of the recommendations of the Economic Adviser to the Government of India, a proposal was laid before the meeting to reorganise the Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta, as a private body with a legal status, its scope of work continuing to remain as at present.

The headquarters of the Institute, it was stated, would be transferred to Delhi as soon as practicable, the Central Government being responsible for the efficient conduct of its affairs, its future development and its expenditure. A scheme had been drawn up by the Educational Adviser to the Government of India involving an expenditure of Rs. 1.4 lakhs recurring and Rs. 75,000 non-recurring. As the Government of India were already making a grant of Rs. 53,000 per annum to the Institute, it was pointed out that the net additional grant to the Institute would be Rs. 87,000 recurring and Rs. 75,000 non-recurring.

The increased grant of Rs. 5.50 lakhs made to the Indian Research Fund Association for 1944-45 would be continued in 1945-46.

Telecommunications Scheme

Proposals submitted by the Delhi University for putting up certain additional buildings, which they needed very urgently, were explained to the meeting, which approved of them. The chief of them related to the expansion of the University Laboratories. The whole project was estimated to work out to Rs. 6.15 lakhs, of which Rs. 4 lakhs would be given by Government as a non-recurrent grant.

Proposals relating to the Telecommunications Development Scheme, works under the railway telecommunications improvement scheme, works in respect of the telephone systems taken over from the licensed telephone companies and other departmental works relating to the Capital works programme of the Posts and Air Department for 1945-46 were approved of. Under the Telecommunications scheme, the total cost was estimated at Rs. 16.24 crores of which Rs. 4.21 crores had been spent in 1942-43 and 1943-44. It was expected that a sum of Rs. 5.57 crores and Rs. 2.87 crores would be spent in the current and next year respectively. On the main net-work of long distance communications, the meeting was informed that good progress had been made with the work of the installation of carrier telegraph and telephone systems.

The Railway telecommunications improvement scheme provided for the erection of lines and wires and installation of telephone exchanges for the improvement of the communication facilities of major railways in India. This was estimated to cost Rs. 1.48 crores during the current and the next year. Rupees 38 lakhs and Rs. 43 lakhs would be spent during the current and the next year, respectively, in improving the telephone systems acquired from companies.

At a non-recurring cost of Rs. 3,88,000 in 1944-45 and Rs. 5,28,000 in 1945-46, it was proposed to carry on a publicity campaign to maintain a constant and objective interest in Government's plans of post-war development and creating a country-wide consciousness of the magnitude of the problem and how Government proposed to solve it. The proposal was approved of by the meeting. Explaining it, it was stated that the object was to keep the public fully informed of the progress of reconstruction planning, with a view to securing the widest possible reading public for the reports published from time to time, through digests, easy-to-read pamphlets, films, informative advertising, etc. The campaign was designed to achieve this purpose by the use of all the media at Government's disposal, *e.g.*, radio, press, films, advertising, etc. The campaign would operate for one year in the first instance, through the various units of the Information and Broadcasting Department, *viz.*, Films, All India Radio, Bureau of Public Information, Advertising, Exhibitions, Song Publicity, Women's Section and the National War Front.

Grants to Cottage Industries

The grant to woollen industry, which was extended on a yearly basis at the rate of Rs. 1 lakh up to March 31, 1945, with the approval of the Standing Finance Committee was further extended to 1945-46, the amount being Rs. 50,000. It was also agreed to continue for another year, *i.e.*, up to March 31, 1946, the present grant-in-aid of Rs. 1 lakh for the development of sericultural industry. Similarly, it was proposed to continue for one more year the grant-in-aid to the handloom weaving industry, *i.e.*, up to the end of March, 1946, the amount being Rs. 5 lakhs.

The last two important proposals approved of by the Committee related to the provision of storage facilities at the ports for imported foodgrains and in the surplus Provinces and States for grains acquired under the Government's procurement scheme and the constitution of a Directorate of Rationing in the Food Department. As regards the former, it was explained that very large quantities of foodgrains were lost in India every year through deterioration and the ravages of insect and animal pest. Much of this appalling waste of money, labour and food could be avoided, it was pointed out, if the conditions under which grain was stored were improved.

An Indian Leather Factory



Scudding: Hair, dirt, etc. are removed from untanned hides with blunt knives.



Tanning drums ensure complete penetration of tan liquor and speed up tanning process. (Below) Harness leather being prepared for final process of currying.



The making of leather is an important Indian industry which has received added stimulus owing to the war. These pictures, taken at a South Indian Leather Factory, illustrate the processes by which hides are turned into leather.



Bark-tanned leather being rolled to produce a firm, compressed and hard-wearing leather.

In order to ensure that this loss was reduced to a minimum during this period of food scarcity, the Food Department had undertaken the responsibility for stimulating and co-ordinating local efforts for the improvement of storage, to initiate constructional schemes and to disseminate technical advice. Accordingly, it was found necessary to set up a Storage Directorate. It was further explained that a programme had also been drawn up for the construction of new storage godowns, both to contain imported grain from overseas and grain procured in surplus Provinces and States.

The meeting was informed that the expenditure on account of the storage construction at the ports would be borne by he Central Government, while that on construction in the surplus Provinces and States would be shared by the Central and Provincial Governments on a 50-50 basis, except where the latter agreed to undertake construction at their own cost.

The proposal to constitute a Directorate of Rationing in the Food Department was also approved of. The meeting was informed that there were now 428 towns or municipal areas already rationed, covering a population of 3,86,13,866, and that 88 towns, with a population of 27,86,721, were about to be rationed. It was further stated that the existing Adviser would also function as the Director of the new organisation. The recurring cost of the scheme would be Rs. 7,100 in 1944-45 and Rs. 63,200 in 1945-46 and subsequent years.

IMPORT OF MOTOR CYCLES

Government have decided to permit import from U.K. of a certain number of light motor cycles of 98 and 125 c.c. for sale under Government control to essential users. Permits will be issued only to regular pre-war importers, said a Press Note issued by the War Transport Department, Government of India, on February 6.

EAST AFRICAN AND SUDAN COTTONS

The negotiations between the Government of India and the East African and Sudan Governments announced in the Government of India Press Communique dated October 23, 1944, have now been finally concluded, said a Press Communique issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on February 24.

It added: The 1944-45 crops of East African and Sudan cottons suitable for consumption in India will be sold to India at Rs. 850 per candy Bombay Dock Delivery New Mill Terms for East African B.P. 52 and at corresponding prices for other varieties.

COST OF LIVING INDICES IN INDIA

Their Basis and Significance

"THE various family budget studies on which the indices are based, except in the case of Bombay and Madras and to a certain extent in the case of Nagpur also, are either defective or insufficiently described. Since the inquiries were held at widely varying points of time, there can be no guarantee that the weights for the different series possess a sufficient degree of inter-comparability and consequently it is inadvisable to rely on the existing provincial series for an accurate inter-provincial comparison of the fluctuations of the cost of living." So observes a memorandum by Mr. S. Subramanian, Statistician to the Economic Adviser to the Government of India, on "Working Class Cost of Living Index Numbers in India—A Critical Study." The memorandum is a supplement to "The Guide to the Current Official Statistics—Vol. I," relating to production and prices, which has already been issued.

It is expected that the Government of India's scheme for the preparation and maintenance of cost of living index numbers on a uniform basis for the whole of India will be issued shortly. The memorandum contains a description of the scheme.

Comments on Existing Indices

Regarding the basis and significance of the existing indices, the following further comments are made:

(1) The collection of price data is done in different ways in different provinces. In some provinces, prices are collected twice a week, in some once a week, in some once a month, and so on. Again, in some provinces there are trained investigators and in some others it is done by officials of various departments.

(2) The constitution of the index numbers differs from province to province. Some provinces do not include house rent. Miscellaneous items are omitted in some provinces and very few items are included in others.

Comparability between the different series, it is pointed out, can be secured only if comparable standards of living are assumed, if the price collection is done in a uniform manner, and when the constitution of the various index numbers is brought to a uniform basis.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 313)

HINDI-URDU LANGUAGE PROBLEM IN A.I.R.

A Press Communique issued by the Information and Broadcasting Department, Government of India, on February 14 stated:

The Hon'ble Sir Syed Sultan Ahmed, Member for Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, met in special conference the representatives of the Anjuman-i-Taraqqi-e-Urdu consisting of Dr. M. Abdul Haq, Dr. Abdul Sattar Siddiqui and Pandit Brij Mohan Dattatriya Kaifi and of the All India Hindi Sahitya Sammelan, consisting of Sri Pandit Sampurnanand, Sri Mauli Chandra Sharma and Swami Bhadant Anand Kausalyayan, and the Hon'ble Syed Hosain Imam, Member of the Council of State, to arrive at a satisfactory solution of the Hindi-Urdu language problem in All India Radio.

After giving very careful consideration to the views expressed by the representatives of the two bodies and by Mr. Syed Hosain Imam, the Government of India have taken the following decisions:

I. News, News Commentaries and Announcements.

(1) There should not be separate Urdu and Hindi broadcasts of news, news commentaries and announcements, the language used being of the simplest variety, which is understood by the vast majority of the listeners in Hindustani speaking areas.

(2) Where there is no appropriate Hindustani word, and a foreign word has to be imported, the basis of selection from an indigenous language, Persian, Arabic or English should be the widest intelligibility of that word in Hindustani speaking areas.

(3) Whenever foreign words are used, their deflections should conform to the grammar, not of the language from which they are taken, but of the grammar of Hindustani (e.g. if the word "station" were taken from English and adopted by Hindustani, the plural form should be "stationon" and not "stations"; similarly, "qaaida" and "qaide" and not "qaida" and "qawaid"; "fikr" and not "afkar", etc.). No word should be deliberately rejected merely on the ground that there is another word which expresses the same meaning. This should, however, be subject to the general principles that the more widely understood words are to be preferred.

(4) As regards pronunciation,

(a) the more current form of pronunciation should be preferred to the purist literary and etymological form.

(b) the name of a person should, as far as possible, be pronounced as he pronounces it himself; and

(c) for names of places, rivers, etc., the most widely current form should be preferred.

II. Composite Programmes, e.g., Women's and Children's Programmes.

The atmosphere of these programmes should not be exclusively allied to any one particular community.

III. Talks.

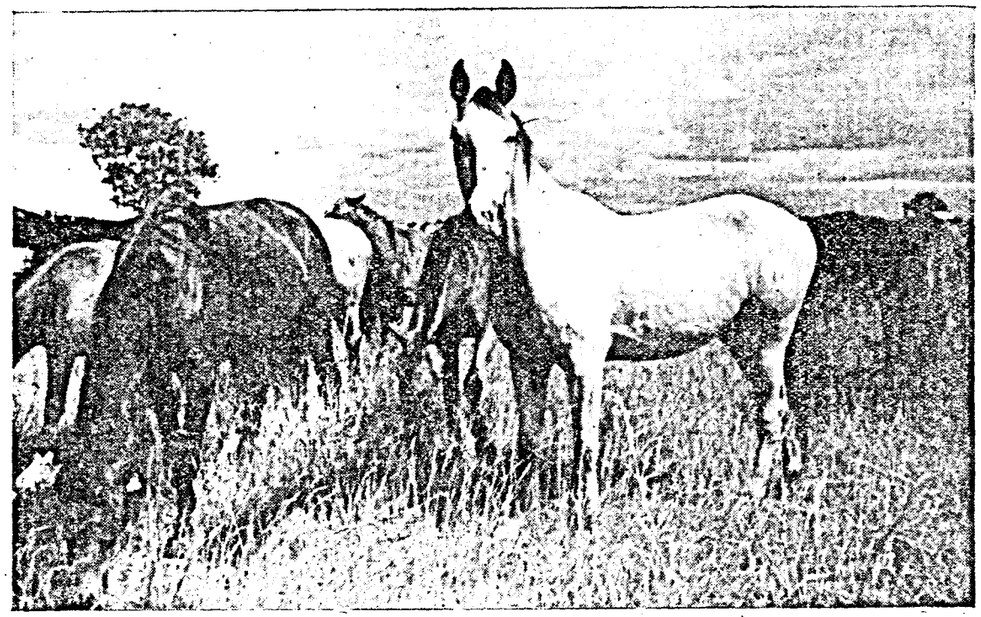
Talkers should generally be given latitude to use the style of language to which they are accustomed, but attempts should nevertheless be made to persuade them to use as simple a language as possible, so that the talk reaches the largest number of listeners.

In the selection of talkers every effort should be made to ensure equitable representation of talent drawn from all sections and communities and to reflect cultural and social needs and interests of the areas served by each station.

COST OF LIVING INDICES

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 312)

At the time when the "Guide to Current Official Statistics" relating to production and prices was published, the Government of India were having under examination the whole basis of the various Provincial series of working class cost of living index numbers then extant and therefore it was found necessary to postpone to a later date the inclusion of a full critique of the above series in the "Guide." Since then, these index numbers have assumed considerable importance in connection with the fixation of dearness allowances and allied questions; and in view of the numerous inquiries that are received in regard to the accuracy and inter-comparability of the various indices, the Economic Adviser's Statistician has now brought out this Supplement to Vol. I of the "Guide," which deals with working class cost of living index numbers in India. It examines in great detail the various family budget enquiries that provide the weights for the existing index numbers, the manner of collection of price data and also the technical points involved in their compilation.



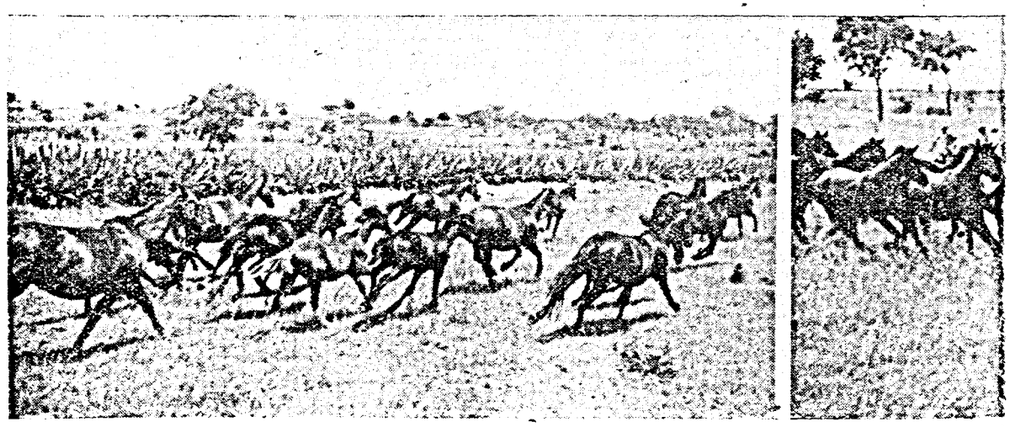
Horses on the Hessaraghatta Stud Farm.

THE MYSORE STATE STUD FARM AT HESSARAGHATTA

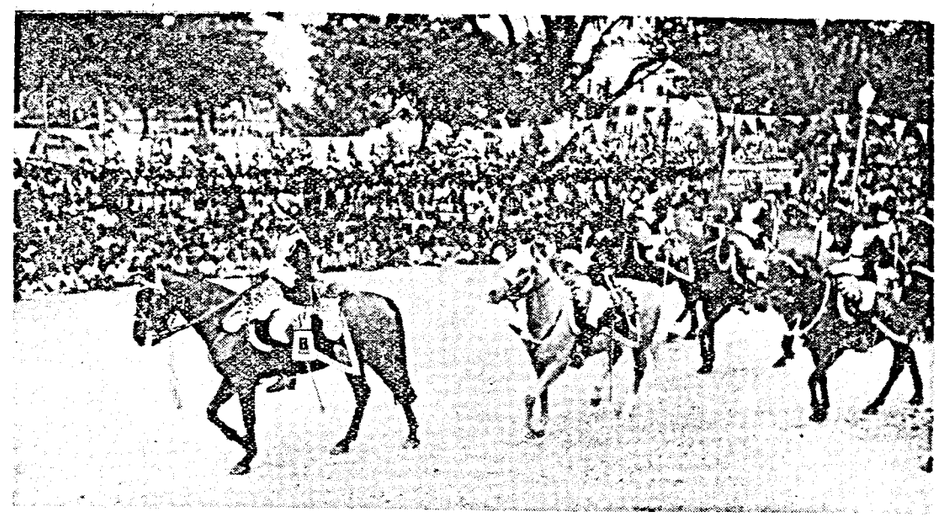
Ten years ago, the Mysore State decided to start a 4,000-acre stud and grass farm on the borders of a reservoir lake near Bangalore. Arab and English thorough bred stallions were transferred from a stud farm started long ago at Kunigal by the East India Company. Australian brood mares were supplied by the Mysore Lancers who now get practically all their remounts from the new farm.

Large and small paddocks fenced in with aloe are provided to keep the mares in foal apart and also to keep mares with foals at heel of different ages in groups. New born foals are allowed to run together with yearlings and the two-year olds and upwards go together. The older young stock have the run of two square miles of undulating ground which helps in their development. They are rounded up morning and evening to be looked over for ticks and injuries, rubbed down and brushed, and given a small grain feed. The handling of the young stock morning and evening makes them very docile. At the age of four they are sent out as remounts.

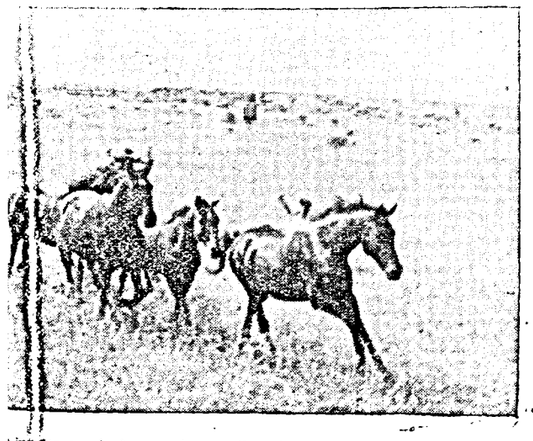
The grass farm grows several varieties of grass which are harvested once a year, dried and stocked, then baled and despatched to feed the horses of the Mysore Lancers.



Mares and fillies in a paddock, fenced in with aloe. (Right) The young stock has the run of widegrass lands and is rounded up mor



Mysore Lancers in a State procession. This regiment draws its remounts from the Hessaraghatta Stud Farm.



ing for a rub down and a small grain feed.

VICEROY'S WAR PURPOSES FUND

Contributions amounting to Rs. 8,15,101 during January, 1945, have brought the total of H. E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund to Rs. 11,47,90,163 while the payments in the same month amounting to Rs. 1,35 980 raised the total of payments to Rs. 9,86,52,348 after taking into account the refund of an advance of Rs. 56,000 made to Director-General, Welfare and Amenities, in September 1943 for purchase and resale of imported amenities to officers of the Indian Army, leaving a balance in hand on January 31, 1945, of Rs. 1,61,37,815 of which Rs. 1¼ crores represented unearmarked money.

Notable donations during the month were Rs. 1.00.000 from the Hyderabad War Purposes Fund, Hyderabad (Deccan); Rs. 50.000 from H. H. the Maharani of Kashmir's War Aid Committee; Rs. 1.00,000 from the Bharatpur State and Rs. 1,50,000 from the Hyderabad State.

WORK OF THE INDIAN AUDIT DEPARTMENT

IN the fifth year of the war, as in preceding years, the Indian Audit Department continued to be a reservoir of men with financial experience and training and a ready source of technical advice relating to financial, audit and accounting arrangements. During the year under report, 17 more Gazetted Officers and 307 more non-gazetted personnel of the Indian Audit Department were deputed to those departments of the Central and Provincial Governments engaged in war work. This brings the total loan up to September 30, 1944, to 89 Gazetted Officers and 949 non-gazetted personnel.

The Supply Accounts Organisation continued to expand and the sanctioned strength of its offices at Delhi, Calcutta and Bombay stands at 46 officers and 1,506 subordinates. The strength of the Defence Audit Department now called the Audit Department, War and Supply, was further increased by 7 officers and 120 subordinates. Considerable temporary staff was added to the permanent staff of Civil Offices for the audit of schemes connected with the War, such as food and other supply schemes. This increase has been most marked in the offices of the Accountants General, Bengal, Central Revenues and the United Provinces and the Comptroller, North-West Frontier Province.

Increased Audit Work

A section was formed in the office of the Accountant General, Bombay, to cope with the work arising from the claims for damages caused by the Bombay Explosion in April 1944. The services of the whole local audit staff consisting of 2 officers and 44 subordinates were placed at the disposal of the Bombay Government to assist the District Officers in the preparation and maintenance of the accounts of the District Supply Scheme with effect from December 27, 1943; 18 subordinates were, however, withdrawn from June 27, 1944, and the remaining staff continued to work in the Supply Department.

The Posts and Telegraphs Audit Offices continued to expand, as a result of the increased accounting and audit work connected with the Defence Savings Bank, Defence Savings Certificates, Defence Savings Provident Fund Accounts and family allotment money orders, and additional staff continued to be employed in the Telegraph Check Office for the accounting of military messages. Two construction audit offices, one at Saidpur and the other at Gauhati were opened in November 1943 and February 1943, respectively, for the audit of expenditure relating to construction work undertaken by the B. & A. Railway Administration on behalf of the Defence Department.

Three more St. John Ambulance Divisions were formed in offices subordinate to the Auditor General, 18 more men qualified in the First-Aid Course and 24 are under training. Fourteen men qualified for Home Nursing and 30 for A.R.P. during the year.

Fire Fighting Squads

Several units of the fire fighting squads formed from the subordinate staff of the office of the Accountant General, Bengal, continued to work in 3 shifts as a precautionary measure against possible air raids. Three Ambulance Divisions of the office of the Accountant General, Central Provinces, took part in the War Services Exhibition held at Nagpur in December 1943. Their work was highly commended by the Chief Commissioner, St. John Ambulance Brigade, Empire of India (Overseas). In July 1944, the Divisions were also inspected by the Chief Commissioner. Some members of the Ambulance Division of the office of the Accountant General, Bombay, took active part in rendering first aid to persons injured in the Bombay Explosion of April 1944.

The Auditor General and the Deputy Auditor General of India continued in their personal capacities to act severally or jointly as Treasurers for all Central War Funds and the Auditor General, *qua* Chief Commissioner of the St. John Ambulance Brigade Overseas and the Chairman of the Association, had another busy year in organising and inspecting the Brigade throughout India.

ARAKAN MUSLIMS SENT TO MECCA

Seventy-five Arakan Muslims have been sent on pilgrimage to Mecca by the British authorities.

Passages were arranged for them as a reward for "good work" against the Jap during the enemy occupation, writes an Indian Army Observer. Just before they left they sent a telegram of thanks to the Civil Affairs Officer who had arranged their journey, saying this was the best reward they could have had.

FUTURE OF INDIAN INSURANCE

"IN the complex world of today and more so of tomorrow commerce and industry cannot thrive but for the security that insurance gives.....It therefore behoves persons and institutions in charge thereof to evolve a concrete plan for so developing this service as would enable it to acquire strength, so that it might play the better the role it would be called upon to perform in the Post-War India." In these words, the Superintendent of Insurance refers to the future of insurance in India, to which question a considerable part of his Year Book for 1944 is devoted.

The Report points out that the development of Indian Insurance, which has got to be both internal and external to meet the large demands that would be made on it, after the effects of the industrial expansions in the post-war period have made themselves felt, should not necessarily be associated with starting of new companies, specially when there are several already of the uneconomic type. "Although Indian companies virtually monopolise life business among the majority of the Indian insuring public, some of them have yet to earn the confidence of the well-to-do minority who are still attracted by foreign companies because of their strength and some attractive terms offered by them." The necessity for education and training of the agents and the staff of insurance companies is stressed.

Need for Insurance Publicity

The Superintendent notes with satisfaction the attempt made recently by some insurers to disseminate knowledge on matters of health by publication of leaflets and hopes that this will be continued and followed by others as a first step in the direction of service to policyholders; but warns that service of this type and in other possible directions to policyholders would call for great care and economy in the administration of life insurance companies. It is hoped that the inducement of such subsidiary services would exterminate the evil of rebating.

The Superintendent has also stressed the necessity of concerted action by the industry with respect to a combined Mortality Investigation of Indian assured lives and has suggested the formation of a committee of actuaries, mainly composed of those associated with insurers, who would supply the statistical material, on whom would fall the entire responsibility for the investigation.

Need has once again been stressed for small uneconomic units to seek amalgamation with their stronger brethren in the field. "The latter also," adds the Superintendent, "have a duty to perform towards the well-being of Indian insurance and they should view sympathetically proposals for amalgamation from small companies in the realisation that any harm done to the policyholders, confined though it may be to those of a unit however small, will give a shock to confidence in insurance and undo the good work of several years in making the masses insurance minded."

The Superintendent of Insurance refers to the scheme of Sickness Insurance contemplated by the Government and feels that the provision of compulsory insurance for payment of certain amount on sickness, and also the provision of certain types of medical benefit, are sure to have repercussion on insurance generally, and make the general population of the country insurance-minded.

External Development Advocated

As regards the external development of the insurance industry, the Superintendent's advice is that Indian insurers should strive to expand their activities in other countries as well, particularly our neighbours on all sides, both across land and sea, whom the general advancement of the post-war world cannot leave untouched, and with whom it is expected our trade in material goods would substantially increase, so that India will not have an adverse balance of trade in this respect. "The success of this export trade," says the Superintendent, "would firstly depend upon efficiency in administration, so that one might readily sell at an acceptable price in a market full of competition and secondly on a high degree of integrity and sympathy in dealing with the foreign nationals."

Issue of policies without medical examination, but with proper safeguards (outlined in the Report) for a sum assured not exceeding Rs. 1,000, to begin with, and to be increased after a few years' experience, has been recommended by the Superintendent of Insurance, for consideration of insurers.

GRANT FOR ROYAL INDIAN NAVY

H.E. the Viceroy has sanctioned a further grant of Rs. 2,28,500 from the War Purposes Fund to Naval Headquarters for welfare projects for the Royal Indian Navy.

"EX GRATIA" PAYMENTS FOR DAMAGE CAUSED BY BOMBAY EXPLOSIONS

THE Government of India have received representations from a number of Associations and individuals that the scheme of compensation envisaged in the Bombay Explosion (Compensation) Ordinance, 1944, has resulted in hardship in certain cases, said a Press Note issued by the Finance Department, Government of India, on February 8.

It added: After carefully considering the relevant facts the Government of India have decided to make ex gratia payments as follows to those who have submitted their claims within the time allowed by the Ordinance:—

(i) In respect of claims pertaining to property which has been under-insured against fire an *ex gratia* payment to the extent of 50 per cent of the amount of under-insurance will be made. As for example, in the case of property which has been proved to have suffered damage to the extent of Rs. 2 lakhs but which has been insured for only Rs. 1 lakh an *ex gratia* payment of Rs. 50,000 will be made in addition to the compensation of Rs. 1 lakh admissible under the Ordinance making the total compensation Rs. 1,50,000.

(ii) In respect of uninsured stock-in-trade and merchandise an *ex gratia* payment will be made to the extent of 50 per cent of the difference between the amount of the proved loss and Rs. 20,000. Thus, in a case where the proved loss is Rs. 1 lakh the claimant will get Rs. 15,000 under section 16 (d) of the Ordinance plus an *ex gratia* payment of Rs. 40,000 making the total compensation Rs. 55,000.

(iii) In respect of uninsured household and personal effects, an *ex gratia* payment will be made to the extent of 50 per cent. of the difference between the amount of the proved loss and Rs. 6,000, but in no case will such *ex gratia* payment exceed Rs. 20,000. Thus, in a case where the proved loss is Rs. 20,000, the claimant will receive Rs. 5,000 under section 16 (c) of the Ordinance and an *ex gratia* payment of Rs. 7,000 making the total compensation Rs. 12,000.

In the case of uninsured immovable property there will be no change as the scheme of compensation provided in the Ordinance does not lay down any maximum limit to the amount of compensation.

No *ex gratia* payment will be made in respect of property for which no compensation is payable under the Ordinance.

In respect of under-insured property, claimants who have already filed their claims within the time allowed by the Ordinance should apply to the Insurer who dealt with the original claim, giving such insurer the number of his claim and other relevant particulars. All such applications will be considered by the Claims Committee on the material produced in support of the original claims and will be dealt with in the same manner as the original claims. Applications for review made after April 30, 1945, will not be considered.

In respect of uninsured movable property applications for review should be made by April 30, 1945, to the Claims Commissioner, Small Causes Court, Bombay, who will hear such applications on the basis of the claims as originally presented and no fresh claims will be allowed. All such applications will be heard in the same manner as the original claims.

There will be no appeal from the decision of the Claims Committee or the Claims Commissioner, as the case may be, on applications for *ex gratia* payments, but the Government of India reserve the right to revise any such decision or to reject any such application without assigning any reason.

DOCKYARD WORKERS' CHILDREN ARE HAPPY

In the heart of Bombay's business quarter rises the happy laughter of children as the sons and daughters of dockyard workers enjoy themselves in the well-equipped creche provided by the Royal Indian Navy.

The creche is an instance of the thoughtfulness with which the Navy looks after the welfare of its workers, who are busy day in and day out refitting and repairing warships in H.M.I. Naval Dockyard.

In the same building is a clinic for workers' families, with a maternity ward. No fewer than 2,095 patients received free medical treatment there or in their homes during December last alone. Free milk is supplied to children so that they may grow into sturdy boys and girls.

Other amenities for workers include a library and reading room, facilities for games and swimming, cinema shows and a grain shop. The Dockyard Sports Club hockey team recently won the James Cup offered for competition among the services in Bombay.

PACKING OF SEWING THREAD IN PAPER

THE Government of India have decided to allow the following relaxations of the provisions of the Paper Control (Economy) Order. 1944, in respect of the packing of sewing thread.

1. Sewing thread balls:
   (a) A round paper ticket or label may be attached at one end of the thread ball for indicating the trade mark, etc.
   (b) A dozen thread balls may be packed in kraft or other packing and wrapping paper
2. Sewing thread spools and cops:
   (a) Paper tubes may be used for winding on the thread.
   (b) A paper band may be used round these spools for the trade mark and other particulars.
   (c) A dozen spools may be packed in cartons. These cartons should, however, not be wrapped in paper.
3. Sewing thread reels:
   (a) Cardboard boxes may be used for packing a dozen reels of sewing thread.
4. Embroidery and crochet balls:
   (a) A paper strip round the ball may be used for the trade mark and other particulars.
   (b) A dozen balls may be wrapped in kraft or other packing and wrapping paper or packed in board boxes.

Trade mark and other particulars if necessary should be printed on the wrapper or carton or box. No extra label is to be used on the wrappers, cartons or boxes.

STRAWBOARD PRICES

The Department of Industries and Civil Supplies, Government of India, have decided that with effect from March 1, 1945, the manufacturers' ceiling price of standard substances of strawboard shall be reduced to Rs. 21-8 per cwt. and of millboard to Rs. 28-8 per cwt. Corresponding reductions have also been made in the prices of other substances.

REVISED CEILING PRICES FOR FOOTWEAR

SEPARATE ceiling prices for different types of footwear according to the quality of leather used and the processes of their manufacture have been specified in the revised Footwear Control Order issued by the Industries and Civil Supplies Department, Government of India.

The ceiling prices of the highest qualities of gents and ladies footwear have been fixed at Rs. 20 and Rs. 19 respectively, while the ceiling prices of the lowest qualities will be Rs. 10-8 for gents footwear and Rs. 10 for ladies footwear. Certain low-priced footwear have been exempted from the Control Order.

The revised order, published in *The Gazette of India*, dated February 9, takes into account the various types of shoes, boots, sandals, chappals, etc., and the different processes of their manufacture.

Whereas the ceiling price of a gent's calf, kid, suede, sambhar or any other fancy leather or combination thereof will range from Rs. 12 to Rs. 20, the prices of chrome leather shoes will range from Rs. 10-8 to Rs. 18. The ceiling prices of full-boot or Jodhpur have been fixed at Rs. 20 and those of gent's pumps, sandals and chappals made of superior leather range from Rs. 8-8 to Rs. 17 and those made of chrome range from Rs. 7 to Rs. 15-8.

The ceiling prices of women's shoes range from Rs. 10 to Rs. 19 and those of chappals from Rs. 5 to Rs. 9. The ceiling prices of children's shoes range from Rs. 3 to Rs. 6-12. The ceiling prices of Indian pattern footwear have also been fixed and these range from Rs. 4 to Rs. 11.

NEWSPRINT CEILING PRICES REDUCED

The Government of India in the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies in a notification issued on January 6 reduced the ceiling prices of newsprint as follows:—

	Price per lb. Rs. as. ps.
(a) For newsprint in reels:	
(i) at a customs port	0 5 5
(ii) at any other place	0 5 6
(b) For newsprint in sheets:	
(i) at a customs port	0 6 0
(ii) at any other place	0 6 6
(c) Waste newsprint including clippings and reel ends	0 3 0

IMPORT OF CONSUMER GOODS

ARISING out of a memorandum submitted to the Government of India sometime ago by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi, on the question of importing consumers' goods, there was a conference in New Delhi on February 12, 1945, between the representatives of the Federation, headed by Sir Sri Ram, and the representatives of Supply, Industries and Civil Supplies, Planning and Development, and Commerce Departments. Mr. Ram Chandra, Secretary of the Commerce Department, presided and views were exchanged on the various points raised in the memorandum.

Referring to the complaint that the import of consumers' goods was adversely affecting the growth of Indian industries producing similar goods, Mr. Ram Chandra explained that only such goods were imported as were in short supply and were urgently needed to check the inflationary trend. The essential and immediate interests of the consumer were paramount. It could be argued that Indian production would catch up demand in due course, say, in a period of six or twelve months; but was it the best course to wait till then, he asked, when there was a pressing necessity to take immediate action to satisfy essential consumer needs and check inflation?

There was general discussion regarding various matters connected with the import of consumer goods, in which Sir Sri Ram and the other representatives of the Federation participated. The viewpoints of Government were explained and information was given wherever needed. Government representatives promised to look into specific cases of difficulties that might be brought to their notice.

SUBSIDY FOR WHEAT IN MADRAS

To encourage the consumption of wheat and ease the pressure on the supply of rice, the Madras Government have decided to sell wheat at subsidised rates. The estimated loss is about Rs. 32 lakhs a year which would be borne by the Government.

Another step adopted by Madras to popularise wheat is declaring wheat a rationed article in Malabar and in 15 towns of the Madras Province. In addition, a special officer has been appointed to popularise cooking of wheat in Malabar and arrangements are being made to extend the system to other districts.

Return Passages for South African Indians

South African Indians desirous of returning to South Africa are advised to register themselves immediately with the Commonwealth Relations Department of the Government of India as well as the Foreign Passenger Agents Association, Bombay, said a Pres Note issued by the Commonwealth Relations Department, Government of India, on February 14.

It added: South African Indians, who came to India on short visits after May 1, 1942, were issued identity certificates valid for three years. Since the Union Government have refused to extend the period during which the identity certificates would be valid, it is necessary for the visitors to return to the Union before their certificates become invalid.

A large number of South African Indians, it has been represented to Government, are unable to return to South Africa before the due date on account of lack of passages available from India to South Africa. In order to enable Government to explore possibilities of making the necessary shipping available, the South African Indians have been asked to register themselves, giving their age, reasons for non-return to South Africa, if any class of passage required, name of persons who will pay the passage money, name of private shipping agents, if any, and the date on which the certificate of identity expires.

RESTRICTION ON EXPORT OF FINE CLOTH

A Press Note issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on February 6 stated:

In view of the shortage in supplies of fine cloth available for the civil market, the Government of India have decided to tighten up the restrictions on export of cloth in which the count of warp yarn is 36's or finer. Such cloth will hereafter be allowed to be exported only to the extent of a very small percentage of the production.

Shipments of fine cloth against export licences for cotton piecegoods already issued by Export Trade Controllers will only be allowed in cases where the cloth is proved to have been acquired for export against such licences before the date of this announcement.

LABOUR WELFARE IN GOVERNMENT PRESSES

An extra remuneration to the extent of 20 per cent. of pay and subject to a maximum of Rs. 20 per month and minimum of Rs. 4 per month has been granted to the night-shift workers of the Government of India Press, Simla, from November 1.

This extra remuneration is for the winter months *i.e.* November to March, and forms part of the several welfare measures undertaken recently with a view to securing the welfare of labour employed in Government Printing Presses. These measures include the appointment of a Personnel Officer who will remain in touch with press labour and will be instrumental in promoting labour welfare and better relations between the employer and the employee.

Some Concessions

The Industrial Workers' Unions of Government Presses in New Delhi, Simla and Aligarh have been recognised by Government. To secure prompt consideration of their requests the Unions can send advance copies of their representations direct to the Government of India.

Some of the other concessions granted recently to press labour are—increase in the initial pay of copy-holders; installation of radio sets with loud-speakers in Simla and New Delhi presses; grant of special house rent allowance and provision of facilities for telephone and payment through office peons of electric and water charges; and introduction of time-scale of pay in place of graded rates for binders and warehouse men in New Delhi press and for compositors in the Aligarh press.

AMERICAN SILVER STAR FOR CHINDITS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 282)

Jemadar Rikhi Ramiale, 6th Gurkha Rifles, of village Jhule, Tehsil Thantop, Nepal, showed outstanding gallantry in three successive actions, leading his platoon in attacks against strong Japanese bunker positions.

In an action at Mogaung after his section had suffered heavy casualties and had received orders to withdraw, Naik Balbir Pun, 6th Gurkha Rifles, of village Lungkhani, Tehsil Gulmi, Nepal, under withering fire organised the evacuation of the wounded, then withdrew his section, and was the last to leave himself.

MAILS FOR CIVILIAN INTERNEES IN BANGKOK

A Press Note issued by the Posts and Telegraphs Department, Government of India, on February 6 stated:

According to an official report received in the United Kingdom from Bangkok some 2,000 letters sent by prisoners of war post from the United Kingdom and various Empire countries including India were delivered to civilian internees in Bangkok in July, 1944. Although letters appear to have been received occasionally in the past, this is the largest delivery of correspondence made at the civilian internment camp so far, and the internees are anxious that their relatives should know of the arrival of this mail.

Letters for civilian internees in Siam (Thailand) should *not* be addressed C/O. Japanese Red Cross. Such correspondence should be addressed as follows:

Mr. (Mrs.).....
British Civilian Internee,
Bangkok Internment Camp,
BANGKOK, THAILAND.

Prisoners of war in Siam have been receiving correspondence for more than a year.

EAST INDIA TANNED KIPS AND CALF

After investigation and discussion with representatives of the Southern India Skin and Hide Merchants Association, the Hon'ble Member for Supply decided and informed the representatives that after due consideration he was unable to recommend any increase on the existing schedule of prices of East India tanned kips and calf as notified on September 23, 1944.

He also informed the representatives that whilst the Government of India could not agree to increase the prices of kips and calf, they would give all possible assistance to the kip tanning industry to enable them to produce the tanned product within the existing schedule of prices. Representatives of the Association agreed to forward to the Hon'ble Member a scheme, already worked out by them, for pool purchase and distribution amongst their members of raw hides.

The Hon'ble Member also informed the representatives that unhealthy competition from the Chinese chrome tanners and other chrome tanners would be investigated by Government and action taken, where necessary, to eliminate such competition.



A W.A.C. (I.) Army Platoon marching past the saluting base.

CEREMONIAL W.A.C.(I) PARADE AT NEW DELHI

KINGSWAY, New Delhi, was the scene on February 3 of a ceremonial W.A.C. (I) Parade at which the salute was taken by the Director of the Corps, the Countess of Carlisle, who met the assembled W.A.C. (I)s of Delhi for the first time.

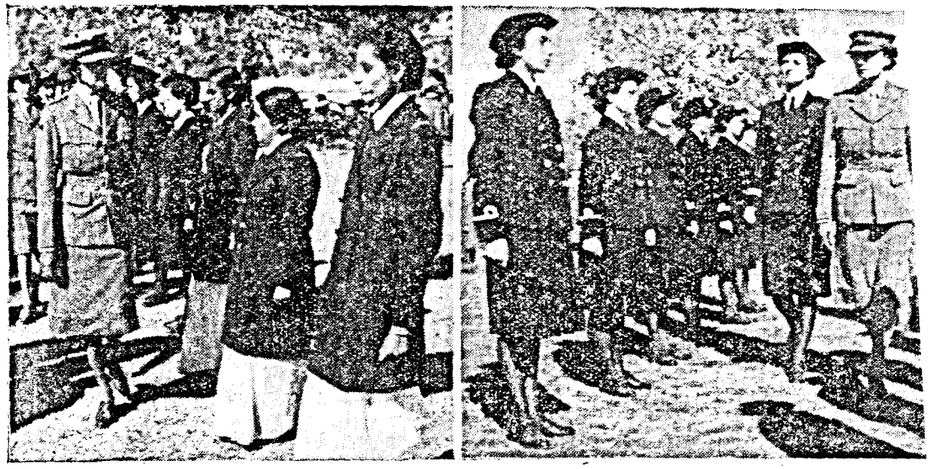
About 600 girls, Officers and Auxiliaries of the Army, Navy and Air Force took part in the parade. Of the 14 platoons present, one was the Delhi Naval platoon; three were from the Delhi Wireless Company; three from the R.A.F. Company; four from the Army Company, and the remaining three consisted of W.A.C. (I) Staff Officers serving in Delhi in the Army, Navy and Air Force respectively.

Awaiting the arrival of the Chief Commander were the two Deputy Chief Commanders, W.A.C. (I), Mrs. M. E. Douglas and Miss K. Shanthi Ranga Rao; Chief Officer Cooper, Deputy Director W.A.C. (I) Naval Wing and Regional Commander Dennys, Assistant Director W.A.C. (I) G.H.Q., New Delhi. The last two officers received the Chief Commander when she arrived at midday. The parade was taken by Senior Commander Burkett, Acting Assistant Director, W.A.C. (I), Delhi District.

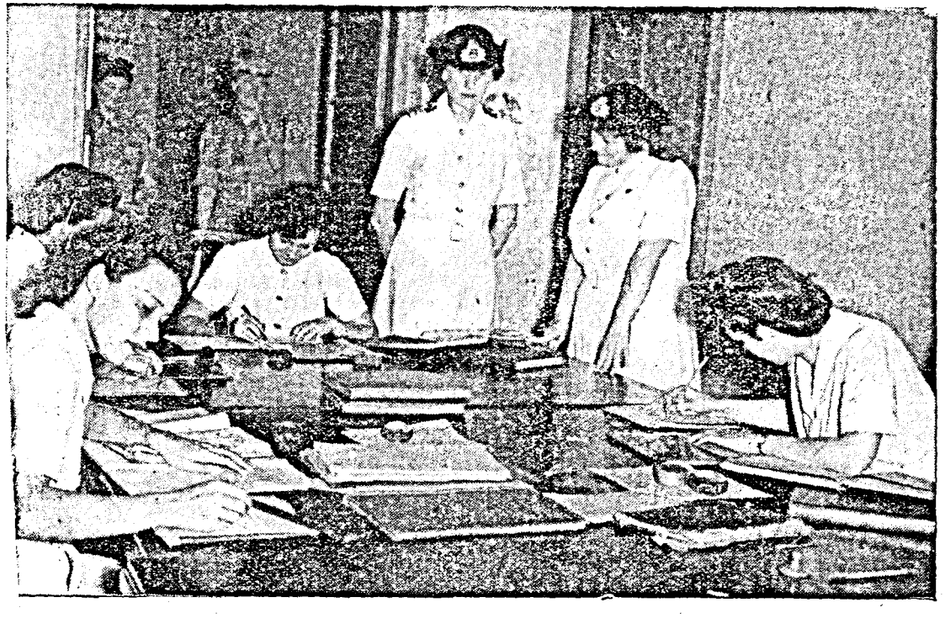
High Standard of Turn-out

Having inspected all ranks, Lady Carlisle returned to the saluting base to take the salute as Auxiliaries of the three Services led by the Naval platoon, marched past. Particularly impressive was the large number of Indian girls clad in *sarees*, khaki and white, on parade, and the high standard of turn-out and marching even in young members of the Corps.

The Pipe Band of the 6th Rajputana Rifles played during the inspection and the march past.



The Countess of Carlisle, Chief Commander, Inspecting the Delhi Naval Platoon (left) and Officers of the Naval Contingent (right).



Appearing in naval uniform for the first time with the distinction lace of Commodore (Second Class) the Chief Commander of W.A.C. (I.) recently inspected Naval Wing officers and auxiliaries at work in Calcutta. Here, Lady Carlisle sees auxiliaries engaged in cypher work.

H.M.I.S. "JAHANARA"

Naval WACS' Training Centre

UNDER the shadow of the fortress of the warrior queen Chand Bibi at Ahmednagar, in the heart of Bombay Presidency, is a training centre where girls from all over Southern and Western India are enthusiastically preparing themselves to play their part in the country's defence.

Opened a few months ago, this Inter-Services W.A.C. (I) Recruits Training Centre bids fair to inherit the traditions established by the courageous queen of the Deccan.

It has its own R.I.N. Section, called H.M.I.S. Jahanara after the famous Mughal princess and officered by members of the W.A.C. (I) Naval Wing. Here recruits to the Naval Wing, in their smart Service uniform, receive three weeks' preliminary training before they proceed to H.M.I. establishments for instruction in important duties ashore as cypher operators and coders, confidential book correctors, etc. They have comfortable quarters and mess rooms, while ample facilities are available for recreation.

Vice-Admiral J. H. Godfrey's Visit

H.M.I.S. Jahanara—which bears a ship's name in accordance with Naval custom—was recently visited by Vice-Admiral J. H. Godfrey, Flag Officer Commanding the Royal Indian Navy. Accompanied by the Commandant of the Centre, Senior Commander J. M. Worthington, and Third Officer M. Hildrith, of the W.A.C. (I) Naval Wing, he inspected all sections of the Centre.

In an address to the auxiliaries, the Admiral emphasised the vital nature of the duties they would perform for the R.I.N., and pointed out the value their training would be after the war, especially in civil employment.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO GOVERNMENT LOANS

During the eight weeks ended January 27, 1945, Rs. 35 crores were invested in Central Government Loans, of which 20 2-3 crores represent subscriptions to the 3 per cent Victory Loan, 1957, and Rs. 14⅓ crores other loans on sale through the Reserve Bank.

W.A.C.(I) STAFF COLLEGE OPENED AT QUETTA

A new chapter has been added to the history of the Women's Defence Services, India, with the opening of the W.A.C. (I) Staff College at Quetta on January 20. Four months from this date a batch of 36 officers will have completed the first half Staff College course for women in India.

In his inaugural address Brigadier H. Collingridge who opened the College explained the object of the course and outlined the syllabus and methods of study. "The course aims at turning out efficient staff officers able to take their place in any branch of the Army," he said.

The course covers all branches of work for Junior Staff Officers in the Army. Subjects range from office routine to precis writing, public speaking, intelligence duties, handling of stores and transport. Advanced training is provided on purely W.A.C. (I) subjects to give the students a full understanding of the Corps.

"The eyes of all members of the Staff College will be upon you," said the Commandant, enjoining a high standard of discipline and turnout upon the students. In conclusion, he stressed the four basic principles of good staff work, namely, uniformly hard work on all subjects; logical thinking and clear expression; thorough knowledge and grasp of detail; team work and all-round co-operation.

Picturesque Surroundings

Deputy Chief Commander Mrs. Douglas, deputising for the Countess of Carlisle, Director of the Corps, said that the Women's Auxiliary Corps, India, was still a young organisation. Considering that it had taken nearly three years to organise the A.T.S. Training College at Bagshot it was a matter for gratification that a W.A.C. (I) Staff College had come into being at this stage of the Corps' history. She congratulated the students on the signal honour of being selected as the first batch to be trained as W.A.C. (I) Staff Officers.

The course is being conducted in picturesque surroundings in Jacob Lines, Quetta, in a newly constructed wing of buildings with a lecture hall, information, reading, study and discussion rooms, and administrative offices. In marked contrast to the official looking College is an earthquake-proof two-storeyed mess building and living quarters with spacious grounds and comfortable interior.

VICEROY ENTERTAINS INDIAN SOLDIERS

SEVERAL hundred Indian officers and men, guests of the Viceroy at two parties at his House in New Delhi in the first week of February, will carry away with them happy memories of the occasion when they were honoured by the highest in the land.

Over 1,200 men of the 6th Rajputana Rifles, 14th Punjab Regiment, Rampur State Forces, R.I.A.S.C., I.E.M.E. and I.A.L.C, and also 150 convalescents from an Indian Military Hospital were entertained by Lord Wavell. In an atmosphere of complete informality, His Excellency chatted in Urdu with the 'jawans' about their campaigning experiences, their homes and their domestic affairs.

The men gathered eagerly around the Viceroy, in the spirit of serving soldiers meeting a distinguished military leader. Bonds of comradeship forged on battlefield and parade ground were further strengthened by these friendly exchanges.

Many of the men had seen action in the Middle East and wore the Africa Star. The names Keren, Halfaya Pass and Tunisia cropped up in the conversation. Among those who proudly recalled that they had fought under Field-Marshal Wavell in the Middle East Campaign were Subedar Bhim Ram, I.O.M., I.D.S.M., 6th Rajputana Rifles, of Hissar district, and Sepoy Maskeen Khan, of Campbellpore.

In the beautiful Moghul Gardens the guests had tea with a number of Indian ladies. Among them were Lady Mitter, wife of the Advocate-General; Mrs. Vaidyanathan, wife of the Representative of the Ceylon Government; Lady Roy, wife of the Secretary, War Transport Department; Lady Kharegat, wife of the Additional Secretary, Education, Health and Lands Department; Mrs. Ram Chandra, wife of the Secretary, Commerce Department; and Mrs. Trivedi, wife of the Secretary, War Department.

After tea the party adjourned to the ballroom of the Viceroy's House, where they saw a show staged by artistes of the New Minerva Theatrical Company. It was voted a great success and the 'jawans' left the Viceroy's House well content after a most enjoyable evening.

The Government of India have decided to purchase the Sialkot-Narowal Railway on April 1, 1946, and the required notice has been served on the Railway Company, said a Press Communique issued by the Railway Department (Railway Board) on February 16.

I.A.F. PLAQUE PRESENTED TO MAHARAJA OF SIKKIM

A bronze plaque of the crest of No. 1 Squadron, Indian Air Force, was presented recently to H. H. the Maharaja of Sikkim State, in memory of his eldest son, Pilot Officer Paljor Namgyl who was killed while on active service in an aircraft crash in December 1941.

P|O Paljor Namgyl, who was aged 20 at the time of his death, joined I.A.F. in 1940 and, after his training, was posted to No. 1 Squadron.

The plaque, a gift of the I.A.F., was presented to His Highness, on behalf of H.E. the Viceroy, by F|Lt. A. N. Aindley, who travelled to Gangtok, the capital of the State, by air, road and rail.

The ceremony at which the presentation was made was attended by the Political Officer, Sir Basil Gould, members of the Ruling Family, officers and notables of the State. His Highness, accepting the plaque, expressed his gratitude to H. E. the Viceroy and the Air Officer Commanding, India Command.

Before presenting the plaque, F|Lt. Aindley exchanged scarves with His Highness on behalf of the Viceroy and the Air Officer Commanding.

The Maharaja, it is understood, is building a new girls' school. The plaque will be fixed in the building to perpetuate the memory of his late son.

H.M.I.S. "SITA"

"I name this ship H.M.I.S. *Sita*. With these words Commodore M.W.St.L. Searle, Chief of Staff to the Commander-in-Chief, East Indies, opened the first R.I.N. establishment to be commissioned outside India.

Actually not a ship but a shore establishment in Ceylon, H.M.I.S. *Sita* is devoted to the welfare of officers and men of the Royal Indian Navy in transit. It provides accommodation and recreation for them until their ships arrive in Ceylon or they can proceed by train to India. It looks after them during short periods of leave while their ships are in harbour.

Comfortable buildings of the Dutch Colonial type are fronted by playing fields available only for "residents" but also for visiting teams from H.M.I. Ships. Dinghies and whalers can be sailed nearby. The establishment has its own cinema and canteens.

VEHICLE VETS IN PAIFORCE—

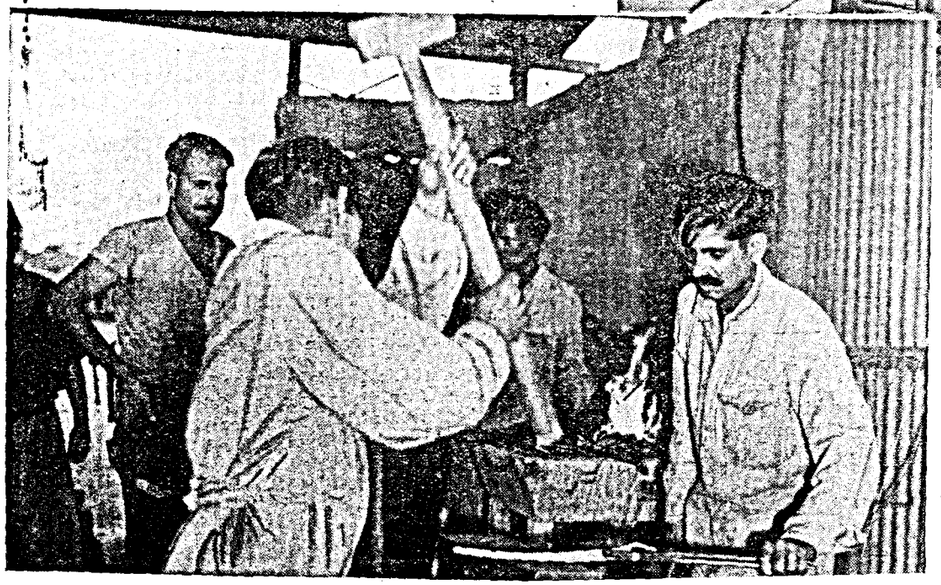


Mechanics hard at work on a row of "Aid to Russia" lorries.

Cars, Jeeps, trucks, lorries, armoured vehicles, motor cycles—all are "grist to the mill" of a Mobile Workshop in Paiforce. Here, not only are repairs done, but engines are renovated, new bodies built, spare parts manufactured and all the various ills of motor vehicles attended to. In this work, Indian fitters, mechanics and workshop personnel play a big part.



"The smith, a mighty man was he." At the forge.





Indian mechanics at work on an armoured vehicle.

In the lathe section of the workshop.



Finishing touches being given to lorries and trucks.



INDIAN WAR PRISONERS RETURN FROM EUROPE

A BATCH of 19 sick Indian (Bengali) merchant seamen, ex-prisoners of war from Europe, recently arrived in Bombay from London in a hospital ship. They were received by officers of the Commerce Department, given medical treatment, provided with comforts and amenities and sent to Calcutta in a Special Military Ward Coach attached to an Ambulance Train.

These brave men risked their lives in distant waters in the discharge of a vital duty connected with the war. viz., transport of essential men and materials.

Reception in Bombay

Fourteen of the group were suffering from tuberculosis and the rest from other diseases. When the hospital ship carrying them arrived in Bombay, they were received at the harbour by the Shipping Master, Special Officer for Amenities for Indian seamen at that port and the Resident Medical Officer of the Sir J. J. Group of Hospitals and immediately taken to the J. J. Hospital, where they were detained for treatment until they were in a fit condition to proceed on their journey to Calcutta.

The food given in the hospital was supplemented by rice and fish—favourite dishes of the Bengalis—and fruits from the market, for which money was supplied by the Shipping Master and the Amenities Officer.

In order to enable them to make certain purchases in Bombay, the Shipping Master gave them an advance of Rs. 50 each against their wages. He also supplied them with such essential articles as steel trunks, towels, sandals, shirts, bed-sheets, etc., at a cost of Rs. 50 for each man; he gave them each a warm coat, costing Rs. 47 each, at the time of their departure to Calcutta. These gifts were supplemented by the Amenities Officer with such necessaries as mattresses, pillows, bed-sheets, blankets and canvas hand holdalls, the set costing Rs. 58 per person.

On behalf of the Indian Red Cross Society, gift parcels were distributed to the seamen, each parcel containing a towel, a shaving mirror, a cake of soap, a packet of dried fruits and a packet of cigarettes. Books and magazines, in Bengalee and Urdu, were also supplied to them.

In addition, post cards were supplied, to enable them to write to their friends and relations. Money was given for purchase of medicines.

A gramophone, with 30 records, was available to the seamen for entertainment during their sojourn in Bombay.

The men were eager to attend a cinema show; but the doctors advised that the 14 seamen suffering from tuberculosis and another from eye trouble could not bear the strain of a show. Consequently, only the remaining four were taken to a show by the Indian Red Cross Society.

The Reserve Bank of India helped the seamen by giving rupees in exchange for British, Egyptian and U.S.A. currencies which they had with them. They had also passbooks of German banks. Nothing could be done with them here—probably one more item for the final settlement of accounts with Germany when the war is over!

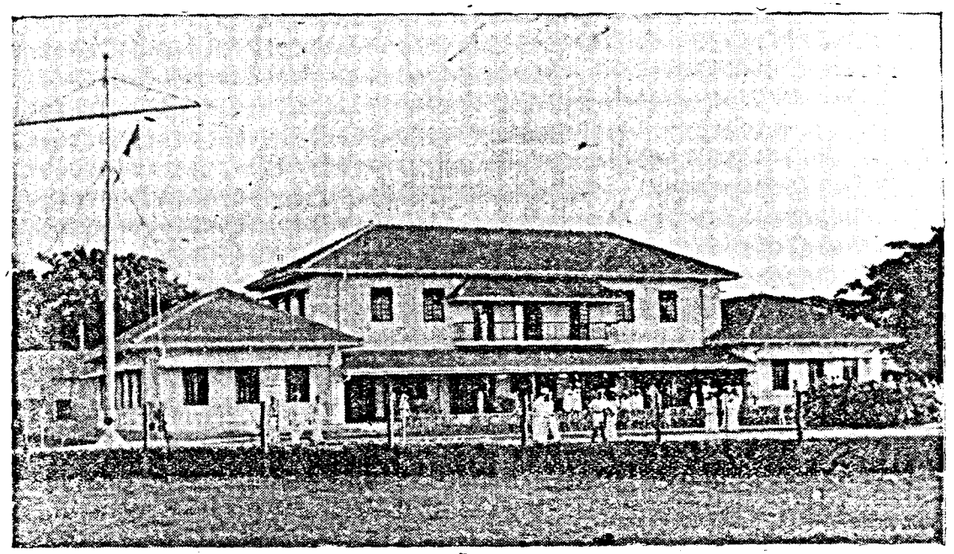
After a few days' rest, medical treatment and recouperation in Bombay, the train journey to Calcutta commenced—in a special Military War Coach of an Ambulance Train. They were seen off at the Victoria Terminus by officers and others interested in their welfare. Fruits were supplied to them for use during the journey. The attending doctor and two ward boys of the J. J. Hospital accompanied them to Calcutta.

At Calcutta

When the train steamed into Howrah, the seamen were received by officers of the Commerce Department and others interested in their welfare and immediately conveyed to a separate ward of the Campbell Hospital in nine ambulances, by special arrangement with the Surgeon-General with the Government of Bengal.

Adequate arrangements have been made during their stay in the hospital for their food, clothes, fruits, and other necessaries and comforts. The hospital authorities have issued sufficient new bedding and blankets. Officers of the Indian Seamen's Amenities Organisation are regularly visiting them and attending to their requirements.

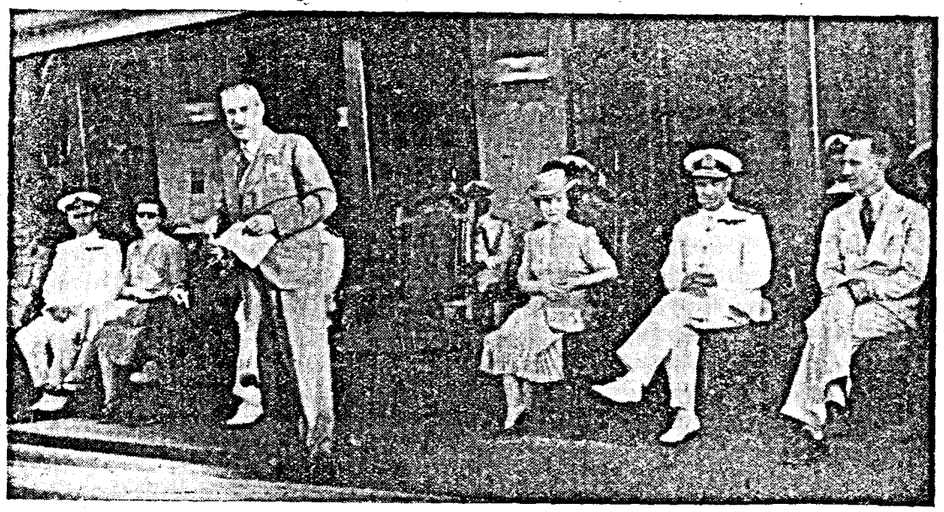
They are being looked after every day by the hospital staff. Their near relations have been informed of their arrival and the seamen, though broken in health, are happy in the company of their near and dear ones whom they had not seen for some years. Every effort is being made to nurse them back to normal health as quickly as possible.



The Cornwallis Fleet Club for R.I.N. Ratings which was opened in Bombay recently by H.E. Sir John Colville, Governor of the Province.

The Shipping Master having previously completed the necessary arrangements for payments, the seamen are now receiving their dues.

H.E. the Viceroy is taking a keen interest in the provision of amenities to Indian seamen at the ports. So far Rs. 5,97,500 have been contributed for the purpose from his War Purposes Fund.



H.E. the Governor of Bombay declaring the Club open.

WELFARE OF INDIAN SERVICEMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES

BROADCASTING from All India Radio, Major-General H. V. Lewis, Director of Education, Welfare and Resettlement, gave details of a new Army venture—the Fauji Sevadarni Scheme—for the welfare of servicemen's families.

"In heavily recruited areas many families have no ablebodied members present in the villages to represent complaints or to make enquiries and it is in such cases that our Fauji Sevadarnis—women welfare workers—have proved their worth," said Major-General Lewis.

"They are ready to give advice, write letters for illiterate wives or mothers or listen to and help to redress grievances. Already they have been instrumental in bringing to light many complaints which would never have been unearthed by male welfare workers."

Eventually it is hoped to have a *sevadarni* in every group of villages which have provided fighting men in any numbers.

This scheme is in addition to the civilian District Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Boards and the Civil Liaison Organisation which is a military body working in close contact.

"It is the duty and charter of the District Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Boards to do all in their power to redress the legitimate grievances of serving men and ex-servicemen," said Major-General Lewis.

Civil Liaison Organisation

The Civil Liaison Organisation, which is staffed by serving military officers, ensures that machinery exists to meet war requirements and to deal with the many problems which are bound to arise after the war. Through this organisation General Headquarters is able to watch and safeguard the interests of the enlisted classes.

As for the soldiers themselves, funds allotted to unit commanders and those held in reserve by Army Headquarters may be spent to provide amenities. Such items as sports gear, indoor games, literature and musical instruments are purchased from the central amenities store at Jhansi which also supplies them to Indian troops overseas. On festive occasions extra fare is given to troops.



Lady Louis Mountbatten talking to a wounded soldier in a Base General Hospital in Lucknow. She is touring India and S.E.A. Commands to see for herself the work of the St. John Ambulance Brigade and the Red Cross.



Comforts and other gifts being distributed to Indian troops overseas.

Fauji Dilkush Sabha

Fauji Dilkush Sabha, the Indian counterpart of the British E.N.S.A., was established in April, 1944. At present it has 28 parties touring India and seven overseas. Its controller is an Indian Army Officer and the staff are civilians.

Institutes of various types are provided for soldiers' recreation hours. They consist of rooms for games, reading and resting. Wireless sets have been installed and food can be bought at low cost. Cinemas and swimming pools have been constructed in many places where the number of troops justifies the outlay.

The 18th Session of the National Defence Council will be held at the Viceroy's House, New Delhi, on April 16, 17 and 18, 1945. H. E. the Viceroy will preside.

FAMILY ASSISTANCE BUREAU

Large numbers of relatives of servicemen in India have been helped by the Family Assistance Bureau at G.H.Q., Simla, which since November, 1942 has been available to the families of officers and British other ranks, including girls of the W.A.C. (I.) as an institution to which they could appeal for help or advice when in difficulty

The Family Assistance Bureau is a link between the officials at G.H.Q. and military families, particularly war separated families. The officer in charge is a W.A.C. (I.) and families may correspond direct with her on any question they wish to raise.

Families requiring advice or assistance should in the first instance approach the nearest station Staff Officer or W.V.S. Bureau. If neither of these is able to deal adequately with the particular problem the families should apply direct to the Officer-in-Charge, Family Assistance Bureau, Adjutant General's Branch, G.H.Q., Simla.

The Bureau works in close liaison with the W.V.S. Central Committee and there is a W.V.S. Liaison Officer working with the Bureau. The

W.V.S. maintain a card index of war separated families and are thus able to pass on information derived from official orders and publications which affect families.

War separated wives are advised in their own interests to register with the nearest W.V.S. Bureau and to keep them informed of any subsequent change of address.

The Bureau does not cater for the families of Viceroy's Commissioned Officers or Indian other ranks, who are the responsibility of the Civil Liaison Organization.

AID FROM INDIAN DEFENCE SERVICES BENEVOLENT FUND

The Indian Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Board at the first half-yearly distribution of relief for 1944 from the Indian Defence Services Benevolent Fund made grants amounting to Rs. 1,37,805 to ex-soldiers and their dependants in the various provinces and administrations as shown below:

Punjab Rs. 48,430; Madras Rs. 39,885; United Provinces Rs. 13,030; North-West Frontier Province Rs. 9,800; Rajputana Rs. 7,770; Kashmir (including Poonch) Rs. 5,270; Bombay Rs. 4,350; Punjab States Rs. 2,310; Mysore Rs. 2,160; Hyderabad (Deccan Rs. 1,410; Nepal (for Gurkha ex-soldiers and their dependants) Rs. 900; Bihar Rs. 480; Deccan States Rs. 480; Bengal Rs. 390; Delhi Rs. 330; Madras States Rs. 270; Central India Rs. 210; Central Provinces Rs. 180; and Orissa Rs. 150.

Among those helped was an old sowar of the Mardan District with two wives and seven minor children. He was awarded a grant of Rs. 150 for two years for maintenance.

An old and totally blind Sepoy of Rawalpindi District was given a relief of Rs. 150 for two years for maintenance.

Four minor orphan children of a deceased sepoy of Alwar State were awarded a grant of Rs. 150 for two years for maintenance.

Another recipient of relief is a naik with nine dependants belonging to Poonch State, Kashmir. He was given a lump sum grant of Rs. 100 for the marriage of his daughter.

The Indian Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Board have also made grants amounting to Rs. 32,460 from the newly constituted fund for the dependants of deceased Viceroy's Commissioned and Indian Warrant Officers.

C.-IN-C.'S PARTY TO MEN OF HIS REGIMENT

OVER 500 Indian Officers and men of the 1st Punjab Regiment were the guests of General Sir Claude Auchinleck at his house in New Delhi. Members of the famous "Ball of Fire" Division—the Fifth Indian Division—they proudly displayed their divisional sign of a red circle on a black background.

These veterans, many of them wearing decorations for bravery, have seen much service both in the Middle East and more recently in Burma, and are now passing through Delhi ready for further Jap hunting after a short spell of leave. The spacious lawns of the C.-in-C.'s house were crowded with bearded Sikhs, sturdy Punjabi Mussalmans, tall, stately Rajputs, and rugged Jats.

General Auchinleck whose own regiment is the 1st Punjab, chatted with the men asking them how they spent their leave, how deep the snow was round their homes in the Punjab hills and whether the crop situation in their district was good.

Music was provided by the band of the 6th Rajputana Rifles, looking smart in their white tunics and dark green breeches, the pipers wearing green plaids and the drummers leopard skin aprons. They ended by playing the Regimental March of the 1st Punjab—"Blue Bonnets over the Border."

The Indian officers present were introduced to the C.-in-C. who sat down to a meal with them. As the 500 *jawans* who had been honoured by their Chief marched off when the party was over, the air was rent by mighty shouts of their battle cries.

Among those present were:—Lieut.-General Muhammad Umar Khan, Chief of the General Staff, Afghan Army, Lieut.-General Sir John des R. Swayne, Chief of the General Staff, India Command, and Brigadier Muhammad Arif Khan, a member of the Afghan Military Mission.

H.E. SIR ARTHUR HOPE

H. M. the King, has been pleased to approve that H. E. the Hon'ble Sir Arthur Hope, G.C.I.E., M.C., Governor of Madras, should continue to hold office for a further period of six months expiring on September 12, 1945, said a communique issued from the Viceroy's House on February 26.



Maj.-Gen. Roland Richardson.

NEW COMMANDER FOR SIND DISTRICT

MAJ.-GEN. ROLAND RICHARDSON, C.B., M.C., Fortress Commander, Trincomalee, has been appointed Commander, Sind District, in succession to Maj-Gen. N. G. Hind, C.S.I., I.C., who is proceeding on leave pending retirement.

Maj-Gen. Richardson is 48. He was commissioned in the Indian Army in 1914 and posted to Coke's Rifles, Frontier Force, which later became 1st battalion, 13 Frontier Force Rifles. He saw service in World War I on the North-West Frontier and in German East Africa, winning the M.C. in 1917. Later he took part in the operations in South Persia and in the Third Afghan War.

Most of his early army career was spent on the North-West Frontier, in Waziristan and Kurdistan. For his services in Waziristan in 1936-37 he was mentioned in despatches. Earlier, after a course in the Staff College, he held various staff appointments.

At the outbreak of this war he was commanding the first battalion, 13th Frontier Force Rifles. In the early days of the war he held a senior staff appointment in the Staff Duties Directorate, G.H.Q. He again saw service in Iraq and Persia in 1941 as commander of the 26th Indian Infantry Brigade.

For six months in 1942 Maj.-Gen. Richardson was commanding the Seventh Indian Division before he took on the task, as Chief Administrator of martial law in Sind, of pacifying the Hurs.

In April, 1943, he became Deputy Chief of Staff, G.H.Q., and towards the end of that year went to Ceylon as Fortress Commander, Trincomalee.

Maj.-Gen. N. G. Hind

Maj.-Gen. Neville Godfray Hind was commissioned in 1911 and posted to 2nd Gurkha Rifles. He was educated at Winchester and Woolwich. During his service in the last war in France and Egypt he was mentioned in despatches.

In 1919-20 he took part in the Afghanistan and Waziristan campaigns and was wounded at Makin during the Mahsud operations, when he was leading a company of 4-3 Gurkha Rifles. He won his M.C. here.

After graduating from the Staff College, Quetta, he held various staff appointments, became Assistant Secretary to the Committee of Imperial Defence and after regimental duties became Deputy Secretary, Defence Department, in 1938.

Before he went to Sind in 1942 as Commander he was in Jubbulpore as area commander, for two years. Here he was associated with the establishment of ordnance and other training centres.

KHAN BAHADUR YAHYA ALI

In consequence of the grant of leave to the Hon'ble Mr. Justice King, Kt., I.C.S., a Judge of the Madras High Court, for the period from March 5 to April 28, 1945, the Governor-General has been pleased to appoint Khan Bahadur Yahya Ali, at present President of the Income-Tax Appellate Tribunal, to act as a Judge of the Madras High Court during Mr. Justice King's absence on leave.



Commander S. G. Karmarkar, M.B.E., R.I.N.R.

COMMANDER KARMARKAR

Now in command of one of the Royal Indian Navy's latest sloops off the Arakan is Commander Sadashiv Ganesh Karmarkar, M.B.E., R.I.N.R., whose home is in Poona.

Commander Karmarkar, who received his first sea training in I.M.M.T.S. "Dufferin," served in the merchant marine for some years. He joined the Royal Indian Navy in November 1939. In the following year he was in command of H.M.I.S. *Ratnagiri* in the Red Sea, having escorted a large convoy of troops for the Middle East on the outward journey. In the face of attacks by bombers and shore batteries *Ratnagiri* convoyed troops to Mersa Taclai and other ports for the Eritrean operations.

When Massawa fell, *Ratnagiri* swept the approach channels for enemy mines. Later she carried Mahratta troops to occupy islands off the port and round up many hundreds of Italians and Germans. For his services in this campaign Commander Karmarkar was awarded the M.B.E.

Since then he has been in command of H.M.I. ships on convoy escort duties and has held important staff appointments, including that of Executive Officer and acting Commanding Officer of H.M.I.S. *Bahadur*, the R.I.N. Boys' Training Establishment at Karachi.

GEORGE MEDAL FOR AMERICAN VOLUNTEER

For evacuating casualties under heavy and continuous enemy artillery fire during operations along the Palel-Tamu road, Volunteer Neil Mcdowdell Gilliam of an American Field Ambulance Unit has been awarded the George Medal.

Volunteer Gilliam's task was to evacuate casualties in jeep ambulances from the forward areas. On the evening of June 9, 1944, the scraggy and pyramid features on the Palel-Tamu Road were subjected to heavy enemy fire, causing many casualties. Undeterred by the shelling and bombs falling on the road, Volunteer Gilliam made numerous trips in his jeep into the danger area to evacuate casualties. Between trips, although it was well outside his duty, he left his jeep on the road and went up into the company position where the fire was heaviest, and assisted in carrying casualties to the regimental aid post and in bandaging them.

Crawling along the shattered trenches and paying not the slightest attention to the flying splinters he continued his search for the wounded. He was also seen in the front line helping men to adjust their field dressings.

"Volunteer Gilliam's cheerfulness and devotion to duty were beyond all praise," says the citation. "His one thought was to render the maximum aid to the wounded and to do this he was willing to face any risk. His encouragement, cheerfulness and complete disregard for the heaviest fire while carrying out his self-imposed task had a most heartening effect on the men and earned their deepest respect and admiration."

GRANTS FOR EX-SOLDIERS AND THEIR DEPENDANTS

Grants amounting to Rs. 7,870 were made to ex-soldiers and their dependants by the Indian Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Board at the first half-yearly distribution of relief for 1944 from the Defence Forces Relief Fund. The total was divided among the various provinces and administrations as follows:

Punjab, Rs. 3,050; United Provinces, Rs. 2,480; North-West Frontier Province, Rs. 720; Rajputana, Rs. 610; Kashmir (including Poonch), Rs. 400; Punjab States, Rs. 280; Madras, Rs. 150; Bombay, Rs. 90 and Central India, Rs. 90.



"Ducks," special amphibious craft, are being used for the first time to ferry supplies across the Irrawaddy to troops in forward areas. Here, men of the Indian Pioneer Corps unload atta and rice from a "Duck."

TRAINING CENTRE FOR INDIAN PIONEERS

THROUGH the jungles of Burma, across the plains and deserts of North Africa and deep into the heart of Italy, men of the Indian Pioneer Corps have literally done the spadework without which our victories in these theatres could never have been achieved.

I have just visited one of the Pioneers' training centres in South India, writes an Indian Army Observer. It is a tented township of many thousands of men and stretches several miles.

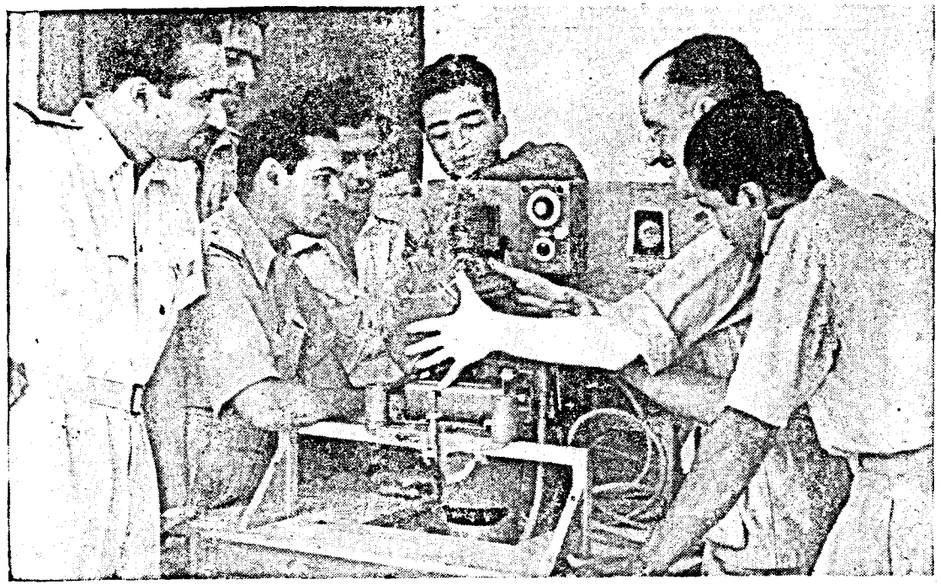
In this flourishing well-made camp the men stay several months and learn discipline and self-reliance, are hardened physically and study the basic training of their duties in the field. They learn economy and general knowledge and attend welfare and educational classes.

When the recruits arrive a strict medical examination is carried out by half-a-dozen doctors. During their whole training period these men are continually under medical supervision.

Their training at first is in the use of the pick and shovel, economy of labour, handling of stores, loading and unloading of all types of vehicles, wagons and trains. Drill and guard duties



Indian Pioneers construct a flood bank near the "Ubique" Bailey Bridge over the Marrachia river, near Rimini.



Officer pupils of an Air Training Class learn about the Air Camera from the Photography Instructor.

with weapons is included in their training and they also play various kinds of games all new to them but soon enjoyed and demanded.

Colonel Arthur Newton, O.B.E., who commands the depot, has a large permanent staff and the responsibility of feeding about 27,000 men a day, apart from their training, clothing and drafting.

They have at the centre one of the best regimental bands in Southern India and certainly the only band in India where the members also do Scottish dances. The Regimental March, appropriately enough is "Off To Work We Go" from the film 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" and the recruits love it.

Attached to the centre is a hospital run by an Indian matron, Miss S. Holmes of Orissa and staffed by Indian sisters, one of whom, Miss K. Lees of Calcutta, has seen service abroad.

Mrs. T. J. Ammal of Ernakulam, Cochin, is another sister and a third is Miss E. Cardoza from Madras, who gave up office work to nurse Indian soldiers. Miss Cardoza says she has never regretted the change: it is obvious that both patients and staff are happy.

Indian Air Training Corps

WITHIN two years of its inauguration on February 13, 1943, the Indian Air Training Corps Scheme has been extended to cover all the 19 Indian Universities including three Universities in the Indian States.

Students in India have now an opportunity for preparing and training for a career in the flying branch of the Indian Air Force while they are at their regular studies. At the end of the training which this scheme offers it is left to them to decide for themselves whether they wish to join the Service.

During the training, candidates not only receive instruction on ground subjects such as theory of flight, aircraft recognition, aero engines etc., but also experience of at least three hours flying, approaching more closely to service conditions.

The support and enthusiasm the scheme has received both from the alumni and the University authorities during the two years of its existence emphasises the fact that the educated youth of this country is looking towards the I.A.F. as a career.

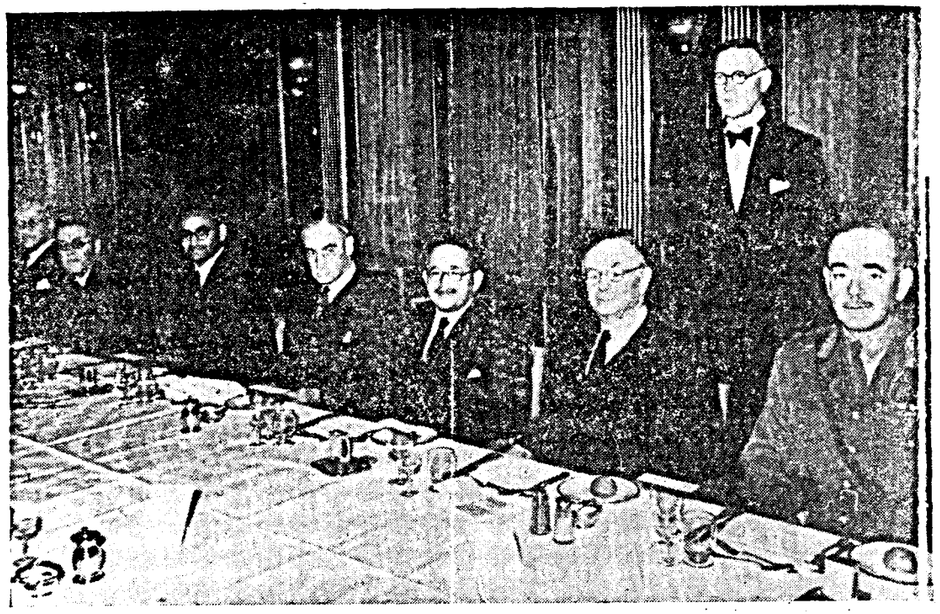
Issued fortnightly by J. Natarajan, Principal Information Officer, Government of India. Printed in India by E. G. Tilt (Manager) at The Civil & Military Gazette, Ltd., Lahore: Communications for the Editor should be addressed to the Bureau of Public Information. Government of India, Lahore, and not to the Printers.

INDIAN INFORMATION



Vol. No. 156: March 15, 1945
Issued Fortnightly by the
Principal Information Officer,
Government of India

THE CENTRAL BUDGET



The Mission headed by Sir Akbar Hydari (Secretary of the Industries and Civil Supplies Department, Government of India) which is in London to discuss with representatives of His Majesty's Government means of sustaining India's war effort at the present high level, was entertained at a Government luncheon held at Claridges on February 7.
Picture shows (seated from right to left)—Lieut.-Gen. K. M. Loch, Master-General of the Ordnance, G.H.Q., India; Mr. L. S. Amery, Secretary of State for India; Sir Akbar Hydari; Sir David Monteath, Permanent Under-Secretary of State, India Office; Mr. Mohammad Ali, Additional Financial Adviser, Military Finance Department, Government of India; Sir Bernard Gilbert, H.M. Treasury; Sir David Meek, Deputy High Commissioner for India.

Vol. 16 No. 156. INDIAN INFORMATION March 15, 1945.

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

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

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

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

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

MAIN CONTENTS

	Page
The 19th Indian Division in action in Burma.	361
Maj.-Gen. T. W. Rees	363
Gen. Mark Clark's tribute to Indian troops.	366
New Pilots for R.I.A.F.	368
The National War Front—Mr. G. S. Bozman's statement in Central Assembly	370
Second meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee on Technical Training	375
Telecommunication Services in the Commonwealth	378
Dr. N. B. Khare on Anti-Indian Legislation in South Africa	382
Development of the Port of Calcutta ..	386

Cover Picture: Midshipman Ganendra Singh, R.I.N.V.R., brother of the Maharaja of Patiala, is serving in Burma aboard an R.I.N. sloop. The picture was taken during the Myebon operations and shows him at his action station with an A.A. pom-pom.



Sir Jeremy Raisman giving the finishing touches to the General Budget for 1945-46.

THE BUDGET, 1945-46: FINANCE MEMBER'S SPEECH IN THE CENTRAL ASSEMBLY

PRESENTING the Sixth War Budget relating to 1945-46 in the Indian Legislative Assembly on February 28, the Hon'ble Sir Jeremy Raisman, Finance Member, Government of India, disclosed a revenue deficit of Rs. 155.77 crores in the Revised Estimates of the current financial year and Rs. 163.89 crores in the Budget Estimates for the next year. The Revised Estimates of Defence Expenditure for 1944-45 amount to Rs. 397.23 crores and Rs. 59.41 crores under the Revenue and Capital heads, respectively, as against the original estimates of Rs. 276.61 crores and Rs. 24.60 crores, respectively. The Finance Member announced that an agreement had been reached with His Majesty's Government regarding the allocation during the War of Non-effective charges, like pensions and gratuities paid to personnel of the Defence Services and their dependants, as a result of which an annual saving of Rs. 60 lakhs would accrue to the defence revenue budget.

Here is the full text of Sir Jeremy Raisman's speech:

"Last year, when presenting the fifth war budget to this House, I referred to the period through which India had been recently passed as one of economic storm. This year, in presenting the sixth war budget, it is possible to refer to the twelve months which lie behind us as one of relative consolidation and stability in the economic field, in strong contrast to the dramatic events which have been taking place on the field of battle. In Europe, in Asia and in the Pacific the tide has more than turned; the enemy is at bay and who can doubt that 1945 will bring final victory, at least in Europe?

These heartening achievements have helped, and abundantly helped, the battle on the economic front also; they are dispelling that fear of an indefinitely prolonged war which contributes to hoarding and to speculation. But important as the psychological consequences of military victories have been I feel I can legitimately claim

that the measures of economic control which were effected in 1943 and which have since been enforced with increasing vigour and determination have also contributed to the result. First and foremost I would put the improvement in the food situation. We are moving forward on three fronts: towards monopolistic government procurement, towards an ever-widening extension of rationing, and now that we have a solid foundation under our feet, towards a wider nutrition policy, which will embrace the protective foods as well as the foodgrains.

Secondly, we have made notable progress in our attempt to maintain prices generally on an even keel, to control the distribution of textile goods and to prevent profiteering of all kinds. The general level of wholesale prices has been subject to fluctuations from time to time, according as a more or less optimistic view was taken of the duration of the war, but prices as a whole do not differ markedly from what they were in the spring and summer of 1943, when our anti-inflationary efforts began to be undertaken on a wide front. It is encouraging to note a greater degree of willingness on the part of the public to co-operate with us and to resent the anti-social activities of certain traders in withholding supplies and of others who do not hesitate to offer or accept bribes in the furtherance of their own selfish interests.

Freer Flow of Imports

Our efforts to improve the economic situation have been greatly assisted by the freer flow of imports—of foodgrains, raw materials and finished products. The House is aware of the fact that a Mission has recently gone to London for the purpose of further discussing with His Majesty's Government the possibility of lightening the load which the continuance of the war imposes on the Indian economy.

I must again emphasise, as on previous occasions, that though individual measures of the kind that I have referred to are indispensable, yet the keystone of our defences, apart from our taxation and loan programmes, lies in the conscious restriction of expenditure by the mass of individuals. Though certain classes of the population have suffered, and continue to suffer, from the fact that their incomes have not yet become fully adjusted to the higher level of prices, yet large and very important classes of the population are now in receipt of money-incomes very much higher than those which they previously enjoyed.

This applies to the industrial population and to the agricultural classes as a whole; to the traders and to the manufacturers. The consumers goods for which they crave are not available and, except in so far as the additional incomes which have been generated by the war are amenable to taxation, the only possibilities are abstention from expenditure and lending to Government. Naturally, at the present time, the latter is the more completely satisfactory solution; not only does such lending greatly assist Government in its anti-inflationary campaign, but it marks a break with the age-old tradition of hoarding, which may well be an even greater obstacle to the rapid progress of India than many of the factors which are more frequently mentioned.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1943-44

I will first, as is customary, give briefly the results of the last financial year. In our revised estimates we expected to end the year with a deficit of Rs. 92.43 crores. The actual deficit turned out to be Rs. 189.79 crores. Defence expenditure exceeded estimates by about Rs. 96 crores. This was due partly to the fact that much of the fighting against the Japanese took place within, instead of wholly outside, India's frontiers and partly to an unexpectedly heavy adjustment in the accounts of the year in respect of vehicles utilised for the initial equipment and maintenance of India's local defence forces. There was also a deterioration of about Rs. 9 crores under Taxes on Income which was offset by an increased contribution from Railways and larger receipts under Excise.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1944-45

Revenue

Coming to the current year, the total revenue receipts are now expected to be Rs. 356.88 crores, an improvement of Rs. 48.60 crores over the budget estimates.

Customs receipts are expected to improve by Rs. 12 crores as a result of larger imports made possible by the general easing of the shipping position. Of this amount, Rs. 2¾ crores are accounted for by the import of locomotives and wagons. Under Central Excise, however, there is a short fall of some Rs. 2 crores, mainly under tobacco, caused by transport difficulties and by reduced cultivation as a result of the drive in favour of food crops.

Taxes on income were expected to yield Rs. 182.5 crores, Rs. 78 crores from excess profits tax and Rs. 104.5 crores from other taxes on income. The progress of regular E.P.T. assessments has been stepped up so that we now expect collections under this head to reach Rs. 110 crores. There is, however, likely to be a fall of Rs. 4½ crores under other taxes on income, which are expected to yield Rs. 100 crores. This figure excludes the collections of approximately Rs. 60 crores under the "Pay-as-you-earn" scheme which are treated for accounting purposes as deposits pending completion of the regular assessments. The divisible pool of income-tax has been taken at Rs. 61.13 crores and the share of the Provinces at Rs. 26.56 crores (including Rs. 49 lakhs on account of the previous year's arrears), or Rs. 2.87 crores more than the budget figure.

An improvement of Rs. 2.56 crores is anticipated under Currency and Mint due mainly to Government's share of the surplus profits of the Reserve Bank increasing from Rs. 7.50 crores to Rs. 10.07 crores.

P. and T. Department's Revenue

The estimates also include Rs. 10.27 crores proposed to be transferred from the two War Risks Insurance Funds to cover the estimated payments this year under the Bombay Explosion (Compensation) Scheme.

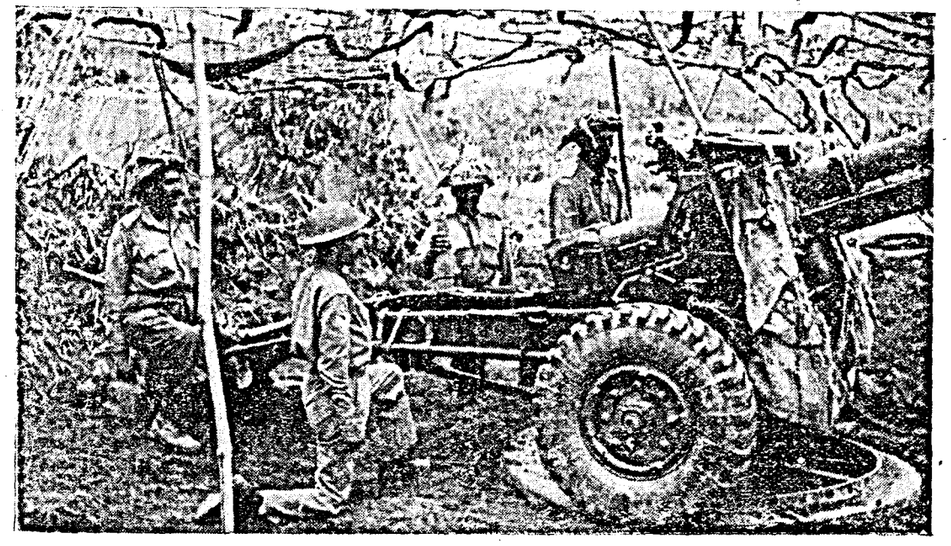
The revenue of the Posts and Telegraphs Department is now estimated at Rs. 28.78 crores, that is, Rs. 86 lakhs more than the budget figure. Expenditure is placed at Rs. 19.46 crores, an increase of Rs. 2.85 crores. The anticipated surplus of Rs. 9.32 crores will accrue to general revenues.

For reasons already made known to the House, it has been decided to stabilise the contribution from Railways to general revenues at Rs. 32 crores for the current and ensuing years.

Expenditure

Defence Services.—Turning to expenditure I begin, as usual, with the defence services. The past year has witnessed a succession of major triumphs for the Allied cause. On the Western front the years of intense effort and patient preparation at last bore fruit and the liberation of France was effected with a dramatic suddenness equal to that of its fall, four years earlier. The Allied forces in this theatre are now fighting on the borders of, and even within, Germany itself. Our progress on the Italian front has, it is true, been slowed down but only at heavy cost to the enemy who have had to lock up in this theatre forces that they very badly needed elsewhere, especially on their Eastern Front.

On that front the Russians, in a succession of titanic offensives sweeping all before them, have succeeded not only in freeing their own territory entirely from the enemy, but also in



A camouflaged gun position in the Imphal area. Here, Punjabi gunners are about to fire on a Jap position.

forcing the capitulation of most of the Axis satellites—Rumania, Bulgaria and Hungary—and are now within striking distance of Berlin itself. With the Russians investing her capital, the other Allies hammering at her Western frontiers, and the Allied air forces continually destroying her centres of war production, it is difficult to see how the final collapse of Germany can be long delayed. Nor is the position of the other surviving Axis partner much less precarious.

The War Against Japan

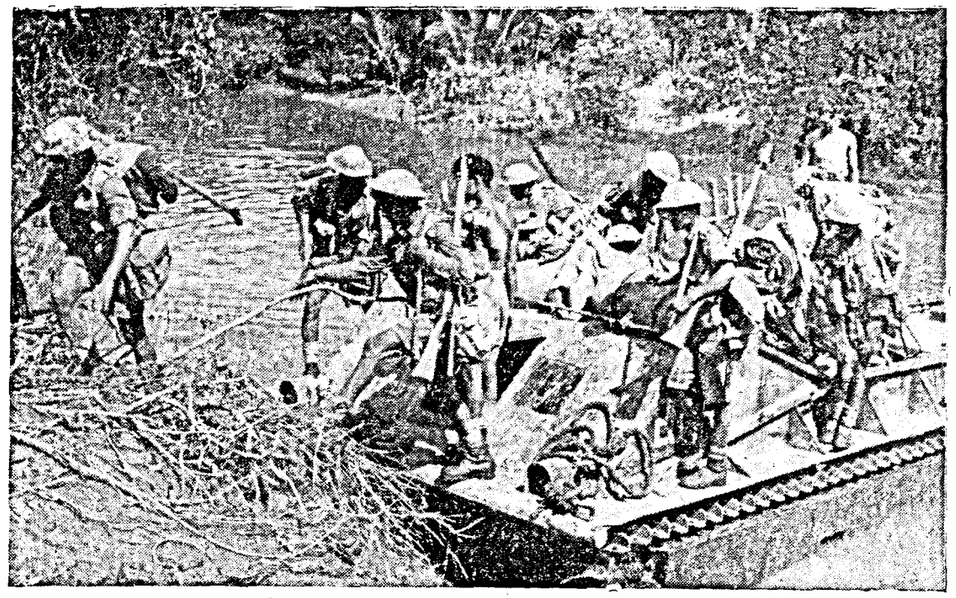
In the Pacific Japan is rapidly being forced to give up her ill-gotten territories; her navy and merchant shipping are disappearing under the combined attacks of the Allied sea and air forces, and she is now being subjected in her turn to the devastation of air attack.

Developments in the S.E.A. theatre, in which India naturally has a special interest, did not take quite the course envisaged at the time of my last budget speech. Before any major offensive based on India could be launched against them, the Japanese took the initiative and committed almost their entire resources in Burma to a large scale assault on India's North-Eastern frontier. Some of the bitterest fighting of the war followed, largely on Indian soil, but the months of rigorous training in jungle warfare based on past painful experience in this theatre, which had been given to our forces, now paid magnificent dividends and, as the House knows, the Japanese suffered a major and decisive defeat. The full magnitude of the disaster inflicted on the Japanese in this brilliant campaign has yet to be revealed but the results to some extent speak for themselves, since not only were such of their forces as survived flung back over the border but the demoralised remains have been in continuous retreat, suffering heavy losses in men and munitions of war in the process. As a result the whole of Northern Burma has now been delivered from their control.

Although the date of Japan's final discomfiture cannot yet be confidently predicted, the events just summarised encourage us to think



Indian soldiers unloading guns and ammunition for the defence of Imphal.



Alligator of a G.P.T. Amphibian Company, R.I.A.S.C., ferries troops across a chaung in the Kangaw area during the Allied advance in Burma

that it may be nearer than we dared to hope a year ago. India may well be proud of the part played by her forces of all three services in these events, and it is satisfactory that the importance of her contribution in this theatre has at last been duly recognised and appreciated by the other Allied Nations.

In the Field of Defence

I shall now briefly refer to other important developments in the field of defence which have taken place in India during the past year.

There have been a number of improvements in the terms and conditions of service affecting all arms. Certain improvements in the rates of proficiency pay of Indian other ranks that were in contemplation a year ago have since been sanctioned with effect from January 1, 1944. Improved scales of basic pay and *batta* for Viceroy's Commissioned Officers were also introduced from April 1, 1944. The Government of India have recently extended to personnel of the British Services in the India Command the war service increments of pay sanctioned from September 3, 1944, by His Majesty's Government for such personnel in other theatres. They have also sanctioned similar increments for personnel of the Indian services with effect from the same date. These pay increases are admissible to all those having more than 3 years' service since the outbreak of war.

There have been further improvements in the medical arrangements for dealing with sick and wounded in India. The standards of military hospitals, both as regards buildings and equipment have been raised; better cook houses, fully modernised operating theatres, and improvements in ambulance trains have been introduced. Particular attention, too, is now being paid to the rehabilitation of wounded men, and the medical services are doing everything in their power to restore the normal functioning of limbs injured on active service so that the men concerned may take the fullest possible part in their subsequent civilian roles. An artificial limb centre has been established in India and is playing a very important part in this rehabilitation process.

During the cold weather of 1943-44 plans were made whereby the Defence Services would produce much of the supplies of fresh provisions required for their own consumption. These plans have now matured and by the middle of the year 60 per cent of the fresh vegetables and potatoes required by these services was being obtained from schemes sponsored by them. Large quantities of eggs and poultry were also being produced monthly. By the end of the year the Defence Services will be largely self-supporting in fresh vegetables and potatoes and the output of the other items mentioned will have been multiplied many times. In some places supplies of fresh food produced in this way exceed the service requirements and so become available for sale to civil consumers. These arrangements will also exercise a salutary check on the prices of such produce in the country at large.

In my last budget speech I made special reference to the efforts being made for the promotion of the welfare of the Defence Services. During the past year this subject acquired a good deal of publicity, particularly in the U.K., and the visit of the Earl of Munster to India was designed to investigate how far the complaints from service personnel regarding the welfare and amenities arrangements in India were justified, and what steps were necessary to put things right. The investigation showed that within the limited resources at their disposal the authorities in India had done what was possible to ameliorate generally living conditions for soldiers —both British and Indian—in India. Such improvements as were called for were dependent in most cases on obtaining goods and services from overseas and it is expected that greatly increased facilities for this purpose will now be afforded.



The Earl of Munster, Under-Secretary of State for India, who recently came to India to inquire into servicemen's welfare, visited troops' canteens and rest centres in the country. Picture shows Lord Munster talking to B.O.R.s in the Allied Forces' Club, New Delhi.

The improvement in the quality of the Indian Air Force continues; the most recent development is the introduction of the famous Spitfire aircraft, and one squadron equipped with these will shortly be given an active operational role as a fighter squadron.

During the past year the quality of the men who presented themselves for selection as General Duty Officers in the Indian Air Force has been somewhat lower than formerly. The effect of this has been a large wastage in training, and the necessity for increasing the monthly intake from 70 to 104 recruits. In spite of this, the 10-squadron target has not been reached owing to lack of pilots. The 9th squadron of the Indian Air Force was formed on February 20, 1944, and the formation of the 10th is under consideration, but, unless recruiting improves, this will not be possible.

The Empire Training Scheme has been temporarily discontinued, but flying training in India continues as before.

The Royal Indian Navy continues to grow and further progress has been made in the construction of training establishments and holding depots. Apart from its work in the defence of India's ports and coasts, the Royal Indian Navy is playing a considerable role in escorting shipping and general policing duties in Indian waters. It has given invaluable support and protection to the land forces in the recent operations on the Eastern Front in which its landing craft have played a major part.

Lend-Lease

India continued to receive goods and services from the U.S.A. under Lend-Lease arrangements and, in return, to grant Reciprocal Aid in various forms of supplies and services as explained in my speech last year. The demands for such aid have been heavier than was anticipated last year particularly in regard to works (mainly airfields), petrol and aviation spirit. To some extent this was due to the increased activities of the U.S. Forces in strafing the Japanese on India's North-Eastern Frontier.

The estimated cost of Reciprocal Aid to be afforded at India's expense to the U.S.A. for which provision has been made in these estimates is Rs. 76.33 crores during 1944-45 and Rs. 70.34 crores during 1945-46. The value of such aid furnished in the year 1943-44 amounted to Rs. 35.11 crores and the progressive total of Reciprocal Aid from the beginning of the war to the end of 1944-45 would, on these estimates, amount to about Rs. 124 crores. At present the great bulk of Reciprocal Aid afforded to the U.S.A. in India is charged to Indian revenues and only a relatively minor amount of such aid (*e.g.*, that relating to certain non-indigenous supplies) is financed by H.M.G. and treated as British Reciprocal Aid.

The total amount of supplies and services expected to be made to India under Lend-Lease arrangements up to the end of 1944-45 is now estimated at roughly Rs. 515 crores and the value of these supplies and services which India, but for Lend-Lease, would have had to provide at her own expense is now assessed at approximately Rs. 150 crores. It is impossible to make any similar estimate for the year 1945-46 as the extent of Lend-Lease granted during that year must necessarily depend on war developments both in the European and the Eastern theatres. There seems no reason, however, to think that the value of Lend-Lease aid received by India to the end of that year will fall short of the corresponding amount of Reciprocal Aid to the U.S.A.

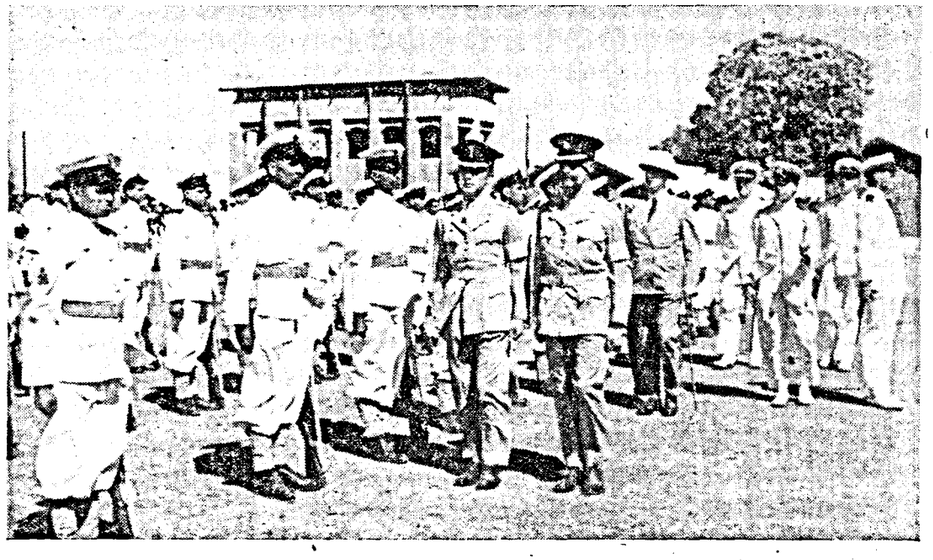
Mutual Aid Agreement

During the year under review India signed a direct Mutual Aid Agreement with the Government of Canada, which entitles her to participate in the benefits of Mutual Aid accorded by the Canadian Government to the Allied Nations. The precise effect of this Agreement upon India's defence expenditure has not yet been finally ascertained in the absence of complete information regarding the amount of such aid to be made available but, in framing the revised and budget estimates, a reduction of Rs. 5 crores has been allowed on this account in the estimates of each year.

In my last budget speech I referred to the necessity for ensuring that India's economy was not subjected to an intolerable strain as a result of its employment as a major base of operations against Japan. I have already referred to the Mission under Sir Akbar Hydari which is now in London examining in detail the extent to which demands for commodities required for war purposes, hitherto placed on India, can be met from other sources, and further what goods badly needed here can be sent out in order to offset the general depletion caused by war demands. It is hoped that this Mission, besides bringing much needed relief to India's economy, will have a wholesome educative effect on opinion in the United Kingdom and produce a better appreciation of the magnitude and nature of India's war effort.

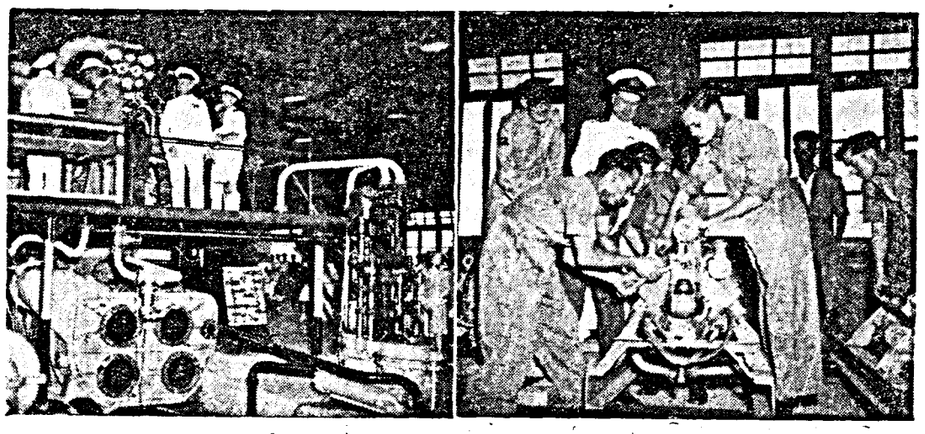
During the year the negotiations with H.M.G. that have been in progress for some time past regarding the allocation during the war of non-effective charges, *i.e.*, pensions and gratuities paid to personnel of the defence services and their

NEW R.I.N. TRAINING ESTABLISHMENT—



The Bombay Governor inspecting the Royal Guard of Honour formed by artificer apprentices.

The Royal Indian Navy's new Mechanical Training Establishment, H.M.I.S. "Shivaji," was recently opened by H. E. Sir John Colville, Governor of Bombay, at Lonavla (Bombay Presidency). Well-equipped and embodying the latest ideas on the planning of naval instructional centres, it will train artificers who will be responsible for the repair and maintenance of machinery and mechanical equipment in H.M.I. Ships and Establishments.



Sir John Colville with Flag Officer Commanding the Royal Indian Navy after he had signed the "Log" kept above a ship's steam turbine. (Right) Apprentices learn about the mechanism of an engine in one of the workshops of H.M.I.S. "Shivaji."

dependants, were concluded and an agreement between the two Governments on the subject has now been reached.

Prior to the outbreak of the present war, each Government received from the other contributions in respect of so much of the pensions and gratuities of their own armed forces as were reckoned to have been earned in the service of the other Government. Since under normal conditions the number of British service personnel employed in India far exceeded the number of Indian service personnel employed at Imperial stations, the net result of these adjustments was a substantial annual payment by India to H. M. G. This process necessitated the maintenance of an elaborate non-effective account and the continuous collection of detailed information regarding the service of many thousands of officers and men.

Non-effective Charges

During the last war it was found quite impossible to keep up this non-effective account which had therefore to be held in abeyance and the settlement of numerous claims and counter-claims in respect of non-effective charges relating to that war formed the subject of prolonged correspondence and eventually—though not until 1931—had to be settled in a more or less arbitrary manner. It was felt most desirable to avoid a similar long-drawn out controversy over the non-effective charges arising out of the present war. The matter has been examined at great length by technical experts on both sides and the agreement now reached may be summarised as follows:

(1) The non-effective account between the two Governments to be finally closed as on April 1, 1939, India's net liability towards H. M. G. for the non-effective charges of all defence personnel on that date being discharged by a lump sum payment of £15 million.

(2) India's net liability thereafter during the war to be fully discharged by an annual payment of £1,350,000 to H. M. G.

(3) Each Government to bear the cost of those casualty pensions and other abnormal non-effective charges arising out of the war, which are sanctioned under its own regulations.

(4) The new agreement to be co-terminous with the main Financial Settlement, a fresh agreement to be negotiated thereafter.

It is felt that this non-effective agreement has the great merit of simplicity, while securing an equitable apportionment of the charges in question between the two Governments.

The agreement provides for the payment of the sum of £15 million on the date of its termination. Recently H. M. G. enquired whether the Government of India would be disposed to pay this amount in advance of that date and offered to reduce the annual payment of £1,350,000 by £450,000 as from the date of such premature payment. As this offer seemed to the Government of India a favourable one, it has been accepted and the payment was made on February 1, 1945, from which date the annual payment will accordingly be reduced to £900,000.

The Financial Settlement

It is now necessary to consider the effect of these developments on our estimates of defence expenditure for the current year. The Financial Settlement accepted in 1940 was the target for a great deal of abuse—much of it extremely ill-informed—by the Press both in India and in the United Kingdom during the year. As was no doubt inevitable with any arrangement of this character, the criticism has been vehement and has proceeded from diametrically opposite points of view. It still remains, however, our sheet-anchor for the purpose of determining India's share of war expenditure. Under the operation of that Settlement India becomes liable for a considerable amount of additional expenditure arising out of the Japanese invasion at the beginning of the year.

In framing the budget for 1944-45 it had been assumed that operations against the Japanese would take place outside India and, in consequence that no portion of their cost would fall on Indian revenues, which, on the other hand, would be relieved as a result of the sending of forces beyond her frontiers to take part in those operations. In the event, not only had forces earmarked for employment overseas to be retained in India but others were brought in from outside to repel the invader, and no provision existed in the budget for the cost of all these troops or for the other additional expenditure incurred on these operations for which India is liable. This constitutes one of the major causes of the heavy excess of the defence expenditure for the year over our budget anticipations, but I trust the House will realise that this is a small price to pay for the victory which has assured to India immunity from the Japanese invader.

Other major developments that could not be foreseen a year ago and for which consequently no provision was made in the budget are:—

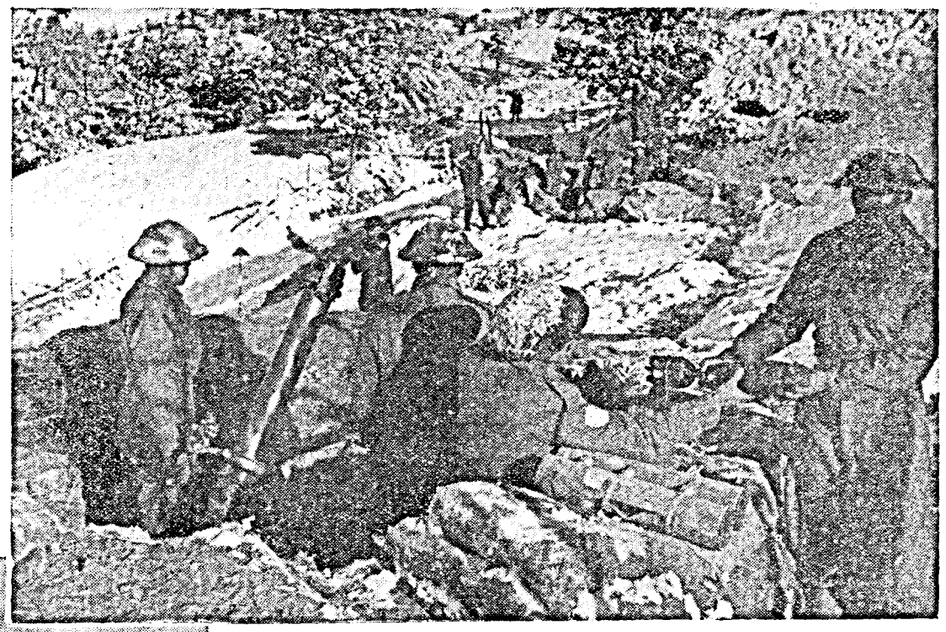
(1) The grant of war service increments and other pay increases to both British and Indian troops during the year;

On the Italian Front

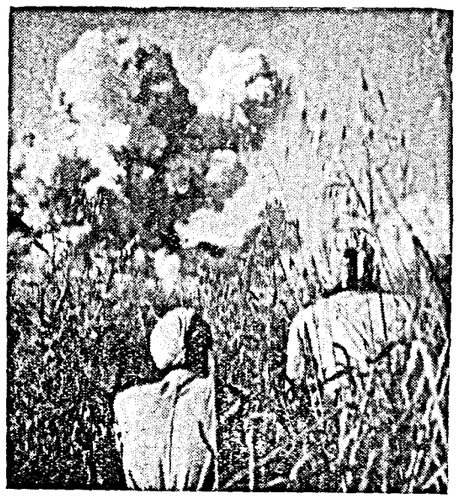
"The Indian Divisions are fighting magnificently... Their fighting spirit, skill and endurance are outstanding." This tribute was recently paid by Gen. McCreery, Commander of the Eighth Army, describing the part played by Indian troops on the Italian Front.



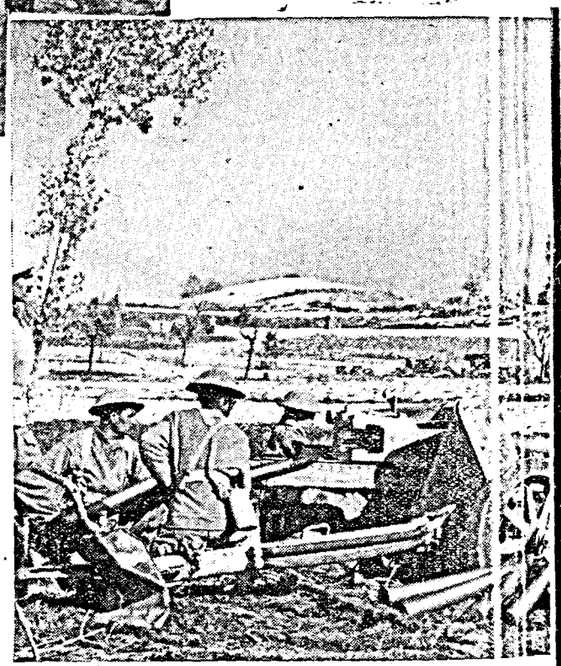
A forward Patrol being briefed.



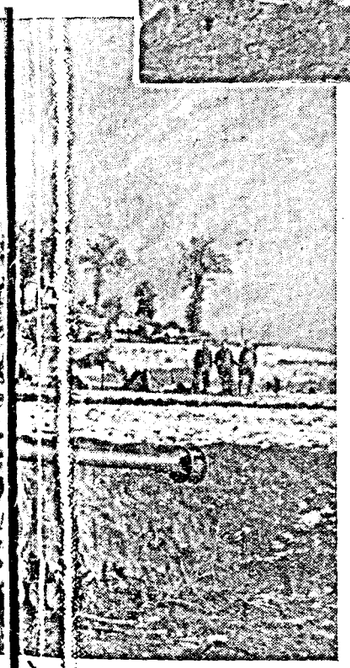
An Indian mortar crew firing across the snow-covered hills before Bologna.



Indian Sappers blow up a house which served as a landmark for the enemy to direct his fire.



This German 75 m.m. anti-tank gun was captur d shot Regiment who have since used it to ret rn



Indian Infantry and handed over to an Anti- German ammunition to its former owners.



Mahratta soldiers attack up a steep hillside through a smoke-screen.

(2) heavy demands from the U.S.A. Forces in India for goods and services on Reciprocal Aid;

(3) the decision that India would be liable for the indigenous element in the cost of imported petrol utilised for her own war purposes. As mentioned in my speech last year, H. M. G. offered to bear the cost of petrol and aviation spirit required for the expansion of India's land and air forces, but this offer, it has since been made clear, will only cover the cost landed at an Indian port, leaving the expenses of distribution in India to be borne by India;

(4) the payment of the sum of £15 million in connection with the Non-effective agreement.

Revised Estimates of Defence Expenditure

The revised estimates of defence expenditure for the year 1944-45 amount to Rs. 397.23 crores and Rs. 59.41 crores under the Revenue and Capital heads respectively. The details are as follows:—

	(In lakhs of rupees)
Revenue Portion	
(1) Basic Normal Budget ..	36,77
(2) Effect of rise in prices ..	16,92
(3) India's war measures ..	3,34,22
(4) Non-effective charges ..	9,32
Total ..	3,97,23
Capital Portion	
(1) Air Force—Airfields ..	15,89
(2) Capital outlay on industrial expansion	3,34
(3) Reciprocal Aid—Airfields ..	15,20
(4) New Construction for the R.I.N	1,00
(5) Capital outlay on Tele-communications scheme ..	3,98
(6) Lump sum payment under the Non-effective Agreement ..	20.00
Total ..	59,41

In the revenue portion, the increase of Rs. 1.87 crores in item (2) over the corresponding budget figure is due mainly to the grant of further increases in pay and allowances to the forces in India. The increase of Rs. 118.64 crores in item (3) is due to the major developments just mentioned and to an under-estimate of the cost of air services in India. The total increase has been counter-balanced to a certain extent by an increase in the amount of receipts on account of Lend-Lease stores supplied to Provincial Governments, Railways, Posts and Telegraphs Department and other paying indentors, and also to the relief anticipated from India's participation in Mutual Aid from Canada.

As regards the capital portion, the increases under items (1) and (3) are due to further demands for new airfields and the improvement and expansion of existing airfields for both British and American Air Forces in India. There have been further expansions of ordnance factories, dairy farms, etc., which account for the increase under item (2), while the decrease under item (5) is due largely to a carry-forward of expenditure connected with the Tele-communications Scheme to the year 1945-46. Item (6) represents the lump sum payment under the Non-effective agreement which I have already explained.

Civil Estimates

The continuance of war conditions and, at the same time, the necessity to plan for the transition period and the days of peace ahead inevitably involve an increase in governmental co-ordination and control, which is reflected in increased expenditure. Thus civil estimates now stand at Rs. 115.42 crores compared with Rs. 86.38 crores provided in the budget. Hon'ble Members will find details of the variations in the Explanatory Memorandum on the Budget and I shall confine my remarks here to a few of the more important items.

Provision for Rs. 1½ crores was made in the current year's estimates as Central Assistance to Bengal for meeting their heavy expenditure on famine relief. Representations were, however, received from the Provincial Government that the grant was inadequate and the position was reviewed. It was finally decided to make an ex gratia subvention of half of the direct cost of the famine, subject to a maximum of Rs. 10 crores, of which Rs. 3 crores had already been adjusted in 1943-44. This decision is responsible for an increase of Rs. 5½ crores in expenditure this year.

Another important item is the expenditure involved in paying compensation for damage resulting from the explosions in the Bombay Docks in April last. The House is already familiar with the measures for the relief of the victims announced by the Government of India. The machinery for dealing with claims is at work and steady progress is being made in disposing of them. At present it is not possible to assess accurately the total amount which will be involved, but provision has been made for an expenditure of Rs. 10¼ crores this year and Rs. 5¾ crores next year. The question of the incidence of this expenditure is under consideration and, pending a final decision as to the sharing of the cost between India and His Majesty's Government, it has been decided to meet the sums involved from general revenues, at the same time transferring from the War Risks Insurance Funds to the revenue account amounts equal to the estimated compensation payable.

Consistently with the drive for increased production of food, Government has steadily pursued its policy with regard to the statutory control of prices, procurement by or through its own agencies and extension of rationing which now covers some 42 million people.

In the matter of the procurement of grain, a steady advance has, as I have already mentioned been made towards Government monopoly. While the object has been to maintain a price-level which will ensure adequate production without imposing too heavy a burden on the consumer, it is not the intention to attempt to bring prices down to pre-war levels and we have announced our readiness to intervene in supporting the market should prices fall unduly.

The steps taken to achieve these objectives, which involve transactions of vast magnitude, have necessarily led to considerable revenue expenditure and outlay of capital.

The same objectives of increased production, and control of distribution and of prices have been pursued in the field of other consumer goods.



Sgt. Rajul Shah, W.A.C.(I), a Jain from the Gujerati village of Umadi, Jath State, supervises the thinning of young vegetables in the Southern Army Headquarters gardens.

Price control of cloth has been extended to cover both the imported and exported varieties and a progressive reduction in prices has been achieved. We have recently been able to effect a further reduction in prices which to-day are nearly one-third less than those fixed in 1943. This represents a total overall reduction of approximately 75 per cent. from the peak reached in June, 1943.

At the same time the problem of the stabilisation of the prices of Indian cotton within suitable limits has engaged Government's close attention and, in fulfilment of their undertaking to maintain the price above the fixed floor, Government entered the market and purchased during the current year some 2¾ lakhs of bales valued at over Rs. 6 crores.

Supply Department's Work

The activities of the Supply Department have been directed towards the fulfilment of the same policy. An organisation has been set up in Calcutta for increasing the production of coal and ensuring its equitable distribution among the consuming interests. Schemes for the payment of a bonus to colliery owners on increased raisings and for open-cut mining have been introduced, while facilities have been provided for the import of labour into the coal areas and welfare officers have been appointed to look after the interests of mine labour.

The Disposals Directorate has been strengthened and out of some Rs. 5 crores worth of goods reported as surplus, stores and salvage valued at nearly Rs. 2 crores have been disposed of. Closely connected with this aspect of the Supply Department's work are the plans now

being laid for dealing with contracts which will have to be cancelled or reduced as war demands lessen. It is essential that steps be taken as soon as the war situation permits to cancel or curtail production so as to avoid the manufacture of redundant stores and the locking up of useful raw materials which are urgently needed for civilian requirements. At the same time the problems involved in the transition from war to peace are being carefully studied with a view to preserving the economy of the country from violent shocks in the process of adjustment.

The value of orders placed by the Supply Department which was Rs. 256 crores in 1942-43 and Rs. 162 crores in 1943-44, amounted to Rs. 76 crores for the first seven months of the current year. This reduction is due partly to the transfer of responsibility for the procurement of textiles and foodstuffs to the Departments of Civil Supplies and Food and also to a falling off of demands in certain lines.

India and U.N.R.R.A.

The scheme for financial assistance to evacuees and their families, to which I referred in my last budget speech, has been continued and extended. These measures are now estimated to cost a little over Rs. 1 crore more than the budget provision.

There is one other matter which I should mention, namely, India's contribution to U.N.R.R.A. The House has already agreed that India should participate in this Administration and in implementing that decision, the Government of India have decided that India's contribution should be Rs. 8 crores. A sum of Rs. 1.10 crores is likely to be expended in the current year, for which a supplementary grant will be taken in due course and it is proposed to provide for the remaining Rs. 6.90 crores in the next year's estimates. This sum will be transferred to a special fund to prevent budgetary inconvenience in the future.

I alluded last year to the hardships caused to Government servants by the continued rise in the cost of living, and referred to the measures taken by Government to afford relief. Ameliorative measures in the shape of dearness allowance and concessional issue or foodgrains still continue. The scheme of dearness allowance to low-paid Government servants was substantially liberalised in March 1944, and its cost this year is expected to be Rs. 3¾ crores in respect of Central Government servants other than those paid from Railways and Defence Estimates.

We also came to the conclusion in the course of the year that certain other Government servants, who had so far received no cash relief, must also be given an allowance to enable them to meet their essential commitments. We have therefore given, with effect from July 1, 1944, a war allowance at 10 per cent. of pay to married officers drawing pay up to Rs. 1,000 and at 5 per cent of pay to single officers whose pay does not exceed Rs. 750. As the House is aware, we have under constant review the problems connected with the rise in the cost of living and its effect on Government servants of all classes and proposals for increasing the scope and extent of the relief already afforded are at this moment under active consideration. Until a decision has been taken it is not possible to evaluate the extra expenditure likely to be involved. The estimates are, therefore, based on the existing scales of relief.

The year that is now drawing to a close has thus seen India preparing herself more intensively not only for the launching of the final blow against Japan but also for the tasks of peace that lie ahead. It is inevitable that these great efforts should react on the budgetary position. Thus, while our revised estimates provide for a revenue of Rs. 356.88 crores, expenditure charged to revenue is expected to be Rs. 512.65 crores, resulting in a revenue deficit of Rs. 155.77 crores in the current year.

FINANCIAL YEAR, 1945-46

Revenue

I turn now to the financial year 1945-46. Our total revenue estimates amount to Rs. 353.74 crores compared with Rs. 356.88 crores in the Revised Estimates for the current year.

Customs Revenue has been placed at Rs. 52.85 crores net, an increase of Rs. 12.85 crores over the revised estimates for the current year. This is based on the expectation of additional imports including a large number of locomotives and wagons. Under Central Excise Duties, we look for an improvement of nearly Rs. 6 crores, half of which is under tobacco. We estimate the total collections of Corporation Tax and Income Tax at Rs. 190 crores. This includes an expected yield of Rs. 90 crores from Excess Profits Tax, the forecast for other taxes on income being the same as the revised estimates for the current year, viz., Rs. 100 crores. The divisible pool of income-tax has been taken at Rs. 57.07 crores and the share available to Provinces at Rs. 24.04 crores.

The revenue of the Posts and Telegraphs Department is expected to be Rs. 30½ crores and expenditure Rs. 20 crores, inclusive of an extra contribution of Rs. 50 lakhs to rehabilitate the Renewals Reserve Fund. The surplus is estimated at Rs. 10½ crores, the whole of which will accrue to general revenues.

Defence Services.—The Budget estimates of defence expenditure for 1945-46 amount to Rs. 394.23 crores and Rs. 17.76 crores for the Revenue and Capital heads respectively. The details are as follows:—

Revenue Portion

	(In lakhs of rupees)
(1) Basic Normal Budget ..	36,77
(2) Effect of rise in prices ..	19,76
(3) India's war measures ..	3,28,51
(4) Non-effective charges ..	9,19
Total ..	3,94,23

Capital Portion

	(In lakhs of rupees)
(1) Air Force—Airfields ..	2,42
(2) Capital outlay on industrial expansion ..	1,55
(3) Reciprocal Aid—Airfields ..	10,74
(4) New Construction for the R. I. N. ..	50
(5) Capital outlay on Tele-communications Scheme ..	2,55
Total ..	17,76

In the revenue portion, the increase of Rs. 2.84 crores over the Revised Estimates in item (2) is due to the effect over a full year of the grant of increases in pay and allowances to the forces in India sanctioned during 1944-45. In regard to item (3) there is a reduction of Rs. 5.71 crores as compared with the Revised Estimates which is the net result of various increases and decreases. The principal increase is due to the cause just mentioned while the decreases are the result of (i) a decrease in the 'Ceiling' forces certified by H.E. the Commander-in-Chief to be necessary for the defence of India during 1945-46 and (ii) the fact that no repetition of large scale operations within India's frontiers is expected in 1945-46.

Of the decrease of Rs. 41.65 crores under the Capital portion of the Budget Estimates as compared with the Revised, Rs. 20 crores is explained by the non-recurring lump sum payment under the Non-effective agreement included in the Revised Estimates. The balance of the decrease is due to the fact that the requirements in the matter of airfields, etc., for India's local defence air forces are expected to be largely completed in 1944-45, while a reduction during that year in the programme of airfields construction for the U.S.A. Air Forces in India, for the cost of which India is liable, has also been assumed. The provision made against item (5) represents the carry-forward of expenditure on the Tele-communications Scheme into the year 1945-46.

Civil Estimates

Civil expenditure shows an increase of approximately Rs. 8 crores as compared with the revised estimates for the current year. This is due mainly to an increase of about Rs. 11½ crores under the head 'Interest', resulting from the policy of borrowings to absorb surplus purchasing power, offset by savings under other heads. In the Explanatory Memorandum Hon'ble Members will find full details and I will not weary the House with further analysis at this stage. The expenditure estimates also contain sums in connection with post-war planning, to which I shall refer more fully at a later stage.

I can now summarise the position for the coming year. The expenditure detailed in the Civil Estimates comes to Rs. 123.40 crores and the provision for Defence Services has been placed at Rs. 394.23 crores. The total revenue at the existing level of taxation is estimated at Rs. 353.74 crores. We are thus left with a prospective revenue deficit of Rs. 163.89 crores.

Ways and Means

I now come to the Ways and Means section. At this stage last year I made a few introductory remarks in order to explain the changed significance of the ways and means position in the conditions created by the war and to bring into relief the complex economic problems created by war disbursements as well as the extent to which Government are able to re-absorb, by way of taxation and borrowing, the evergrowing quantities of moneys expended by them. In the figures which are published from time to time of Government's rupee balances is reflected the extent to which these and other operations of Government succeed in bridging the gap between our own budgetary requirements and the total outlay on Allied account.

As in previous years, borrowing has been the mainstay of our ways and means programme and no effort has been spared to stimulate lending to Government by the various sections of the public. For the best part of the year, war developments continued to be encouraging, and this was undoubtedly a favourable psychological factor. The total amount invested by the public in various forms of public loans reached Rs. 286 crores during the twelve months beginning with February 1, 1944 and ending with January 31, 1945.

This figure, which approximates to the total receipts for the previous twelve months, must be regarded in the context of the other anti-inflationary measures newly introduced during the year, such as the hundred per cent immobilisation of excess profits, the "Pay-as-you-earn" income-tax collections and the sales of gold and silver which have also played a not inconsiderable part in mopping up surplus funds.

Borrowing Programme

In continuation of the cheap money policy hitherto followed, the Government have, in consultation with the Reserve Bank, framed their borrowing programme so as to make available to the public a wide range of securities. The 3 per cent Loan 1953-55 (4th Defence Loan) was closed for public issue as from April 1, 1944, after the total subscription had reached the record figure of Rs. 114.55 crores during its currency of nine months, and, in its place, the tap issue of the First Victory Loan 3 per cent. 1957, was opened. This issue had, up to its closure on February 17, yielded about Rs. 110 crores. The demand from banks for a short-term Government security was met in June by the creation of a special re-issue of the 2½ per cent. Loan 1948-52 to the extent of Rs. 50 crores. Continued demand from institutional investors for a long-term loan was also met by the further creation in October of Rs. 35 crores of the 3 per cent Funding Loan 1966-68 so as to replenish the stock of this loan held in the Government Cash Balance Investment Account.

The generally steady conditions in the Government securities market led to a continuous improvement in the price of 3½ per cent. Paper, which reached par for the first time on November 16, 1944. At this stage, it was considered desirable to meet the demand from existing stock, and during the period mentioned above, Paper worth Rs. 15.11 crores was sold by the Reserve Bank of India on Government account. As in the previous year, Rs. 13.27 crores of new money was subscribed to certain provincial loans floated to repay a part of the Provincial consolidated debt to the Central Government.

Premium Bond Issue

I referred last year to the interesting departure from orthodox loan policy that was made in the Premium Bond issue. The sales so far have amounted to Rs. 4 crores which is lower than our expectations, due partly to the fact that the issue has not been intensively publicised and partly to its proving less attractive than at one time seemed probable. We have, however, decided to continue the experimental issue for the reason that it will help to draw off money from a class to whom other forms of investment make no appeal.

The progressive total of public loans since the beginning of the war has, upto the end of January, reached the impressive figure of Rs. 833 crores.

The main difficulty that still confronts us in the monetary field is that arising from the unfamiliarity of the rural classes with the various forms of investment in Government securities which are a matter of such every day concern to institutional investors and the urban public generally. In this field we have been fortunate enough to secure the willing co-operation of the Provincial Governments as well as non-official organisations, whose assistance I take this opportunity of acknowledging. The results are reflected in the much better showing of the net deposits in Post Office Savings Bank accounts and in the 12-year National Savings Certificates. Net investment in these and other forms of small savings, that is to say, excess of deposits over withdrawals, continues at the satisfactory rate of nearly Rs. 3 crores a month, due to some extent to the raising of the rate of interest on Savings Bank deposits and, in a larger measure, to the scheme of Small Savings evolved last year by the National Savings Commissioner.

Floating Debt

Our floating debt, which was Rs. 111 crores at the end of last year stood at Rs. 93 crores on January 31, 1945. This is an improvement of a kind one would expect, since the Government's ways and means position from the strictly budgetary point of view must be regarded as very comfortable. The reason why it has not proceeded much further is that we have continued till recently to offer fairly large amounts of treasury bills to the public in order to prevent the structure of money rates being disturbed by an excessive release of funds invested by banks in treasury bills.

Satisfactory as these results are, with the expected prolongation of hostilities near our borders, after the date when the war in the West may reach its termination, it is obvious that we cannot afford to relax our efforts. The requirements of the situation will impose the continuance, and possibly even the final intensification, of India's war effort, which includes the finding of the resources required for the war effort of the Allied countries. In other words, the problem of the inflationary gap is still with us, and, judging from recent indications, may call for increased vigilance and control.

As I have already said, the various anti-inflationary measures that we have adopted were sustained, and in places extended, during the year. Most of the usual indices responded encouragingly to these measures, and to the very favourable turn in hostilities that the year witnessed. The general index number of wholesale prices of the Economic Adviser has, for instance, ranged between 240 and 250 approximately since May 1944, and the Calcutta index number has been relatively stationary for the last few months. Hon'ble Members will find graphs giving the main indices in the Explanatory Memorandum. Cost of living index numbers, generally speaking, have also registered declines in differing degrees since the peak reached during the autumn of 1943, the general picture being one of comparative stabilisation in recent months.

There is also evidence that the low rate of turnover of bank deposits characteristic of last year has been maintained, and that there has been, through the greater part of the year, some slackening of the general pace of monetary circulation. There was, moreover, a very marked decrease in the rate of currency expansion, particularly in the first eight months of this year. In the last two months the results have not been so favourable—an indication that we cannot afford to relax our efforts to ensure that surplus purchasing power arising out of Governmental disbursements is canalized into public saving. The Government, on their part, are vigilantly reviewing both the scope for reducing the load on the country's resources constituted by our own and the Allies' war efforts and the possibility of adding to the available supplies of goods required for public consumption. This, indeed, is the main object of the Hydari Mission which, it is hoped, will succeed in reducing the economic load incidental to the use of India as a base for further operations in the East.

International Monetary Fund

The Reserve Bank continued to effect sales of gold on behalf of His Majesty's Government and the Government of the U.S.A. and these contributed substantially to the reduction of the inflationary gap. Sales of Lend-Lease silver, which were commenced in the middle of the year, have further aided in mopping up surplus resources which do not find their way to Government loans.

In my last budget speech, I referred to the expected convening of a Conference of all United Nations to consider the plans put forward for international monetary regulation in the post-war period. The United Nations Monetary and Financial Conference, consisting of representatives of forty-four nations, met in July in the United States at the invitation of President Roosevelt, and, as the House is aware, India was represented at the Conference by a delegation in which I was accompanied by the Governor of the Reserve Bank, the Economic Adviser to Government and two distinguished non-officials.

The main conclusions of the Conference relating to the establishment of an International Monetary Fund and an International Bank for Reconstruction and Development are recorded in Articles of Agreement to which none of the Governments is as yet committed. The Articles are incorporated in a Final Act of the proceedings of the Conference which have been published. The Indian Delegation have now submitted their report to Government and it will be placed before the House in due course, when the conclusions of the Conference can be reviewed in the light of the action taken on them by the principal countries concerned, in particular by the United States and the United Kingdom.

Settlement of War Balances

I referred last year to the importance of an orderly liquidation of war balances for the success of any international monetary scheme. The Joint Statement by Experts on which the Conference based its deliberations omitted any mention of this problem, although the original plan of the British Treasury recognised the desirability of some provisions to deal with it, and the first two versions of the United States Treasury plan contained some actual provisions to this end.

The Indian Delegation pressed the Conference to provide for partial multilateral clearing of war balances through the machinery of the Fund, in the interest alike of promoting economic development of backward countries and assisting the broad objective of the Fund to secure the expansion of multilateral trade, for the relegation to bilateral channels of the whole of the large area of trading involved in the settlement of war balances might seriously constrict the scope of multilateral transactions. The proposal was, however, negatived by the Conference primarily on the ground of the limited size of the Fund in relation to the magnitude of the war balances. The question, therefore, remains one for settlement in direct negotiation with the United Kingdom.

On the *termination* of the Bretton Woods Conference and before my return to India, I spent a short period in London and I took the opportunity of having preliminary talks with His Majesty's Treasury officials on the question of India's sterling balances. Since many of the material data were *still incomplete* and uncertain, particularly the exporting capacity of Great Britain in the immediate post-war years on the one hand, and the development requirements and absorbing capacity of India on the other hand, these conversations were necessarily directed towards exploring the *background* for future discussions and the indication of a suitable time-table for more definite negotiations.

Development Programme

The *vicissitudes of* the war in the West have, I am afraid, disturbed the provisional time-table foreshadowed at these talks, and I do not anticipate that any negotiations can be usefully entered upon until after the end of the war with Germany. In view of the lack of definition at this stage of our own development programme, I do not think that the delay should be prejudicial to India's interests. Indeed, it may well prove necessary that any negotiations to be carried on should, in the first instance, be of a tentative character and should secure both parties an agreed opportunity for review at a later stage when firmer data may be expected to be available.

In the meanwhile, sterling continues to accrue from market purchases and from payments received in London on account of recoverable war expenditure incurred by the Allied Governments in India. During the last eleven months of the current financial year, £248 million were added to the Reserve Bank's holdings, and it is estimated that allowing for the receipts during the last month of the year, the total holding as on March 31, 1945, will be of the order of £1,030 million. It is hoped that the rate of accrual will be slowed down in future both by diversion of some of the demands now made on India to other sources of supply and by an increase in compensatory imports.

It must also be remembered that any payments that will become due from India to His Majesty's Government for stores required for her post-war defence forces or in connection with terminal adjustments after the war will partly counteract these accretions. So also will the rupee sale-proceeds of surplus stores and other assets belonging to His Majesty's Government that are disposed of in India. I mention these factors which may operate to mitigate the further aggravation of a problem which is already sufficiently formidable.

With the virtual completion of the scheme of repatriation of sterling liabilities of the Government of India, including payments on account of railway and railway debentures referred to in my last budget speech, there was limited scope for the utilisation of sterling during the year, with the exception of £15 million for the capitalisation of a portion of India's Non-effective charges which I have explained earlier and of £10 million for the acquisition of the M. and S.M. Railway, the S.I. Railway, and the B.N. Railway. The outstanding sterling liabilities of Government now stand at about £11 million. The holders are mostly residents of places situated outside the area covered by the Vesting Orders, although small amounts continue to be tendered occasionally.

I referred last year to His Majesty's Government's willingness and to set aside, each year, as a special case, a part of the dollars accruing from India's export surplus to the U.S.A., an amount earmarked specifically for India's post-war development. After a very careful examination of current figures and tendencies, we have agreed to accept an amount of $20 million for the calendar year 1944 and a similar amount for 1945, subject to re-examination later in the light of the relevant statistics for that year. This figure is, of course, in addition to what we need for current requirements. In agreeing to it, we have recognised that it was both reasonable and necessary, with a view to ensuring the stability of the sterling system in which we are so closely interested, that we should continue to make some contribution to the replenishment of the sterling area reserves, which had been depleted in the common war effort.

Post-War Planning

On the other hand, we have naturally been anxious to make some immediate tangible provision for foreign exchange for the purchase of capital goods likely to be required for India's post-war development purposes, and we feel that the arrangement described represents in the circumstances a fair and valuable concession to this point of view. The relevant figures will be under periodic review and the House may rest assured that at no stage will India's direct interests be subordinated to interests other than those in which she herself has a greater, although indirect, interest.

Last year, I referred to the twin subjects of post-war planning and reconstruction finance, and have but little now to add to the general

picture which I then drew. In the matter of detailed planning for post-war development much progress has been achieved during the past twelve months, and the creation of a separate department at the Centre for this purpose and of suitable planning organisations in the Provinces and States bear witness to the determination of the various governmental authorities in this immense country that the end of the war will not find them unprepared for the major campaigns of the peace to follow. But it must be obvious that, so long as war conditions continue not only in India but in all the Allied countries, resources of materials and manpower must remain mobilised for the immediate task of achieving victory. Once that task has been accomplished and the inevitable period of adjustment has passed, it will be possible to initiate the execution of plans for post-war development.

These physical limitations to the superimposition of a forward policy of national development on an economy subjected to the strain of total war have their counterparts in the financial sphere. So long as the financial and currency system of the country is overstrained in the maintenance of the war effort or in securing the early stages of transition from war to peace, heavy new expenditure on national development schemes would be dangerous in the extreme. In other words, post-war development must mean and must continue to mean post-war development, and by no magic or optimism can it be made to mean war-time development. The first year or two at least after actual fighting ends will inevitably be for the Centre years of heavy deficit on revenue account. It will be during this period that the Provincial Governments will find of particular value the post-war Reconstruction Funds which they had the foresight and determination to build up while the war was still in progress.

Industrial Development

While it is indubitable that large-scale development projects cannot be initiated so long as war conditions continue, the Government have no hesitation embarking at once on such preparatory work as is found to be possible and desirable, or in taking any action calculated to secure early results of anti-inflationary value. Thus of late the Government have set up a Central Electrical Power Board, an Irrigation and Waterways Board, a Resettlement and Re-employment Directorate with a network of Employment exchanges, and have established numerous panels of industrialists, assisted by Government personnel, to prepare plans for industrial development.

Plans have been laid for high-level technical training abroad, on a large scale but suitably diversified, and steps have been taken to set up a Rs. 10-crore Government fertiliser factory to produce annually 350,000 tons of ammonium sulphate. This general policy the Government intend to continue, and provision for Rs. 1 crore has been made in the Budget for such measures of a like nature as may be found practicable. This provision is over and above that included in the Budgets of the various administrative departments for their planning activities. Should these amounts prove to be less than can usefully be spent the House will be moved to vote such supplementary grants as may be required.

National Development

I said last year that if any effective development is to take place on the requisite scale in this vast country large amounts of money are bound to be involved; and I expressed my firm conviction that the first pre-requisite of reconstruction finance is a sound financial position, both at the Centre and in the Provinces, secured by the fullest development of their respective taxation resources. I hold that conviction if possible still more firmly to-day.

A vast scheme of national development of the kind contemplated by a number of public leaders and writers, and by the Government, has to be planned for, worked for and paid for. There is no easy road to big achievement in this field. It is essential, therefore, that not only the Centre but also the Provinces should lose no time in developing to the full their financial resources, since it is clear that the combined resources of all will hardly be adequate for the great end in view. For that reason, I feel that those Provinces which made an early start and taxed themselves considerably in excess of their immediate revenue requirements should not, as a result of the favourable financial position in which they find themselves, be prejudiced in the matter of financial assistance from the Centre. It is our hope and intention that in due course a substantial distribution of Central revenues will take place, but the Provinces will, in addition, need all that they themselves can raise if the financial foundations of future development are to be sufficiently broad-based to carry the contemplated load.

It is in this context that the Estate Duty Bill, which I hope to introduce later in the Session, must be viewed. For this measure,

together with the recent expansion of commodity taxation, should be regarded as the first concrete step towards the building up of a planned and expanding financial system for the future. The reaction of the country to measures such as these will, in my view, constitute the first real test of the seriousness of its intentions in the matter of post-war development. The second effective test will be the response to the Government's efforts to establish a national habit of saving which, with the denial of current consumption which it involves, will be as necessary for development purposes after the war as it is for holding inflationary tendencies in check during the war.

It may be appropriate for me, in my last Budget speech, to devote a little more time to the subject of the fiscal means by which the Government of the future may be enabled to fulfil the high hopes now entertained, and to give the outcome of my own reflections on this topic.

National Income

Tax revenue depends, in the last resort, on the rate of tax and the national income. The national income, in its turn, is determined by the level of prices and the scale of economic activity. If then, to fulfil the programme of development, India will require a level of expenditure much more closely related to its present than its pre-war scale, a great deal must necessarily turn upon the future price-level and the future level of economic activity. Both these must be taken into account. There is a tendency to argue that the high level of prices which has been reached during the war—when so large a proportion of the productive powers of the nation are devoted to non-civilian ends—must be maintained in the post-war period, otherwise it will not be possible to raise the necessary resources. I believe this to be a mistaken view. When the productive power of the nation is turned from manufacturing for war to manufacturing for civilian use, there will be a large supply of goods available and this additional supply must result, in my judgment in lower prices for those goods. But if simultaneously the total volume of activity deployed during the war can be maintained and increased, the total national income can be maintained and even increased in spite of a fall in unit-prices.

It is the maintenance of the aggregate national income in terms of money and not the stabilisation of prices of individual commodities that should be the objective in the years after the war. It may well be that in that period some prices will rise, and some will fall —for it is the inevitable consequence of rapid changes such as those of the last five years that relative price changes should get out of step—nevertheless, our efforts should be directed rather to the maintenance of the aggregate figure upon which the fiscal authorities can operate than upon the guaranteeing to each particular group of producers of the prices which their products may, in certain cases quite fortuitously, have attained during the war.

Taxation

But while it will be necessary in the post-war years to impose taxation of a magnitude comparable with that existing at the present time, it by no means follows that the existing scheme of taxation should continue when the present hostilities have ceased. Excess Profits Tax is an obvious expedient in time of war to secure reversion to the State of a due proportion of any increased profits made by industry in the abnormal conditions then prevailing. Any scheme for the levy of a special tax upon such increase of profits can at best be of a somewhat rough and ready nature, no matter what degree of thought and care have gone to the devising of the enactment that gives effect to it Moreover, the datum line from which excess profits are measured must inevitably bear less and less relation to current realities as we get further and further from the pre-war years. It is, therefore, to my mind desirable that this war-time expedient should vanish with the emergency that brought it into being.

Repeal of the Excess Profits Tax would not, however, represent a proportionate loss of revenue, for Excess Profits Tax is allowable as a deduction in computing profits assessable to income-tax and super-tax, so that with its repeal, profits assessable to income-tax would be correspondingly increased. Nevertheless, whatever may be the extent and duration of the post-war boom during which industry will be engaged in repairing the ravages of war and whatever may be the scale of the profits that are expected to accrue from the plans for the post-war expansion of industry, taxes on non-agricultural income can hardly be expected to continue to play the overwhelming part in the scheme of national finance that they now do.

The projected estate duty on property, other than agricultural property, would be capable of restoring in due course the position as regards the aggregate contribution made by the industrial, commercial and professional classes

of the community as such. It has to be remembered, however, that these form but a small proportion of the total population of the country and it will be necessary to secure a further contribution from the remainder.

Agricultural income-taxes would go some way to achieve that end, and this is, in my view, an inevitable development if the Provincial Governments, to whom this source of revenue is allocated by the Constitution, are to play their part in mobilising the resources of the country for the prosecution of the campaign against poverty, illiteracy and ill-health.

Our main revenue from commodity taxation has hitherto been derived from customs duties and these are likely to remain a highly important source of revenue for many years. Indeed, in the immediate post-war period, extensive importation of capital goods and replenishment of stocks of urgently needed consumer goods of all kinds may cause customs receipts to soar to unprecedented heights; and though they may decline sharply once the market has built up adequate stocks of goods for general consumption, they are likely to remain buoyant for a number of years. With the growing industrialisation of the country, however, this source of revenue can hardly be expanded and may, indeed, appreciably contract, particularly if the customs tariff should be given a more positively protective complexion; moreover there are decided objections to burdening capital goods and raw materials with too high rates of duty.

Sales Tax

As an instrument of commodity taxation, reliance will, therefore, increasingly have to be placed on Central excises. The exigencies of war-time finance have already necessitated systematic exploration of this field. New excises have been introduced which are already lucrative and can be expanded; and the law and procedure relating to Central excises have been consolidated in a compendious code, which has been so fashioned as to enable the present excises to be enlarged or further excises to be added as the Central Government's finances may, from time to time, require.

Another possible major development in the field of indirect taxation lies in the expansion of the sales or turnover tax. This source of revenue has so far been but lightly tapped in India, but increasing recourse to it may be necessary in order to finance schemes for economic expansion. Since the first World War the sales tax has become an important feature of the revenue systems of most leading countries of the world and, in some of them, has rivalled customs and even income taxation. During the present war a purchase tax has been introduced in the United Kingdom, which has not only helped to check inflation in that country but has yielded a very large revenue.

In India, the sales tax is a provincial impost and has been applied only in five provinces; and, except in the province of Madras, the yield so far is comparatively small. As with other indirect taxes, care is necessary to prevent the incidence from being too regressive. Problems also arise from uneven incidence in contiguous territories. It would obviously be to the advantage of the consumer and of trade in general if the tax were aplied (in so far as may be practicable) in the same manner, at the same rates, and to the same classes of transaction throughout the country. It is possible that with the aid of the Central Government, a comprehensive system might be devised and administered on a national basis, the net proceeds accruing to the governments of the participating units. An all-India tax of this kind would greatly assist the provinces with their plans for development; and if higher rates were imposed on luxury goods, it should also assist in counteracting the inflationary tendencies of a period of expansion.

There is one further issue to which I must make reference. Public discussions of the advantages of the State ownership or operation of industry, as against the advantages of private enterprise, are being very actively pursued at the present time, which is natural in view of the intrinsic importance of the question. But, in the public consideration of these matters, I feel that perhaps insufficient attention has hitherto been paid to the question whether it would not be advisable to extend State ownership of industries as a source of additional revenue. It may well be that in the future the State may find it necessary to nationalise certain industries—especially those with large possibilities of expansion—in order that it may have at its disposal additional sources of income for the sustenance of national well-being as a whole.

NEW PROPOSALS

I return now to the problems of the year immediately ahead. Against a total estimated expenditure, military and civil, of Rs. 517.63 crores, the total revenue at the existing level of taxation is estimated at Rs. 353 74 crores,

leaving a revenue deficit of Rs. 163.89 crores. On the assumption that the whole of this gap were to be filled by borrowing, the pattern and proportion of our war-time budget would seem to challenge comparison with that of any belligerent country. We have, however, as I explained in detail last year, to keep in view a larger and more comprehensive target if we are to minimise not merely our own budgetary deficit but the gap between total rupee outgoings, whether on our own or Allied account, and total rupee incomings, whether by taxation, borrowing, sales of bullion or other devices for absorbing surplus purchasing power. Whilst the general picture, in the light of this more exacting objective, gives less cause for satisfaction, I have, on a careful survey, come to the conclusion that no really significant improvement could be effected by any practicable major change in the sphere of Central taxation.

Wartime Taxation

The scope for further improvement in this field lies rather, in my opinion, in the direction of greater efforts to combat evasion and in the enforcement of existing tax obligations. I trust that we shall have the support of the House and the country in that policy. For the rest, we must rely on the expansion of our borrowing programme and on the response of the public, born of the gradually widening appreciation of its importance to the maintenance of the economic health of the community, and assisted by the operation of the various controls.

In the sphere of direct taxation it is proposed to continue the Excess Profits Tax at the present rate, together with the scheme of compulsory deposits, for a further year up to March 31, 1946. As regards income-tax, we have given considerable thought to the problems which will shortly arise in regard to the financing of the re-equipment of industry.

Our scheme of wartime taxation has throughout been so devised as not to deplete, and on the contrary to strengthen, the reserves at the disposal of industry for meeting the calls which will be made upon them in the post war period. In this respect we may, without undue sacrifice of modesty, claim to have shown more foresight than we have been given credit for. Nevertheless we are conscious that the restoration and expansion of the machinery of production will call for some new form of assistance and we feel that we are justified in adapting to Indian conditions the measure of relief which has been announced in the United Kingdom. This will take the form of the grant of special initial depreciation allowances in respect of new buildings erected, and new plant and machinery installed, after March 31, 1945. These allowances will, in the year in which they are given, be an addition to the usual depreciation allowances and they will not be deductible in arriving at the written down value. They will not be given for E.P.T. purposes. It is proposed to prescribe these allowances by rule but I may state here that the figures I have in mind are 20 per cent on plant and machinery and 10 per cent on buildings. Allowances at these rates, in addition to the usual rates, should provide substantial encouragement for the early re-equipment of industry.

I am also proposing to allow for income-tax purposes expenditure on scientific research. The proposals follow generally the provisions in the U.K. Finance Act, 1944, which have been described by the Chancellor of the Exchequer as "a comprehensive attempt to relieve from taxation altogether funds devoted by industry to the support of fundamental research, to the translation of laboratory research to production and to the full-scale development of the product." The proposals, in brief, are the allowance of current research expenditure as it is incurred, the allowance of payments to recognised research bodies and institutions and the allowance over a period of five years or over the life of the assets, if shorter, of research expenditure of a capital nature.

Provisions for these reliefs, as well as for earned income relief, which I will now explain, are contained in a Bill to amend the Income-tax and E.P.T. Acts which is being put before the House.

Income-tax

Differentiation for income-tax purposes between incomes that are earned by personal exertion and incomes that are not so earned has long been a feature of the taxation systems of many countries, including England and the U.S.A. It has been somewhat aptly described as the only method by which the depreciation of the human machine can be adequately recognised in taxation. Recent developments in India have emphasised the inequity of the identical treatment of earned and unearned incomes, and this is an appropriate time at which to introduce this distinction into our system.

The Finance Bill provides that there shall be an exemption of one-tenth of earned income subject to a maximum (in terms of income) of Rs. 2,000. The Income-tax Amendment Bill to which I have referred contains provisions for giving effect to this proposal. The exemption will be given only in respect of income which

may be described as derived from personal exertion and will not therefore, for example, apply to the income of companies or in respect of dividends, interest on securities or income from property. It will be given only for income-tax and not for super-tax.

The cost of this earned income relief is estimated at about Rs. 3½ crores, of which the Centre will bear Rs. 2¾ crores. To make up for this loss I propose to increase by 3 pies the surcharge on slabs of income above Rs. 15,000 and on incomes taxable at the maximum rate. This increase will not apply to Life Insurance Companies whose combined rate of income-tax and super-tax will continue to be 63 pies. It is estimated that this small increase will yield about Rs. 4 crores.

Customs and Excise

In the sphere of indirect taxes, the Customs surcharges which are being levied for revenue purposes during the present abnormal conditions will be continued for another year. In the Central Excise tariff a further change is proposed in respect of tobacco. The improved shipping situation has enabled the limit placed on the proportion of imported tobacco in the more expensive types of cigarette to be raised from 30 to 70 per cent. It is accordingly now proposed that the highest class of flue-cured tobacco in the excise tariff should be subdivided into three and should be subjected to a duty of Rs. 7½, Rs. 5 or Rs. 3½ a pound, according as it is intended for use in the manufacture of cigarettes containing more than 60 per cent, more than 40 but not more than 60 per cent, or more than 20 but not more than 40 per cent by weight of imported tobacco.

Minor changes include a parallel increase in the rate of duty on flue-cured tobacco intended for any purpose other than those specified in the tariff. Complementary changes to these will be made in the Customs tariff where the standard rate of duty on unmanufactured tobacco is being raised to Rs. 7½ a pound, with no surcharge, and the rates for related items—cigars, cigarettes and manufactured tobacco—are being re-fixed so as to correspond. These changes, which will come into effect immediately by virtue of a certificate under the Provisional Collection of Taxes Act, are expected to result in an increased revenue of Rs. 3.6 crores under Excise and Rs. 2.4 crores under Customs, a total of Rs. 6 crores.

The only other changes included in the Finance Bill this year relate to postal parcels, the traffic in which continues to increase at a rate with which it is difficult to cope. The rate, which is now 6 annas for the first 40 tolas and 4 annas for every 40 tolas thereafter, will be raised to a uniform 6 annas for every 40 tolas. It is also intended to raise the surcharge on telephone rentals from one-third to one-half, and that on trunk call fees from 20 per cent to 40 per cent. The surcharge on ordinary and express telegrams will also be increased by one anna and two annas respectively. The total additional estimated yield of these increases is Rs. 1,35 lakhs.

Excluding the effect of the proposals for relief to industry in respect of re-equipment and scientific research, of which no reliable estimate can be made at this stage, the changes in taxation and in postal and telegraph rates will yield an estimated increased revenue of Rs. 8.60 crores, which would reduce the prospective deficit to Rs. 155.29 crores.

India's Financial Position

Though this is the end of my last Budget Speech, the House will be relieved to learn that I do not intend to inflict on it a recital of the financial events of my period of office. So much has happened in these six years—a longer period, I believe, than that of any of my predecessors—and changes of such a scale and complexity have been brought about, that I will not attempt to summarise them. I would rather leave that task to the historian and the economist, who will in due course pass judgment on the handling of these matters.

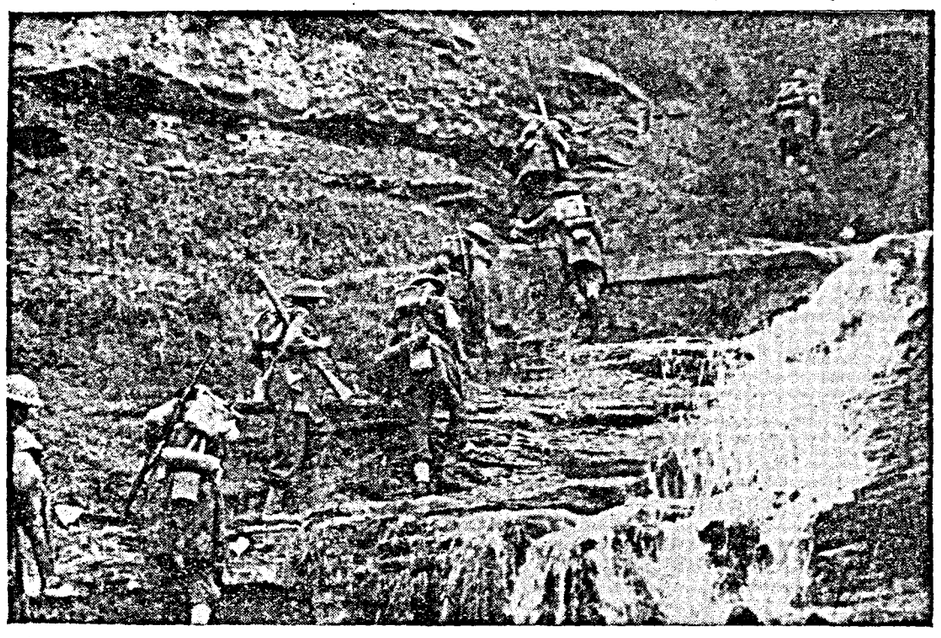
No man who bears so large a share of responsibility as the Finance Member of this Government for the stability of this great country with its enormous population, could fail, during the course of the last few years, to experience the most intense and prolonged anxiety. No man in that position, beset from day to day with harassing problems clamouring for instant solution, could claim that all his decisions had proved to be right. I have been sustained throughout these troublous times by a firm belief that I was acting in the best interests of India. I have been conscious that the difficulties that will arise after the war may be even greater than those of the war, and I have tried, so far as I could, to do nothing that would aggravate them. I have had constantly in mind the thought of the fuller status that India may shortly be expected to achieve, and have endeavoured to order the matters entrusted to me in consonance with that expectation.

I am confident that the financial position of this country is one of immense strength, and that it has successfully weathered the violent storms to which it was exposed. It is not merely the extinction of all her external obligations, and the replacement of them by massive assets, but the fact that even her internal unproductive debt must be a far lighter charge on the national income at the new levels which she will obviously be able to maintain in the future. This has been achieved at great sacrifice, but it has none the less prepared the stage for the momentous developments of the years to come.

I realise that problems of great difficulty and intricacy still await solution. They are part of a tangle of world problems which is the inevitable heritage of war. In spite of the lessons of the last great war and its aftermath and in spite of all that has been said on the subject during the present war, it has not yet proved practicable to devise and ensure the just allocation of the cost of war among the participants in a common cause.

It is not merely the evaluation of enormous material devastation, nor the appraisement of the extent of sacrifice, in terms of blood and sweat and tears, which has defied all accountancy; it is the proportionate distribution of the final burden among partners of widely varying capacity and with entirely differing standards of living which needs to be effected as equitably in the international field as modern systems of national taxation aspire to do in the domestic sphere. Speaking entirely for myself, I cannot see how the pooling of currently available resources, coupled with the acceptance of the fortuitous location of the ravages of war can provide a complete solution for problems of this character.

Before I sit down, Sir, I should like to take this occasion to express my gratitude to the devoted band of official assistants who have served me so well in times of unparalleled strain and difficulty. Their numbers are sadly restricted, and the demands on them have been unlimited, but they have responded so nobly that I should be failing in my duty if I did not publicly accord them this meed of recognition.



Punjabis of the 8th Indian Division climb up a steep hill under cover of a water course to attack an enemy post in Italy.

19TH INDIAN DIVISION'S 400-MILE MARCH TO IRRAWADDY BRIDGEHEAD

IT is now revealed that the Indian and British troops who have clung grimly to their bridgehead across the Irrawaddy north of Mandalay are from the 19th Indian Division, commanded by Major-General T. W. Rees, D.S.O., M.C.

They were shelled night and day from massed enemy guns and counter-attacked by waves of fanatical Jap infantry. But they held on to the few low hills that were our bridgehead at Singu, opposite Kyaukmyaung.

As more troops of the 19th Division made the crossing they turned to the offensive and won more ground on the river bank, killing hundreds of Japanese.

The establishment of the Singu bridgehead was a vital move in the 14th Army's operations against Mandalay. It was established by the men who in little more than six weeks had marched 400 miles and had fought elements of three Japanese divisions on 18 battlefields.

Advance through Difficult Country

It was in November last year that the 19th Indian Division, in two columns, secretly slipped across the Chindwin at Sittaung and struck out into the wild Upper Chindwin hills. Accompanying the columns were more than 1,000 vehicles and all the Division's guns which were ferried across the river on boats and rafts.

Faced by some of the most difficult country in the world the columns moved in two directions, one north and east along the Thaungdut-Indaw track, the other east towards Pinlebu.

The line of advance of the northerly column lay along tracks which snake through a huge corrugation of jungle-clad hills and valleys and across the Mu and Maze rivers which are themselves criss-crossed by hundreds of steep-sided chaungs.

In its path, too, lay the mighty 3,000 feet Zibyu Taungdanha formidable mountain obstacle known as "the Range of the Wild Gooseberry Trees"—an escarpment which acts as a natural barrier between the Chindwin and the Mu rivers.

Along this tortuous route the men of the 19th Division marched. Their goal lay 100 air miles away at Indaw, in North Burma, where troops of the 36th British Division were operating in the railway corridor.

Ahead of the column went engineers who hacked a motor-road from the jungle and sandstone cliffs. At one point they built a road out from a sheer cliff face on a timber platform. Throughout the march the troops were supplied by air. Aircraft zoomed over the men daily to drop food and supplies. Light reconnaissance aircraft maintained constant contact with the column and reported its progress to base.

On December 18, after a 150-mile march, Gurkha troops, heading the advance, appeared out of the blue in North Burma to link up near Banmauk with a patrol of the Royal Scots Fusiliers from 36th Division.

The significance of the link-up was that the whole of North Burma was sealed off to the Japanese, an area twice the size of Ireland with more than 2,000 inhabited localities liberated, and, not the least important, a cohesive line of advance established.

The column which marched on Pinlebu captured the town on December 16, exactly one month and a day after crossing the Chindwin. The fall of Pinlebu paved the way for the capture of Wuntho and Nankan, important towns on the Mandalay-Myitkyina railway which the Japanese used as a base for their operations against India in the spring of 1944.

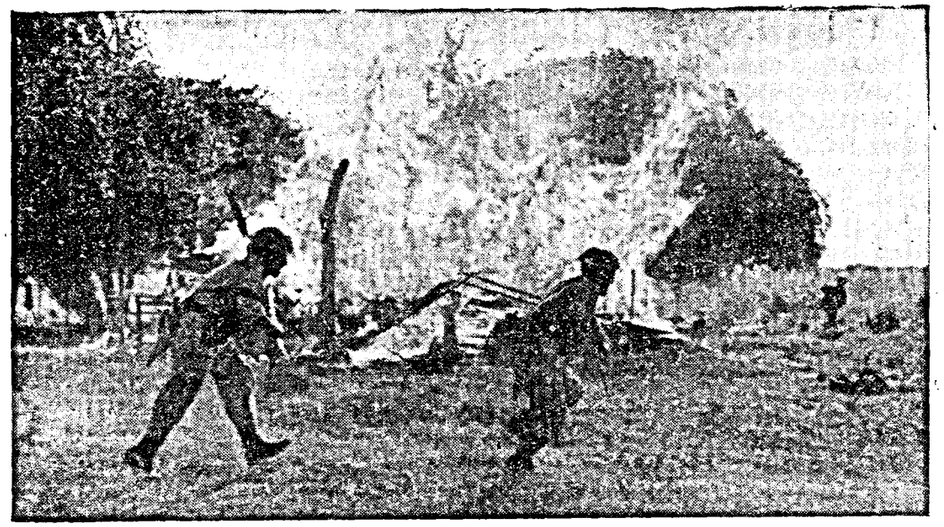
Meeting at a point on the railway south of Wuntho the two columns reformed and the 19th Division battled southwards to the place where the North Burma hills open up into the Central Burma plain.

Japs Routed

In a desperate attempt to stem the advance, the Japanese converted Kanbalu, the gateway to the plains, into a stronghold. They entrenched themselves in front of the town with light machine-guns, mortars and cannon, but tanks and infantry of the advancing Division crushed the defenders and swept onward.

The Division advanced towards Shwebo against steadily growing resistance. The men who formed its ranks fought magnificently, refusing to be halted. Rajputs, Gurkhas, Worcesters, Baluchis, Frontier Force Riflemen and men from Welsh Regiments—all were in good heart and had the measure of their enemy.

They had marched 400 miles to reach Shwebo and their feelings of achievement more than compensated for the strain and hardships they had undergone.



The third bridgehead over the Irrawaddy was established when the 33 Corps struck across the river on February 12-13 near Myinmu, 30 miles west of Mandalay. Picture shows Gurkhas attacking in a burning Burmese village.

On January 9, Punjabi troops of the Baluch Regiment forced a way into Shwebo and captured the crossroads scuth of the town. Wnile troops of another Division entered Shwebo from the north these men blocked the enemy's path of retreat and dealt ruthlessly with Japanese suicide parties who were trying to cover the withdrawal of their forces from the town.

One action typical of many fought during the advance concerned the Worcesters. They set off at midnight and after marching for nine hours ran into a belt of fire from positions cunningly sited along the edge of a ravine. They broke up the enemy and continued to advance.

Built 5 Strips in 10 days

In less than ten weeks an Indian battalion marched 502 miles and its mules and muleteers covered 629 miles.

Sick and wounded were evacuated by light aircraft from strips prepared by infantry and sappers. Once they built five strips in ten days.

Towards the end of January the Division had captured five major airfields and 150 miles of the Mandalay-Myitkyina railway.

After the fall of Shwebo fresh impetus and strength was gained for the advance across the paddy fields towards the Irrawaddy. Against increasing resistance the Division fought its way towards Kyaukmyaung on the west bank of the river.

Often the Japanese fought frenziedly. At one key point they threw themselves upon Sikh machine-gunners screaming "Banzai!" and (in English) "Charge!" More than 60 Japanese dead were scattered about the gun positions before the action ended.

Irrawaddy Crossing

On January 11, the first troops crossed the broad Irrawaddy and formed a bridgehead on its east bank. As more and more men were pushed across in rubber boats and assault craft Japanese counter-attacks reached a new pitch of ferocity.

Toughened by fierce contests, hardened by long marches over wild wooded hills and through thick teak and bamboo jungle, the men of the 19th Division were well equipped for the battle.

Before the Singu bridgehead was secured many bitter engagements were fought. In one night Gurkhas beat off five fierce attacks while men of the Worcesters broke up three screaming waves of infantry.

The fighting in the bridgehead reached a pitch of intensity probably unequalled on any front in Burma. At one time the Japanese poured hundreds of shells into our positions from the biggest concentration of guns they have ever had in the South-East Asia war zone.

COMMANDER OF 19TH INDIAN DIVISION



Maj.-Gen. T. W. Rees points out a Jap position in the Mandalay area to a senior officer.

Maj.-Gen. T. W. Rees

COMMANDER of the 19th Indian Division is small, stockily-built Major-General T. W. Rees, C.I.E., D.S.O., M.C., who was appointed to this Command in July, 1943.

Rees was born in 1898 and was commissioned at the age of 17. With the 7th Indian Division in the last war he won immediate awards of the M.C. and D.S.O. During the Palestine Campaign he was wounded and on his recovery he shared in Allenby's final offensive and victorious advance into Syria.

Brilliant Record of Service

Maj.-Gen. Rees then served in Egypt and later came to India where he held staff and regimental appointments. He saw considerable service on the North-West Frontier, having taken part in the operations in 1919, 1922-24, 1933-33 and in Peshawar and Khajuri Plain in 1939-40. He speaks Pushtu fluently.

During the present war Maj.-Gen. Rees served with distinction in the Eritrean and Libyan campaigns. He commanded the 10th Indian Infantry Brigade of the 5th Indian Division which was outstanding at Keren, Asmara, and Massawa and also in the Western Desert and in Iraq.

The 10th Indian Infantry Brigade was the first to enter Asmara, capital of Eritrea, and Maj.-Gen. Rees received the surrender of the city from the Italian civil and military authorities.

Later he commanded the Brigade in Cyprus from 1941 to early 1942. After Cyprus he was again in Iraq and the Western Desert as Commander of the 10th Indian Division.

From June to August 1942, he was commander of the Cairo defences—the force, including British, Indians, Free French, Czechs and Poles, being named after him.

In August 1942, Maj.-Gen. Rees was once more in India serving at G.H.Q. He was appointed Brigadier-General Staff, of 33 Indian Corps, then commanded by Lieut.-General Sir Philip Christison, of whom Gen. Rees is a great admirer.

In addition to being mentioned in despatches several times, Maj.-Gen. Rees was awarded the C.I.E. in 1931 and the bar to the D.S.O. in 1941 for services in Libya.

He is married and has a family. He is a keen sportsman being particularly interested in swimming, diving and riding.

When road making and widening were vital tasks before the start of the present operations Maj.-Gen. Rees was at work in the early morning with sleeves rolled up and pick or shovel in hand.

"Set the example yourselves, gentlemen," he told his officers, "and your men will realise the urgency of the task."

He knows all his officers by their Christian names. It is not unusual to pass a jeep bouncing along a jungle track in the early morning. An occupant waves and shouts a greeting. The General is going forward.

LEAVE TO U.K. FOR NURSING OFFICERS

British personnel of the Indian and British Nursing Services are eligible for the United Kingdom leave schemes, says a Note issued by the Adjutant-General's Branch, G.H.Q. (I).

There appears to be some misapprehension at present in regard to the applicability of the various leave schemes sanctioned for these services, says the Note.

The term 'British personnel' includes officers of non-Indian domicile of the Indian Nursing Services and all officers of the British Nursing Services.

These personnel are eligible for leave under the various schemes appropriate for the Indian Army and British services.

JOHN WATTS—BURMESE VILLAGE HEADMAN

MADRAS infantrymen, searching villages on the upper reaches of the Mu River, met an old, deaf and weak-sighted Englishman wearing a lungyi khaki coat and felt hat. He saluted the company commander, Major Reginald Noronha, of Trichinopoly, and addressed him in faultless English. He was, he said, John Davis Watts, formerly of Reading, Berkshire, a 74-year-old army pensioner and until lately headman of a Burmese village.

His story is one of the strangest I have heard, writes an Indian Army Observer. He joined the King's Own Scottish Borderers in 1893 and after service in India went to Burma 42 years ago.

Soon after he married a Burmese girl, and on leaving the Army in 1905 settled down in Burma. He and his wife had two children. The elder became a police official but died at the age of 29; the second, a girl, died when she was 12. His wife died two months ago in Kanthagon village.

Japs "gave us no food"

Watts' lips twitched as he said, "She died of starvation. She was only four stone something at the time. The Japanese gave us no food as we were suspect."

All his misfortunes have failed to sour his outlook, and he spoke cheerfully of his early days in Burma. "I lived in Shwebo with my wife then," he said. "My pension of Rs. 25 was hardly enough so I bought a bullock cart and plied it for hire, living like that for nine years. It was an honest occupation and I am not ashamed of it.

"The District Commissioner, Mr. W. T. Plames, then gave me the job of headman in Wetto village which I held for 15½ years." With pride he then recounted how he had organised life in the village. "I received many certificates and awards for rounding up cattle thieves and dacoits," he said.

"I was happy there for I had a good home and all I needed. Then the Japs came and I went into hiding in the jungle for a time. When I returned I was suspected as a spy, placed under surveillance and given a suspect's badge which I had to wear.

"The Japs came to me every now and then and said they would help me if I helped them. I explained I was deaf and knew nothing of what was going on. Of course, I knew everything that was going on, for the Burmese came and told me things. They wrote messages in Burmese on their forearms with their fingers.

"But nothing would have made me tell. Not even starvation, and I have not had an English meal for 2½ years. I have been living on boiled rice and boiled leaves."

He had appointed his successor in Wetto but the Japanese put in their own man. Watts requested the Madras officers to back him up and Lieut. P. T. Allen, of Bangalore, went in and re-appointed Watts' choice.

The old headman is still a soldier at heart and his mind often turns to barrack room days. He is, in fact, just like a character out of a page of Kipling.

COMFORTS FOR INDIAN TROOPS IN ITALY

Thanks to the people of India and Britain, Indian troops in Italy are being well provided with comforts this winter. "To say there is 100 per cent improvement on last winter is to put it mildly," an Indian Army Observer was told.

To date 100,760 woollen garments have been received and 100,000 have already been issued. They include pullovers, scarves, gloves, Balaclava helmets and socks.

The bulk of the supply went to the forward areas, where Indian troops are battling against severe weather as well as a determined enemy.

Over half the items have been sent out at the request of Mrs. L. S. Amery, wife of the Secretary of State for India. During Mr. Amery's visit to troops in Italy earlier this year he made special enquiries about the need for comforts and welfare arrangements generally.

Information has been received that a further 7,360 woollen garments from the U.K. and 100 bales of comforts sent from India on the instruction of the Viceroy are on their way to Italy.

FREE VEGETABLE SEEDS FOR LIBERATED AREAS

An offer of 25,000 free packets of hot weather vegetable seeds by Messrs. L. R. Brothers, Saharanpur, has been accepted by H. E. the Viceroy. The seeds have been despatched for free distribution in liberated areas on the Eastern Frontier of Assam and Bengal, said a Press Note issued by the Education, Health and Lands Department, Government of India, on February 19.

5TH ROYAL GURKHA RIFLES SHARES V.C. RECORD

Posthumous Award to Rfn. Gurung

WITH the posthumous award of the Victoria Cross to Rifleman Thaman Gurung, 5th Royal Gurkha Rifles, of village Singla, tehsil No. 2, West Nepal, for outstanding gallantry in Italy, his regiment shares with the Royal Norfolk Regiment the proud distinction of four Victoria Crosses won in the present war. This is more than any other regiment in the British or Indian Armies has won and constitutes a regimental record for Empire forces during this war.

Rifleman Thaman Gurung gave his life in a series of acts of selfless bravery and defiance of the Germans on Monte San Bartolo on November 10, 1944. He was one of two scouts moving ahead of a patrol. As he began to work his way up to the summit which was the objective, Rifleman Thaman Gurung's attention was drawn to Germans in a slit trench just below the plateau who were preparing to open up with machine-guns on the leading section of the patrol. Immediately he leapt to his feet and charged the trench. Taken by surprise, the Germans surrendered without opening fire.

The Gurkha then crept to the summit from where he saw more Germans dug in on the reverse slope preparing to throw grenades over the crest on to his comrades. Without hesitation he crossed an exposed sky-line under close-range machine-gun fire and himself fired on the German positions with his tommy gun, thus allowing his forward section to reach the summit.

Later when the patrol was ordered to withdraw due to heavy machine-gun fire, Rfn. Thaman Gurung again crossed the sky-line in full view of the enemy and, constantly exposed to fire at short-range, put burst after burst from his tommy gun into the German slit trench.

He threw his two hand grenades into the trench and, not content with this, raced back

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 385)



Gurkhas advancing along the road towards S. Silvestro, north of Faenza.

GEN. MARK CLARK'S SALUTE TO INDIAN DIVISIONS

"I have had the distinction of having under my command a trio of great Indian divisions—the Fourth, Eighth and Tenth—whose fighting record in Italy is a splendid one", Gen. Mark Clark, commanding the 15th Army Group, told a party of journalists from India who are now touring the Italian Front.

"The achievements in combat of these Indian soldiers are noteworthy," continued Gen. Clark. "They have carried on successfully in grim and bloody fighting against a tenacious enemy helped by terrain particularly favourable for defence. No obstacle has succeeded in delaying these Indian troops for long or in lowering their high morale or fighting spirit.

"They are well led, these three divisions. Each of the divisional commanders at one time commanded a battalion of an Indian infantry regiment in combat. These divisional commanders came up the hard way. They are Maj.-Gen. Holworthy of the Fourth, Maj.-Gen. Dudley Russell of the Eighth and Maj.-Gen. Denys Reid of the Tenth.

Bravery of Indian Troops

"Your 'jawan' and 'Tommy Atkins' and 'Kock' and other soldiers of this international 15th Army Group have established firm bonds of friendship and respect born in action against a tough enemy. The bravery of Indian troops is attested by the battle honours and decorations awarded.

"The Fourth, Eighth and Tenth Indian Divisions will forever be associated with the fighting for Cassino, the capture of Rome, the Arno Valley, the liberation of Florence and the breaking of the Gothic Line.

"I salute the brave soldiers of these three great Indian divisions."



General M.-W. Clark

'SOLDIERLY PROWESS' OF INDIAN TROOPS PRAISED

The American General commanding the Fifth Army in Italy, General Lucian Truscott, has paid a high tribute to the Indians' contribution on his front, praising especially their "soldierly prowess" under trying conditions.

Gen. Truscott issued his tribute in a message to the Indian services newspaper "Sandes".

"Indian troops in this theatre," he says, "have won the respect and admiration of all the Allied soldiers with whom they have been associated. The successes they have achieved in a long campaign under trying conditions of weather and terrain bespeak their soldierly prowess.

"It is indeed an honour for any commander to have such troops. During the brief period they have been under my command they have executed difficult movements and accomplished successfully most difficult operations."

W.R.I.N.S.

India's smart sailor girls, who work for the Royal Indian Navy in shore establishments, will in future be known as WRINS. The Naval Wing of the Women's Auxiliary Corps (India) has been re-named the Women's Royal Indian Naval Service—W.R.I.N.S. for short.

On the neat blue winter uniform and equally attractive white summer "rig" the special W.R.I.N.S. badge will be worn as well as the W.A.C. (I) badge.

The W.R.I.N.S. remains an integral part of the Women's Auxiliary Corps (India) and its present relation to the Corps is not altered in any way.

DEFENCE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS VISIT ARMY TRAINING CENTRES

DURING a six-day tour by air three members of the Defence Consultative Committee saw the "Wasp"—a mobile flame thrower—in action at a Tactical Training Centre, met cadets at the Kitchener Inter-Services Pre-Cadet College, Nowgong, and saw officer-students and W.A.C. (I) officers at work at the Staff College, Quetta.

Members who made the tour were Hony. Capt. Sardar Bahadur Dalpat Singh, Khan Bahadur Mian Ghulam Kadir Muhammed Shahban and Mr. Govind V. Desmukh.

At the Tactical Training Centre a demonstration of a three-section attack on two "enemy" bunkers was very realistic. One of the bunkers was kept silent by machine-guns, mortars and smoke bombs while the covering section gave supporting fire to the assault section.

Assault Exercise

Then enrolled on to the "battle-field", a small tank-like vehicle—the "Wasp"— spitting long sheets of flame at the nearer bunker which caught fire. The mopping-up section came up behind and accounted for the remaining "enemy".

Members also saw an assault exercise by V.C.O.s and British troops under covering fire of 25-pounders and machine-guns manned by Indians; a display of anti-tank weapons in action; and an exhibition of Jap equipment. They went for a ride in a Sherman tank.

At Nowgong members watched the training given to officer candidates sent here by the G.H.Q. Selection Board. They were keenly interested in special courses designed to develop initiative, self-confidence and character in cadets.

From Jhansi the party flew to Quetta where they went round the Staff College and saw Indian and British officers being trained in staff duties by instructors, some of whom are Indian.

They also visited the W.A.C. (I.) Wing of the Staff College which has recently been started. Thirty-six women officers are studying here to take up third grade staff appointments, and they have their own class rooms and comfortable mess.

RAO BAHADUR DINKARRAO RAJURKAR

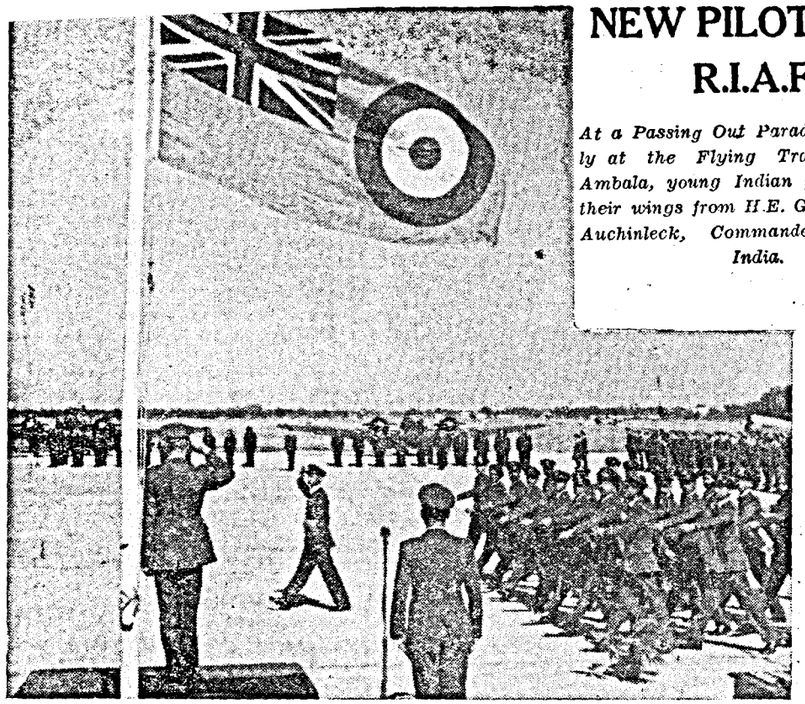
H.E. the Viceroy has been pleased to nominate Rao Bahadur Dinkarrao Rajurkar, M.L.A., of Akola to be a Member of the National Defence Council in the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. R. M. Deshmukh appointed High Commissioner for India in South Africa, said a Communique issued from the Viceroy's House on March 7.



Open air lecture on field and trench warfare to officer cadets at the Officers' Training School, Belgaum.

NEW PILOTS FOR R.I.A.F.

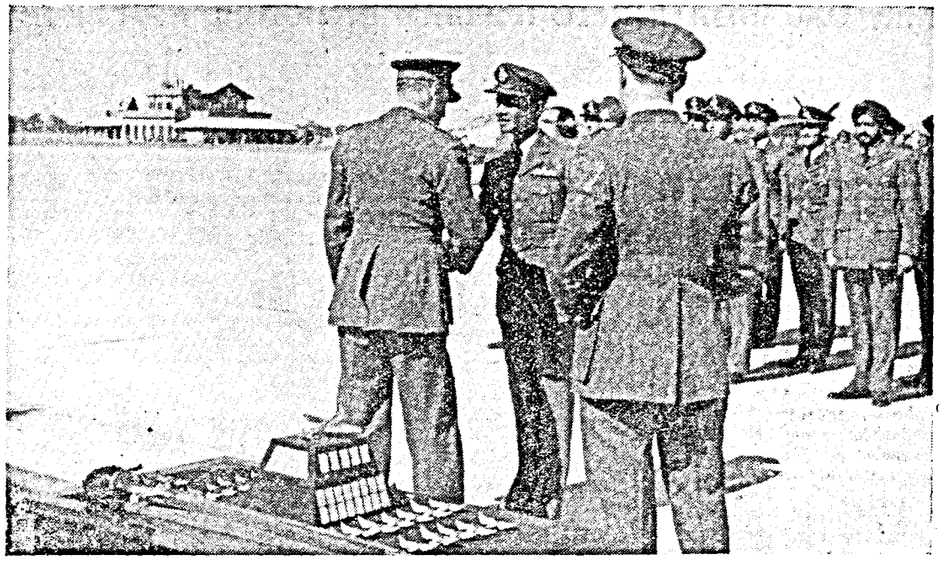
At a Passing Out Parade held recently at the Flying Training School, Ambala, young Indian pilots received their wings from H.E. Gen. Sir Claude Auchinleck, Commander-in-Chief in India.



C.-in-C. takes the salute at the march past of the parade.



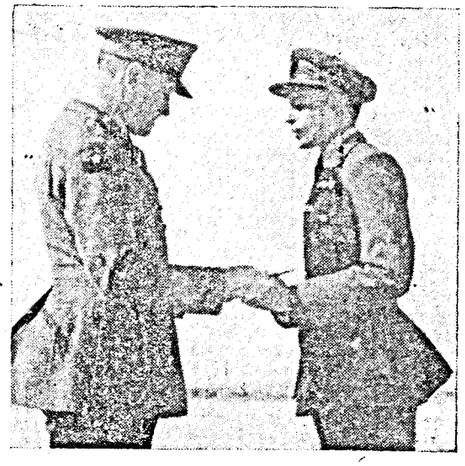
The Pupil Officers on parade.



Acting Pilot Officer A. K. P. Choudhuri, of Ranchi, being complimented by the C.-in-C. after receiving his wings.



Gen. Auchinleck presents the special trophy to Acting Pilot Officer H. C. Sahgal, of Lahore, as the best pilot of the course.



Acting Pilot Officer T. Zachariah, of Delhi, the best Pupil Officer passing out from Ambala, receives the Sword of Honour (of solid gold)

NEW ORGANISATION TO REPLACE NATIONAL WAR FRONT

Mr. G. S. Bozman Explains the Scheme

IN the Central Legislative Assembly on March 2, speaking on Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan's resolution recommending the liquidation of the National War Front organisation, Mr. G. S. Bozman, Secretary, Information and Broadcasting Department, announced that Government proposed to replace the National War Front by an official publicity organisation "essentially mobile in character and designed to reach the most inaccessible elements of the population."

He said: "There has come a shift of emphasis in India from the danger of invasion to the discomforts of war. What we want now is a publicity organisation to give information and instruction which would help to secure the co-operation of every one in working the controls, the rationing system, smashing the black market, in fighting inflation by savings, in short, dealing with all the problems which have arisen out of the war."

Here is the full text of Mr. Bozman's speech:—

Sir, I must open my remarks with an expression of regret that the Hon'ble Sir Sultan Ahmed (Member for Information and Broadcasting) is not to be here to reply to this Resolution himself. That regret will, I believe, be shared by the House, not only, of course, from their point of view, because of Sir Sultan Ahmed's indisposition, but because unfortunately I now have to inflict myself upon them.

I should also say a word in explanation in regard to the remarks made by my hon'ble friend, Mr. Abdul Qaiyum. I fear that there must have been some misunderstanding and had I been in a position to put that position in which he finds himself right, I should have been very glad to do so.

Now, from the various speeches that have been made on this Resolution, I think there is a certain amount of misunderstanding and misinformation about the functions and objectives of the National War Front. Statements have been made by members of this House coming from individual provinces as to how the Front is working in their provinces. We have to speak of the War Front as viewed from the Centre, and I hope that the facts that I place before the House now will help members to arrive at a correct and unbiassed conclusion.

It is not surprising perhaps that there is some misinformation about this organisation. It is not the business of a publicity organisation to publicise itself. The National War Front was started early in 1942, shortly after Japan entered the war, and won a series of startling victories. The situation which then arose called for a quick remedy. The Japanese were almost at the gates of India; their ships appeared in Indian waters, and we seemed to lie at the mercy of their air arm. Certain cities in Eastern India were evacuated by nervous citizens; foodstuffs and other civil supplies went underground, and even currency coins began to be hoarded very much to the detriment of the country's economy.

It was therefore imperative to restore confidence as speedily as possible, not only for the sake of the country's war effort but also for the day to day life and welfare of the people. In these circumstances Government felt that steps should be taken immediately to mobilise public opinion and forestall a lowering of morale. They also felt that this purpose would best be achieved by an organisation which would appeal to the popular imagination, which would do everything possible to maintain public morale, counteract defeatism and rumours and to inculcate—as His Excellency the Viceroy said—faith, courage and endurance, and to *stimulate generally* the will to resist all aggressors.

What was required was the organisation of a body of men of good will who would subscribe to its objects and pledge themselves to do their utmost to give effect to them. Non-official men and women of public spirit and influence, as well as trade unions and other groups who were willing to identify themselves with these objectives were welcome and could join.

Provincial Branches

Thus the National War Front came into existence. Each Provincial Government was asked to organise a provincial National War Front on a purely provincial basis, and the Central Government confined itself to maintaining a central office whose function was to advise and co-ordinate provincial fronts and to supply them with information and material as necessary to enable them to carry out their activities; and I would like to emphasise that although provincial activities were substantially subsidised from the Centre, in the provincial sphere each provincial National War Front has enjoyed complete autonomy.

That is how the National War Front originated. Its chief function has been to build up correct understanding of the war and to arouse and maintain the right type of war-mindedness and morale. Understanding must be created by an appeal to facts and reason, showing that rumour is demonstrably false, and morale cannot be maintained by mere propaganda unless it is backed by a realisation of the issues at stake; and such understanding had to be created among lakhs and crores of human beings; not only among the citizens of towns, who have also the benefit of other aids to understanding such as newspapers, radio and the cinema; but also among the inhabitants of the rural areas whose facilities for keeping in touch with the course of events not only in the world but in their own country are somewhat limited.

This was exactly how these many public-spirited non-official men and women ran it, and carried out with great success, under most difficult conditions, the work of dispelling rumour and panic. They rendered a most valuable service at a time of the greatest emergency and stress—not to say the greatest crisis that India has ever faced. I would like to pay a sincere tribute to these patriotic and energetic non-officials who undertook the initial direction of this organisation and to the thousands of other patriotic workers drawn from all walks of life and from every community who carried it on. India, I believe, should be grateful to them for the part they played in restoring normal conditions, often at very considerable cost to themselves.

National War Front and Politics

Now, that period to which I have referred seems already remote. The war is now contained within steadily narrowing margins, thanks to the matchless war efforts of the United Nations, in which India has played so gallant a part. This has taken time. After we had withstood the first shock of the war, there was a time when nothing startling seemed to happen—a time of marshalling our strength, a time of mobilising all our resources. The National War Front, as the only field publicity organisation in the country, had an important part to play during this period also, in attempting to maintain the country's morale when victory seemed far and uncertain, and inculcating faith, courage and endurance in the tasks which lay ahead.

It has been alleged that the National War Front has dabbled in politics. Well, there may have been a few—but I would emphasise the word 'few'—cases where individuals confused the objectives and the mission for which they were working. In such a widespread organisation of such recent and rapid growth I conceive it to be impossible to secure a 100 per cent understanding of the objectives and a 100 per cent discipline. But I can most definitely affirm and assure the House that the National War Front's policy has always been and is to keep out of party politics and I do not think the stray cases of a few individuals in this enormous organisation should be sufficient to condemn the whole.

Medium of the Organisation

Some rather strange remarks have been made in the course of the debate as to the work carried out by the National War Front. It has been alleged, for one thing, that most of the literature produced by the National War Front is in English. This I regard as a very curious charge. The chief medium of the whole organisation is the spoken word and I cannot imagine an organisation functioning at all throughout India, unless the spoken word was in the language of the area. It is true, of course, that the material issued from the Centre has been in English; but that material is meant either for the guidance of the speakers or is sent to the provincial units to be translated into their local languages, and this in fact is exactly what the provincial organisations have done.

It has also been stated that no recruits have come in because of the National War Front. Well, Sir, the National War Front is not a recruiting organisation and recruiting as such is not its business. But if it is implied that the efforts of the National War Front to inculcate faith and courage and the will to meet aggression have not helped recruitment, directly or indirectly, then I think I must correct that impression. Many young men, after attending the National War Front rally, have voluntarily stepped forward and joined the ranks of India's fighting men and this has been a feature of the meetings particularly in the Punjab, where the working of the Front has been an outstanding success.

Some of my Hon'ble friends have also given an impression that money has been spent recklessly: Well, Sir, if you consider the widespread nature of this work, I think I can say without hesitation that its cost is cheap by any standard. The Centre spends about one pice per head per annum. Compared with the money spent on publicity by the Governments in the United Kingdom or the United States of America, the

expenditure in India is microscopic. I would just give one instance, if I may, and this will also refute the charge that the National War Front is subsidising newspapers by placing advertisements with them. Advertising is, of course, an important medium of publicity used for its obvious merit by all Governments. British newspapers have no need to be subsidised and I think they would scorn such a proposal with contempt.

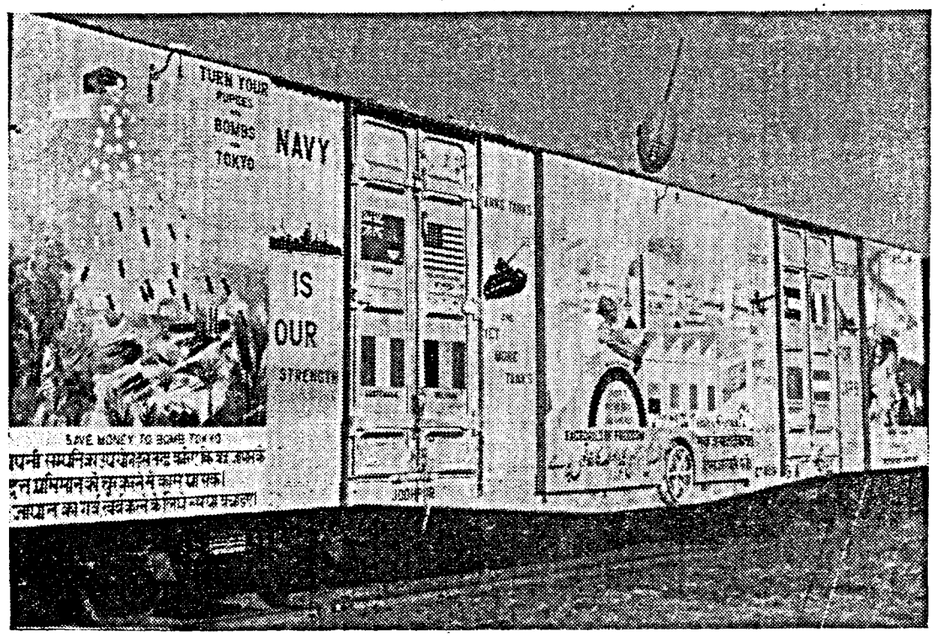
I have no reason to believe that Indian newspapers would adopt any different attitude, but the British Government have spent on advertising alone, which is only a small part of Government's publicity work, on an average 14 annas per head per war year. The Government of India's annual expenditure on all its publicity, including the National War Front, All-India Radio, advertising, films and so on is about 3½ pice per head per war year.

There are also one or two smaller matters to which I might refer. My Hon'ble friend Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan said in his speech in November that the National War Front was a useful organisation when it started but he expressed the belief that, now that the country is united, there is no need for such an organisation. Well, Sir, I wish I could subscribe to that view but I cannot. There is very much stern work ahead before the war is won and I think we should be doing wrong if we relaxed our efforts to help the war one jot.

I should also say that I noted that Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan said that recruiting had stopped. That seemed to me a curious statement. Recruiting has not stopped and I think we are proud that there are still many places in all branches of the armed forces for which resolute and patriotic young men and women are competing.

Then, Mr. Abdul Qaiyum, in a diatribe which to my mind seemed remarkable for its self denigration, referred to motor vans being bought and used by the National War Front when there was no transport to provide food where it was wanted. I think he overlooked the fact that the vans bought by the National War Front were bought long before the famine either began or indeed made its first appearance.

Now, Sir, the speeches made by Sir Cowasji Jehangir, Mr. Ghiasuddin, Mr. Jamnadas Mehta and Sir Ratanji Dalal and others are, I think, a fair answer to the critics of the National War Front and I can assure these gentlemen that any publicity organisation of the Government of India will continue consistently to support



all efforts and all individuals who stand for the destruction of Germany and Japan.

But, Sir, with the change in the war situation from about the middle of last year and the steadily mounting offensive of the United Nations, there has been a shift of emphasis in India from the danger of invasion to the discomforts and restrictions of war life. The man who was at one time alarmed at the prospect of an air raid is now equally alarmed about his stocks of rice or his ability to clothe himself and his family; and directly arising out of the war have come these problems of scarcity of food, shortage of consumer goods, problems of inflation, problems of black market and the hoarders. For the solution of these problems, we believe that the same war morale needs to be maintained.

The Government have had to initiate many measures such as the Grow More Food campaign, rationing, controls of all kinds, controls of transport, control of speculation, promotion of savings and so on. The success of these measures which are for the good of the people at large depends on the co-operation of everybody in the country. Here again arises that important need for building up understanding of how the problems have arisen and how the countermeasures can solve them and above all understanding not only of the duties but of the rights of the people at large.

Now, Sir, to get that understanding, we must exhort the people to grow more food. We must exhort them to save and invest. We must tell them what the controls are—controls of prices, controls of stocks. We must tell them what their approach should be when they suspect the black market or the hoarder. These publicity campaigns are. I venture to believe, of so non-controversial and so beneficial a character that public support should not and will not be withheld from them and I believe that the House will support them.

The New Scheme

And from that I now come to the question of the future. As I have just said, there has come a shift of emphasis in India from the danger of invasion to the discomforts of war. What we want now is a publicity organisation to give information and instruction which would help to secure the co-operation of every one in working the controls, the rationing system, smashing the black market, in fighting inflation by savings, in short in dealing with all the problems which have arisen out of the war. With this change in requirements we believe it is necessary either to reorganise the National War Front or to replace it by a more suitable organisation. For nearly a year now, we have been considering this question, and the Government of India have now decided in favour of the latter and I am in a position to announce the general outline of the new scheme.

We propose to replace the National War Front by an official publicity organsation, essentially mobile in character and designed to reach the most inaccessible elements of the population. In each province, we suggest an organisation in three layers—the District Unit, the Regional Unit and the Provincial Unit. The District Unit will consist of a whole-time paid organiser, a motor lorry equipped with a talkie film projector, a loud speaker, a gramophone, lantern slides and a singer.

SIR MUHAMMAD YAMIN KHAN (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): Why not a dancer?

District Units

MR. G. S. BOZMAN: They will come under the head 'non-official co-operators.'

Now, Sir, the district units would be able to hold about 15 meetings a month. They will collect their audience from the adjoining villages and on the average, we think that a unit would cover the whole district in about three to four months. They would show films, broadcast radio programmes and arrange lectures, they would co-operate with small cattle fairs, they would organise exhibitions and they would organise singing and dramatic parties, in which some of my Hon'ble friends over there seem to be so interested.

They would also get the local notabilities to preside at meetings. Official organisations interested in anti-hoarding and profiteering measures, recruiting, small savings, controls, Grow More Food campaigns and so on could use these media for their work. The intention is to make these performances sufficiently entertaining so as to provide some recreation to the villager and to attract large crowds and thus furnish excellent opportunities for publicity for war and the problems arising out of war.

The district organiser in charge of the unit would work under the supervision of the district officer. The regional units would be almost entirely supervisory and their function would be to tour throughout and to make certain that the district units carry out and arrange programmes and function efficiently, and the regional units, if required would work under the divisional commissioners where divisions exist. The agency controlling district units would be provincial units and this, we propose, should be

a branch of the provincial publicity or other appropriate department under the Provincial Governments.

These units would produce material in local languages or films of provincial interest and songs to suit local tastes and also arrange for exhibitions in small towns. We suggested that these units should run refresher courses to train mobile units and should be assisted by a lady organiser for work and advice in connection with special work among women.

Central Organisation

The existing organisation at the Centre would be replaced by a Field Publicity section of the Department of Information and Broadcasting. This would represent the appropriate counterparts of the sections in the Provincial Units *i.e.*, the Production section, the Song Publicity Section, the Women's section and the Exhibition section. This Central organisation would supply publicity guidance notes on all-India problems and literature to the Provincial Units but the provinces would be free to adapt the material to their own needs. The Central organisation would also arrange for refresher courses for training the staff down to the level of Regional organisers. The cost of the scheme would be shared between the Centre and the Provinces in the ratio, it is proposed, of two-thirds to one-third for recurring expenditure and fifty-fifty for non-recurring expenditure.

Information and Factual Approach

This new scheme differs from the existing National War Front in two important respects. The basic approach to the people will be informative and factual rather than emotional or exhortatory and the staff will be paid by and work under direct government supervision and control. While the primary task of the organisation will continue to be publicity of an educative nature for war and problems arising directly out of the war, there is nothing to prevent it from being utilised for nation-building activities such as instruction in co-operative credit, agriculture, cattle, health, education and Central and Provincial Governments' reconstruction and development schemes.

We have told the Provincial Governments quite clearly that we do not in the least wish to interfere with the publicity work, much of it of an excellent standard, which they themselves have been financing. And, I should like to explain here that if, on account of our proposed reorganisation, it becomes necessary for them to rearrange or reorganise their own work in any degree, we shall do all we can to afford them every assistance, through the new organisation, in furthering all kinds of war publicity.

The new organisation will be wholly, as I have said, under the administrative control of Provincial Governments. But that would not mean that contacts with non-officials which have proved so valuable in the past would be abandoned. The new organisation must rely a great deal on non-official co-operation, advice and assistance. We have suggested to the Provinces that for every District Unit there might be an Advisory Committee consisting of non-officials and officials concerned with war publicity.

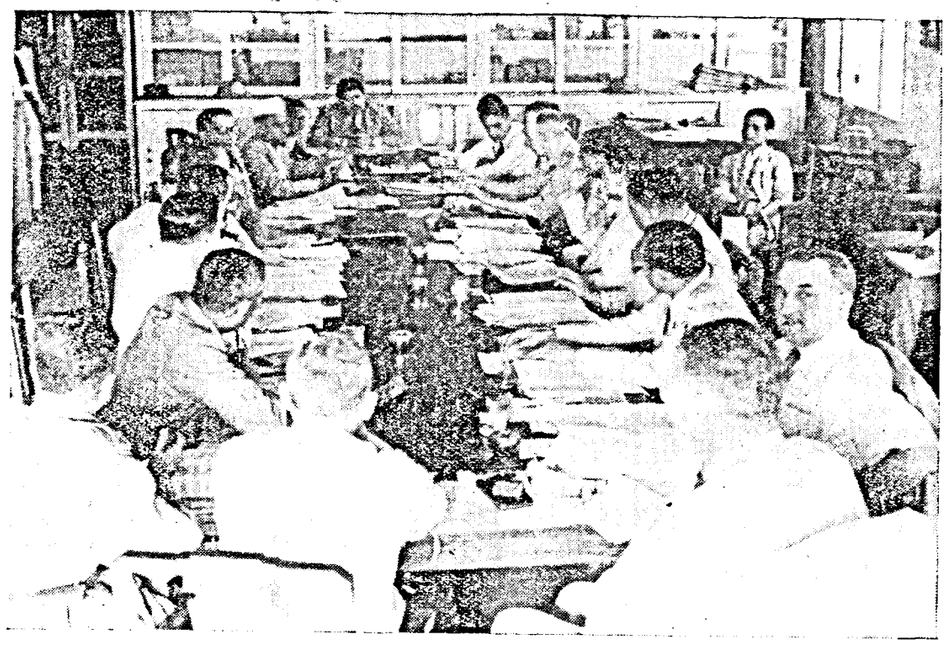
In addition, Provincial units could constitute with the Minister or the Adviser in charge of the Department concerned and with non-officials a similar committee for the whole Province. Here, again, I should emphasise that any publicity for the war effort carried out by the Provinces themselves with the assistance of non-officials can certainly count on the fullest co-operation and assistance of the new organisation.

This, Sir, in broad outline is the new scheme. It proposes in effect to create a new highly mobile and disciplined body of workers whose basic approach to the many problems we have to face till the war is over, will be informative and factual. And, if incidentally they provide a little entertainment, a ray of cheer in the monotonous life of the village, I think there is no one who would object very much to it.

Now, Sir, I do not wish to take up much more time. I have placed all the facts before the House and I hope these facts would help it to reach an impartial conclusion. I have not claimed that the National War Front has reached that perfection which President Roosevelt recently characterised as unattainable. I have only shown how at a time of great emergency it rendered most valuable service, and how in the light of experience gained, it is proposed now to replace it by a more efficient instrument of public information and instruction.

The new scheme is generally acceptable to the Provinces, subject to modification on points of detail. We are not insisting on absolute uniformity, and we have met or will meet Provinces on these points. One Province may decide finally to stand out of the scheme; if so we shall have no objection. One or two Provinces may decide to continue at their own cost non-official organisations comparable with the National War

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 392)



The Standing Advisory Committee on Technical Training which met in Bombay on February 12.

TRAINING TECHNICIANS FOR CIVIL INDUSTRY IN INDIA

Mr. S. Lall's Address at Bombay

THE second meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee on Technical Training opened in Bombay on February 12 to discuss a training scheme intended to train craftsmen for the wartime and post-war needs of civil industry in India and aiming at a national system of training, including a National Certificate of Craftsmanship on the completion of training. Mr. S. Lall, Additional Secretary, Labour Department, Government of India, presided. The session lasted four days.

In his opening speech Mr. Lall emphasised that before attempting any large-scale industrial development it was necessary to arrange for the supply of adequate technical manpower. Government had already formulated a scheme for higher technical training in the United Kingdom and the United States of America to make good the deficiency in skilled technical staff of higher categories and to provide a nucleus of trained technicians for supervisory work. For large-scale industrialisation, however, large numbers of artisans were also required and the scheme placed before the Committee was an attempt to face the problem of training these men.

Some might say that unless the requirements of post-war industry were definitely known, the training of technicians might lead to unemployment. On the other hand if the pace was slow, it might seriously hamper post-war industrial development of India. In view of the existing disparity between the annual supply and demand of technicians there could be no danger of an excess supply. For the present it was proposed to have a little over 1,800 seats in 5 selected training centres for technical organisation to meet the requirements of civil industry in peacetime, and these facilities could be expanded at short notice as and when necessary.

Mr. Lall indicated that men trained under this scheme would not be ready before 3½ years

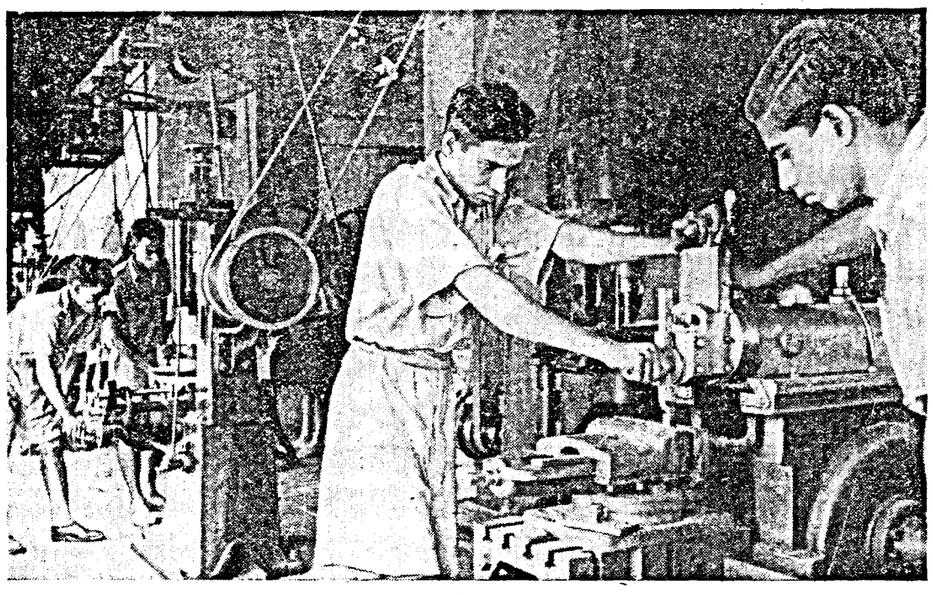
from the inception of the new scheme, but after the cessation of hostilities a sufficient number of technicians demobilised from the Defence Services would be available for civil employment. It would be the first and foremost task to resettle them in civil life. Some of them may be fully equipped to undertake straightaway technical jobs in industry, while others may need further training before they could be so employed. He felt that the main burden of imparting further training to demobilised technicians and of meeting the demands of post-war development schemes during the first post-war quinquennium would fall on the training centres. He invited the Committee's suggestions on the nature and scope of training that would be necessary for equipping demobilised technicians for employment in the civil industry.

Annual Intake and Output

He said that the scheme under discussion was drawn up on the basis agreed upon by the Committee at their last meeting in Calcutta. It was only a rough sketch and would be modified in the light of further discussions. He thanked the members of the Committee for their co-operation in the collection of statistics regarding the number of skilled and semi-skilled workmen employed in various undertakings in India as well as the number of men undergoing training as trade apprentices. Information had also been collected regarding the annual intake of skilled and semi-skilled workers in industry and of the training facilities for trade apprenticeship available in the country.

The annual intake of skilled and semi-skilled workers in industry was about 22,000, while the output of various schemes for trade apprenticeship was less than 6,000. The position, therefore, could hardly be regarded as satisfactory. How could we launch upon any programme of large-scale industrial expansion, which was the key note of all our post-war development plans, without ensuring that industry would not be forced into a serious bottleneck in the supply of skilled and trained workers?

Inviting the Committee's advice on the question of standardisation of occupational terms, Mr. Lall pointed out that it would be very useful if a common nomenclature and uniform standards were evolved for civil and military trades and all occupational terms clearly defined. The Defence Services alone had over 800 trade categories. The resettlement of demobilised members of Defence Services into civil employment through Employment Exchanges would be greatly facilitated if various army categories were accurately defined and their civil equivalents determined. It would also be necessary to define the various grades of skill in each trade. Information was being collected about the qualifications and experience of each category of Services personnel serving in various branches of Defence Services. After collecting and tabulating this information, it was proposed to set up a small committee of technical experts to eliminate overlapping trades and to evolve a common nomenclature and uniform standards for various civil and military trades. The speaker mentioned a proposal to publish a directory of occupational terms and their classifications. It would be useful not only for the guidance of Employment Exchanges staff but would also be equally useful to employers, both Government and private.



Technical trainees operate a shaping machine in a Travancore training centre. Slotting is being done in the background.

Need for Co-operation

Concluding his speech the speaker emphasised that the gigantic task of post-war development in its various phases depended for its success on the future co-operation between the Government and the people. "The old archaic ideas of watertight compartmental divisions have been shattered by the experience of this war. Let us not forget that if the industry is prosperous the workers are also prosperous. If the workers and industry are prosperous the State is prosperous and a prosperous State means a prosperous country."

The Standing Advisory Committee consists of representatives of the Indian Engineering Association, Employers' Federation of India, All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers, Engineers' Association of India, the Institute of Engineers, and Railway, Supply and Labour Departments of the Central Government. It also includes two representatives of labour in India, Messrs. V. R. Kalappa and G. Krishnamurthi, M.L.A.

COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS

Concluding their discussions on training craftsmen for the post-war needs of civil industry in India, the Advisory Committee on Technical Training Scheme recommended a national system of training followed by apprenticeship in the factory under Government supervision and ultimately leading to a National Certificate of Craftsmanship recognisable all over India.



Technical trainees in the welding shop of the Orissa School of Engineering, Cuttack.

The scheme when implemented will initially start as an experimental measure and training for civil industry will be imparted in the main engineering trades at a few selected centres which will be subsequently expanded. A suggestion was made at the meeting that training should also be given to spinners and weavers in the textile industry. The Committee recommended that the views of the textile industry should be ascertained.

The ultimate aim of the new scheme is to provide technical training for candidates in each province.

Apprenticeship Course

Training at the Centres will be followed by an apprenticeship course in the factory. The duration of the training will be 3½ years divided into instruction at the Government Training Centre and apprenticeship in the factory to which the trainee is allotted. A significant feature of the new Training Scheme is the emphasis on general education. Educational instruction will form part of training in the Centre as well as in the factory. The cost of training at the Centre will devolve on Government and that of training in the factory on the employer concerned. Under this arrangement a boy will enter the training Centre between the age of 14 to 18 years and will emerge from the factory as a trained craftsman at the age of 16 to 20 years. The Committee agreed that a tripartite agreement should be executed by the apprentice, the

employer, who will provide practical training, and the Government.

The Advisory Committee generally agreed with the recommendation of the Central Advisory Board of Education on Post-war Educational Development in India, concerning the setting up of a National Council of Technical Education, and recommended that Regional Technical Training Committees should be constituted in the provinces. These Committees will eventually be linked up with the National Council and will be in charge of apprenticeship training within their respective areas. They will be responsible for selecting the trainees, arranging their trade tests, allocating them to factories capable of giving proper training and so on. The Regional Committees will include representatives of employers and workers, and of Provincial and Central Governments.

The Committee also discussed questions relating to supervision over factory training, housing and welfare of trainees, and stipends. Syllabuses of training for the new scheme, as drawn up by a Technical Sub-Committee, were also discussed at the meeting.

BEVIN BOYS BACK HOME

Twenty-four technicians, trained under the Bevin Boys Scheme, arrived in India recently after completing their training in the United Kingdom. These Boys belong to the 10th batch of Bevin trainees which left India in March 1944.

While in the United Kingdom, 18 of them received training in aero-engine maintenance and repair The remaining six are aircraft riggers trained in assembly and repair work. Out of the 24 returned trainees, 4 are from Bombay, 4 from the Punjab, 5 from Bengal, 5 from Madras, 2 from U.P., one from Quetta and one each from Gwalior, Mysore and Hyderabad States.

Including the trainees just arrived, the Bevin Training Scheme has provided India with 563 skilled workers. A number of returned Bevin trainees have been absorbed by the Industry and are earning, on an average, about 227 per cent more than what they were earning before joining the scheme. The 11th and 12th batches of Bevin Boys are still in the United Kingdom.

H. M. the King has been graciously pleased to appoint Mr. Pakala Venkata Rajamannar, to be a Judge of the High Court in Madras upon the retirement of the Hon'ble Sir Vere Mockett, M.B.E.

TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES IN COMMONWEALTH

Lord Reith's Visit to India

In May 1944 the Commonwealth Communications Council, which met in London, submitted certain proposals to the Governments of the Commonwealth for the re-organisation of the Commonwealth Telecommunications Services on public utility lines, and a public announcement in that connection was made by the Government of India on August 23, 1944.

His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom invited the Rt. Hon. Lord Reith, P.C., G.C.V.O., G.B.E., C.B., to visit the Dominions and India for the purpose of discussing with the Governments concerned the future organisation of the Telecommunications Services of the Commonwealth. This was announced in a Press Note dated January 9, 1945. After visiting Australia and New Zealand, the Rt. Hon. Lord Reith came to India and has had discussions with the Government of India. These discussions, which have now concluded, have been most valuable and satisfactory to both sides.

Lord Reith is next meeting the Governments of Southern Rhodesia, the Union of South Africa and Canada before reporting to His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and it is expected that there will be a meeting of representatives of the Governments of the United Kingdom, the Dominions and India in London later in the year to consider and prepare the final proposals. It is confidently expected that, as a result of the discussions that have taken place, the overseas telegraph and telephone communications of the British Commonwealth and Empire would benefit considerably and would succeed in providing to the public a more extensive, a speedier and a more efficient service.

WAR RISKS (GOODS) INSURANCE

The Central Government has decided that the rate of premium payable under any policy issued under the War Risks (Goods) Insurance Scheme, for the quarter ending June, 1945, in respect of goods liable to compulsory insurance, shall be reduced from one anna per month or part of a month for each complete sum of Rs. 100 in the present quarter to nine pies, said a Press Communique issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on March 10.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES SUB-COMMITTEE

A Press Note issued by the Education, Health and Lands Department, Government of India, on February 24 stated:

In accordance with the recommendation of the Policy Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries held in June, 1944, the Government of India have now set up a Sub-Committee consisting of the following persons:

1. Sir V. T. Krishnamachari, K.C.I.E., (chairman).
2. The Hon'ble Mr. Hossain Imam.
3. Mr. Fazal I. Rahimtoola, C.I.E.
4. Rao Bahadur N. R. Samiappa Mudaliar, M.L.C.
5. Dr. L. C. Jain.
6. Mr. Roger Thomas, C.I.E.
7. Sir Pheroze Kharegat, C.I.E., I.C.S., (Representative, E. H. and L. Department).
8. Mr. V. Narahari Rao, C.I.E. (Representative of Finance Department).
9. Sir Theodore Gregory (Representative of Commerce Department).
10. Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao (Representative of Food Department).
11. Mr. C. N. Vakil (Representative of Planning and Development Department).
12. Dr. B. K. Madan (Representative of the Reserve Bank of India).
13. One nominee of the Chamber of Princes.

Mr. W. R. Natu, Statistical Adviser to the Government of India will act as Secretary of the Committee.

Terms of Reference

The terms of reference of the Sub-Committee are:

to consider

(a) the principles, on which producers' prices of agricultural produce, whether crops grown for industrial purposes or for food, or the produce of animal husbandry of all descriptions, should be fixed,

(b) the means by which such prices can be made effective and an assured market be provided, and to make recommendations.

The Sub-Committee will report on its terms of reference in relation to conditions in the post-war period (1) in which, a substantial measure of government control over the procurement, distribution and prices of commodities exists and (2) in which such control has been relaxed or abolished, and normal trade and market conditions have been restored.

CENTRAL LAND UTILIZATION BOARD

A Press Note issued by the Education, Health and Lands Department, Government of India, on February 23 stated:

The Government of India have established a Sub-Committee to work out further details in respect of the setting up of the proposed Central Land Utilisation Board, which was recommended by the Policy Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries at its meeting held in June, 1944. The proposed Board will plan and co-ordinate work on an all-India basis in respect of soil erosion, forestry, land reclamation, irrigation works, and other forms of land improvement. The Committee consists of the following persons:

Chairman: Sir N. Gopalaswami Ayyanagar, C.S.I., C.I.E.

Members: 1. Sardar Vivek Singh Majithia, 2. Professor J. N. Mukherji, 3. Sir Herbert Howard, I.F.S., 4. Mr. R. H. Carpenter, 5. Mr. A. R. Thomas (Representative of the Central Board of Irrigation), 6. Kazi Saiduddin Ahmad, 7. Rao Bahadur P. C. Patil, 8. Mr. V. R. Gadgil, 9. The Hon. Mr. V. V. Kalikar, 10. The Agricultural Commissioner with the Government of India.

Member Secretary: 11. Mr. S. Y. Krishnaswami, I.C.S.

TELEGRAMS TO GREECE

Private telegrams for the Mainland of Greece are now admitted but commercial telegrams are restricted to those ascertaining facts and exchanging information. Such telegrams should be written in plain English or French only and not in any code, which is inadmissible. Pre-war rates apply, said a Press Note issued by the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, on March 7.

PROBLEMS OF FOODGRAINS STORAGE IN INDIA

An annual loss of the order of 3 million tons of foodgrains through damage by rats, insects and moisture is the astonishing figure quoted by the Director of Storage, Central Government, in "Principles of Cereal Storage" which has recently been published. Apart from the temporary difficulties occasioned by war, the production of foodgrains in India is insufficient to meet the progressively increasing demands of the population. While it is recognised that it may not be possible to cut out all these losses, it is maintained that they could be reduced to a small fraction of their present extent.

Problem of Rat Control

Dealing with the problem of rat control the pamphlet estimates an annual loss of over 1 million tons a year, for "it is difficult to overrate the intelligence of rats which has enabled them to survive thousands of years in close proximity to man and in direct competition with man for his food." It is said that there are two ways of preventing rat damage to stored grain. The first method of destroying all the rats in the district is not generally applicable to tropical countries as a short-term policy. The second method is the simple one of ratproofing grain stores. Experience in the Middle East territories has shown that excellent results can be obtained at very low cost if the problem is tackled intelligently.

The publication also deals with the question of general hygiene of grain storage, insect control measures and scientific principles of storage applicable to India.

FISHES OF INDIA, BURMA & CEYLON

The preparation of a complete check-list of fishes of India, Burma and Ceylon is one of the undertakings of the Fish Section of the Zoological Survey of India. This laborious piece of work, which involves close examination of all the species described from these areas and the literature on the subject, is going to be of great value to students of fish and fisheries in the country, and one for which a great need has been felt by many workers in India and abroad.

The first part of this work is ready for publication.

SCHEME FOR DEVELOPMENT OF FISHERIES

Training of Technical Staff

WITH almost all the provinces and some Indian States having organised their Fisheries Departments, a comprehensive scheme of fishery development is being put into operation. To train the essential technical staff, emergency short-term courses of intensive training have been started at Calcutta and Madras. Development surveys are being carried out to collect the essential data. Some development schemes have already been started utilising available resources.

In the Punjab, the development schemes in 1945 are expected to yield 2,000 maunds of fish or roughly 8 per cent of the total annual production. In the United Provinces, an increase of 25,000 maunds or roughly 10 to 12 per cent of the total annual production is expected. The development of fresh water and estuarine fish farms in the Sunderban area, besides paddy-cum-carp culture has been undertaken in Bengal and a further scheme for developing freshwater fish farms throughout the province is under preparation.

Increased Production

In almost all Provinces and States, according to the Fisheries Development Adviser to the Government of India, there are large numbers of unproductive ponds, tanks etc., which, if developed as a fish farm by stocking with fingerlings of rapid-growing carps, could provide large quantities of fish not only for the rural areas but also materially increase fish supplies in the country. While surveys are being made for selecting waters for development as productive fish farms and developing local fingerling supply centres, stocking operations as far as possible are being taken up in some of the provinces.

Steps are also being taken to improve arrangements for catching and transport of fish and attention is being paid both to improving the quality and increasing the quantities of processed fish. There is a possibility of employing power driven carrier launches to increase transport facilities. The Provincial Governments are also arranging for necessary bulk purchase of fishermen's requirements and for their distribution at controlled rates.



FISHING IN THE BAY OF BENGAL—

The catamaran, which is a craft of solid logs of sized jungle wood lashed together, is the most popular craft of sea-going fishermen in South India. It can stand up to the heavy poundings of the great waves which break along the East Coast. When it is beached the logs are unlashed and laid apart to dry. This prolongs the life of the craft. This ancient light sailing craft of the East Coast still holds its own. (Above) Fishermen put out in a catamaran. Their conical straw caps make a good substitute for pockets and serve to carry the bait for the young sharks and fish which they hope to catch. (Below) A sixty-foot net is drawn ashore.



ANTI-INDIAN LEGISLATION IN SOUTH AFRICA

Dr. N. B. Khare's Speech in Central Assembly

SPEAKING on the adjournment motion to discuss "the neglect in not adopting stern economic and other sanctions against South Africa for segregation and degradation of the Indians" in the Central Assembly on February 9, 1945, the Hon'ble Dr. N. B. Khare, Member for Commonwealth Relations, Government of India, said:



Dr. N. B. Khare.

I shall always welcome the raising of debate on this question in the House. I am not afraid of it and I shall never shirk it. We have been charged with not taking any stormy measures and always being in a supplicating mood even though our representations have always been ignored. I repudiate all these allegations. We are not in a supplicating mood. We have shown sufficient fight but I am not satisfied. But this is the first time in the history of the Government of India that they have retaliated against a fellow-member of the Commonwealth. For the first time we have applied the Reciprocity Act. The Reciprocity Act, as it was before I came to office, was not in a condition to be applied. I took charge in May and I lost no time. In July that Act was amended in a satisfactory manner. When the third reading of the Ordinance was passed on November 2, 1944, within almost 48 hours we applied the Reciprocity Act by issuing a special Gazette Extraordinary. Have you ever heard of anything as prompt as that? We acted with lightning speed. You must admit that.

Economic Sanctions

Sir, when this matter was debated in the House in November, I did note that the mandate of the House was that the High Commissioner should be recalled and economic sanctions should be enforced forthwith. I must confess, however, that I did not think that the time-limit must be taken too literally. The House will recall that I stated on the last occasion that the repercussions of the enforcement of economic sanctions required the most careful consideration. In making that statement I had in mind the possibility that it might be desirable from our own point of view to await the reactions to the measures that we had already taken. I had also entertained the hope that our object being identical, the House would leave to the Government of India some discretion as to the timing of further measures. Since so many statements were made in the course of this debate which are rather contrary to the facts, I think it is better for me and I think the House will like it that I should give an account of the developments after the last debate.

The Next Step

The third reading of the main Residential Property Ordinance, the Natal Housing and the Natal Expropriation Ordinance was passed by the Natal Provincial Council on November 2, 1944. The next step was to be the grant of the Governor-General's assent to these Ordinances. The Union Government informed us that if in due course the Ordinance should come before His Excellency the Governor-General-in-Council there it would be considered with that care which the far-reaching importance of the subject-matter deserved. After the end of the last session of the House, Field-Marshal Smuts received a deputation representative of the Indian community in Natal on November 22, 1944. The Indian representatives not only presented written Memoranda on the Ordinances but also had oral discussions in which they explained more fully how the main Ordinance contravened the terms of the Pretoria Agreement. The representatives of the Natal Provincial Government were also present at these discussions. Field-Marshal Smuts told the Indian representatives that in his 40 years of dealing with this problem the question of the acquisition and ownership of land and property by Indians were never raised. He also admitted that the introduction of the control on acquisition is a serious departure from the Pretoria Agreement. He further admitted that the Residential Property Regulation Ordinance was not itself strictly in accordance with the Pretoria Agreement and cannot fairly be considered to be an implementation of it. The Union Government have, therefore, reserved assent to the main Residential Property Regulation Ordinance and it is also understood that this Ordinance is probably *ultra vires*.

An Assurance

As regards the other two Ordinances to which reference has been made in this debate, Field-Marshal Smuts has no doubt stated that there is strong reason why assent should be given to them at an early date. He has, however, given an assurance to the Indian representatives that the Union Government would give their attention to any further Memoranda that the Indian community may wish to send regarding them. Assent to these Ordinances has also been withheld, perhaps temporarily and perhaps for particular reasons. Field-Marshal Smuts has also no doubt said that the Pegging Act which was to be repealed on the passing of the main Ordinance remains temporarily unrepealed and in force, but he has, however, added further that this position is to continue while the other ways of settlement are being explored. The Union Government have also requested the Indian community to set up a representative body for maintaining close and friendly contact with the Union and Provincial Governments for amicable discussions on matters affecting Indian interests. I also note that in reply to a question in the Union Parliament Field-Marshal Smuts recently said:

"The Indian question in Natal is still the subject of correspondence between the Union Government and the Government of India and no good purpose will be served by any further statement at this stage."

At a meeting held on December 10, the Natal Indian Congress passed a resolution recording their disappointment at these decisions of the Union Government and reaffirming their rights. On the whole, however, I get the impression that the Union Government appears to have stayed further action in the matter and are endeavouring to encourage further negotiations. There has thus been no serious immediate deterioration in the position.

I do not say that these developments have met our demands or justify any relaxation of our vigilance or any re-orientation of our policy regarding the withdrawal of the Pegging Act. It is not perhaps too much to expect, however, that the action that we took when the House met last has brought home to the Union Government in a much greater degree than ever before the depth and intensity of Indian resentment at the Union Government's attitude and the earnestness of our determination to obtain a solution of the Indian problem. As I told the House on the last occasion, the chronicle of the sufferings of our countrymen in South Africa, is long and tragic. I have, therefore, felt throughout that—while we should not relax our vigilance and pressure—all possible resources of negotiation and compromise should continue to be exhausted.

Alternative Settlement

Before the House discussed this matter last, the Union Government took the stand that the Ordinance was not contrary to the spirit of the Pretoria Agreement. They have now admitted that it is not an implementation of the Agreement and that it is contrary to it. They have no doubt said that the Pretoria Agreement must be treated as still-born and dead, but they seem to be willing to explore alternative settlement. I, therefore, feel that the action that we have already taken has borne some fruit. Honourable Members of the House must have read the speech recently made by Mr. Hofmeyr before the South African Institute of Race Relations. After fully explaining the equity and justice of the claims of the South African Indian community, Mr. Hofmeyr concluded with the statement:

"There is no future for this as a Christian nation save on the basis of generous respect for the dignity of all men, unwearying activity towards the removal of inequalities of opportunity and open-hearted readiness to concede to others what we regard as basic and essential for ourselves."

This address was presumably delivered in his personal capacity.

Honourable Members are aware that Mr. Hofmeyr, whose broad sympathies we all appreciated during his visit to this country, is the Finance Minister in Field-Marshal Smuts' Cabinet.

I will quote another South African European who has written in a local paper there:

"The countervailing sanctions which India has already decided to take against South Africa may be only a pin prick, true, but the pin prick may rapidly grow. Are South Africans aware that India has 400 million inhabitants, a fifth of mankind, that the country is rapidly becoming industrialised, and that it has today a voluntary army of over two millions, a Navy and an Air Force, and that according to the Cripps proposals by which the British Government is still bound, these forces are to be handed into the sole control of an independent Indian Government after the war. South Africans may imagine that this will never happen. But they should apply their eye to the right end of the telescope, and not the wrong end, when India, instead of looking tiny and far away, would immediately fill the entire landscape. India is likely to forge ahead and become one of the most powerful nations in the world—certainly the most powerful in the Indian Ocean, whose waters also lap the shores of South Africa."

Capetown Agreement

There is some want of misunderstanding about the position of this so-called Capetown Agreement. There is no reason for thinking that the Capetown Agreement has been given the go-by. I know it is not being carried out fully, but it still stands and in our peculiar position we must hold on to it and make every endeavour to have it carried out. The High Commissioner is, and may be, still useful for this purpose. That is my own view, you may or may not agree with it. A lot of noise was raised about the going out of the High Commissioner but, as I have said, we have decided to send him. Sailings of ships are military secrets in these days and so we do not know if the new High Commissioner has sailed or not. But, Sir, if we decide on merits finally to recall the High Commissioner, then it will take no time for the present High Commissioner to be called back even from the seas.

My hon'ble friend, Mr. Deshmukh, has referred in detail to the disabilities imposed on South Africans here. The Reciprocity Act provides for the imposition of disabilities which should be the same or similar to those imposed on Indians in South Africa. As regards residential occupation of properties our rules have imposed the same disabilities as those imposed on Indians by Statute in the Natal and Transvaal Provinces. It is true that in certain areas in the Transvaal, Indians are prohibited from residing on any proclaimed land and are confined to certain locations. The fact that the number of South Africans in India is very small makes it impracticable to set apart special localities for the residence of Transvaal South Africans.

The exclusion of Indians from private hotels and similar places of residence is not statutory but is enforced by long established social prejudice. For such exclusion of South Africans from similar private places of residence we can only rely on the patriotism of the proprietors of such places in India. As regards travel, we have felt that, in view of the small number of South Africans in India, reservation of accommodation for them in railway trains and tram cars would be a privilege and amenity rather than a disability. We have therefore decided not to enforce such technical disability for the present.

We are still scrutinising the other disabilities which can be imposed and so far as economic sanctions are concerned, as I have said before it is not a very simple matter. The question has to be examined by both Commerce and the Supply Departments. The process is not fully complete. They and the Supply Department have to examine so many implications of the contemplated sanctions. The position of the High Commissioner depends on that. Supposing we decide to impose economic sanctions, then the High Commissioner will be recalled immediately.

No Final Decision Yet

Much ridicule has been thrown upon me but I make it clear that I do not go back in the least on any of the statements I have made. I stick to every one of them. As a medical man I believe not only in major operations but in medicine and in watching the reactions to my first prescription before I give the second. This is all that I intend to do and it is only for a full study of the latest position that I have pleaded for time. Our final decision still remains to be taken.

Reference has been made to the imaginary part played by His Majesty's Government. It is hardly necessary for me to tell the House that in an issue of this magnitude His Majesty's Government cannot be disinterested; but all I would like to say and with emphasis at this stage is that neither the Government of India nor His Majesty's Government have taken their final decision on this momentous matter yet.

I know the feeling is very strong among all parties in this House and in the country. I have assured the House that I share fully all their feelings and much more. And after having said this I think the House should concede certain discretion to the Government of India in this matter. They know we are all one. We have the same desire and objective. They should concede something to the Government of India in the matter of time. I congratulate the House for not importing any unnecessary heat and I would therefore ask my friend, the mover of this motion, to withdraw it.

Sir, before I conclude, I want to point out to the House that if you carry this motion of censure, it is your pleasure. Do it. But I must tell you that the things (the historical facts) for which you are carrying this motion of censure are the result of history, nothing else, for which not I alone but all of us are responsible. So if you censure me alone it is no use, nor is it correct. The censure will mean not only censure of my own humble self but the censure of all of you.

VICEROY'S WAR PURPOSES FUND

The following contributions have been received in H.E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund:

Rs. 5,00,000 from H.H. the Maharaja of Mysore; Rs. 4,00,000 from H.E. the Governor of Sind as Sind's contribution to the Central Red Cross for the year 1945; Rs. 2,00,000 from H.H. the Maharaja of Travancore for general war purposes and Rs. 1,00,000 from H.H. the Maharani for women's war work; Rs. 50,000 from H.H. the Maharawal of Banswara; Rs. 40,000 from the Aly Khan's Ismailia War Fund of Africa; Rs. 11,142-5-9 from the Punjab Governor's War Fund for amenities for Indian troops serving overseas and other war purposes; Rs. 10,000 from the Porbandar State in honour of the celebration of the Silver Jubilee of His Highness for St. Dunstan's Hostel at Dehra Dun; and Rs. 7,000 from the subjects of the Pataudi State.

The Jodhpur Government have generously contributed a further sum of Rs. one lakh to H. E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund for the purchase of an Aircraft for the Indian Air Force to be named 'Umaid Singhji No. 7.'

REPATRIATION OF INDIAN WAR PRISONERS FROM EUROPE

Indian prisoners of war liberated by the advancing Soviet forces in Europe will be taken special care of, and handed over as soon as possible to their own officers to be repatriated to India with the minimum of delay.

This is provided for under an agreement, to which India is a signatory, arrived at between the British and Dominion Governments on the one hand and the Soviet Government on the other. The agreement lays down an accepted procedure for dealing with British and Russian prisoners of war who may be released from German custody on the Western and Eastern Fronts in Europe.

Under the agreement, prisoners so liberated will without delay be separated from enemy prisoners of war and will be maintained separately until they are handed over to their respective authorities. Special provision is made for the supply of adequate food, clothing, housing and medical attention both in camps and reception centres, *en route*, and for transport to facilitate repatriation.

It is understood that several thousand Indians are still held in prison camps in Germany and arrangements are being made for their reception and rapid repatriation as and when they are released by the advancing Soviet or Allied forces.

A POSTHUMOUS V.C. AWARD

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 365)

to his section for two more grenades and again doubled over the bullet-swept crest to hurl them at the enemy.

Calling on his section to withdraw, he seized a bren gun and several magazines, again ran to the top of the hill and stayed on the bullet-swept summit in full view of the enemy, firing upon their nearest positions. It was not until he had emptied two complete magazines and the last section was well on its way to safety that Rfn. Thaman Gurung was killed.

The other three V.C.s held by the 5th Royal Gurkha Rifles were all won by one battalion during the Burma campaign. Rfn. Thaman Gurung's V.C.—the eighth to go to a Gurkha in this war—is the 21st won by the Indian Army in the same period.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE PORT OF CALCUTTA

Many Improvements Made

MR. F. A. POPE, Chief Commercial Manager of the London Midland and Scottish Railway, and lately Regional Port Director, Calcutta, was previously in India for two short spans in the year 1932 to 1934. He was then specially deputed to investigate the possibility of improving the efficiency of and economising in the operation of Indian Railways so as to raise gross earnings and reduce working expenses. His recommendations bore fruit and the Railways were able to report definite administrative and financial gains.

Mr. Pope came to India for the third time in May 1944 to take up the post of Regional Port Director, Calcutta, and he left Calcutta last month to resume important duties on the London Midland and Scottish Railway.

Regional Port Director

The necessity for a Regional Port Director at Calcutta arose from the fact that there were various agencies connected with the working of the port which were not under the control of the Port Commissioners and it was considered advisable to set up a co-ordinating authority to control the work of all organisations, military and civil, making use of the port or employed in the port area. During Mr. Pope's term of office he initiated several improvements in consultation with the Port Commissioners, the Army Authorities, lighter owners, shipping agents, stevedores and others. The turn round of ships has been speeded up and there has been considerable improvement in the rates of discharge and loading and credit is due to Port Commissioner's labour and the labour of stevedores in Calcutta. Some of the dock berths have been handed over to the U.S. Army who have taken over the loading and unloading of ships at these berths. The figures for discharge and loading show that the men of the U.S. Army have been able to do remarkably good work in loading and discharge with the aid of expert supervision and special equipment.

The clearance of port and intermediate transit areas has been considerably improved and there is now no congestion in the port area.

The Port Director is responsible for the direction and control of the Lighterage Pool which was initiated by the Chairman of the Port Commissioners before Mr. Pope arrived. A supervision staff has been appointed under an Assistant Port Director to control the operation of the Pool and since its formation the turn round of lighters has steadily increased. All the tugs and launches belonging to the Boating companies have been pooled and a "hoisting" scheme for exports has been brought in force and this has considerably eased the strain on lighters under load with export cargo. There has been great improvement in the discharge of river flats which accelerates the supplies of military stores along with the river into Assam and on from there to China and makes it possible for the River-steamer companies to carry a greater load.

Water Boat Pool

The arrangements for the supply of water to ships were previously unsatisfactory and so the Port Director arranged for a Water Boat pool by means of which the use of all water boats belonging to the various interests is rationalised and the supply of water accelerated. This Water Boat pool is under the control of the Sea Transport Officer. The Port Director has maintained contact with all agencies using the port, with the employers of labour, with shipping agents and stevedores and has brought about a spirit of co-ordination and co-operation which promises well for the future.

Development works have been undertaken at the port of Calcutta to enable it to handle increased traffic, both military and civil. These works were carried out by the Port Engineering staff with the assistance of personnel, materials and equipment from Army sources and the capacity of the port has been increased very considerably. The increased traffic at the port has thrown a considerable strain on the Port Commissioners' staff. They have been through strenuous times and have stood up bravely to enemy air attacks. Calcutta has been bombed eight times but business has gone as usual and the port staff have loyally stuck to their posts. They, and all those of other services who have striven under the aegis of the Port Director, can congratulate themselves on a great and worthy contribution to the war effort of the United Nations.

LADY THACKERSEY

Lady Premlila V. Thackersey of Bombay has been nominated by the Governor-General-in-Council as a member of the Central Advisory Board of Education in India, said a Press Note issued by the Education, Health and Lands Department, Government of India.

PRICES FIXED FOR IMPORTED STATIONERY, TOILET ARTICLES, RAZOR BLADES AND BOOT POLISHES

HERE are the latest notifications issued by the Government of India under the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance relating to the sale of imported stationery articles, pipe smoking tobacco, imported toilet articles, perfumed coconut hair oil, etc.

Imported Stationery

The maximum wholesale and retail selling prices chargeable by a dealer in respect of imported stationery articles have been fixed. The items covered include nearly all the well-known makes such as "Relief" and "Red Ink"; most of the well-known makes of black lead pencils, drawing pencils, copying pencils, shorthand pencils and red and blue pencils, visiting cards including the Alabaster and Crystal Ivory makes, pins, jem clips, Stephen's writing ink, pencil erasers, various makes of carbon papers, flat files, stencils, gloy, gums, luggage labels, drawing ink and colour boxes, writing pads and envelopes including the well-known Crown bond, Basildon and Athol makes.

All dealers in imported stationery articles have been directed to mark or exhibit prominently in their shops the prices as fixed by the Central Government.

*

Tobacco

Maximum wholesale and retail selling prices of Barney's Ideal, Craven Mixture, Gold Block, Old English Curve Cut, Player's N. C. Med., Player's "No Name," and Three Nuns brands of pipe smoking tobaccos have been fixed. The maximum retail selling prices per 2 oz. tin of Barney's Ideal and Craven Mixture tobaccos have been fixed at Rs. 1-14 and Rs. 1-12 respectively.

The maximum retail selling price of a 4 oz. tin of special smoking mixture of M|s. Fryer & Sons (overseas) London, and Black and White tobacco of M|s. Marcovitch & Co., Ltd., London, has been fixed at Rs. 4. The retail selling price for "Sweet cut" and "Grand cut" tobaccos of M|s. Godfrey Phillips Ltd., London, has been fixed at Rs. 3-14 per 4 oz. tin.

A few other maximum retail selling prices are Player's Navy Cut Medium (4 oz. tin) Rs. 3-12; Three Nuns (4 oz. tin) Rs. 4 and Player's No Name (4 oz. tin) Rs. 4-4.

Cigarettes

The maximum retail selling prices for tin of 50 of "Ela" and "Rythm" brands of cigarettes of Messrs. Golden Tobacco Co. have been fixed at annas 0-12-6 and Rs. 1-4-0 respectively.

*

Toilet Articles

Thirty-two further items of imported toilet articles have been added to the list of toilet goods for which maximum wholesale and retail selling prices have been fixed by the Central Government. These items include tooth brushes, tooth pastes, face powders, lip-sticks and rouge, creams, bath cubes, J. B. William products and shaving creams.

Some of the up-country retailers issue prices are: Kolynos U.S.A. (Medium) tooth paste Rs. 1-3; Tangee Face Powder (Small) Rs. 2-8; Tangee lipstick (Small) Rs. 1-12 and Hind's Honey and Almond Cream (2¼ ozs.) Rs. 1-7.

The wholesale and retail selling prices of a few imported toilet articles have also been revised. The revised up-country retailers issue prices are: Larola lotion small Rs. 2-2; Ponds powder (large) Rs. 1-10; Cuticura Talcum powder (regular size) Rs. 1-8; Anzora Viola Cream (large) Rs. 2-4; and Dr. Wests Tooth Brush (adult) Rs. 1-2.

*

Hair Oil

The maximum wholesale and retail prices of perfumed coconut oil manufactured by the Tata Oil Mills and the Swastik Oil Mills, Bombay, have been fixed by the Central Government. The maximum retail selling price of perfumed coconut hair oil (packed) has been fixed at Rs. 2-1 per bottle, large size and As. |14|- per bottle, small size. The wholesale prices are F.O.R. destination, and the retail prices exclude octroi, terminal and other local taxes.

*

Soap

The Central Government have fixed the manufacturer's issue price per dozen, the maximum wholesale prices per dozen units and the maximum retail prices per unit for "Handy Soaps," "Kipklin" and "Deepek" products manufactured by Bharat Tiles and Marble Ltd., Bombay. The wholesale and retail prices have been fixed separately for Bombay and elsewhere. The retail price per packet of "Handy Soap" has been fixed at As. -|8|- for Bombay and As. -|8|6 elsewhere.

All wholesale and retail dealers in these products have been directed either to mark the selling prices or to exhibit prominently in their shops a price list showing clearly the selling prices as fixed by the Central Government.

*

Razor Blades

The maximum importer's issue prices and wholesale and retail selling prices of "Sevenday Blades" and "Official Brand De Blades" have been fixed. For "Sevenday Blades" the port and up-country retailers' prices have been fixed at As -|14|- and As. -|15|- respectively per packet of 10 blades; for "Official Brand De Blades" they are As 0-4-6 and As. 0-5-0 respectively per packet of 4 blades.

*

Boot Polishes

The Central Government have now fixed the maximum wholesale and retail selling prices chargeable by dealers or producers in respect of the following brands of indigenous boot-polishes: Phillip Star, Duck, Divco, Beam, Britto, Bewin, Kwik Shine, Hygloes and Tej. The retailers' issue price for Tej boot polish has been fixed at annas -|6|- (large) and annas -|2|6 (small) exclusive of octroi, terminal tax, or customs duty, if any.

All dealers, wholesalers as well as retailers in indigenously manufactured boot polishes have been directed to mark or exhibit these prices prominently in their shops.

*

Condensed Milk

The Central Government have revised downward the maximum selling prices of Milkmaid Sweetened Condensed Milk, packed in 14 oz. tins, to Rs. 36 per case of 48 tins (wholesale f.o.r. any town in British India); and to annas -|15|- per tin (retail).

DETAILS OF CASH MEMO

The Central Government by an amending Notification issued under the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance have now directed that every cash memorandum of a sale transaction given by a dealer or producer must, in addition to the salesman's signature, also contain his full name legibly written, said a Press Note issued by the Industries and Civil Supplies Department on February 16.

RELEASE OF ALUMINIUM FOR CIVILIAN NEEDS

Aluminium which is mostly imported has not been available for civil needs since the outbreak of war. In order to meet the scarcity in the supply of aluminium utensils to the public at reasonable prices, the Government of India in the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies have arranged to release 300 tons of aluminium per month to manufacturers for turning out household utensils. This monthly release is expected to be soon raised to 500 tons and the target fixed for the current year is about 5,000 tons.

A scheme of control over the prices and distribution of aluminium utensils have been worked out and an order embodying this scheme has been issued.

With effect from March 1, 1945, all aluminium utensils will be sold at rates given in the order and the maximum prices per lb. will be stamped on them. The average retail price of aluminium utensils at present is about Rs. 5-4 per lb. This is reduced by the new order to Rs. 3 per lb. or 5 pice per tola. The ceiling prices fixed for the various kinds of aluminium utensils range from Rs. 2-14 to Rs. 3-8 per lb.

FOOTWEAR CONTROL ORDER, 1945

By a notification in the Gazette of India dated February 24, 1945, retailers have been allowed time up to March 31, 1945, to revise the markings of their old stock and bring them into conformity with those in the revised Footwear Control Order of 1945.

The descriptions of certain types of footwear have also been amplified.

RETAIL PRICES OF CEMENT

Following is a further list of retail prices of all Portland Cement other than that manufactured by the Assam-Bengal Cement Co., Ltd., at representative places in Bengal, Bihar and Assam:

Name of place	Retail price. per ton			per bag		
	Rs.	As.	Ps.	Rs.	As.	Ps.
1. Raniganj	75	14	0	3	12	8
2. Jalpaiguri	94	13	0	4	11	10
3. Kodarma	74	1	0	3	11	0
4. Bhagalpur	73	0	0	3	10	6
5. Arrah	73	13	0	3	11	0
6. Dhubri	105	10	0	5	4	6
7. Jorhat Town	120	7	0	6	0	0

HOARD OF GOLD AND SILVER EXCAVATED AT TAXILA

EXCAVATIONS conducted in the past few months by the Archaeological Survey of India at Taxila have produced among many other things, a hoard of gold and silver articles.

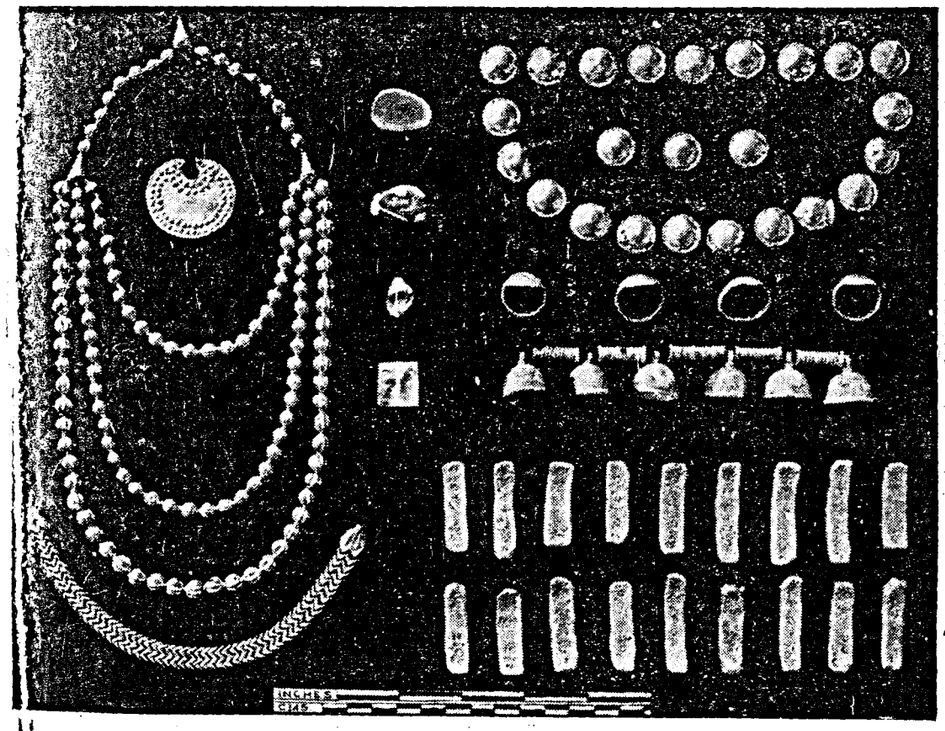
These excavations were primarily conducted with the object of giving a basis for the Training School of Archaeology, which is established by the Survey. In the course of the work remains of considerable interest and importance have been revealed.

The main theatre of operations is the Bhir Mound, the site of the oldest of the three ancient cities of Taxila. The city was, at one time, a provincial capital in the Indian portion of the Persian Empire, and it was a flourishing place at the time of the invasion of Alexander the Great, who halted his army there for some weeks in the spring of 326 B.C. and made a treaty with its Indian ruler.

The excavations have produced a hoard of coins and jewellery, which contains some objects of exceptional interest. It was lying at a depth of about six feet from the surface of the ground in circumstances pointing to the same date as another hoard, which was discovered in Bhir Mound in 1924, and which included coins of about 317 B.C. Both hoards must have been deposited towards the end of the 4th century, not long after Alexander's visit to Taxila.

The hoard included 18 small bars of silver stamped for use as currency, a type of coinage peculiar to North Western India. Only about a hundred of them are known to exist, and their period of issue was in all probability a short one,

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 393)



Gold and silver jewellery and coins which were discovered at Taxila (Punjab).



A rubber estate at the foot of the Western Ghats. Tapping is carried out by a group of Mopiah (Malabar Muslim) women.

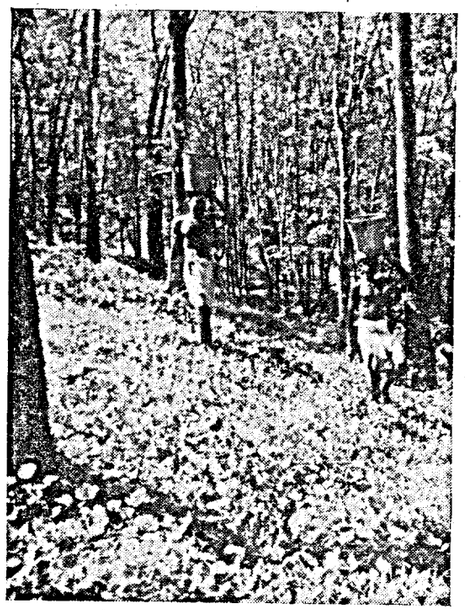


A young Mopiah rubber tapper.

RECLAIMING RUBBER FROM RUBBER WASTE

A PROCESS for reclaiming rubber from rubber waste and for utilising the reclaim in the production of either soft rubber goods or hard rubber or ebonite substitutes without the addition of any raw rubber has been developed by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. The process, which is said to be ready for industrial exploitation, is explained in a recent issue of the "Journal of Scientific and Industrial Research".

The results of investigations on shellac-cum-rubber compositions, undertaken in the Laboratories of the British Rubber Manufacturers' Research Association at Croydon, are also published in the same issue. The investigations reveal that unvulcanised rubber when mixed with shellac shows interesting properties which suggest possibilities of its use as moulding materials, adhesives, binding and impregnating agents, etc

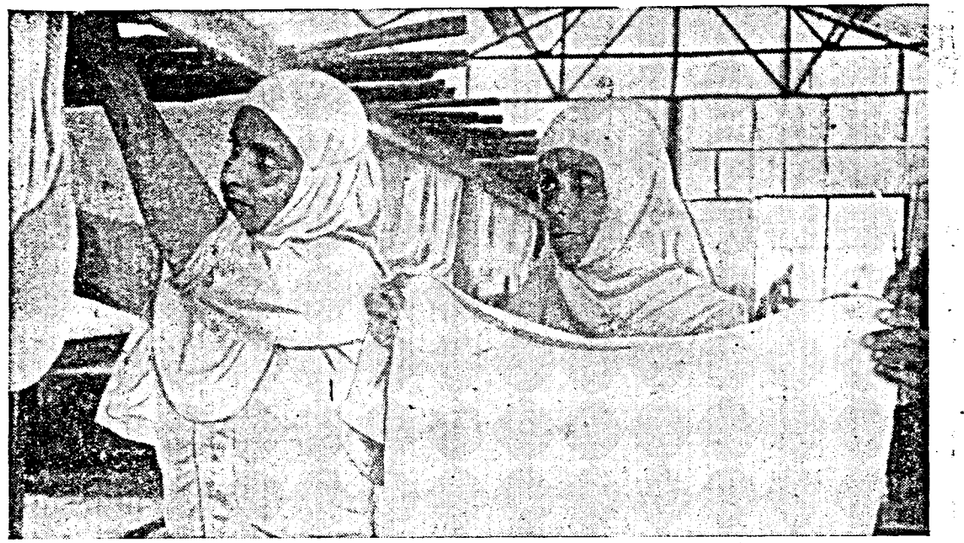




(Left) Tappers returning to the rubber factory with their pails of latex. (Right) At the factory, the latex is weighed and strained to remove impurities.



After the latex has stood overnight in pans, it coagulates into a spongy white substance. This is then transferred to the rolling table and rolled through a succession of smooth rollers into thin sheets.



Moplah women hanging up sheets of rolled latex to drip for an hour before being placed in the smoking chamber where they remain from 4 to 6 days according to the weather conditions.

Among the industrial applications of shellac, its use as an ingredient of rubber compositions has attracted wide attention in India.

Silk-Worm Ligature Industry

In an article in the Journal details of a wartime industry started to meet the pressing needs of the surgical profession, namely the silk worm ligature industry at Kollegal, are given. The initiative for the production of surgical guts was taken by the Department of Industries and Commerce, Madras. The entire process for extracting the silk glands from mature, robust, mulberry silk worms and drawing them out into strong suture guts suitable for the use of the surgeon has now been systematically worked out.

Another article gives details of the investigations undertaken in the Laboratories of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research to find more profitable uses for naphthalene. The experiments hold out the possibility of producing phthalic anhydride and also indicate that synthetic waxes can be produced in India.

In an article on soils of India, the importance of the study of the geological features of soils for the proper classification and utilisation of soils is emphasised. The greatest natural asset of any country, it is said, is its soil. Based on the origin as well as the geographical position, the Indian soils can be classified into three broad regional divisions and the soils of each division can be further subdivided according to zonal characteristics depending upon their origin from parent rocks, topographical relief, vegetation and nature and duration of the weathering processes leading to their formation.

MR. G. S. BOZMAN'S SPEECH

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 374)

Front, but these will be separate from the new organisation and none of the finance will be provided by the Central Government.

Our thanks are due to the non-officials all over India who have done sterling honorary work. We hope that many of them will continue to help under the new scheme, and we know that in many Provinces they will do so.

After this explanation, Sir, I request my Hon'ble friend to consider whether it is necessary to press his Resolution.

ADVANTAGE OF LONG-TERM ENDOWMENT ASSURANCE

"THERE is no business activity more steady and stable than that of insurance, but, as is the case with all things in nature which are sturdy and strong, the growth is slow and full of diseases and dangers and consequently the business requires enormous care in nursing during early years which, if provided, the young nursling would surely grow into robust youth and manhood. Otherwise it would surely get emaciated and die."

Thus observes the Superintendent of Insurance, in the 1944 Indian Insurance Year Book, urging the adoption of a policy of extreme conservatism in regard to declaration of dividend on capital. He advises insurers, particularly those recently established, to show a stern face towards any pressure put on them to strain their resources by dividend declaration before they have attained a position of considerable strength by building up strong reserves by continuous transfer of profits.

Discussing at great length the advantages, both from the point of view of the insured and the insurer, of a long-term Endowment Assurance or a Whole-Life policy as against a short-term Endowment Assurance policy, the Report states: "That life insurance is the medium which modern civilisation has provided for saving in a capitalised form the financial loss which would result on the death of the insured, and if the service provided by life insurance companies is made use of for this purpose and no more, every one would insure under a class of policy which would give for the premium he could afford the maximum insurance cover representing the loss to his dependents on his death, which is estimated at not less than three years' gross earnings."

Premium Rates

Premium rate of short-term Endowment Assurance, it is pointed out, is very high and only a very small part of the premium performs the genuine function of giving cover against death, the balance partaking of the nature of investment and "to the extent the investment element predominates in a policy of life insurance, it loses the very idea of insurance." "What would be the position of a young man", asks the Superintendent, "aged 30 effecting a 15-year Endowment Assurance, if at age 45 he is no longer insurable? Is there no more value in his life that has to be covered by insurance?"

DID YOU KNOW THAT—

• The railway freight for carrying one seer of rice or wheat over 100 miles is 9.92 pie, and one pair of dhoties, weighing one seer 1.65 pies.

The first railway lines in India, from Calcutta to Mirzapore and Bombay to Kalyan, were completed in 1853.

The first electric train in India ran between Victoria Terminus (Bombay) and Kurla in 1925.

Railway grain shops supply 8,000 maunds of foodstuffs per hour at cheap rates to 5,400 employees.

Assuming that each railway employee has a family of five members on an average, one per cent of India's total population is dependent on the Indian Railways for livelihood.

Commenting on and deploring the practice with some newly floated insurers of issuing shares at a premium, the Superintendent says: "The account returns that are to hand of insurance companies floated even by persons of very sound financial standing during the last year or two do not indicate such a position as to warrant the hope that the stage of dividend declaration would be reached in these cases much sooner than in the case of companies floated in the past."

EXCAVATIONS AT TAXILA

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 389)

as they have not so far been found on later sites. It is likely that the stamped silver money, which the king of Taxila has recorded to have presented to Alexander, consisted of similar bar coins. With the coins the hoard contained gold and silver beads, some of them reminiscent of the 'amla' fruit, which is so frequent a motive in Hindu architecture. There are also a number of silver finger rings and a magnificent eye-agate of irregular shape bearing the design of a lion tearing a stag. This motive is oriental in origin and of great antiquity.

Another interesting gem was discovered in a different part of the Bhir Mound. It is of green jasper, and bears a spirited representation of a galloping deer. It may be dated fifth or fourth century B.C.



THE AIR BLITZ ON MOSQUITOES—

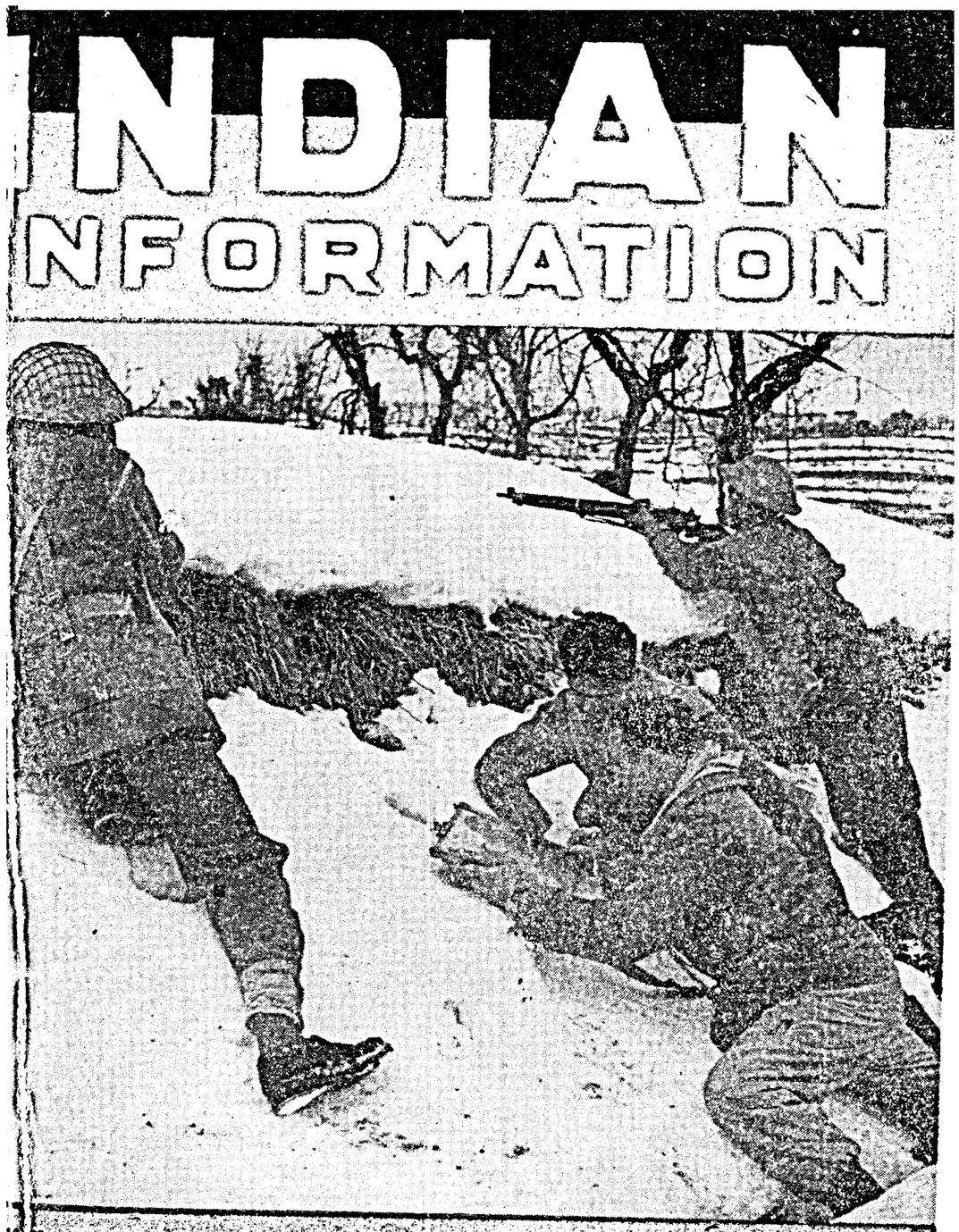
Anti-malaria aircraft are now going into action in support of the mosquito assault troops on the ground in Burma. Col. J. W. Scharff of SACEA&S Medical Advisory Division, was recently in the forward area investigating the possibilities of an air blitz on mosquitoes. R.A.F. Hurricanes fitted with special apparatus for spraying the most effective anti-mosquito poison in existence—Dichlor-Diphenyl-Trichlor-Ethane—were chosen for the task. It is estimated that a sprayed area will remain "mosquito proofed" for at least a month.

These pictures show: (above) two R.A.F. Hurricanes spraying an area in Burma. The white vapour emitted from the aircraft descends on the ground and buildings, and effectively kills any mosquitoes in the vicinity. (Below) The death-dealing vapour, sprayed from the Hurricanes, billowing out as it nears the ground.



Issued fortnightly by J. Natarajan, Principal Information Officer, Government of India. Printed in India by E. G. Tilt (Manager) at The Civil & Military Gazette, Ltd., Lahore: Communications for the Editor should be addressed to the Bureau of Public Information, Government of India, Lahore, and not to the Printers.

INDIAN INFORMATION



No. 157: April 1, 1945.
Fortnightly by the Information Officer, Government of India.

● V.C. PARADE AT DELHI



Sir Firoz Khan Noon, Defence Member, Government of India, gave a garden party to Invalids of the Indian Military Hospital, Delhi, recently. Picture shows Lady Noon serving some of the guests.

Vol. 16 No. 157. INDIAN INFORMATION April 1, 1945.

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

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

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

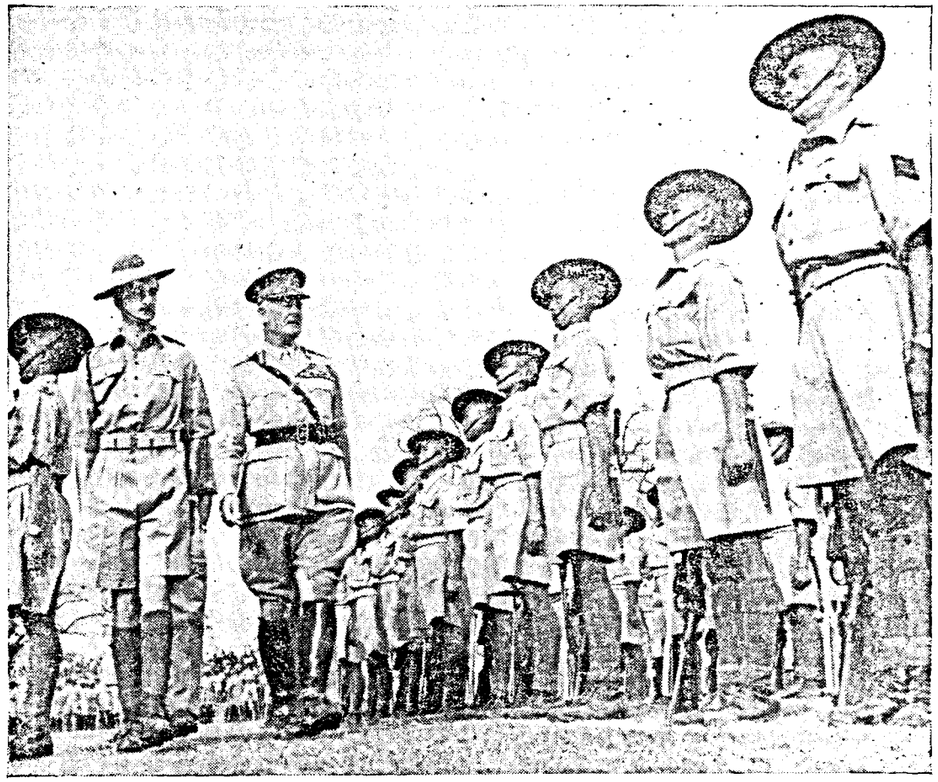
CONTRIBUTIONS:—Many MSS. are submitted to us which we regretfully return; since everything published in INDIAN INFORMATION emanates from an official source it follows that non-official contributions cannot be accepted.

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

MAIN CONTENTS

	Page
Viceroy's visit to Mysore, Travancore and Cochin	402
Sir J. P. Srivastava reviews Food Policy	414
Indian Political Parties and Post-War Planning: Sir Ardeshir Dalal's speech in Central Assembly	420
Sir Sultan Ahmed on Publicity in U.S.A.	430
The Afghan Mission in India	435
Release of Political Prisoners: Home Member's Statement in Central Assembly	446
Sir Mahomed Usman on working of the Defence of India Act	451
R.I.N.: Vice-Admiral J. H. Godfrey's Address to Central Legislature	465
The Royal Indian Air Force	471

Cover Picture: Men of a Punjabi Regiment on the Italian Front.



H.E. the Viceroy inspects the 9th Gurkha Rifles at the V.C. parade.

VICEROY PRESENTS FIVE V.C.s AT DELHI PARADE

PRIDE, sorrow and pageantry mingled on the maidan outside the Red Fort at Delhi on March 3. H.E. the Viceroy, Field Marshal Lord Wavell, was there to present five Victoria Crosses won by Indian fighting men.

But only two of the five heroes were there to receive them. The other three rest in battlefield graves near where they fell in valour's highest expression.

This was the greatest V.C. parade ever held in India. Never before have so many V.C.s been presented on one occasion.

The five V.C.s were won by:

Subedar Ram Sarup Singh, 1st Punjab Regiment (Burma—posthumous);

Naik Yeshwant Ghadge, 5th Mahratta Light Infantry (Italy—posthumous);

Rifleman Sher Bahadur Thapa, 9th Gurkha Rifles (Italy—posthumous);

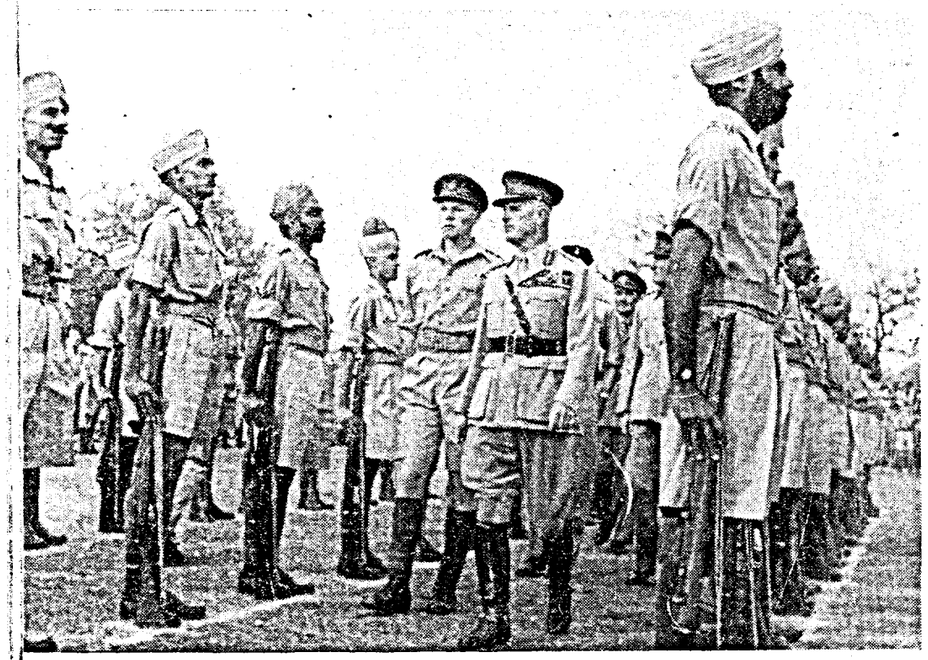
Sepoy Bhandari Ram, 10th Baluch Regiment (Burma);

Havildar Tul Bahadur Pun, 6th Gurkha Rifles (Burma).

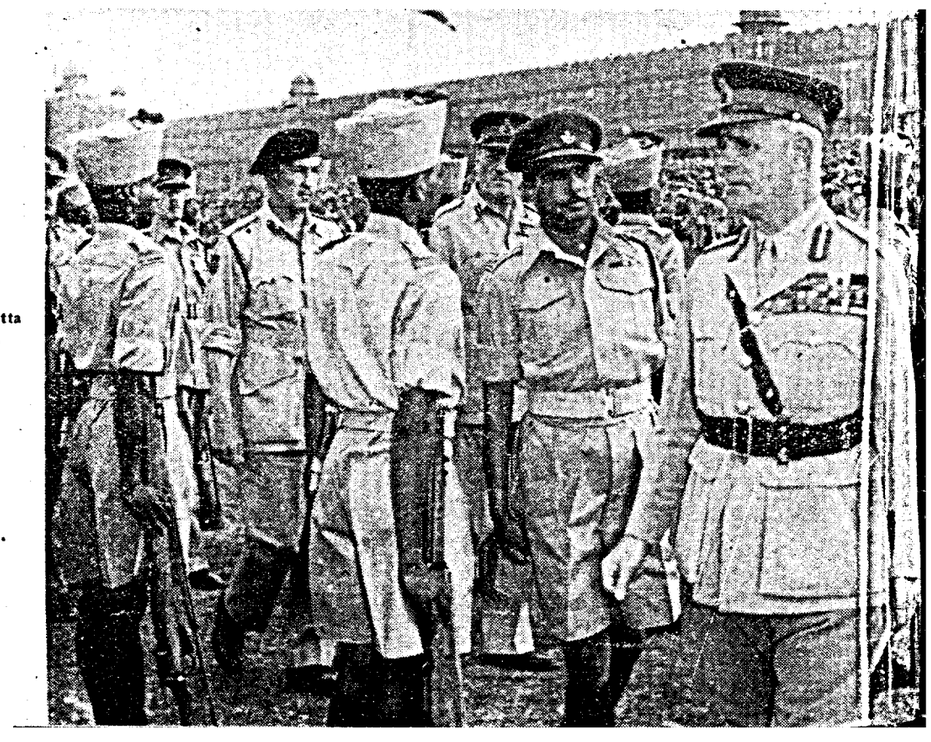
Thousands of people were there to see the ceremony, writes an Indian Army Observer. But of all that great throng, which included some of the greatest in Indian public life, a group stood out—the relatives of the three dead heroes.

One tiny figure stole the scene—a two-year-old tot in blue flowered blouse and knickers who

VICEROY INSPECTS V.C. REGIMENTS—



The 1st. Punjab Regiment



The 5th Mahratta Light Infantry.

THE V.C. PRESENTATIONS—





The Viceroy decorates Sepoy Bhandari Ram, 10 th Baluch Regiment (left) and Rfn. Tulbahadur Pun, 6th Gurkha Rifles (right) with the V.C.





The widow of Yeshwant Ghadge (5th Mahratta Light Infantry) receives the V.C. from Lord Wavell. (Right) His Excellency presents the V.C. to the mother of Sherbahadur Thapa (9th Gurkha Rifles) who was awarded the decoration posthumously.



Lady Wavell greets Sherbahadur Thapa's cousin. His mother is third from right.

with childish restlessness kept leaving the side of his heavily veiled mother and played beneath the flagpole on which the Union Jack was fluttering and near where the Viceroy was to stand.

He was little Tej Pal Singh, son of the dead subedar, for whom Lady Wavell had a special word and a special smile as, when the ceremony was over, she moved among the heroes' relatives to greet each one.

Sepoy Bhandari Ram and Havildar Tul Bahadur Pun strode up spruce and smart to receive their V.Cs. Their relatives looked on, proud and happy in their special seats, the wife and mother of Tul Bahadur Pun, each in a gay pink majetro—Nepalese shawl—standing out as two stabs of colour.

Then came two widows and an aged mother —three figures for whom the pomp and circumstance of this great occasion was only a reminder of bereavement and sacrifice.

They were Nath Kaur, widow of Ram Sarup Singh, whose white silk veil seemed to nullify her bright sari; Lakshmi Bai, 17-year-old widow of Yeshwant Ghadge, whose sari was of silken saffron, India's traditional badge of widowhood; and Lachman Kumari, mother of Sher Bahadur Thapa, a magnificent figure in traditional Nepalese costume, whose dignity and strength as she sat to await her turn to come forward seemed to express the very spirit of Gurkha valour.

Each was led forward by a senior officer of the regiment in which each dead hero had served. Standing before the Viceroy they heard again the story of their men's supreme sacrifice as the citations were read in Urdu.

Then the Viceroy bent forward, the V.C. was placed in each out-stretched palm, there was a clasp of the hand and a kindly smile of sympathy and pride from the representative of



Nihala Ram, Sepoy Bhandari Ram's father, examines his son's decoration.



Lakshmi Bai, widow of Naik Yeshwant Ghadge, shows her son the Victoria Cross won by his father.



Hav. Tulbahadur Pun's wife proudly shows the V.C. won by her husband to his parents.



Jem. (A/Sub.) Ram Sarup Singh, who was awarded the V.C. posthumously.

VICEROY ENTERTAINS V.C. FAMILIES

Over 600 Indian officers and men belonging to the five regiments of the Indian Army V.C.s who were honoured by the Viceroy, Lord Wavell, on March 3, were the guests of the Viceroy and Lady Wavell at an informal garden party at the Viceroy's House. The men and officers had attended the colourful V.C. parade held near the Red Fort a few hours before.

Havildar Tul Bahadur Pun, V.C., 6th Gurkha Rifles; Sepoy Bhandari Ram, V.C., 10th Baluch Regiment; and their families with those of the dead heroes—Acting-Subedar Ram Sarup Singh, V.C., 1st Punjab Regiment; Naik Yeshwant Ghadge, V.C., 5th Mahratta Light Infantry, and Rifleman Sher Bahadur Thapa, V.C., 9th Gurkha Rifles were the guests of honour.

In an atmosphere of complete informality the V.C.s and their families had tea with a number of officers in a private dining hall, where the Viceroy and Lady Wavell joined them. The centre of attraction was Tej Pal Singh, two-year-old son of the late Subedar Ram Sarup Singh, and Harish Chandra, five-year-old adopted son of the widow of the late Naik Yeshwant Ghadge.

After tea the gathering moved out to the wide lawns of the famous Moghul Gardens, studded with brick-red fountains and ornamental ponds. Here the Viceroy and Lady Wavell went round chatting with the large number of soldiers who talked about their campaigning experiences and the honour which their heroes had brought to them.

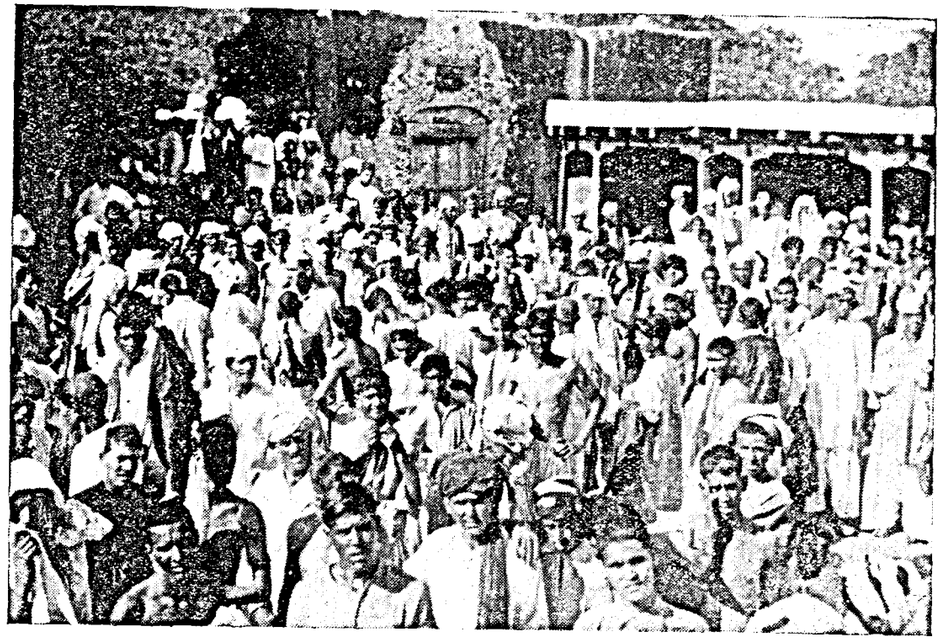
Among those present were His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala; His Highness the Raja of Bilaspur; the Hon. Sir Firoz Khan Noon, the Defence Member, and Lady Noon; Brigadier E. W. D. Vaughan, Delhi Area Commander; and senior officers of the regiments of the five V.C.s.

Among the distinguished persons who attended were Lady Wavell, General Sir Claude Auchinleck (the Commander-in-Chief in India), the Maharaja of Patiala, the Raja of Bilaspur, Maj.-Gen. C. R. C. Lane (representing Lord Louis Mountbatten), General Sir Oliver Leese (C.-in-C., Allied Land Forces, South East Asia), Air Marshal L. N. Hollinghurst (Commanding Base Air Forces, South East Asia), Maj.-Gen. Vernon Evans (U.S. Army), Colonel Irving Dooh (Chinese Resident Military Officer in India) and Mrs. Irving Dooh, Sir Patrick Spens (Chief Justice of India) and Lady Spens, and members of the Executive Council.

A Seamen's Welfare Directorate has been established under the Government of India, in the Department of Commerce, for the planning and speedy provision of amenities for Merchant Seamen in India. Mr. Mervyn Armstrong, lately Adviser to the Ministry of War Transport, has been appointed Director of Seamen's Welfare, with effect from March 1, 1945.

WAR BONUS GRANTED

On account of increased cost of living the British North Borneo (Chartered) Company have decided to grant war bonus to their pensioners in India. This will be on the same scale as temporary increases sanctioned by the Colonial Office in the pensions payable in India to the pensioners of the Government of Hongkong and the Malayan Governments, said a Press Note issued by the Commonwealth Relations Department, Government of India, on March 13.



Recruits for the Army collect in the grounds of a local Malik (chief) in the Punjab.

2½ MILLION IN INDIA'S FIGHTING FORCES

OVER 2,500,000 men and women have now enrolled in India's fighting forces. Together they form the largest volunteer body of its kind in the world, and bear witness to the splendid organisation and drive of the Recruiting Directorate.

From every corner of India and Nepal come recruits for the various services—the R.I.N., the Army, the I.A.F. and the W.A.C. (I). This vast territory has been divided into 14 areas which are administered by nearly 800 recruiting officers and more than 9,000 other workers.

Tribute To Recruiting Organisation

Enlistment being entirely voluntary, this necessitates a complicated range of terms and services so that the qualifications of each individual may be used to the best advantage. The complexity of the problem is made no easier by the fact that, besides the ordinary non-technician grades there are over 200 technical categories, for any one of which a recruit may be particularly suited.

There is no "close season" for recruiting. As the war progresses demands for men and women become more incessant but there can be no lowering of existing standards for only those who fulfil these qualifications can hope to fight for their motherland.

In all weathers and in the most remote districts recruiting officers are constantly touring. In addition to contacting and collecting recruits they have many unofficial duties to perform, not the least important being concern for the welfare of the dependants of those already enlisted. The achievements of India's armed forces are the greatest tribute which can be paid to the work of the Recruiting Organisation.

H. M. the King-Emperor has been graciously pleased to approve the promotion of Their Highnesses the Nawab of Rampur and the Maharaja of Tripura to the Honorary rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in the Army with effect from January 30, 1945.

VICEROY'S TOUR OF MYSORE, TRAVANCORE, COCHIN

THEIR Excellencies the Viceroy and Lady Wavell returned to New Delhi recently after visiting the Indian States of Mysore, Travancore and Cochin. The tour lasted a fortnight and about 5,000 miles were covered by 'plane, motor car and launch.

At the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, Prof. H. J. Bhabha, Head of the Cosmic Ray Research Unit, explained to the Viceroy apparatus devised by him to study the cosmic ray.

"The existence of cosmic radiation," said Prof. Bhabha, "was demonstrated for the first time in 1912, but how great its penetrating power is and how enormous the energy of the particles comprising it has been fully realised only in the last few years, and although we know the vital role it has played in helping us to unravel the nature of the elementary particles, we are perhaps still not fully aware of the crucial part it may play in the future in helping us to understand the structure of the universe as a whole.

"Matter is known to be no longer indestructible, and several processes have been observed in the laboratory in which matter is either created or destroyed. In cosmic radiation we find the only rays with sufficient energy to have travelled several times round the whole universe and, as such, it may be in a position to give us information about the state of the universe six thousand million years ago."

Insulin—Improved Method

Prof. Bhabha explained that for cosmic ray investigation India was particularly favourably situated as it stretched from the geomagnetic equator in the South to a magnetic latitude of 25 degrees North at Peshawar. High altitude experiments, foremost of their kind, were being carried out.

In the Biochemistry Department, Lord Wavell sat in the front row of the lecture theatre with Sir Francis Wylie and Sir Evan Jenkins, the remaining pews being occupied by students, while Prof. V. Subrahmanyam, D.Sc., Head of the Department, explained an array of bottled exhibits. The Institute, said Prof. Subrahmanyam, was producing insulin by a method which was a great improvement on the Toronto method and at half the cost. Vegetable milk (a bottle was handed round, but unfortunately not sampled) was being produced from the soya bean, cashewnut and peanut. It was superior in nutritive qualities to cow's milk! The soya bean was processed by an entirely new method.

"Do these supply bulk?" asked the Viceroy, when a concentrate of meat was handed round. "No, Sir," answered Prof. Subrahmanyam, "but a small quantity of this pre-digested food gives a normal day's requirements of protein for an adult."

From glutin, a by-product of starch (there are 17 starch factories in India) the Institute is producing a food yeast richer than marmite. Many of these researches were being conducted on behalf of the Food Department, Government of India, the Madras Government and the Indian Research Fund Association. Madras was particularly interested in methods to protect shark liver oil from deterioration. Starch was also being produced from the sweet potato.

Food Infestation

Insects, explained the Professor, were fonder of vitamins and proteins than even human beings. Food infestation, a serious menace, was being checked by the foodgrain being passed through a hot chamber, devised at the Institute. This killed the insects and cleaned the grain, whose food value was not affected in the process.

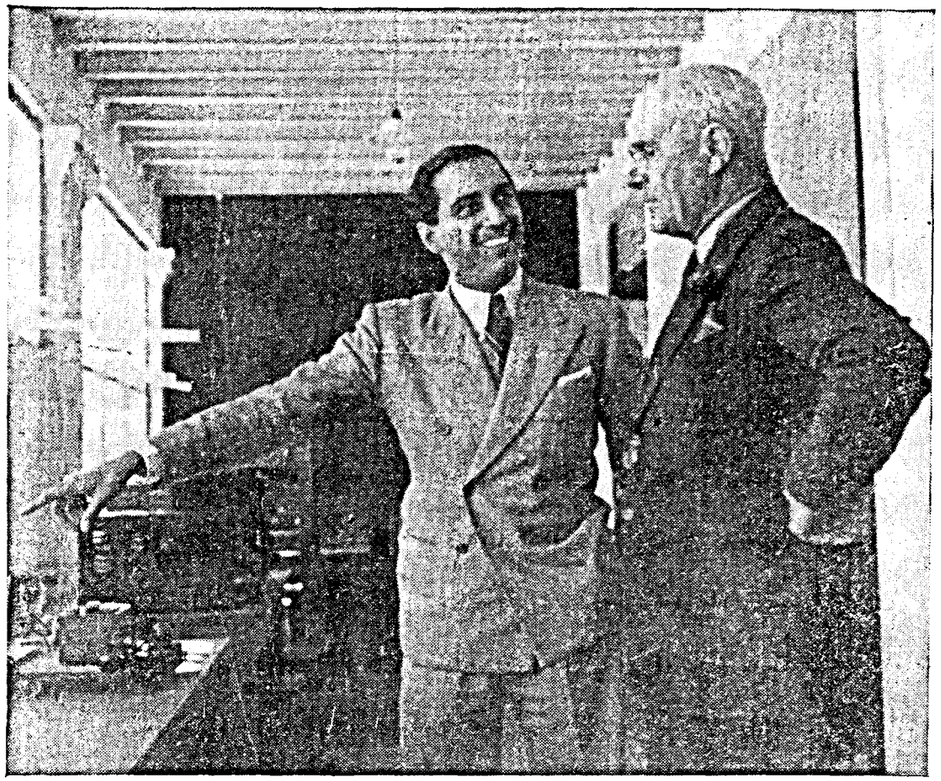
Sewage was also being purified for introduction into ponds, lakes, etc., in which fish were grown. Experiments were also being conducted for the removal of brackishness from water. This brackishness was due to the presence of certain salts, like florine, which attacked the teeth and bones, if the water were drunk. The addition of a calcium and phosphorous compound to food counteracted this danger.

The garden lizard, it had been discovered, was susceptible to filiarisis, the elephantiasis of the limbs so common in the Madras Presidency. The lizard was, therefore, the subject of experiment in finding the cure to this dread disease, caused by a threadlike worm and spread by the mosquito from infected persons.

Penicillin Manufacture

In a little red-roofed shed the Viceroy saw a culture of penicillin, the whole process being explained in detail. Here again the Institute claims an advance on existing methods.

The previous day, the Viceroy visited the Army Development Farm at Bhikasipur, where Junior Commander (Miss) Shah, Officer in charge, told of the progress made in the Southern Army's effort to raise its own poultry (Rhode Island Reds, White Leghorns, Black Minorcas),



Prof. H. J. Bhabha, F.R.S., Head of the Cosmic Ray Research Unit at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, explains to the Viceroy the apparatus devised by him.

pigs, etc. Miss Shah is probably the only woman in the East to hold a Degree in Agriculture from an American University. Lady Wavell visited Jalahalli, the Hospital Town, the largest unit (10,000 patients) of its kind in the world.

An interesting incident occurred at the Lalbagh Gardens, where Their Excellencies' arrival (separately) was so unexpected that other visitors to the Flower Show paid not the slightest heed until a whisper went round. Then a large, delighted crowd cheerily followed in the wake of the Viceregal Party. All except a little Burmese girl who, with finger in mouth, stood in the path, gazing roofward, until a police officer swooped and removed her bodily—to her complete astonishment and the spectators' merriment.

All through the tour the Viceroy showed his keen interest in food for the people; at the Lalbagh Gardens the local officials were hard put to it in answering questions regarding the nutritive value of fruit and vegetables on display. The obese jackfruit was one of these, but even the slim snake gourd did not escape attention.

Tribute to Indian Workmen

At the Hindustan Aircraft Factory, where 'planes are not only assembled, but badly damaged aircraft are repaired (45 days being the time-limit allowed to the factory) His Excellency visited every workshop and plant. There are 400,000 parts divided into 29 classes, but the Indian workman ("as competent as any we have back in the States" said the Chief of the Maintenance Division) has taken this job in his stride. He is helped in no small degree by sound advice, inscribed on boards throughout the factory, adjuring him to "be careful while working with engine parts. A small scratch



Lord Wavell and party photographed outside the hangars at the Hindustan Aircraft Factory.

may cost lives;" and the sterner: "Do not be afraid to tell the truth if you have made any mistake. Report immediately to your superior the mistake you have done. Failure to report a mistake invites dismissal."

Visit to Gold Mine

The same morning, after a 35-minute flight to Kolar, Their Excellencies descended a mile and a quarter into the bowels of the earth. Standing at the foot of the Gifford Shaft (the deepest vertical shaft in the world) in the Champion Reef Gold Mine, the entrance, 6,563 feet above, twinkled like a remote star. Steel rails ran through narrow tunnels at the end of which, after passing through two gates forming an airlock, Their Excellencies watched a Cornish miner drilling in a narrow gallery, extending upward in steps to the next gallery 100 feet above. Fatalities are few for there are many exits to other galleries and even to other mines.

Despite ice-cold air driven into the shafts by an enormous air-conditioning plant, one of the biggest in the world, the heat was intense. The temperature of the wall rocks at this depth is 125 degrees F. and at 9,000 feet, the deepest point so far reached, 139 degrees! Their Excellencies paused for a moment outside a telephone exchange linked, from 3,613 feet below sea level, with Capitals of the world.



His Excellency in one of the repair shops of the factory.



Lady Wavell inspects war work of the women of Kolar Gold Fields at the K.G.F. Club.

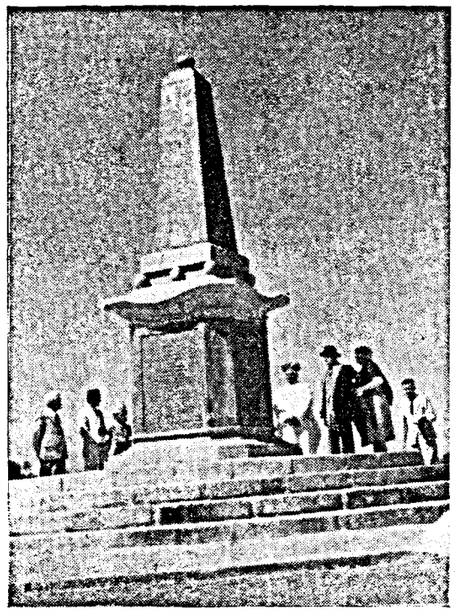
From the mine to rock-breakers and then to a mill where enormous stamp batteries (each crushes about 12 tons of ore a day) were crushing quartz into pulp, before it could pass over three tables with a blanket surface and then a percussion table where a thin golden stream trickled into porcelain pans. A far cry from the days of hand-panning by a running stream but the same process, mechanised and magnified a thousandfold!

Led by His Excellency himself, the entire party tried its hand at lifting a 1,000-oz. gold bar, spurred by the company's generous offer to present it to anyone achieving the feat, without slipping his hand *under* the bar. The Company still has a gold bar worth Rs. 1,48,000.

Two hours after lunching at the Kolar Gold Fields Club where Their Excellencies saw an



Lord Wavell tries to lift a 1,000-oz. gold bar at the Champion Reef Gold Mine. The Company has offered to present the gold bar to anyone lifting it without slipping his hand under it.



The Viceroy at the obelisk in Seringapatam which marks the spot where a breach was made in the defences during the Third Mysore War.

astonishingly clever model (electrically worked) of a gold mine, which Mr. C. J. Roome took 5½ years to complete, making it entirely from scrap material, the party arrived in gaily-bedecked Mysore. Enormous crowds, assembling apparently from nowhere (there is a local jest that Mysore has more houses than inhabitants) lined streets so gorgeously decorated, so beautifully festooned, that the party appeared to step from the Magic Carpet straight into the gateway to paradise.

Visit to Lalitha Mahal

Accompanied by His Highness the Maharaja, Their Excellencies drove to Lalitha Mahal, one of the world's loveliest palaces, palely beautiful in the diffused light of eventide. From Chamundi, wreathed as with a rope of pearls, with a single red ruby flashing from the hill palace's topmost tower, Mysore's myriad lights twinkled like the Milky Way. In the heart of the city, the Maharaja's Palace, outlined by a million bulbs, quivered intensely, pulsating with ardent fire.

Incidents in Mysore's history passed in serried array when Their Excellencies visited Seringapatam. The Viceroy lingered long at the spot where Tippu Sultan died and at the *Gumbaz* which enshrines the tombs of the great statesman and his father, Hyder Ali, where His Excellency was received with the "Nanupat," the traditional greeting played on flutes from the gateway to the tombs.

Mounting one of the three walls near the spot where Tippu died, Field Marshal Wavell surveyed the battle area of 1799. "This must have been a very strong place," he said. The obelisk marking the spot where the defences were breached by British forces in the last of the Mysore Wars provoked a series of questions on the campaign. Captain the Hon. A. J. Wavell supplemented replies given by Dr. M. H. Krishna, Director of Archaeology, while His Highness the Maharaja, a gifted and cultured Ruler, in replies to Lady Wavell revealed a profound knowledge of Mysore's history.



Mounting the wall near the spot where Tippu Sultan died at Seringapatam, Lord Wavell surveyed the battle area of 1799. "This must have been a very strong place," he said.



H.H. the Maharaja of Mysore bids farewell to H.E. the Viceroy at the conclusion of Their Excellencies' visit to the State.

Across the Cauvery the British battery were posted.

"Was there a feint," asked the Viceroy.

"Near the bridge, Sir, but strangely enough this spot, heavily pounded by artillery, was least strongly guarded."

The Black Watch, the Viceroy's own regiment, participated in the battle; at Bangalore they had been given the honour of providing the Guard at the Residency, where Their Excellencies stayed. The Viceroy's son, carrying on the family tradition, is an officer in the regiment.

War supplies by industrial concerns in Mysore up to December 1944: Rs. 12,25,64,588.

Last glimpse: The Brindavan Gardens ("a fantasy in technicolour" by night) with fountains leaping to greet the dawn.

The Malabar Coast

Over the Palai Hills and sprawling Kodaikanal with the Blue Mountains receding in the distant clouds, to an airfield whence the party motored to Aramboly. Picnic lunch at 5 p.m. on the banks of Thopala Lake, only a few miles from Cape Comorin; thence to the temple, palace; murals and museum at Padmanabhapuram; and a drive along a wonderful highroad from Aramboly with houses all the way (possibly the longest ribbon development in the world) blossoming suddenly into the Capital.

Inspection of food storage godowns, ration shops and the Travancore State Labour Force —the men who built the Ledo Road into Burma. Travancore's Armed Women Police (the only body of its kind in India) formed a Guard of Honour for Lady Wavell when she visited the Legislative Chamber to inspect work done by the women of Travancore.

Beautiful articles made out of coconut shells by orphans, boxes from seaside sand and shells, coir ropes woven by Depressed Class women on a wheel introduced into Travancore 125 years ago by Darragh, an Irishman who came with thirty rupees and amassed thirty lakhs; handbags (Lady Wavell bought four) woven out of the leaves of the screwpine, a backwater plant. The Women's Co-operative Societies Dairy Farm, run by women, who bring their cows to be milked and help to make butter and cheese sold in the Capital, and share the profits, the mere male being rigorously excluded from every stage of the process.

At the shops, the Dewan (Sir C. P. Ramaswamy Aiyar) showed His Excellency Australian wheat, Punjab wheat and rice, Madras rice, gram, and other foodgrains many of which the Viceroy sampled. High, ventilated godowns with women pounding rice. It was now an offence in Travancore, said the Dewan, to mill rice in a factory, as hand-pounded rice was far superior from the nutritive point of view. Travancore had surmounted early difficulties in food shortage and the position was much improved.

Tapioca and Other Research

Tapioca was now conserved for food purposes, and manufacture and export of starch made from this valuable plant was prohibited. In the Applied Chemistry Buildings of the Central Research Institute, Travancore University, research work (for the first time in India) was being conducted on the second most important field crop in Travancore. The object is to evolve a superior strain of tapioca by hybridisation and to improve cultural methods so as to increase the yield (which at present is only 4 tons an acre) to the level obtained in Malaya and Java—which is 15 tons per acre. Seventy-two varieties have been collected from different parts of Travancore and in four varieties entirely new strains, economically more promising,

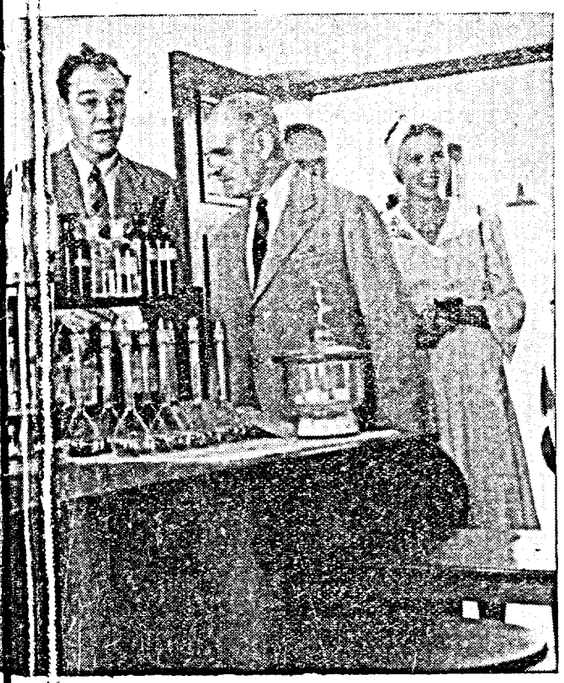
Viceroy in Travancore



The Garden Party at Kaudiar Palace. H.H. the Maharaja is seated next to H.E. Lady Wavell.



Sir C. P. Ramaswamy Aiyar, the Dewan, greets His Excellency on arrival at the Alwaye Palace.



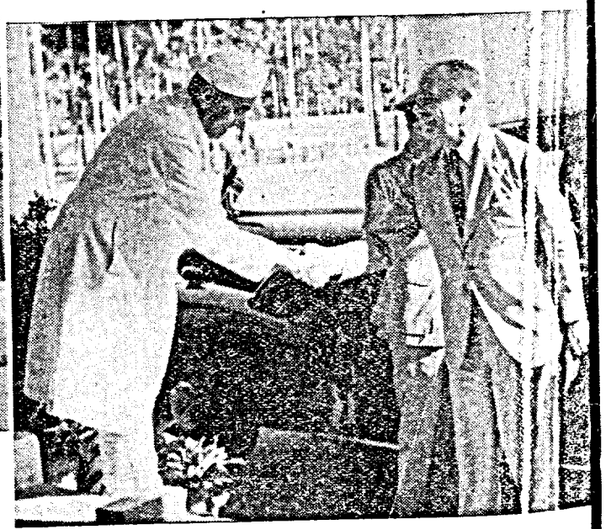
The Viceroy in the Indian Aluminium Company's laboratory at Alwaye. Picture shows (L. to R.) Mr. L. Shaw, Commercial Manager, Sir Evan Jenkins, Mr. J. W. Cameron, Works Manager, His Excellency and Mrs. Cameron.



At the Ranga Vilasom Palace Museum and Picture Gallery, Dr. J. H. Cousins, the Art Director, showed His Excellency typical close-quarters hand-weapons (seen in the background) of ancient times. (Below) Lord Wavell in the Bronze Room of the Museum.



Travancore Women Police who formed the Guard of Honour when Lady Wavell visited the Legislative Chamber in Trivandrum to inspect Red Cross and other work done by the women of Travancore.





have been evolved by doubling the chromosome number in the cells from the normal 36 to 72. Hybrids have also been evolved.

The chemical composition of 14 important varieties of banana—described by Prof. Sigerist, who recently visited India, as the most nutritious fruit in the world—has been studied with the object of assessing the relative food value of each variety. It has been found that coconut pith, a by-product, can be utilised in the manufacture of table mats, bathmats, etc., compressed corks and insulating material.

Gypsum from Sea Brine

Salt is produced in South Travancore from pit brine, tube-well brine and sea brine. The Viceroy was particularly interested in a new technique developed at the institute for the production of purer salts and chemical by-products such as gypsum (which in combination with charcoal produces ammonium sulphate, the chemical fertiliser) magnesium salts, potassium salts and bromine. This technique is to be applied at a model experimental factory as a measure of post-war reconstruction. The occurrence and distribution of magnetic minerals under the earth are also being surveyed by means of magnetic abnormalities and magnetic needles. As at the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore, investigations are being conducted to check rancidity and progressive devitaminization of shark liver oil. A suitable technique of hygienic extraction and safe storage has been worked out in the production of sharliverol, now being given to school children in place of cod liver oil.

At the Public Health Laboratory of the Central Research Institute, the Viceroy was informed, about 5,000 specimens are examined annually for various kinds of parasites, like the malarial parasite, tubercle and diphtheria bacilli. Small-pox, anti-rabic, cholera and other vaccine were also being produced here.

Indian Art in Excelsis

The Ranga Vilasom Palace was also visited. This was converted by command of the Maharaja into a gallery and museum of State portraits, paintings, carvings, Chinese ceramics, court costumes, jewellery, weapons and effigies in wood of the chief characters of the world-famed indigenous dance, Kathakali. His Highness the Maharaja explained exhibits to Her Excellency who was particularly interested in the Chinese ceramics.

The Sri Chitralayam (Temple of Painting) in the Museum Gardens presents a survey of the history of painting in India together with examples of Tibetan, Balinese, Chinese and Japanese paintings. Their Excellencies remarked on the beauty of a painting entitled "Homeward Bound," a study of cattle returning to the village at dusk. Mr. K. Madhava Menon, the artist, was delighted to receive their congratulations.

Dr. J. H. Cousins, Art Adviser, gave the gruff reply to a query: "Beverley Nichols did not come *here*!"

Aluminium and Fertilisers

A 55-mile drive from Rocky Ridge, the Government House at Kottayam, through coconut and arecanut plantations situated in the beautiful western ranges of Travancore, brought Their Excellencies to Alwaye where the Indian Aluminium Company, Ltd., and the Fertilisers and Chemicals, Travancore, Ltd. were visited. The Viceroy and the Dewan motored to the Aluminium Company where Messrs. W. Shaw, Commercial Manager and Secretary, and J. W. Cameron, Works Manager, explained how aluminium ore imported from Canada is converted by electrolytic action into aluminium which is poured into crucibles and cast into ingots, these being despatched to rolling mills in Bengal to be converted into sheets, to make petrol tanks for 'planes, etc. When India's bauxite resources (among the largest in the world) are fully exploited, import of aluminium ore will cease. A factory now being established in Bihar would complete the chain in the entire process from bauxite to aluminium ingots and plane tanks.

At the Fertilisers and Chemicals, the Viceroy saw blueprints for factory buildings, staff residential accommodation and storage warehouses for gypsum and charcoal, from which ammonium sulphate (chemical fertiliser) will be derived. Sir John Higgins, Resident Director, and Mr. A. D. Ranegan, Works Manager, explained the blueprints. The Viceroy descended a steep slope, at the base of which a dock is being constructed to which 50-ton steamers will bring wood or charcoal from Travancore's forests and gypsum. When completed, this will be the second largest fertiliser factory in the world.

On the Backwaters of Cochin

A strenuous programme, by launch and car alternately from the Bolghatty Residency to Ernakulam, Willingdon Island and British Cochin; visits to the ancient Portuguese Palace at Mattancherry, which for centuries had witnessed the installation of the Rulers of Cochin; the White Jews Synagogue; a Licensed Retailer's

Shop; a Fair Price Shop; the Cochin Restaurant; hospitals, canteens; and naval, military and air force installations; concluding with a snake-boat regatta on the palm-fringed backwaters.

Chanting ancient warrior songs of Malabar, the *vallom* crews of four snake-boats escorted Their Excellencies from Ernakulam to the Bolghatty Residency, kindly loaned by the Resident for accommodation of the distinguished guests on the occasion of Lord Wavell's first visit to Cochin as Viceroy.

His Highness the Maharaja had motored from the Hill Palace to greet Their Excellencies. He presented the Elaya Raja and other Princes and the Dewan and Personal Staff after which the Viceroy inspected a Guard of Honour furnished by the Cochin State Forces and a troop of Boy Scouts.

Visit to Mattancherry Palace

On their visit to the Mattancherry Palace, Their Excellencies were received by the Chief Justice and Prince Rama Varma Thampuran, M.B.E., M.A., Bar-at-law, first Prince of the Ruling House to cross the seas, breaking a centuries-old tradition of these Kshattriya Rulers.

Lady Wavell remarked on the beauty of the carved wooden ceiling in the Durbar Hall, wonderfully preserved, though the murals depicting scenes from the Mahabharata had suffered from the ravages of time and the Dutch seizure of the Palace, which was presented by the Portuguese to the Cochin Rajah as a residence in 1552. The Dutch renovated and returned it in 1665.

The Viceroy saw temples which enshrine the Ruling Family deities, murals dating back 300 years and an everburning taper in memory of a ruler who died here.

The White Jews

Fifteen hundred Jews, among whom were 150 White Jews, crowded a narrow street, lined balconies and peered from windows when Mr. A. Shabdai Koder, leading merchant, and two Elders conducted Their Excellencies through an ancient wrestling arena to the Synagogue where 10-year-old Queenie Koder curtsied and presented a bouquet to Her Excellency. The Jews of Cochin are the descendants of a small body who came to India about 74 A.D. after the sack of Jerusalem. In conformance with Jewish custom, the Viceregal party kept their heads covered in the Synagogue. From a burnished



On arrival at the Huzur Jetty, Ernakulam, Lord Wavell was received and garlanded by H.H. the Maharaja of Cochin.

pulpit an Elder read Hebrew prayers invoking victory and blessings on the King, the Queen and Royal family and the Viceroy. The Viceroy and Lady Wavell greatly admired the willow pattern China porcelain tiles with which the Synagogue floor is paved. White, with floral and other designs in a rich beautiful blue, and about nine inches square, these tiles, presented by a Jewish merchant prince in 1762, commemorate the legendary trade between South India and China.

Labour Recruiting Centre

The pathways to the Palace and the Synagogue from the jetty were covered with white sand, specially imported from Travancore on such occasions, and blending with the white bunting were the white and blue-draped railings, ornamented with bunches of bananas and coconuts in keeping with South Indian tradition.

A swift passage across the deep blue backwaters in white launches and then in cars brought the Viceroy to the Labour Recruiting Centre, at Vyttila.



The Viceroy inspects recruits at the Labour Recruiting Centre at Vyttila, Cochin.



Lady Wavell laying the foundation stone of the New Nurses' Hostel at the Y.W.C.A., Ernakulam.

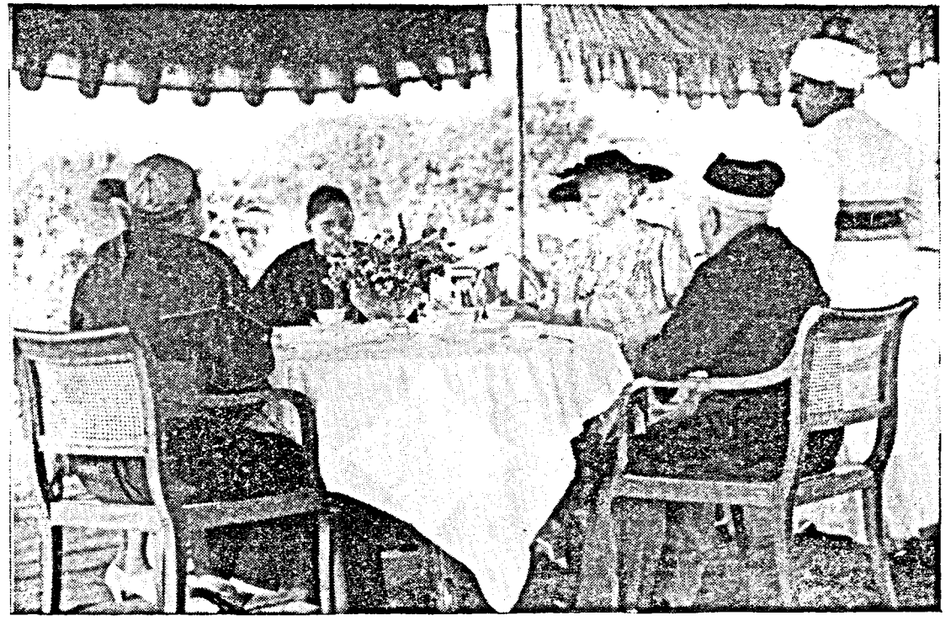


Lord Wavell talking to W.C. Cornabe and Brig. Pollock during his inspection of Naval, Military and Air Force installations.

"Tell your men," said the Viceroy (addressing the Chief Labour Recruiting Officer) "that I have seen labour units doing excellent work in Burma, especially after air raids. Both the Commander-in-Chief and I have a high opinion of these men."

At Fair Price Shop

At the Licensed Retailer's Shop, the Fair Price Shop, and the Cochin Restaurant, the first of a number to be opened by Government to popularise dry grains, the Viceroy asked numerous questions regarding the quantity and quality of foodstuffs, some of which he personally tested. Tapioca, Madras rice, Punjab rice and wheat, Australian wheat, *dhall*, grams and other foodstuffs were scrutinised and at the Viceregal request the process of distributing rations to the crowd (which virtually hemmed the party in) was continued. At the Fair Price Shop, Sir George Boag, the Dewan, answering the Viceroy, said that there had been considerable



Her Excellency having tea with the Elaya Raja of Cochin at the Garden Party at Ernakulam.

improvement in the food situation with the introduction of rationing, while new godowns were being built to increase storage. Lady Wavell visited the Y.M.C.A. and R.N.A.S. Amenity Room, the Toc H. Canteen, the N.A.A.F.I. Canteen and the R.N. Amenity Room, expressing satisfaction at the arrangements made for helping and entertaining military and naval forces.

Garden Party

One of the party jestingly remarked at a hospital visited by Her Excellency that there appeared to be more nurses than patients.

"We are proud of that," commented Major (Miss) Bhagwan Das, Matron, adding: "But, as elsewhere, there is a great shortage of Sisters, trained personnel who can take charge."

The elite of Cochin assembled in Irwin Park for a garden party (the keynote of which, as at other parties during the tour, was simplicity—tea, coffee and ice-cream, if you were lucky!) saw His Highness receive and conduct Their Excellencies to their seats under a shamiana. On the backwaters, the crews of four snake-boats eagerly awaited the signal to start. The race is so vigorous that on some occasions in the past one or two boats have been known to founder. As a precautionary measure, launches steamed parallel to the boats, but this proved unnecessary, all the boats returning in grand style amidst lusty cheering.

"We wish we could have stayed longer in your beautiful State," said His Excellency, in bidding farewell to the Maharaja.

All the panorama of India, its mystic beauty, mighty rivers, lakes, and harsh, barren lands sadly denuded of vegetation, unrolled beneath the Dakota's wings on the 1,200-mile return flight from Willingdon Island to Willingdon Airport. It took eight hours.



Sir J. P. Srivastava addressing the Central Food Advisory Council which met in New Delhi on February 28.

SIR J. P. SRIVASTAVA REVIEWS FOOD POLICY

"I find it difficult to believe that all our problems of increasing production, of maintaining prices, of ensuring adequate distribution and of improving the national diet, will be immediately and automatically solved when peace comes," declared the Hon'ble Sir J. P. Srivastava, Food Member, Government of India, in his opening address to the Central Food Advisory Council which met in New Delhi on February 28. The session lasted three days.

The Food Member also announced his intention to set up a new Division in the Department which would have as its special care the distribution of sugar, salt, and fresh and protective foods.

Here is the full text of Sir J. P. Srivastava's speech:

I am happy to welcome members of the Central Food Advisory Council to this, our second meeting. When we met for the first time in July last year there was some natural anxiety as to whether we would be able to maintain our policy of statutory price control for the principal foodgrains at the same time as we were undertaking greatly increased government responsibility for the rationing of our urban areas.

I am happy to be able to say that with the assistance of His Majesty's Government in the matter of imports we have been successful in both directions. Not only have we maintained statutory prices but we have, on the whole, succeeded both in reducing prices which were unduly high and in maintaining them at the predetermined level with considerable reductions in the variations between the prices for the same grain in different areas. Although we have at the same time greatly extended rationing, we have not only been able to honour the ration, but in some areas, where the ration was unduly low, we have been able to raise it towards what we consider the minimum level of one pound per diem. I do not disguise from myself that we were blessed with a wonderful rice harvest and that although our rabi harvest was very severely damaged at the very end of the season, we were fortunate to have the carry over of a bumper wheat harvest in the preceding year, but I felt it justified when addressing the official representatives of Provinces and States at the Fifth All India Food Conference in thanking them for the steadfastness and co-operation which they had shown in carrying out the all-India

food policy, and I said that I believed that confidence in the ability of Government to forestall shortages, to maintain supplies and to control the prices of the basic cereals had largely been restored. I thought it advisable at the same time, and I hope that the Council will support me in this, to warn them against any tendency to over-confidence or to relax their efforts towards extending and perfecting their machinery for procurement, their facilities for storage, and their arrangement for controlled distribution.

Problem of Procurement

Procurement, as you will see from the agenda, will figure largely at this meeting of the Council. You will recall that at our last meeting we decided to appoint a Sub-Committee to deal particularly with this subject. That Sub-Committee, when it met had the advantage of studying the Hon'ble Mr. Somerset Butler's Report on Monopoly Procurement systems in force, and its recommendations are now before us. We took up the matter also at the Fifth All-India Food Conference, and the recommendation of the conference is also available to assist you in the consideration of your Sub-Committee's report.

I do not desire, at this stage, to pre-judge the issue or anticipate your advice, but I have been struck by two things; firstly, that those who have embarked upon varying degrees of monopoly purchase, show no disposition to go back upon it, and secondly, the influence which monopoly purchase may exert on the maintenance of prices at a fair level and the provision of assured markets for the producers.

You will also, I think, be glad to see the resolution passed by the conference on rationing which follows so closely the recommendations made by this Council last July.

While I am on the subject of rationing, you will see that I am asking you to advise me as to what our policy should be with regard to the provision of supplementary quantities of rationed foods for religious and other festivals. This is a matter of policy to which I attach some importance and I look forward to a clear expression of your views.

The other resolutions of the Fifth All India Food Conference will indicate to you the main problems with which we are at present engaged both on the production and on the distribution sides. In so far as production is concerned, my Hon'ble Colleague, the Member in charge of Education, Health and Lands Department, will be speaking to you tomorrow. On the distribution side you will see that we have directed attention towards the improvement of the national diet and have, at the same time, initiated further steps to survey the availability and requirements of what I may term the protective and fresh foods, with a view to securing better co-ordination of supply and distribution, and also we hope the stabilisation of prices at fair levels for the benefit both of producers and consumers alike.

Planning Branch

I have, as you know, already announced the formation of a Planning Branch in the Food Department which will work on both long-term and short-term plans for improving the feeding of the people on scientific lines in close touch with our nutritional advisers on the one hand and with the rationing and basic plan branches on the other. I am now contemplating setting up a new Division in the Department which will have, as its special care, the distribution of sugar, salt, the fresh and protective foods, and imported processed foodstuffs from abroad. It is this Division that will take up the day to day administration consequent upon resolution No. (iv), relating to fresh foods and other necessary commodities, which was passed at the Fifth All India Food Conference. The remaining resolution on Movement, is, I think, self-explanatory. But I think that I should take this opportunity of saying how much my Department is indebted to the constant co-operation of the War Transport Department and the Railway and Shipping authorities for the assistance which they have given to the Director-General of Food, and the officers concerned with the basic plan, in carrying out their difficult task of moving supplies to where they are needed when the transport facilities available have been subjected to constant and increasing strain owing to the unavoidable necessities of war.

Problem of Storage

There are two other problems which, I think, I should mention, and which have not been dealt with in the resolution. The first of these is storage and the second is turnover. Now that Provincial Governments and States have succeeded in procuring large quantities of grain and have succeeded in many cases in building up considerable working stocks in support of their rationing commitments, the problems of storage and conservation have assumed increasing importance. We have been unremitting in our efforts to impress upon all administrations the absolute necessity for facilitating the procurement, orderly movement, and strict conservation of grain by building adequate storage at strategical points, by adopting the simple but necessary measures to avoid wastage by rodent and insect pests, and to protect grain against deterioration for climatic reasons.



Harvesting wheat in the Punjab.

The staff of our Directorate of Storage have been untiring in visiting all parts of India, reporting on existing storage conditions and giving advice on the design of storage accommodation and methods of grain protection. We have also held one very useful course of instruction at the headquarters for the training of staff dealing with these matters, and it is my intention to repeat such courses in the future so that there can be no excuse either for ignorance or neglect. We have undertaken ourselves an extensive programme of storage for grain whether imported or indigenous held as a working stock for reserve by the Central Government. We have offered financial assistance to other administrations in undertaking their own storage programmes and we have been able notably, for instance, in the case of Bengal, to provide construction facilities and raw materials to ensure that those plans are put into effect with the minimum delay.

We believe that inspection must be closely linked with the procurement, storage and with the distribution of grains, and we have decided to set up a Directorate of Inspection which will work in very close touch with the Storage Directorate and perform similar advisory and helpful functions.

Turnover is a necessary corollary to good storage and to secure control of turnover it is necessary that Government's control of, and responsibility for, distribution through its rationing schemes should be commensurate with its procurement. The four things are in fact linked, procurement, storage, turnover and distribution and the fitting in of the several links in the chain, is a matter for constant study and improvement.

Two Important Committees

You will, I think, be interested to hear of two important committees which have been appointed: one under the auspices of this Department and the other under the auspices of the Education, Health and Lands Department. The first, under the Food Department is examining the question of the subsidisation of food in all its aspects. The other is examining, with reference to the post-war or long-term view, the principles upon which the prices of agricultural produce should be fixed and the provision of assured markets.

This short review of departmental activities in conjunction with the more lengthy memorandum which has been circulated to Members, will, I hope, serve to show the work that has been done since our last meeting. In considering the items on the agenda I would ask you to bear in mind two things: firstly, that our policy and our organisation may yet have to stand the test of less favourable monsoon conditions than we have been blessed with in the last two years. The second is that we must not be too optimistic regarding the immediate effect on our problems of the cessation of hostilities either in Europe or in the Far East. I for one find it difficult to believe that all our problems of increasing production, of maintaining prices, of ensuring adequate distribution and of improving the national diet, will be immediately and automatically solved when peace comes. There ought, it is true, to be a progressive improvement, in our transport position both by land and by sea; but I am as convinced now as I was when we last met, that we shall be expected to play our part in a world which has suffered grievous destruction of its material resources and the most serious dislocation of its economic life.

We must be prepared to play a leading and constructive part in world rehabilitation as well as in our own reconstruction problems, and must endeavour to rely as little as possible on assistance from outside. It is to that end that our plans must be made and it is for that purpose that our administration must be perfected.

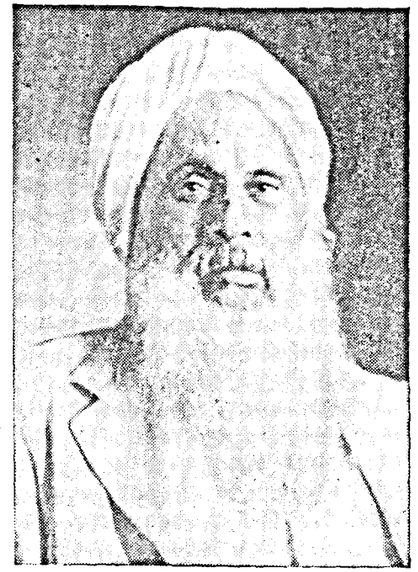
In our task, as I have so often said, I attach the greatest value to the advice and co-operation of non-officials and of public opinion and I look forward with the keenest anticipation to the deliberations of this Council and to your continued support and assistance.

SIR JOGENDRA SINGH'S SPEECH

Addressing the Central Food Advisory Council the Hon'ble Sir Jogendra Singh, Member for Education, Health and Lands, said:

My Department has circulated a note showing what we have been able to achieve in increasing production to meet our present needs. You will notice that we have endeavoured to help the provinces in providing increased facilities of irrigation, procurement of good seed and manure. These are the essential needs of good farming.

I must admit that all the provinces have not made an equal progress in the production of new seed, in the control of disease and in the study of the water and food requirements of crops. In the domain of practical agriculture, however, we have the inherited knowledge of



Sir Jogendra Singh.

centuries. The bullock plough prepares a seed bed which is as good as any prepared by the modern tractor and when we sow it with good seed and apply proper quantity of manure, we harvest a good crop.

Twofold Problem

Our problem, therefore, is twofold: organising higher research for all crops and trying to attain adequate targets of production by the supply of good seed and manure and by the extension of irrigation. Our population is concentrated in the villages and, in many parts of the country, finds only part-time employment. We have to build up our man-power and find productive occupations for at least 100 millions of people. Of all the factors making for prosperous agriculture or industry, by far the most important is man himself. We must feed both the body and the brain of our people. We must enrich the diet of all the people by the increased supply of oils and fats, such as palm, shark oil, dry yeast, etc. I am told we can produce dry yeast from molasses sufficient for 25 million people.

We must have a short-term and a long-term programme. We must aim at producing an additional ten million tons of foodgrains within the next five years to keep pace with our increasing population and to spare some grain for

our livestock. We must at the same time give greater attention to increasing the production of protective foods, such as milk, fish, poultry, pulses, oils and fats, etc. and make them easily available.

I can confidently assert that in all these we have resources which can be developed within the next five years.

Milk Problem

We have about 200 million head of cattle, and yet the average milk production per head is only about 750 lbs. per year. With proper feeding and breeding we can get more milk from our cows and buffaloes ,and it should be possible to double our milk production in 10 years and treble it in 20 years. We have rivers, tanks and an extensive coast line which carry fish. Our present estimated catch ranges round 6,50,000 tons.

It is said that at least 150 millions of people eat fish; their requirements at 2 ounces a day would come to 3 million tons a year. Some provinces have started stocking tanks and rivers with fry and fingerlings. We have marine engines on order. Provided we can obtain all our requirements at an early date there is no reason why our catch should not reach three million tons of fish before the end of five years.

We have given little attention to the production of poultry. We can increase our stocks of poultry tenfold by an organised effort in the next five years. The production of pulses can also be increased in the same period so as to provide at least 3 ounces per head of population. We produce 4 million tons of all kinds of oil seeds. Their cultivation on scientific lines can substantially increase their production, but if we crush the whole of what we produce, we can obtain 1½ million tons of oil fats and 2½ million tons of oil cake. Then we have a valuable food in gur and sugar. Improved canes have already added greatly to our supply and there are further possibilities of improvement. We continue to lose about 20 per cent of juice in the manufacture of gur. With improved crushing we could increase our gur production from 3½ to 4 million tons.

Seed Farm

We must plan to start mother seed farms in all provinces and large seed farms under landlords to multiply the seed. We must conserve all our resources in rain, rivers and subsoil reservoir and double the area under irrigation. We have in hand a scheme to produce 300,000 tons of ammonium sulphate, but we have not done enough to conserve the manures that are already available in the country. We produce nearly 160 million tons of cowdung capable of manuring 25 million acres at a rate of 40 lbs. Nitrogen per acre. But we only use two-fifths of this amount. We must provide other sources of fuel and a stave which is economic in fuel consumption and thus save the valuable manure.

It is estimated that bones to the extent of one million tons are available every year. Of this, 3 lakh tons are collected and about 2 lakh tons crushed giving about 50,000 tons of bonemeal These valuable manures only await their proper conservation and development. I am going to take measures as early as possible to prepare a scheme for the collection and utilisation of the bones that are not collected at present. I feel that we as a Government cannot be content merely with pointing out the facts and stating the possibilities. It is our duty, in co-operation with provinces, to take proper action. My Department has already addressed the provinces to establish village forests to provide fuel and timber. The land that lies vacant on the rail and road sides can be used for growing fuel and for producing material for composting.

Prices of Agricultural Produce

A committee to examine the principles on which prices of agricultural produce should be fixed in the post-war period and how to secure an assured market for such produce has been constituted and we await its recommendations.

I need hardly stress that India's purchasing power and her prosperity in the coming years largely depends on the value in money which the agriculturists and agricultural labour secure. It is my personal opinion that a remunerative price for agricultural produce will affect the whole wage structure and lead to a general rise in living standards, both rural and urban.

Finally, let us begin doing things. Let provinces start depots or centres in a group of villages to keep improved seed, fertilisers and improved implements for use. We may begin with 5,000 centres, one for every 100 villages or so and gradually increase the number to 20,000 so that there may be one depot for every 25 villages. Each centre should be placed in charge of a trained agriculturist. We should have proper bins for storing grain. It has been calculated that 2 per cent of the grain is lost owing to bad storage arrangement. It means a loss of 1½ million tons a year. Let us husband all our resources in water and water power and conserve and produce good seed and an adequate quantity of manure and build up both our man and our bullock power. I can assure you that if we take proper action we can achieve in five years what we will fail to achieve in 100 years if we only continue to talk.

I would request the non-official members to put their heads together and to make recommendations which I can promise them would be considered with the greatest possible sympathy.

COUNCIL'S RESOLUTIONS

The Central Food Advisory Council, on February 28, discussed the report of its Procurement Sub-committee and adopted the following resolution by a majority:

"This Council adopts the report of the Procurement Sub-Committee subject to Government giving full consideration to the points raised by individual members during the discussion at this meeting."

The recommendation of the Procurement Sub-committee was that monopoly procurement should continue to be the goal towards which the development of all procurement systems should proceed.

The Council also adopted the Resolution passed at the Fifth Food Conference on rationing which reads as under:

Full Urban Rationing

The present burden of an over-all deficiency of foodgrains should be shared evenly by all parts of the country. With that object in view all Governments accept the following principles:

(1) Full urban rationing should be introduced and extended in accordance with Recommendation 46 of the Foodgrains Policy Committee. (2) Until all deficit areas can be ensured sufficient supplies to enable them to sustain a basic ration of 1 lb. of cereals per adult per day, the size of the basic ration in any area should not exceed that quantity. (3) Extra provision should be made for heavy manual workers by means of a supplementary ration and/or in the form of cooked foods through industrial cantèens. (4) In all rationing schemes the definition of a child should be from the date of birth to the age of 8.

The Council concluded its session on March 2 after discussing questions raised by individual members and endorsing the resolutions passed at the last Food Conference on nutrition and movement of foodgrains. On the question of extra rations of cereals on religious occasions and festivals it recommended by a majority that no supplementary rations should be allowed on such occasions.

AIMS OF FOOD PLANNING SECTION

To secure the most rapid improvement possible in the feeding of the Indian people, particularly the vulnerable sections, by the correct use of the country's available resources, is the object of the Planning Section of the Central Food Department which has now started functioning under Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao. It is pointed out that planning will be both on a short and long term basis. Targets of food production will be fixed in accordance with India's future needs, and due attention will be paid to sound methods of distribution and an economic policy, which would ensure to all classes a full and balanced diet within their means.

Dr. Rao will maintain close contact with the Economic Adviser to the Government of India and other departments of the Central Government interested in food planning in their respective spheres.

Dr. Rao is now touring the provinces to conduct inquiries connected with his task and establish contacts with health and nutrition workers in various parts of the country.

FOOD MEMBER ON DELHI RATIONING

"Things are going well", observed the Hon'ble Sir J. P. Srivastava, Food Member, Government of India, at the conclusion of his two-hour visit to Delhi rationing centres on March 9. The Food Member, who was accompanied by the Food Secretary and the Director of Civil Supplies, Delhi, visited a grain issue depot, a circle rationing office and some ration shops in the city where he enquired of shopkeepers as well as the public if they had any complaints.

Sir J. P. Srivastava also inspected the newly constructed Lahore sheds for storing about 1,000 tons of grain and evinced keen interest in the cleaning and inspection arrangements of wheat and rice before these are issued to the consumers.

FOODGRAINS CONTROL ORDER

It is officially learnt that the application of the Central Government's Foodgrains Control Order, 1942, is being gradually withdrawn in the Provinces, which are simultaneously issuing their own Foodgrains Control Orders to suit local conditions. It is not correct therefore to assume that any Province will not be subject to a Foodgrains Control Order.

INDIAN POLITICAL PARTIES AND POST-WAR PLANNING

Sir Ardeshir Dalal's Speech in Central Assembly

"IT seems to me that for the first time we are trying to do something which is positive, something that is constructive, something that is really for the benefit of the country. The Bombay Plan first drew the attention of the whole world by the grandeur of its conception with regard to the economic development of the country. It is on a similar basis that this Government has undertaken the planning for the economic uplift of the country."

Thus observed the Hon'ble Sir Ardeshir Dalal, Member for Planning and Development, Government of India, during the course of his speech in the Central Assembly, on March 11, on Mr. H. A. Sattar H. Essak Sait's cut motion.

Here is the full text of Sir Ardeshir Dalal's speech:

Sir, at the outset, it appears to me that myself and my Department are being subjected to a pincer movement, to use the language of strategy, by the Congress on the one hand under its Leader representing, say, Marshal Zhukov and Marshal Koniev, on the other hand in the person of my Hon'ble friend the Nawabzada.

Well, Sir, there is this thing to be said about the Russian Marshals that they are entirely united in their aims and their ideals but in the case of our local field marshals, the unity is merely confined to attacking my Department and that attack is directed from ideals and aims and points of which appear to me to be somewhat conflicting.

Congress and Planning

The Congress believes in planning, it believes not only in planning, but my Hon'ble friend, Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar, says, it is getting too late. Well, Sir, that is what I, in my humble capacity, am trying to do. But unfortunately the Congress position is, "who are you to do it, we alone will do it, you have no say in the matter". But, may I say, Sir, that I and the Government of which I happen to be a Member are not standing in the way of the Congress; if they wish to do it, they are welcome to do it. The point is, what is to be done until they compose their differences and come here and occupy these Benches?



Sir Ardeshir Dalal

MR. SAMI VENCATACHELAM CHETTY (Madras; Indian Commerce): Associate us, that is the Resolution.

SIR ARDESHIR DALAL: I am coming to that

Another point is that if the present Government, the unpopular Government does anything which is really resounding to the benefit of the country, the credit of such a thing goes to the present Government; and that is what my friends of the Congress are not prepared to concede. Another point is the natural suspicion which attaches to every action and every individual in this Government, no matter what his motives and what his ideals might be with regard to whatever he might do.

League Point of View

The League point of view, on the other hand, is very different. We are planning on the basis of the present constitution; they are looking forward to fundamental changes in the present constitutional position. Sir, I have made that point abundantly clear at the very beginning of the second Report on Reconstruction Planning, and with your permission I should like to read it out:

"The proposals now made for post-war planning and development do not in any way affect the constitutional issue, as whatever form the future constitution takes and whatever autonomy the future provinces or States of India enjoy, they will all benefit by the measures of economic progress and development contemplated by the plan. One of the fundamental principles of the plan is regionalisation so that the different parts of the country benefit in as equal a measure as is compatible with the physical features and natural resources of each part. The ultimate political affinities of the different regions in the India of the future need not therefore stand in the way of their benefiting by the schemes of development hereunder proposed."

Planning and Pakistan

Thus the whole policy and the whole idea of planning have been made clear. Does that conflict with the idea of Pakistan? Personally I do not believe in Pakistan; personally I believe that the broad base of raw materials and resources on which the plan is based will suffer to a certain extent. Personally I believe that both sides would suffer. But if ultimately it is the destiny of India to be divided into several independent sovereign States, that is a matter not for my consideration; and so far as my planning is concerned, it does not in any way interfere with it. There are very important schemes for irrigation, and various kinds of development, projects for Eastern Bengal and for the Punjab. If ultimately the constitution is going to be that these parts of India separate, let them separate; they will not therefore be in any way hurt or injured by the schemes or plans which I am contemplating at the present moment. In fact I do not see what there is in any of the schemes or in any of the plans which is in any way going to harm the country or to injure the interests of anybody. If anything it can only benefit the country.

Work Already Done

We have had in this department only six months in which to work. Nevertheless, a very large amount of work not only in the matter of planning but in the execution of preliminary stages of planning has already been done. There is a Technical Power Board which deals with all questions relating to power; an Irrigation, Navigation and Waterways Board is being established; the Geological Survey has been expanded and is being further expanded; a large number of men are being sent out for technical training; a number of students - 500 or more—are to be sent in the course of a short time to the U.K. and the U.S.A.; employment exchanges have been established under the auspices of the Labour Department; a committee has been appointed to consider the establishment of a technological institute on the lines of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the States; expansion has already taken place in the Forest Institute, in the Agricultural Research Institute, in the Delhi Polytechnic. A number of provinces have already expanded their cadres, and increased their staff and made provisions for increasing by a very large number the number of students for agricultural, engineering and various other arts and sciences. A great deal of work has been going on in the country. It is only, it seems to me, this House which takes such a gloomy, pessimistic and an almost antagonistic view of these very beneficial activities that are now in progress all over the country.

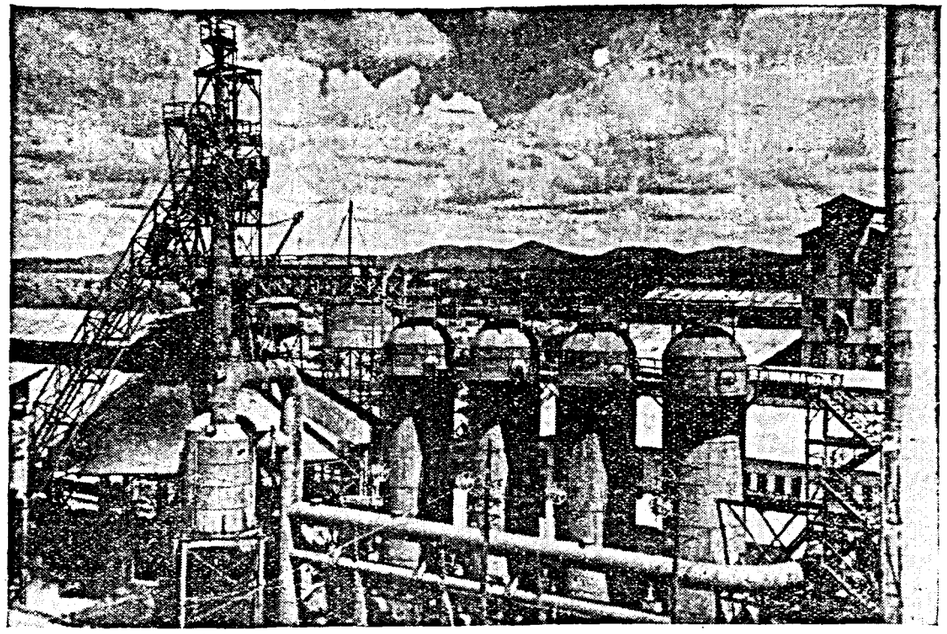
Planning and Public Co-operation

Sir, now I come to the gravamen of the charge against this department. Yesterday to my great surprise the Leader of the Opposition stated that we were planning in secret and that we did not want any co-operation.

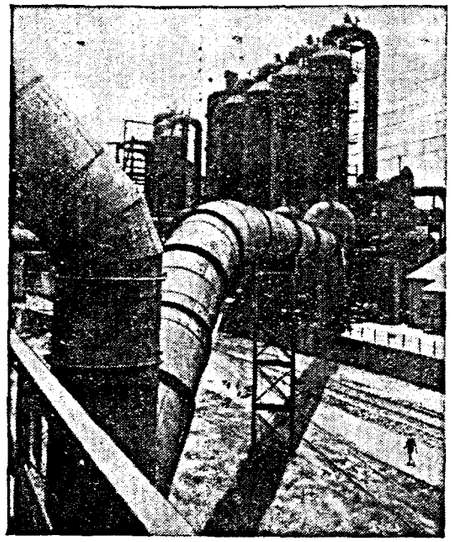
MR. BHULABHAI J. DESAI (Bombay Northern Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I did not say one word about secrecy. Please read my speech again. Somebody else said that, not I.

SIR ARDESHIR DALAL: Anyhow the whole point is that I refused co-operation, that I wanted to carry on planning entirely on my own. As a matter of fact, from the day that I assumed office I have made it abundantly clear that the one thing that I want is public co-operation and that schemes and plans of this nature cannot possibly go on without public co-operation.

A great deal has been made about the refusal to accept the Resolution on the last occasion. For two days I negotiated with the Leader of the Opposition to arrive at some compromise. A number of formulae were suggested; I offered a standing committee of the House to whom the whole thing would be reported. In fact, I pointed out to the Leader of the Opposition that the Resolution that he sponsored was not as good as the one that I proposed, because I said, "You only want a plan when it is ready to be put up before the House, whereas you appoint a standing committee and I will consult that standing committee at every stage in the formulation of the plans," which was a better thing than the one that he himself in his Resolution proposed.



A view of the Mysore Iron and Steel Works.



The electrical dust precipitating plant which purifies the gas (to make it suitable for use as fuel) from the blast furnaces of an Iron Works.

He seemed to fall in with my suggestions, but later on he consulted his friends and every suggestion of mine till the last moment was turned down. Now what is happening? I have again expressed my willingness to have a standing committee of the House and, as far as I understand, the proposal is to be accepted. Therefore a standing committee of the House to advise me on all matters of planning and development will now be established after all this unnecessary bickering, trouble and ill-will which might very easily have been avoided. As a matter of fact if my original suggestion had been accepted, that standing committee would probably have been from the Opposition's point of view more valuable than the standing committee which is now coming. Therefore it is not that I shirk their co-operation, that I shirk publicity. On the contrary I welcome co-operation and I welcome publicity. I have gone even beyond this; I have tried to co-operate with other members belonging to the opposite side. I wanted to enlist the services of a very well-known gentleman who performed very valuable work in connection with the Nehru Committee's report to be on one of my

Committees; but after a certain amount of hesitation he refused.

I wanted to appoint another gentleman of Congress sympathies in an extremely responsible position in my department; after consultation with some Congress leaders he refused. So that want of co-operation does not come from my side; it comes from the side of the Opposition.

Now, Sir, the point may be made, why was it that we did not accept the particular Resolution which was moved on the last occasion and why did we suggest any alternatives at all? I will make it clear why we did not accept that particular Resolution. The implications of that Resolution were not explained till the very last moment; and then my Hon'ble friend made a speech which made it impossible for Government to accept the Resolution; because he said, "You as a Government have neither the right nor the quality to frame these plans at all. It is we on this side of the House, we the members of the legislature who will frame a plan. You will only appear at the bar of the House; you will be the very first people who should appear before this Committee to give evidence. It is we only who will frame this plan."

MR. BHULABHAI J. DESAI: Yes.

MR. ABDUL QAIYUM: What is wrong in that?

SIR ARDESHIR DALAL: If my Hon'ble friend will wait I will explain what is wrong with it.

Function of the Legislature

That means that this legislature of all legislatures in the world is trying to take upon itself executive functions which belong to no legislature, however democratically constituted. That, Sir, is not possible. It is up to this legislature to criticise our proposals, to refuse grants; these are within their proper functions. But for any legislature in the world to say that they will make a plan and do something which the executive Government is appointed to do is an impossible proposition.

MR. ABDUL QAIYUM: Do you have this kind of executive anywhere else in the world?

SIR ARDESHIR DALAL: Whatever the composition of the Government may be, it is a fact that no legislature in the world performs such executive functions; and if my Hon'ble friends try to do it they will immediately find from all sides of the House what a mess they have got into.

My Hon'ble friend the Leader of the Opposition was very sure of his abilities to perform such an operation, and why? Because alone and undaunted he said—and he was proud to say it—he wrote the minority report of the Bombay Share Bazaar Committee. Did he want any expert, did he want a Secretariat, did he want any staff? Nothing. He wrote that report, and therefore he considers himself capable of preparing a plan for a sub-continent like India.

Co-operation and Assistance Welcome

Sir, I do not for a moment claim that I am going to prepare a plan. As a matter of fact a great deal of criticism that has been advanced in this House seems to be made on the misapprehension that I am a kind of pocket Hitler who is to prepare all the plans for the country which everybody must accept. Such is not the position at all. I am being assisted by a number of committees, by provincial Governments all over the country, and I welcome any kind of co-operation and assistance, the more such co-operation and assistance I can get, the more I will welcome it.

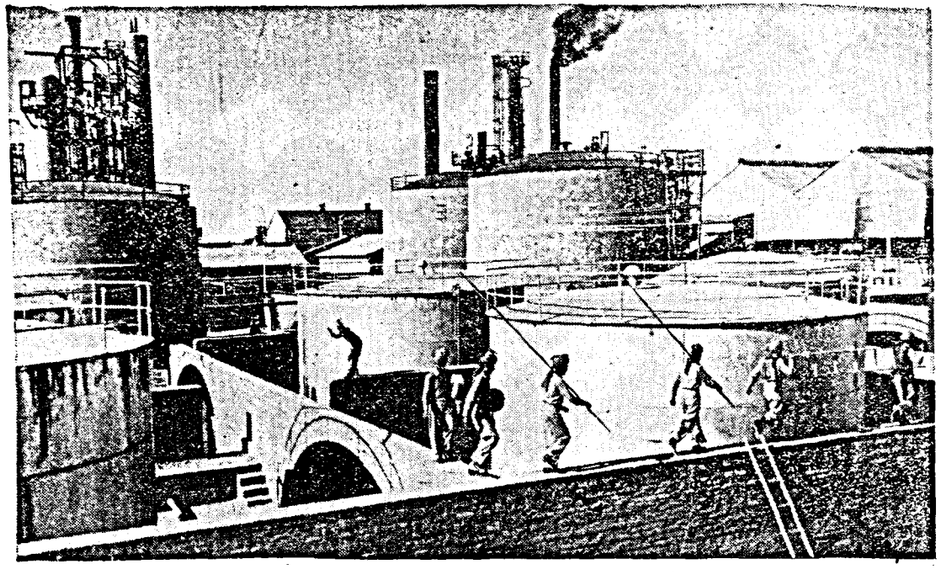
MR. MANU SUBEDAR (Indian Merchants Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): Are your own colleagues in the Executive Council helping you?

SIR A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIAR (Supply Member): Of course.

Panels Purely Advisory

SIR ARDESHIR DALAL: Now I will deal with a few of the points raised by some of the speakers to-day. My Hon'ble friend, Mr. Essak Sait, seems to be under a misapprehension with regard not only to the fundamental propositions—the grounds on which he moved this motion—but also with regard to some of the details. For instance he seems to be under the impression that the Panels which were formed by some Under-Secretaries would decide the fate of the important industries of India in the country. Such is not the case. The Panels are entirely and purely advisory.

And then I come to a very grave misconception which appears to prevail not only in the minds of the members of the Muslim League but also in the minds of the members of the European Group, and that is that I formulate the policy which is to be actually executed. I shall describe somewhat in detail what exactly the procedure is so that any misconception that prevails in the minds of my Hon'ble friend, Mr. Lawson, may be removed. Policy may be initiated by a note in my department, but that



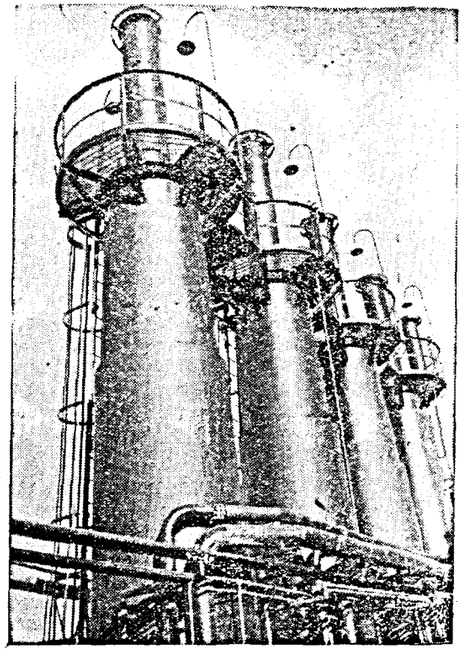
Process tanks of an Indian oil refinery.

is fully discussed by other departments of the Government. Then the whole matter is brought to a committee of the Executive Council—the Reconstruction Committee of the Council—of which I happen to be the Vice-Chairman. There the matter is discussed by every Member from every point of view. If it is important enough, it is further discussed in the Executive Council.

Policy Committees

At the same time, the Policy Committees which we have appointed are also consulted and their opinion is obtained and it is only after all these consultations have taken place that a final decision on policy with regard to Government is arrived at and that is the decision of the Government as a whole, so that there need be no misapprehension in the minds of my Hon'ble friends, in the European Group that I alone will run away with and come to important decisions on policy which may in any way injuriously affect their own interests. I very much wish I could do what my Hon'ble friend suspects me of doing. Then the planning will proceed at a much quicker pace than at present. My grievance is that I am not able to do that.

Sir, I will not take upon much of the time of the House by going into other detailed points raised by other speakers, but there is one point



Heaters of a lubricating oil refinery plant constructed in India.

raised by my Hon'ble friend, Mr. Krishnamachari, who now I hope is convinced by what I said. And that is with regard to the provision of Rs. 74 lakhs in the Budget. Criticism has been advanced that the Finance Member has poured cold water on the scheme by his reluctance to part with money. I am not talking about Mr. Krishnamachari. He, of course, said that he has given me too much money.

MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: Even that is not right. The Finance Member is not prepared to give the finances necessary for plans being carried out. It is not a matter of lakhs, it is a matter of crores.

MR. SRI PRAKASA: Hon'ble Member's speech is not well-balanced.

SIR ARDESHIR DALAL: From my Hon'ble friend, the Finance Member, I have received the most wholehearted co-operation. None of my plans up to now have in any way been impeded by any kind of parsimony or niggardliness displayed by my Hon'ble friend, the Finance Member. The real bottle-neck in connection with the Plan is not going to be finance, it is going to be the lack of trained personnel, and that is the reason why we are giving first priority to the training of personnel and why we are in such a hurry to train personnel.

A great deal has been said about national government. As an author of the Bombay Plan I said that the Plan could only be executed by a National Government. I am still of that opinion, and that is because when the Plan is in full operation, it will involve a number of controls—control over capital, control over imports and exports, control over rationing, control over consumption, and various other types of controls which will interfere with the most intimate habits and customs of people in this country—and all that can only be done by the National Government which has the full support of the people behind it. In the meantime what are we to do?

Justification for Planning

The war is coming to an end. Millions of people will soon be unemployed. Two million of soldiers will be demobilised; the purchasing power which has been created by the demands for war industries will come to an end. We have to plan the transition from war to peace.



Workers in an automobile factory solder passenger car bodies to remove surface irregularities.

If national and international economy is based on the principles of economic justice which are now enunciated, I am confident that there will be enduring peace and prosperity in the world. There will be, as desired by the Atlantic Charter, "the fullest co-operation between all nations in the economic field, with the object of securing for all improved labour standards, economic advancement and social security." There will be, as advocated by the Mutual Aid Agreement, betterment of world-wide economic relations directed to the expansion, by appropriate international and domestic measures, of production, employment and the exchange and consumption of goods, which are the material foundations of the liberty and welfare of all peoples."

The Lend-Lease spirit, which has succeeded so well in integrating the maximum productive capacities of the United Nations for the benefit of one and all engaged in the successful prosecution of the war, should continue to inspire the economic relations between nations when peace returns. The economic resources of each country must be fully utilised not only to increase its own prosperity but also to promote the general well-being and happiness of the entire world. If that is done, there will be international unity instead of disunity, concord instead of discord, co-operation instead of isolation, and prosperity instead of poverty. With economic justice as the foundation of relations between nations and between individuals, the day will not be far distant when it will be possible to realise the grand ideal of "the Parliament of Man and the Federation of the World," which has been the unrealised dream of poets, philosophers and statesmen for ages past.

WORLD SECURITY ORGANISATION

A Communique issued from the Viceroy's House on March 12 stated:

The Government of India have been invited to take part in the Conferences to be held shortly in London and San Francisco on the World Security Organisation. The Governor-General-in-Council has selected the Hon'ble Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar and the Hon'ble Sir Firoz Khan Noon as two of India's representatives, and at the invitation of His Excellency the Crown Representative Sir V. T. Krishnamachari has agreed to serve as the third. The Hon'ble Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar will lead the delegation.

The Hon'ble Mr. K. P. S. Menon, Agent-General for India in Chungking, who is now on leave in India, will be the head of the Secretariat attached to the delegation.

IMPORT OF CONSUMER GOODS FROM U. K.

A Gazette Extraordinary dated March 3, 1945, brings several classes of consumer goods under Open General Licence for importation from the United Kingdom, said a Press Note issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on March 3.

It added: Individual import licences will therefore not be required for import of the goods mentioned in the Notification. It should be understood, however, that the supply position is still difficult and importers will not be able to obtain unlimited quantities of the goods they require.

In regard to other consumer goods falling under Part IV of the Import Trade Control Schedule which have not been included in the Open General Licence, the existing procedure for issuing licences on a quota basis will continue, but the licensing policy has been liberalised. When an applicant for a licence for imports from the United Kingdom or other sterling area countries, can produce evidence that his order has been accepted by the supplier, he will ordinarily be granted an import licence even though he may have no regular quota. There are some exceptions to this working rule, *e.g.*, foodstuffs, licensing of which is governed by an annual Food Programme approved by the London Food Council, and certain classes of goods of which definite and limited expert allocations are made by the supplying countries; in these cases it is necessary to relate licensing to the programme figure.

It is expected that these developments which have been made possible by the improved war situation will go some way to satisfy the need for increased supplies of general consumer goods and to combat inflationary tendencies in the country.

RAILWAY EARNINGS

The total approximate gross earnings of the Budget lines for the period (10 days) ending January 20, 1945 (29th Period) amounted to Rs. 582 lakhs. This was (a) Rs. 48 lakhs more than the actuals for the corresponding period of the previous year, and (b) Rs. 140 lakhs more than the actuals for the corresponding period of 1942-43.

The total approximate gross earnings from April 1, 1944, to January 20, 1945, amounted to Rs. 166.39 crores.

SUCCESS OF 'NATIONAL SAVINGS FORTNIGHT'

AN 'All-India Savings Fortnight' was held during the period, January 8 to 22. The object was to concentrate public attention on the advantages of investing in Government Securities, as part of the Government of India's anti-inflationary measures, said a Press Communique issued by the National Savings Central Bureau, Simla, on March 9.

It added: While the wartime earning capacity of the people has maintained a high level, there has recently been a considerable fall in the cost of consumers' goods, due to Price Control and other measures, and consequently the ability to save and invest has increased.

The results achieved by the sale of National Savings Certificates—the most satisfactory investment for the small-saver—have given ample proof of this state of affairs. Rs. 3½ crores were invested in these Certificates during the 'Savings Fortnight', in the Provinces alone. For States, figures are not yet available but are known to be considerable. In this form of investment the Punjab headed the list, its contribution being Rs. 94 lakhs; Bombay followed with Rs. 90 lakhs, while Delhi's total exceeded Rs. 23 lakhs.

Other forms of investment, which were particularly popular during the 'Savings Fortnight', were Victory Loan and Prize Bonds, which appeal more to the middle and well-off classes. The total investment in the former was approximately Rs. 35 crores and in the latter exceeded Rs. 1 crore.

Approximate Combined Totals

Approximate combined totals for National Savings Certificates, Victory Loan and Prize Bonds were achieved as follows:

Central Provinces and Berar	Rs.	16,09,00,000
Punjab ..	Rs.	5,60,00,000
United Provinces ..	Rs.	4,87,00,000
Madras ..	Rs.	3,05,00,000
Bombay ..	Rs.	2,85,00,000
Sind ..	Rs.	1,64,50,000
Bengal ..	Rs.	1,58,50,000
Delhi ..	Rs.	26,50,000
Ajmer-Merwara ..	Rs.	4,50,000
Orissa ..	Rs.	4,00,000
Baluchistan ..	Rs.	3,00,000
Coorg ..	Rs.	10,000
Assam, North-West Frontier Province	Figures not yet available.	

Provincial figures are not yet available for the various Post Office Issues other than National Savings Certificates, nor in the case of Indian States are figures for any type of investment yet available. When final statistics are compiled, the results will certainly exceed the approximate figures now ascertained. The campaign has had a highly educative value in teaching the masses the habit of saving and investing—a habit which will continue and have value in the post-war reconstruction period, enabling capital to be raised for investment in Development Schemes.

All-India Target

The Government of India allotted a 'target' to each Province and State for the current financial year, and during the 'Savings Fortnight' alone, 20 per cent of the All-India Annual Target was obtained. This considerable increase to the figure previously achieved has given results up to date which justify the belief that, by March 31—the end of the current financial year—the All-India Target of Rs. 213 crores will be attained.

SECOND VICTORY LOAN

The Government of India issued a notification on March 13 announcing the issue of their Second Victory Loan to replace the first Victory Loan which was closed on February 19, 1945.

The new loan which will be called the "3 per cent Second Victory Loan, 1959-61" will be issued from March 19, 1945, and will be redeemed at par not earlier than 1959 and not later than 1961. Subscriptions will be received without limit of amount and the loan will be on tap until further notice. Interest will be payable half-yearly on February 15 and August 15. As interest for the full half-year ended August 14, 1945, at the rate of 3 per cent per annum will be paid on August 15, 1945, the opening price of the loan from March 19 to 24 will be Rs. 100-2-8 to allow for the approximate interest accrued up to that period. Thereafter, the price will increase by 8 pies per cent weekly until further notice.

Applications will be received at the offices of the Reserve Bank of India at Bombay, Calcutta, Cawnpore, Delhi and Madras, at branches of the Imperial Bank of India at other places in India and at all Government Treasuries.

SIR SULTAN AHMED ON PUBLICITY IN U.S.A.

Allegations Refuted

THE following is the full text of the speech delivered by the Hon'ble Sir Syed Sultan Ahmed, Member for Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, in the Legislative Assembly on March 9 on the question of propaganda outside India:

Mr. President, it is not my desire or intention to vie with my Hon'ble friends opposite in the use of violent language or even intemperate language. I shall, however, deal with one item which has loomed large throughout the debate to-day as well as on several other occasions at question time. But I cannot allow my Hon'ble friend, the Leader of the Opposition, to run away with one observation which he has made, without challenging it. He has put one question to us: Have you advanced the freedom of the country by one inch? What have you done for the freedom of my country? My answer to him respectfully is—and he is entitled to respect—that we have certainly done much more by sticking to our jobs.....

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

SIR SULTAN AHMED: and holding to our posts.

HON'BLE MEMBERS: *Ad infinitum.*

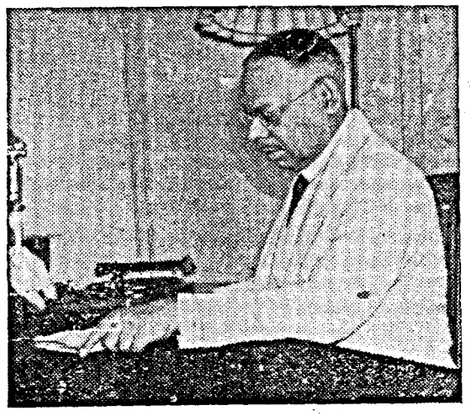
SIR SULTAN AHMED: That is right. My Honourable friend thinks that only his freedom is involved, and freedom of people like him. Freedom of the country means the freedom of my country—this is my country as much as it is theirs. They have no monopoly of patriotism. I hope we will not hear the same thing again, because they repeat the same thing over again every year.

MR. BHULABHAI G. DESAI: You will if you remain there.

Propaganda Outside India

SIR SULTAN AHMED: We have been here, and we will be here as long as you behave as you have been behaving, and you may rest assured you are not serving the country by simply abusing those who are trying to do their jobs as best as they can.

Mr. President, I am glad that several matters which I have to deal with, have been dealt with already by some of my friends who have spoken before me, and I am really going to speak only on the question of Propaganda outside India. I am glad I have got this opportunity to say a few words on this suoject and



Sir Sultan Ahmed.

I will do so within the limited time at my disposal. My Hon'ble friends are very anxious that they should carry this motion in time, and I assure them they will have plenty of time for that purpose.

The main point that has been discussed times out of number throughout the session was our publicity in America. There have been a number of inquiries, in the House itself various questions have been put, and statements have been made in the Press in Delhi and outside and everywhere. I say that most of them are malicious and fantastic, as I will show in a moment. I use the word malicious advisedly not only because most of them are false, but because they have been designedly used to decry every Indian as venal and unprincipled.

Sir, before I deal with the statements I would like to say that I propose to describe the untrue statements in an unequivocal manner, and for this I am going to take advantage of the word which has been used by Mr. Abdul Qaiyum. He seems to think that unless you call something which is untrue as a lie, it will not have the same effect. Therefore, for every untrue statement I propose to use the word lie.

AN HON'BLE MEMBER: Your Department is expert in lying.

SIR SULTAN AHMED: Let me just tell the House of a statement which has recently been made in America, according to Press reports, by Mr. J. J. Singh. He is the President

of the India League in America. As anybody can verify from the various papers that come to us, he has for years consistently been proclaiming that the Indian National Congress is the only political party in India representing Indian views as a whole, and that only the Congress representing Indians can place India in its rightful position on the international map. There is no objection to that. Everybody is entitled to have his own views, but this gentleman somehow or other came to hear a rumour that arrangements were being made for two other parties to send their representatives to America, and that is the Muslim League and the Hindu Mahasabha. This was quite enough for him, and he made a statement at a public gathering to this effect: 'The presentation of communal views in America will weaken India's case and strengthen the British case.' Now this amazing statement was made by him. But it does one good, it gives direct repudiation to Mrs. Pandit's statement that there are no religious differences in India. Mr. J. J. Singh says that it is dangerous to allow these communal organisations to come and represent their views because it will weaken the case of India. Mrs. Pandit says there are no religious differences in India at all.

Religious Differences in India

Sir, as regards Mrs. Pandit, she made three amazing statements: one, there are no religious differences—my Hon'ble friend the Leader of the Opposition also says that there are no differences, I wish it had been true. If there had been no religious differences, I am sure things would have been much better in this country than they are at present.

The second statement she made was that India is a concentration camp. That has been dealt with by my Hon'ble friend, the Home Member effectively.

HON'BLE MEMBERS: No, no, it is nothing.

SIR SULTAN AHMED: That is because you will not accept anything which does not please you, and therefore you say it is nothing. In this connection there is one question which was put to the Home Member by either Prof. Ranga or Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, which has not been answered. That is the number of convicted prisoners still in jail. After the August disturbances 26,000 people were convicted. Let me tell them that out of this 26,000, 21,000, I think, were out of jail within two years or less than that, and there are only 5,000 who are there, and who will come out after serving their sentences. It cannot be said that the sentences were severe, and apart from that they were convicted and sentenced by courts of law. My Hon'ble friends cannot say that we are responsible for it.

The third statement which she made was still more objectionable. She said that Indian soldiers were rice soldiers thereby suggesting that they were mercenary soldiers, that they had no love for their country at all, that they were not dying for anything which was noble. The same thing has been repeated here in different language by the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Desai. Sir, I confess there is nothing so unpleasant as these derogatory expressions about our soldiers. If India is to get freedom, and get it soon, it will not be because you people have gone to jail, but because these soldiers have shed their last drop of blood.

Mr. President, it is all very well to be talking here like this, but on May 5, 1944, I myself visited Imphal when that place was cut off from all sides. Let me tell the House the conversation I had with the Viceroy's Commissioned Officers in the evening quietly without any other officer with them. When I was leaving them, they told me, "please go and tell our countrymen in India that we will not return to India until we have driven the Japanese from the Indian soil and until we have driven them out of Burma." Mr. President, it is all very well for our friends to be talking gaily as they have been doing. Do they realise that only one Indian division, supported by a tank division, actually annihilated about 3,00,000 soldiers, in North Africa?

Indian Information Series

MR. ABDUL QAIYUM: I thought the Hon'ble Member was discussing and replying to criticisms about the propaganda in America; he is going on to discuss other matters.

SIR SULTAN AHMED: I was going to reply to Mrs. Pandit's remark about Indian soldiers being rice soldiers. Instead of paying a well deserved tribute to these people, these people who are the real ambassadors of the freedom of India, instead of paying a tribute to them, are called rice soldiers. I would be ashamed of thinking on those lines.

As my Hon'ble friends are very anxious to hear about the allegations that have been made about our publicity in America, I thought that I should say something about the propaganda that Mrs. Pandit was doing; and when I say that those remarks made by her are absolutely unjustified then they say "We would like to hear about your propaganda". Very well; they will have it. I will deal with the criticisms in newspapers as well as the statements in the House as shortly as I can and I will take only about 10 or 12 of them. The first statement that has been made is that the Indian Information Series have issued hundreds of books in America. What are the facts? The whole

thing is a lie in the language of Mr. Abdul Qaiyum. Not one book has been published by us.

SARDAR SANT SINGH: Who published them?

SIR SULTAN AHMED: May be you!

SARDAR SANT SINGH: I can assure you that I never did anything of the sort.

SIR SULTAN AHMED: We are told that we have subsidised American writers and re-written their books for them and then purchased huge quantities for free distribution. Sir, this is a lie. There is not one single case where we have done it. I cannot use the word 'untruth'—it will not please Mr. Abdul Qaiyum. We are told that our Agent-General devotes his time to spying on Indian students and visitors in America.

MR. SRI PRAKASA: That is a lie!

SIR SULTAN AHMED: It is a black lie. I will try to use adjectives if they please you. He has neither the desire nor the time nor the staff necessary for such a futile and unsavoury job. We are told that the Agent-General gets 52,000 dollars a year to carry on anti-Indian propaganda...

MR. SRI PRAKASA: That again is a lie!

SIR SULTAN AHMED: I will tell you: my Hon'ble friends are out by 30,000 dollars. You knew it, but you wanted to have it from me: you believe in inflation and therefore you use the bigger figure!

British Information Services

Now, it is a very serious thing that an allegation has been made that the British Information Services distributed Miss Mayo's book "Mother India". I have denied our and their connection with this book in explicit terms before; but let me repeat it again: that we neither distributed it nor encouraged its distribution anywhere either in this country, in America or in England...

PROF. N. G. RANGA: Did you ever try to repudiate it?

SIR SULTAN AHMED: We are told that India spends 26 lakhs of rupees every year on doing propaganda. The fact is that we spend only 4½ lakhs...

MR. ABDUL QAIYUM: One-sixth is true!

SIR SULTAN AHMED: So far as that is concerned, one-sixth is true. I wish my Hon'ble friend will force me to spend more, in which case I think our propaganda will be more effective than it is at present. The lengths to which our friends can go is really most amazing. We are told that the government of India confers titles and other favours upon American missionaries to induce them to poison the American mind against India. This is in one of the papers.

MR. ABDUL QAIYUM: On a point of order: I never read these charges—they have been written for him—I do not know who wrote them—but he has got a written reply and he can unload them on the House: but I can assure him that I gave only two cases and I did not read this before— I never knew them.

SIR SULTAN AHMED: Questions were put to me and I remember very well that Mr. Chapman Mortimer—I do not know whether he is here or not—asked me "Why do you not come and repudiate all these charges in the Press?" I said I would do it at the proper time, and I am doing it now.

MR. BADRI DUTT PANDE: Why are you uncomfortable?

SIR SULTAN AHMED: Why am I uncomfortable? I am ashamed of you. Now, we are told that 10,000 British propagandists of whom 3,000 are officials are devoting their time exclusively to India. I am afraid I gave credit to the statements in the Press to the extent of one-tenth—I was wrong. When a statement is made that there are 10,000 propagandists of whom 3,000 are officials, devoting their time exclusively to India the proportion of tenth is negligible. If you want the honest facts, there are only three officials—so it is only one-thousandth true.

MR. ABDUL QAIYUM: The British have got their own independent agency!

SIR SULTAN AHMED: I am referring to that: there are only three and you multiply it by a thousand and ask us to believe in India that those are the facts. We know the author responsible for these statements; but it is thought that by doing this he is raising the status of India in America. I respectfully submit that the greatest wrong is being done to India by such lies and falsehoods.

American Opinion

There is another factor which has to be borne in mind. It is believed that anything will do for an American. The American is neither a fool, nor is he such a simpleton as my Hon'ble friends think. He knows how to assay these statements, and he knows what value should be put upon them. I respectfully submit that if Mr. J. J. Singh in America or the gracious lady, Mrs. Pandit, think that he or she can lead American opinion by the methods which they are adopting, I can assure them confidently that they will never succeed.

MR. BADRI DUTT PANDE: Why take notice of them then?

SIR SULTAN AHMED: Our method is absolutely different, and I challenge anybody to repudiate that except those who will never understand these things at all, unless it suits their purpose. And it is this. We place only facts.

MR. ABDUL QAIYUM: And figures.

SIR SULTAN AHMED: When Mrs. Pandit says that there are no religious differences, we are bound to say that there are religious differences and that her statement is false.

MR. ABDUL QAIYUM: Go ahead.

MR. BHULABHAI J. DESAI: Why must you contradict it? Is it because you are a lover of truth?

Religious Differences

SIR SULTAN AHMED: Yes. You can never solve a problem by saying that there is no such problem. There is the problem and the best way to solve it is to face it. There are religious differences and they must be resolved. We must sit down and try to solve it.

MR. ABDUL QAIYUM: The Hon'ble Member's time is up.

SIR SULTAN AHMED: There is one more statement which I think must be contradicted.

MR. ABDUL QAIYUM: Another lie?

SIR SULTAN AHMED: It is worse than a lie. Sir Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar is reported to have made certain statements and based on those statements, there was a leading article in a Calcutta paper accusing us of doing anti-Indian propaganda in U.S.A. I have got the authority of Sir Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar to say that he has written to the editor of that paper that those statements are absolutely untrue and that they should not have been made. The Agent-General is doing his level best to help India's cause and nothing is being done by us which will go to the discredit of the country.

AN HON'BLE MEMBER: It is a lie.

The Government of India have lowered the age limit from 45 to 30 years for employment of Civil Medical practitioners (Graduate) in Military Hospitals in India, said a Press Note issued by the Director-General, Indian Medical Service, on March 9.

GRANT OF FREE PASSAGES TO EVACUEES

Intimation has been received that His Majesty's Government have decided to grant, with retrospective effect, free passages to the United Kingdom and other parts of the British Commonwealth, with which evacuees have home ties, to British civilian evacuees now in India, from the Far Eastern Colonial Territories, Burma, the Balkan States and foreign countries now occupied by the Japanese, said a Press Note issued by the Commonwealth Relations Department, Government of India, on March 3.

It added: This concession requires an evacuee to apply for a passage and to accept accommodation made available through official channels whether by transport or by other vessel.

In modification of all earlier instructions, evacuees desiring passages to the countries specified above (i.e. United Kingdom and other parts of the British Commonwealth) should now communicate with the Principal Refugee Officer, Government of India, Commonwealth Relations Department, New Delhi, when a form of application together with details of existing priorities and of conditions governing the grant of these passages will be supplied.

Evacuees who have home ties in the United Kingdom or other parts of the British Commonwealth, but who do not desire to return to those countries during the current year are nevertheless requested to make application, thus permitting the Government of India to collect figures of future shipping requirements.

SIR HENRY TWYNAM

A Communique issued from the Viceroy's House, New Delhi, on March 26 stated:

His Majesty the King has been pleased to approve that His Excellency Sir Henry Twynam, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., Governor of the Central Provinces and Berar, who will complete his five years tenure of office on September 30, 1945, should remain in office for a further period of one year expiring on September 30, 1946.

His Exalted Highness the Nizam of Hyderabad and Berar has been consulted in regard to this appointment.

Technical Men For Post-War Development

In order to ensure an adequate supply of technical personnel to meet the demands of the administrative services and industrial development in the country in the post-war period, the Government of India have appointed a Committee, with Mr. N. R. Sarker as its Chairman, to consider the establishment of a high-grade technological institute in India, possibly on the lines of the M.T.T. to provide advanced instruction and training in technology.

The Committee will consider and make recommendations to the Government of India regarding (a) the scope and size of the proposed institute, (b) the situation of the institute, (c) its control and management, (d) the recruitment and conditions of service of its teachers (e) the cost involved and (f) other relevant questions relating to the establishment of such an institute and its future development.

The following have been invited to serve on the Committee:

Mr. N. R. Sarker (Chairman), Mr. A. D. Shroff, Mr. W. W. Wood, Dr. Sir J. C. Ghosh, Dr. Nazir Ahmad, Mr. C. E. Preston, Mr. W. W. Ladden, Dr. M. D. Parekh, Dr. Sir S. S. Bhatnagar, Mr. J. K. Srivastava, Mr. G. I. Mehta, Sir Sobha Singh, Major General D. R. Duguid, Brig. R. D. T. Woolfe, Mr. W. G. W. Reid, Sir Frederick Tymms, Mr. P. J. Edmonds, Mr. H. V. R. Iengar, Dr. A. H. Pandya, Mr. S. Lall, Mr. Dharma Vira and Mr. John Sargent (Members).

WAR RISKS (FACTORIES) INSURANCE SCHEME

The Central Government has decided to extend the War Risks (Factories) Insurance scheme by another year from April 1, 1945, said a Press Communique issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on March 3.

It added: Accordingly the period of all existing policies of insurance issued under the scheme, other than those in respect of inland vessels, shall be extended by one year from April 1, 1945. As regards inland vessels fresh policies shall be issued covering a period of one year from April 1, 1945.

The basis of insurable value will remain unaltered. The rate of premium payable in respect of the extended period shall be half per cent of the insurable value of the property calculated to the nearest anna on each complete sum of Rs. 100. The premium will be payable in four equal instalments on April 1, June 1, September 1, and December 1, 1945.

CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT

Plans for Development

The Government of India have set up a Committee to draw up a plan for the future development of the co-operative movement. The 14th Conference of the Registrars of Co-operative Societies held in Bombay suggested that the co-operative development movement should be properly planned so as to form an integral part of the plans formulated for the economic development of the country. The Conference had recommended the appointment of a Committee to draw up such a plan. The Committee, which has now been set up, will also include in its scope of work the questions relating to the resettlement of demobilised soldiers.

Personnel of Committee

The personnel of the Committee is as follows:

Mr. R. G. Saraiya (Chairman), Rao Bahadur J. C. Ryan, Sir Madhavrao, G. Deshpande, Mr. A. B. N. Sinha, Mr. M. R. Bhide, Mr. S. S. Hasan, Mr. S. M. Ikram, Diwan Bahadur Hira Lal L. Kaji, the Director of Resettlement, Directorate of Resettlement, G.H.Q., Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi and Mr. Sher Jang Khan (Members).

Mr. Sher Jang Khan, Officer-in-Charge, Agricultural Credit Section, Reserve Bank of India, Bombay, will act as Secretary, and the office of the Committee will be located at the Reserve Bank of India, Mint Road, Bombay.

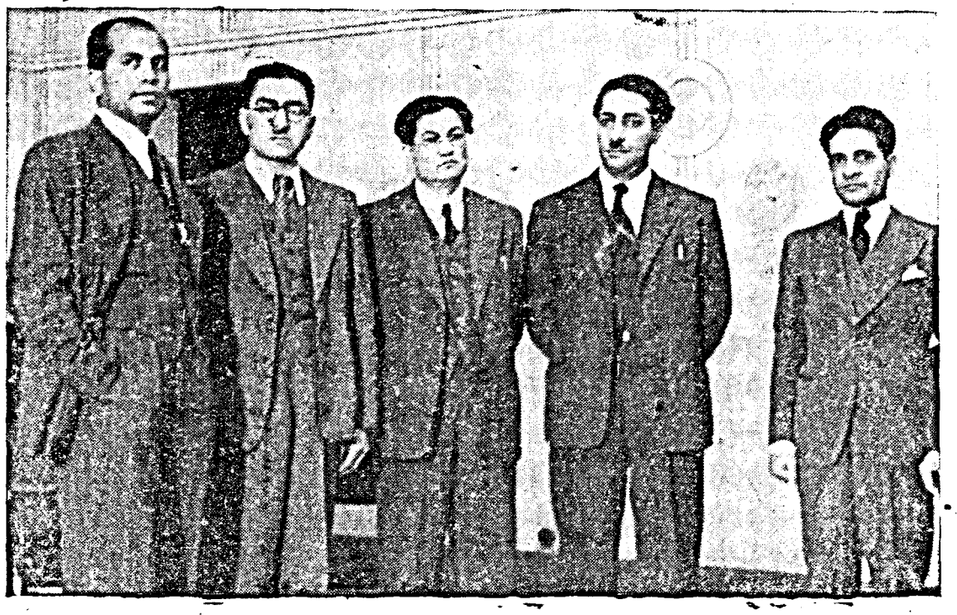
PLANT FOR FERTILISER FACTORY

A Press Note issued by the Supply Department, Government of India, on March 27 stated:

The Government of India have observed in a message dated London, March 23, a reference to the alleged "approval" of Imperial Chemical Industries proposal for sulphate of ammonia plants at Sindri in Bihar and elsewhere.

The report is quite without foundation. The Government of India have officers investigating the question of suitable plant but have had as yet no recommendations from them. Far from having approved any such proposals, therefore, the Government of India have not even received them.

The Government of India have no concern with any plans which the I.C.I., or any other firm may be forming; their concern is with the interest of India.



The Afghan Mission visited Broadcasting House, New Delhi. Picture shows (L. to R.) Mr. B. V. Baliga (acting Chief Engineer, A.I.R.), Mr. Said Kassim Khan Rishtya (Vice-President, Afghan Government Press Department), Mr. Abdul Hai Habibi (President, Pushto Tolana, Kabul), Mr. Abdul Rahman Pajwak (Director-General of Information, Afghan Government) and Mr. A. A. Hamid (acting Director-General, A.I.R.).

THE AFGHAN MISSION ARRIVES IN INDIA

THE Afghan Mission, consisting of Messrs. Said Kassim Khan Rishtya (Vice-President of the Press Department of the Government of Afghanistan), Abdul Hai Habibi (President of the Pushto Tolena, Kabul) and Abdur Rahman Pajwak (Director-General of Information and Broadcasting, Government of Afghanistan), which arrived in Delhi on March 10, 1945, had among other things, a preview of the Railway Exhibition. They saw every branch of Indian Railways' activities, particularly in the direction of war effort and were struck with the modern methods of utilisation of scrap which were demonstrated to the party by experts.

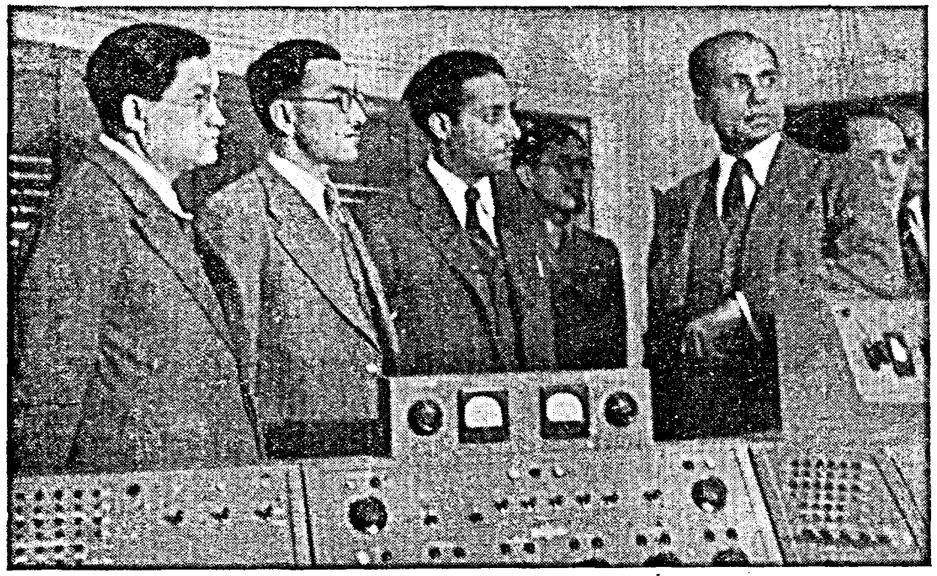
Visit to All India Radio

Mr. Rishtya, who had visited India on many occasions, remarked that judged by what he had seen the improvement in the field of modernisation of industry in India in such a short period held a great promise of rapid post-war development.

On March 12, the distinguished visitors paid a visit to the Publications Division, Information and Broadcasting Department, Government of India and in the afternoon to the All India Radio, Broadcasting House, New Delhi, where they were taken round by Mr. A. A. Hamid, Acting Director-General and other officials. The modern apparatus for broadcasting, recording, controls and effect production was demonstrated to them. "While we had heard that the All India Radio Broadcasting House was one of the best in the world," remarked the visitors, "we had no conception of its immensity, ultra modernisation and perfection."

On March 13, the Mission visited the offices of the "Hindustan Times" and the Latifi Press, and in the afternoon visited A.I.R. Receiving Centre, Todapur, and High Power Transmitters.

Members of the Mission visited the Council House on March 13 and later had lunch with the Hon'ble Sir Syed Sultan Ahmed, Member for Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, at his residence. In the afternoon they visited the Jamia-Millia, Okhla, and had tea with the staff.



Members of the Afghan Mission in the Control Room of A.I.R.

On March 14, they paid a visit to the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute and were shown round the various Departments by the Director and other officers of the Institute. The visitors showed a keen interest in the work of mycology, wheat improvement and dairy farming. They made elaborate enquiries regarding locust control in which the officers of the Institute had conducted valuable work in India, Afghanistan and Iran.

Later they visited the Tibbia College, where students demonstrated their skill in dissection. Mr. Abdur Rahman Pajwak displayed a special interest in Ayurvedic literature.

Visit to Delhi University

The Mission paid a visit to the Delhi University on March 16 and had lunch with the Registrar and other officers of the University. Sir Maurice Gwyer, Vice-Chancellor, expressed his regrets for not being able to attend owing to illness. They had dinner with Sir Olaf Caroe, Secretary, External Affairs Department, Government of India, the same evening.

On March 17, the distinguished visitors paid a visit to the Hindu College and Anjuman-e-Tarraqqi-e-Urdu and later, at the invitation of H.E. the Commander-in-Chief, they saw the military Tattoo and Pageant show at the Irwin Stadium in company of the Afghan Consul-General.

The following day they visited the famous historical buildings of Delhi including the Red Fort, Humayun and Lodi tombs. They were entertained by Mr. Khwaja Hassan Nizami to lunch and a *Qawwali*. Among others present were Hon'ble Sir Mahomed Usman, Member for Posts and Air Department, Government of India, and Mr. Griffin, Secretary, Political Department. In the afternoon, they had tea at the Qutab Minar

---

MR. JUSTICE HARILAL JEKISONDAS KANIA

The Governor-General has been pleased to appoint the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Harilal Jekisondas Kania, Kt., a Judge of the Bombay High Court, to perform the duties of Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court during the absence on leave of the Hon'ble Sir Leonard Stone with effect from June 11 to October 14, 1945.

"EDUCATION—THE TASK AHEAD"

Mr. John Sargent's Broadcast

MR. JOHN SARGENT, Educational Commissioner with the Government of India, spoke on "Education—The Task Ahead", in a broadcast from All India Radio, Delhi, on March 10, in the series "Building a New India". Mr. Sargent said:

In one sense my task to-night is an easy one, for the general lines to be followed in post-war educational development have already been laid down in the Report of the Central Advisory Board of Education which was published last year. As a signatory of that Report and as one who had something to do with the preparation of it I shall, I hope, be forgiven if I say that I am a whole-hearted believer in the plan which the Board have drawn up for placing India so far as education is concerned on an approximate level with other civilised countries.

We have printed and put on sale as many copies of the Report as the paper situation would allow but I am both glad and sorry to say that the supply available so far has by no means equalled the demand and so I am bound to assume that many of you will not have read it.

The Object

So before I attempt to tell you very briefly what the plan is, it is only fair both to you and to the members of the Board to explain as clearly as I can what it is not. In the first place, the Board have not attempted to devise an ideal system of education or to prescribe a uniform or detailed plan to be followed rigidly throughout the length and breadth of this vast and various country. As the Board have themselves stated, their object throughout has been a strictly practical one: it is 'to indicate in broad outline the minimum educational requirements of this country and to show how long it would take to satisfy them and roughly what it would cost'. It will be for the responsible educational authorities to devise for themselves within the general lines laid down the type of education most appropriate to their particular areas and institutions and with this end in view to encourage every kind of potentially useful experiment.

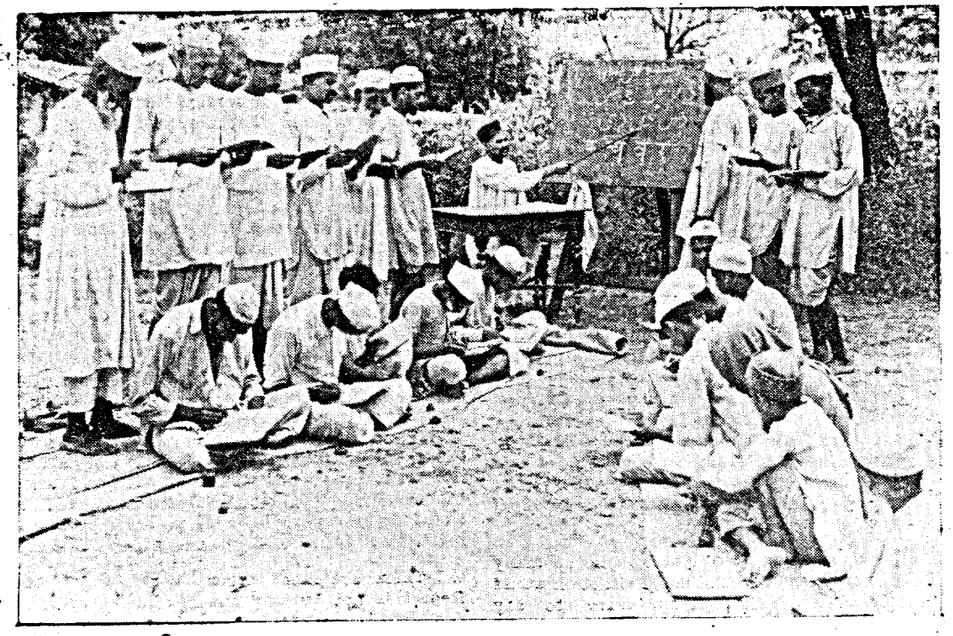
A second point to emphasise is that the Board are not out to westernise India. It is true that they have not ignored the experience or the achievements of those foreign countries with whom India will have to associate and probably to compete in the post-war period but they have at the same time been careful not to adopt foreign ideas or foreign methods without being fully satisfied that they are those best suited to India. After all, more than two-thirds of the members of the Board are Indians including some Indian ladies, with a pretty wide experience in the educational field and apart from that I think that anyone who studies the composition of the Board and of the special Committees on whose investigations the Report has been largely based, will agree that they represent a very fair cross-section of Indian opinion in fields other than education.

Then again, as I have just suggested, the Report is in no sense a hasty improvisation. Ever since they were reconstituted, nearly ten years ago, the Board have appointed each year one or more special Committees to explore different branches of educational activity and when the demand came, as the Board expected it would, to provide a plan for post-war development, most of the material was already at hand.

There are many other things which the Report is not but my time is limited and I can only mention one other. It has not yet received the general approval of the Government of India, though I have reason to hope that a decision in this respect will not be much longer delayed. I believe however, that most of the Provincial Governments, who are of course mainly responsible for education, are in substantial agreement with its recommendation and are planning accordingly.

The Board's Plan

Having, I hope, now cleared the ground to some extent, I may turn from the negative to the positive side and tell you what the Board's plan is. I shall only attempt a very broad outline as succeeding speakers will be more than competent to fill in the gaps. I want to present the plan as a harmonious structure into which the various sections fit naturally and logically. No modern system of education, whether for India or anywhere else, can afford to let its component parts develop at random without reference either to each other or to the needs of the community which they should be designed to satisfy. I have sometimes spoken of the Board's plan as a building containing six main rooms and six annexes or outbuildings. It is not a good simile because, as you will see, some of the annexes are as important as, perhaps, even more important than, some parts of the main building. Still the idea of a planned



An adult school in a village in Moradabad District (U. P.).

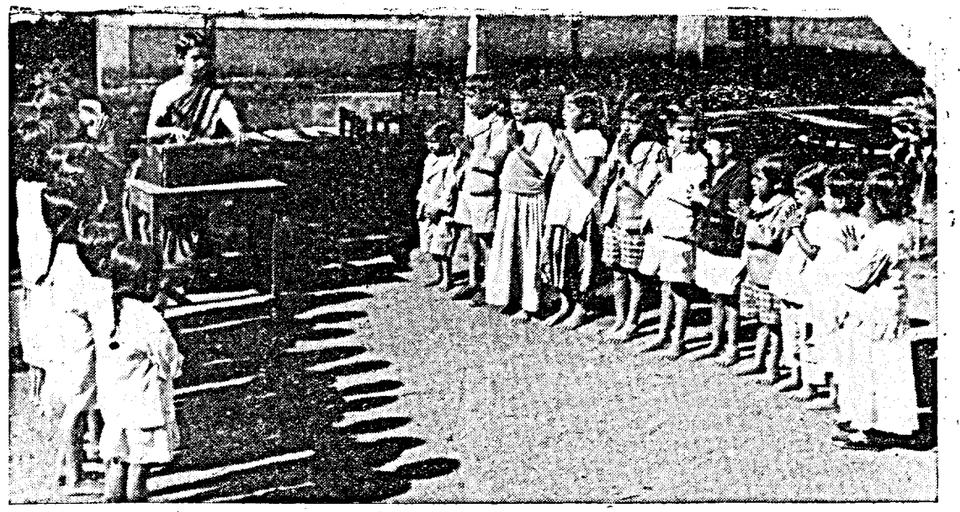
building may serve to convey some idea of the integration which to me is so important.

The principal room and main feature of the building is the provision of universal, compulsory and free education for all boys and girls between 6 and 14, to ensure permanent literacy and the minimum preparation for citizenship. This we have called Basic Education, divided into a Junior stage from 6—11 and a Senior stage from 11—14. Those who prefer to speak of these as Primary and Middle stages are quite at liberty to do so. Adjoining the main room is a small but not unattractive room which is called Pre-Basic or Pre-Primary education and will provide for children below the age of 6 in areas where housing conditions are unsatisfactory or mothers are in the habit of going out to work.

Rooms 3 and 4 are designed for High School Education and University Education because every modern community needs leaders and experts in all walks of life and it is in the public interest to pick out boys and girls of special ability and see that they get the further training that will fit them to serve the community as well as themselves. The fifth room is for Technical, Commercial and Art education. Industrial development is already upon us and if it is to be consolidated and expanded, as I believe it must be if the standard of living is to be permanently raised, it will stand in great need of skilled craftsmen, designers, salesmen, foremen, supervisors, executives, research workers and so on. The sixth and last room is devoted to Adult Education. With 85 per cent of her people illiterate, India cannot afford to wait for the spread of universal basic education to remedy this state of affairs.

Training of Teachers

Now for the annexes. The first is for the training of teachers. Over 22 lakhs of them will be required to bring the scheme into full operation and whether it succeeds or not will depend almost entirely on the quality of the teachers. The second and third will provide for looking after the physical welfare of normal children in the one case and those handicapped by mental or physical defects in the other. The fourth annexe will provide social and recreative facilities for people of all ages. The fifth will



The day opens with prayers at a modern nursery school.

aim at placing school and college leavers in satisfactory employment and the sixth will concern itself with the administrative changes necessary to secure the plan a fair chance of success.

This, I fear, is a most inadequate summary but one can hardly hope to fill in the details of so large a picture in 15 minutes. There is however, just one aspect of the plan to which I must make a passing reference because I know that many people are anxious about it. Unless and until it is possible to provide higher education for everybody, there must be selection in some form or other. Social justice and the practical interest of the community demand that this selection should be made with the highest possible degree of care and impartiality



Children at play.

so that the places available go to those most likely to profit by them and no boy or girl of ability is excluded either by poverty or by social prejudice. In my opinion it is the business of education to eliminate and not to perpetuate social distinction.

The Task Ahead

Now at last for the Task Ahead. In the broad sense this is as simple as it is urgent; it is no more and no less than to get the Board's Report translated into action as quickly as possible. When one realises how many excellent reports about educational development are now on the shelf in this country you will perhaps share my anxiety lest this Report should be sent to join them. Assuming, however, that in this case there is a break with precedent and that both the will and the means to implement the Board's plan will be forthcoming, I can foresee the need for a great army of willing workers to build the great and broad highway of educational opportunity along which the rising generation of Indians irrespective of sex, community or caste, may travel towards the goal of self-realisation for themselves and prosperity for their country. For there can be no doubt that this road will have to be driven through hitherto impenetrable jungles of ignorance, superstition and prejudice or that when it has been made, it will still be rendered unsafe by a variety of road dangers, not excluding the human counterparts of the harmless, useful and often venerated domestic animals which not infrequently impede traffic on our highways today.

But I think we shall arrive in the end, if we hold fast to one cardinal principle and that is that in education nothing really matters but the teacher. If we can enlist as teachers the sort of people, both men and women, to whom we would be happy to entrust our own children, and by we I mean you and I, not the parents in the next street, then and only then shall we have a reasonable hope of reaching our goal.

I stress this point not merely because the present position of the teacher in a country which used to reverence learning is deplorable but because the task of recruiting and training the right kind of teachers and paying them properly is going to determine both the cost of our plan and the time it will take; the Board have prescribed minimum standards in both these respects which if they err, certainly in my opinion err on the low side and yet it is these which determine that it will take more than a generation to bring the plan into full operation and that when it is in full operation it will cost the Government something like Rs. 300 crores a year.

Already I hear voices, some of them highly respectable voices, suggesting that in the interest of speed or economy or both, the Board's teaching standards might be lowered. The idea is being seriously put forward that to create cheap teaching power quickly our university students and even our high school pupils should be required to put in a year as teachers before getting their degrees or school leaving certificates. Is our estimate of the responsibility and the skill to be expected of the teacher so low that we can expect novices and birds of passage of this kind to shoulder the one or display the other?

Professional Standards

The Central Advisory Board have certainly spoken of the possibility of conscripting teachers as a last resort but what they had in mind was not any temporary untrained service of this kind but the diversion to training schools and colleges of the requisite proportion of young people on reaching the age for national service. Something of this kind has been done in Russia. But, conscription apart, if we are to restore the profession of teaching to the esteem which it ought to enjoy in any civilised society, we must set our professional standards reasonably high. If the labourer is worthy of his hire, then of all labourers the good teacher is most worthy of his. After all, it isn't just the ability to manage a class that matters: the good teacher is one whose influence remains strong with his pupils long after they have left his charge.

I can assure you that there is no one more anxious than I am to press on with the task ahead. I cannot forget that every year more than 7 million children in British India alone reach the age when they ought to go to school but only a small proportion ever get there. The rest pass inevitably on to join the great army of illiterates. But at the same time there is no branch of human activity in which it is more dangerous to substitute quantity for quality than Education. Without good teachers we shall never succeed.

With immediate effect parcels to China will be accepted only if addressed to places in the following provinces of China: Kansu, Kweichow, Ningsia, Shensi, Sikang, Sinkiang, Szechwan, Tsinghai and Yunnan, said a Press Note issued by the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, on March 23.

CLOTH AND YARN POSITION

Sir M. Azizul Huque's Speech in Central Assembly

IN the Central Assembly on March 12, replying to the debate on Mr. Akhil Chandra Datt's cut motion (to discuss the cloth and yarn position), the Hon'ble Sir M. Azizul Huque, Member for Industries and Civil Supplies, Government of India, first of all acknowledged the help and co-operation which the Government had received from the Textile Industry, though he personally had always held views divergent to those held by the industry in regard to the fostering of the handloom industry. He then dealt in detail with the administration of the Cotton Cloth and Yarn Control Order and pointed out the various stages through which it had passed, the steps taken to bring to the surface cloth that had been hoarded, the fixing of prices of a large number of varieties of cloth, the marking of those prices on the cloth itself and the fixing of the margin of profit at the various stages of the distribution of cloth.

Sir Azizul Huque referred to the latest system of distribution devised by the Government of India and the Control Board under which buyers from deficit zones nominated by the local authorities would come to the producing centres with letters of authority and buy the cloth at those centres from the quotaholders, under the direction of the Textile Commissioner with the Government of India.

Scarcity of Fine Cloth

Regarding the scarcity of fine cloth, he mentioned that the main difficulty was fine yarn of which there was only a limited supply, imports from foreign countries having completely stopped. He said that the exports of fine cloth had been stopped.

Regarding the particularly bad situation in Bengal, the Hon'ble Member pointed out that he was fully alive to the need of supplying cloth and yarn to this Province in order to relieve immediate distress and that he was examining this question in consultation with the Textile Commissioner. He said that although under the scheme of distribution for yarn which had been formulated by the Textile Commissioner, Bengal was entitled only approximately to 6,000 bales per mensem, he was informed that it would be possible to increase this quota. Steps would be taken to implement this decision. Though Government had commitments in regard



Sir M. Azizul Huque.

to exports and the supply of Defence requirements, there was no justification for stating that there was a cloth famine in the country. The question of revising Provincial quotas was under consideration. Provincial Governments had been asked to furnish statistics in order to enable the Government of India to decide whether the basis on which the present quotas had been fixed should be altered. So far, replies had not been received from the majority of the Provinces and States.

Standard Cloth

As regards Standard Cloth, the Hon'ble Member stated that this had fulfilled a definite function and need and that with the reduction in the price of ordinary cloth the need for large supplies of Standard Cloth had progressively diminished.

In regard to distribution within the Provinces, he felt that the Government of India should not interfere with the discretion of Provincial Governments who presumably had more accurate knowledge of local conditions than the Government of India or their officers.

In the administration of Control, wherever malpractices had been found to have occurred either with the manufacturers or with dealers, the Government of India had taken stringent action. They had, in fact, taken over the entire control and distribution of several mills.

As regards the apparent discrepancies in the comparative prices of various kinds of cloth, he said that if there was any complaint, the Department was prepared to examine it in detail, and that, in fact, in one case which was brought to his notice while he was on tour in Bihar, he had taken immediate action.

Rationing of Cloth

Sir Azizul Huque then referred to the suggestion, in the present difficult position in regard to cloth, that attempts should be made to ration cloth. In a country like India, where habits of dress varied so largely in various parts of the country, rationing was not going to be an easy matter. However, the question would be investigated.

Regarding adequate punishment for contraventions of the Order, the Government were actively engaged in examining the question with a view, if possible, to amending the law.

Sir Azizul Huque concluded by saying that in view of the great shortage of fine yarn, Government were making an effort to import as much fine yarn as possible. He also stated that it was always the intention of his Department to encourage cottage industries, such as handlooms.

TRAINING OF FOREST OFFICERS

The great demand for forest produce for the war has resulted in the Forest Colleges at Dehra Dun working to their maximum capacity, according to the Annual Progress Reports of the Indian Forest College and Indian Forest Ranger College, Dehra Dun. The Indian Forest Ranger College now trains 70 students and the Indian Forest College 30 students. The capacity of both the Colleges has been increased to meet the demand of Provinces and Indian States for trained officers.

The course of training in both the Colleges extends to two years, half the time is spent at headquarters and half on tour. Owing to wartime difficulties of travel, touring has been reduced to the minimum adequate for necessary training. The examination results of both the institutions have been satisfactory.

CLOTH SUPPLIES TO BENGAL

Considerable surprise is expressed in Delhi at reports of a cloth famine in Bengal; enquiries show that during the five months ended November 30, 1944, Bengal received for civilian consumption 0.4 yards of mill cloth per head more than any other part of India!

In these five months, mills in Bengal produced, for civilian consumption, 82,152,000 yards or 54,758 bales, while from outside the province, Bengal received 205,634,000 yards of cloth or 137,089 bales for civilian consumption.

For Bengal's population of 61,581,897 (according to the 1941 census) there was, therefore, a total of 287,786,000 yards or 191,857 bales available, which works out to 4.7 yards per head of the population.

During the same period the total production of mill-made cloth in India available for India's 389 millions was 1,678,098,000 yards, or 4.3 yards per head of the civil population.

The handloom cloth produced in Bengal during the same period is estimated at 66,895,000 yards or 1.1 per head. If this figure is added to the figure for mill-made cloth, Bengal had available for civilian consumption 5.8 yards of cloth per head of its population, which is equal to 13.9 yards per head of the population per annum.

It would thus appear that if the people of Bengal have suffered, it is not because the province received less cloth than the rest of India actually, as shown above, it has received more than other parts of India but presumably because of unsatisfactory internal distribution caused by the activities of anti-social elements.

CONTROL OF CAPITAL ISSUES

A new sub-rule in Defence of India Rule 94-A is notified in the *Gazette of India* enabling Government to invest officers with certain powers to make necessary inquiries into the correctness of statements made in applications for capital issues or into the question whether conditions attached to orders consenting to capital issues have been duly observed. In the first instance, Government intend to confer these powers, on a part-time basis, on certain Special Officers at present employed in inspection work connected with the operation of the War Risk (Goods) Insurance Ordinance, 1940.

P. AND T. DEPARTMENT'S NEW RECORD TRAFFIC FIGURES

NEW record traffic figures, rapid progress on the telecommunication development scheme, a rise from Rs. 40,00,000 to Rs. 3,50,00,000 in Defence Savings balances and wartime relief to employees of some two crores of rupees are the most prominent features of the Posts and Telegraphs Department's Annual Report for 1943-44.

The volume of traffic handled by the Department during the year exceeded the figures reached during any of the preceding years and these increases show a marked contrast to normal pre-war traffic returns. Wartime increases in rates have not affected the volume of the Department's business, returns for which actually show a rise of 15 per cent in postal traffic, and 17 per cent in telegraph traffic. No fewer than 1,575 million postal articles of all kinds were handled during the year as compared with 1,241 million in 1938-39. The number of telegrams transmitted rose similarly from 16.4 million to 27.9 million. The total monetary transactions of the Department amounted to Rs. 430 crores which compares with Rs. 302 crores for 1938-39.

Relief to Employees

Relief to employees amounted during the year to Rs. 1.65 crores, which includes expenditure on dearness allowance, increase in pay charges, food concessions and on the militarisation in the Bengal and Assam Circles. These figures have since risen further and the relief in 1945-46 will amount to Rs. 2.56 crores against a total establishment pay bill of Rs. 8.49 crores. For men drawing Rs. 40 or below, dearness allowance alone works out at 35 per cent in "A" areas and 25 per cent in "B" and "C" areas.

The number of Defence Savings Bank Accounts had increased from 94,000 at the beginning of the year to 2,308,000 at the end of the year under review. The total balances in Defence Savings Bank Accounts at the close of the year were Rs. 3.5 crores as against Rs. 10.6 lakhs at the end of the previous year. The success of the Posts and Telegraphs Department's anti-inflationary drive is apparent from such phenomenal increases in the number of small investors. The number of ordinary Savings Bank Accounts was almost static but the total balances of savings in these accounts rose from Rs. 52.2 crores to Rs. 64.2 crores in 1943-44.

The magnitude of the Posts and Telegraphs Department's network of communication can be visualised from some of the details available in the Report. There were, for example, at the end of the year 157,567 miles of land and water mail routes over which mails were carried, 107,000 miles of telegraph postline carrying 616,400 miles of overhead wires, 5,090 miles of cable containing 447,000 miles of conductors and 2,600 telephone exchanges with 116,000 telephones. The careful maintenance of this great network of the country's lifelines during wartime is a matter of considerable difficulty and every effort was made to secure a satisfactory result.

Telecommunications Progress

Considerable progress was made during the year in the Rs. 16-crore telecommunication development scheme initiated in 1942-43. Under this scheme a very large number of telephone and telegraph carrier channels have been installed. There has also been addition of substantial lengths of trunk lines and wires. When the war comes to an end, all these should afford welcome relief to the overworked Posts and Telegraphs systems which have had to bear the stress of record wartime loads on their wires and channels.

In the field of technical research, the building up of wireless transmitters, both short-wave and medium-wave, in the departmental workshops with components entirely manufactured in India, the utilisation of medium wave transmitters for short wave reception by use of specially designed adapters, improvement in the matter of temperature and humidity control for laboratory tests, and improvements in automatic telephone equipment have all enabled the Department not only to overcome peculiar technical difficulties consequent on the war, but also to give, in some cases, a more efficient service to the public.

Recruitment Figures

The steady improvement in the war situation resulted in substantial acceleration of the air mail services to the West, and in the reverse direction the air transit time was reduced from several weeks in the previous year to an average of one week from June 1944.

The Government's recruitment policy has been implemented and the returns of fresh recruitment during the year show that out of the 2,924 new recruits appointed during the year 877 were Muslims. This works out at 29.9 per

cent of the total recruitment which is 4.9 per cent above the prescribed reservation for this community. Other recruitment figures show that of the fresh entrants 124 were Indian Christians, 48 were Sikhs and 47 were from the Scheduled Castes.

The Posts and Telegraphs War Purposes Fund, opened in 1940 by Sir Gurunath Bewoor, has been instrumental in collecting Rs. 3,85,368-1-2 up to the end of March 1944. The disbursements from this Fund show that a little over Rs. 2,00,000 was utilised for the purchase of 3 aeroplanes, Rs. 15,000 for 3 amenities lorries, Rs. 20,000 for 5 ambulance cars, Rs. 56,000 as donations to other funds and Rs. 8,668 as relief to Posts and Telegraphs Department's employees on active service, and their families.

The financial result of the working of the Department for the year showed a surplus of just over Rs. 9 crores, the highest surplus so far earned, partly as a result of increased traffic and partly as a result of enhanced rates imposed for the purpose of earning revenue to meet the increased costs of Government in prosecuting the war. The whole of the surplus was credited to General Revenues but the Department has not failed to provide for its post-war situation. Its Renewals Reserve Fund amounted, at the end of 1943-44, to Rs. 3,40,85,000, being 11.8 per cent of the capital at charge of the Department, and the accumulated surplus balances at its credit amounted to Rs. 7,32,49,000 on the same date, a sum substantial enough to enable the Department to tide over the inevitable immediate post-war reduction in business and to face expansion and new developments.

POSTAL SERVICE TO BULGARIA

A Press Note issued by the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, on March 5, stated:

Mail communication to Bulgaria is now available under the following terms and conditions:

(i) Only post cards and letters and printed and commercial papers weighing not more than two ounces can be sent;

(ii) Communication on business and financial matters should be confined to those ascertaining facts and exchanging information;

(iii) Printed matter can be sent only under a censorship permit.

MORE TELECOMMUNICATIONS FOR INDIA

Rs. 16-Crore Scheme

THE next six months will see the completion of the major portion of the Rs. 16-crore telecommunications development scheme initiated by the Government of India in 1942-43. India will have 300,000 circuit miles of long distance telephone trunks—three times the pre-war figure. The expenditure of Rs. 16 crores in the four years between 1942-43 and 1945-46 compares with an expenditure of less than Rs. 2½ crores in the eight years before the war.

In the first two years of the war, India was not regarded as an operational theatre and, far from increasing telecommunication facilities here, the Posts and Telegraphs Department was called upon to provide men and material to other countries. By 1943 the Department supplied lines and other stores worth about Rs. 1½ crores and 3,500 personnel for postal and telegraph units in the fighting services abroad. In India itself, 13,000 miles of telegraph and telephone wires—mainly local in character—were constructed for operational purposes.

Altered Picture

Japan's entry into the war and the approach of war to India necessitated quick improvement of India's long distance communications. In June, 1942, the Government of India decided that an extensive development of communications must be undertaken and the Posts and Telegraphs Department was instructed to formulate a comprehensive scheme in consultation with G.H.Q. Both the Department and G.H.Q. had prepared for this eventuality and had already done a great deal of preliminary planning, and within a fortnight a scheme costing Rs. 8 crores was submitted by the Department and approved by Government. Six months later, a revised and enlarged scheme costing Rs. 16 crores was approved.

A review of India's capacity for stores manufacture showed that equipment worth Rs. 4 crores would have to be obtained from abroad and that, so far as line stores that could be manufactured in the country were concerned, the rate of production would have to be stepped up by 400 per cent. These included 650,000 posts with their fittings, 300,000 miles of wire and 12,000,000 insulators, together worth over Rs. 7 crores.

The capacity of the telegraph workshops at Alipore—at that time the only factory capable of producing line stores—was doubled. An old cotton mill in Central India was taken over and machinery installed to provide a capacity equal to the increased capacity of the Alipore factory. The workshops of the Bombay Telephone Company were greatly expanded to manufacture equipment such as telephone trunk exchanges and switchboards. The combined output of these three departmental workshops is now seven times their pre-war output. In addition, the capacity of many private firms was developed for the manufacture of various items of line stores. The output from these sources is now approximately equal to the capacity of the Government workshops.

Large Staff

All these developments involved a large administrative and supervisory organisation and the recruitment and training of considerable numbers of staff. Advantage was taken of the services of the Burma P. and T. Signals personnel during the initial stages of planning and a large number of Royal Signals personnel is also assisting in the work of installation.

The development scheme provides for a substantial increase of facilities for meeting the requirements of the general public, but war demands have to be met first and so far the P. & T. Department has little more facilities for the public than it had before the war. Yet the Department is now handling roughly twice as many telegrams and trunk telephone calls as before the war, and very soon the public will get substantial benefit from the scheme.

TELEGRAMS TO AND FROM BULGARIA

A Press Note issued by the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, on March 8 stated:

With effect from March 8, 1945, telegraphic communication is available with Bulgaria. Private telegrams are permitted in plain English or French language only or in one of the nine authorised commercial codes specified in the current edition of the Post and Telegraph Guide. British, U.S.A., and U.S.S.R. Government telegrams are permitted in code, cypher or plain English or French language. All other Government telegrams are permitted in plain English or French language only.

Normal categories of private, Government and Press telegrams are permitted at pre-war rates. Telegrams of business nature are restricted to those ascertaining facts or exchanging information.

Air Transport Operations in India

TATA Air Lines and Indian National Airways have been operating internal air services for the Government of India and the R.A.F. Transport Command since 1942, said a Press Note issued by the Posts and Air Department, Government of India, on February 24.

It added: These services were originally operated with the companies' own aircraft, but these aircraft eventually had to be laid up, mainly on account of lack of spares which it was not possible to obtain in wartime. Now the companies have been supplied with aircraft on loan from the R.A.F.—including a few transport aircraft of the Douglas and Beechcraft Expeditor type—for the operation of air services in support of the war effort.

During the year 1944, the Indian companies flew a total of 2,100,000 miles, carrying 13,250 passengers and 1,540,000 lbs. of mails and freight. The total traffic carried amounted to approximately 1,500,000 ton-miles.

Creditable Achievement

In the course of these operations no aircraft was lost by accident and there was no loss of life or injury to passengers or crews. There were only two cases of minor damage to aircraft. This reflects most favourably on the skill of the Indian commercial pilots and the engineering and maintenance organisation of the Indian operators. The achievement is all the more creditable as these services are now operated under stringent conditions due to the war, which make it difficult for the companies to obtain the aircraft spares, materials and skilled technical personnel, which they require for the increased scale of their operations.

The extent of the increase in operations is evidenced by a comparison of the traffic carried during 1944 with the corresponding figures for 1938 which were: total mileage flown 1,286,349 miles; passengers carried 784; mails and freight carried 565,625 lbs.; total traffic 290,824 ton-miles, that is five times as much effective transport as in 1938.

During the war civil operators in many countries have contributed their part to the carriage by air of constantly increasing numbers of personnel and quantities of war materials, equipment and mails, to and from the

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 454)

RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS: HOME MEMBER'S SPEECH IN CENTRAL ASSEMBLY

SPEAKING in the Legislative Assembly on March 9 on Mr. Abdul Qaiyum's cut motion on the Executive Council, the Hon'ble Sir Francis Mudie, Home Member to the Government of India, said that the policy of gradual release which Government were following with regard to the release of political prisoners was not an excuse for keeping the maximum number of people in jail.

Here is the text of the Home Member's speech:

Sir, I think that when one attacks the whole Government and wishes to abolish the whole of the Executive Council one should base one's case on facts and should at least know what the policy of that Council is. Mr. Abdul Qaiyum condemned the policy of the Government of India of detaining certain persons without trial; but he based his case entirely on slogans. He talked about concentration camps. The slogan of "one vast concentration camp" or "one vast prison-house" is very good, I have no doubt, as propaganda, especially abroad where the facts about this country are not known and cannot be verified. But I think Hon'ble Members of this House will prefer to base their view on the actual facts and not to be deceived by slogans. What are the facts? The total number of persons under detention today in this country is 7,500.

SARDAR SANT SINGH (West Punjab: Sikh): A very small number!

SIR FRANCIS MUDIE: My Hon'ble friend, Sardar Sant Singh comments that it is a small number.

SARDAR SANT SINGH: It is not consistent with the rule of law.

Goondas, Hurs and Terrorists

SIR FRANCIS MUDIE: What sort of people are there, 7,500? First there are 2,000 Bengalis —mostly Calcutta—goondas, whom I do not think it would be in the interest either of Bengal or of the country at large to release. Then there are over 2,000 Hurs from my Hon'ble friend Mr. Lalchand Navalrai's province, who cannot be allowed to be at liberty either. That reduces the number of detenus, who are not either actually or potentially ordinary criminals, to about 3,000. Let us examine them. A certain number are detained because they have had dealings with the enemy—they were either enemy agents or helped enemy agents. A large number are Bengali terrorists. I do not believe that the Hon'ble Members of this House wish to censure Government for not releasing enemy agents, and I am quite sure the Government of Bengal would take strong objection to our asking them to release these terrorists.

Danger of Slogans

Then there are a number of other miscellaneous people. The total of these three classes —enemy agents, terrorists and miscellaneous— comes to roughly about 1,500, which leaves us with 1,500 people detained in this country for what one might call political reasons in the ordinary sense of the word. Now, how large a number is that? Let us compare it with the population of this country. Can you call a country where the number detained is four per million of the population one vast concentration camp? Compare it with the jail population; it represents one per cent of the jail population. If the jails of this country are full, they are not full of political detenus. Compared with Mrs. Pandit's figure of 18,000 Mrs. Pandit's error of exaggeration is just over 1,000 p.c. That is the danger of slogans.

Now, Sir, why are these people detained and who has detained them? This House is concerned solely with the responsibility of the Governor-General-in-Council, particularly in a motion to censure the Council. Of that number of 1,500—of whom 1,350 were detained owing to the August disturbances the number detained by the Government of India including Chief Commissioner's provinces is round about 50, the balance being detained by provincial Governments.

Now, Sir, I am not giving these figures in order to plead that our fault, if it is a fault, is a very small one; nor am I sheltering behind the provincial Governments. But what I do claim is that if we err, we err in good company. Every argument which has been used against our policy can be used also against the policy of Provincial Governments, including the policy of Ministerial Governments.

I do not suggest of course for a moment that the Government of India and these Provincial Governments all by accident hit upon the same policy. We consult one another from time to time. Doubtless the Provincial Governments pay considerable attention to the views

of the Home Department which receives information from all over the country, but we, on our side, also give great weight to the views of the provincial Governments.

Policy not Anti-Indian

What sort of a policy is that which we have adopted? What is this one policy? To begin with, it cannot possibly be an anti-Indian policy; it cannot be called part of some sinister anti-Indian conspiracy. If it were, we would not have been supported by Indians responsible for the administration of their provinces, and responsible to their legislatures and supported by those legislatures. Nor, Sir, can these people be detained, as I think one Member suggested, because they believe in and would advocate self-Government for India.

As far as the League Ministries are concerned, Mr. Jinnah has made it quite clear that one of his main objects is to obtain self-Government as soon as possible, and whatever the difference between the Punjab Government and the League may be, Malik Khizar Hayat Khan has made it quite clear that they are at one on this point. By self-Government I mean Self-Government of the Dominion kind—full self-government with the right to secede.

Nor, Sir, are these people detained for any opinions they may hold. If, as has been suggested, there is no right of free speech in this country, would Mr. Gandhi be out now, would Mrs. Vijyalakshmi Pandit be allowed to go to the United States? These people are detained simply and solely for what they might do if they were released. A great majority of them either believe in violence openly as a political method or have had associations with those who do. Others who do not follow violence as a method cannot at once be released 'en bloc' as that would very likely create a situation which would facilitate the operation of those who believe in violence. No Government could afford to take that risk at the present moment. No Government could afford to risk a repetition of what happened in 1942.

Policy of Gradual Release

I quite agree that these people cannot be kept in detention for ever. It does not follow from that that they should all be released immediately—that would be disastrous. For that reason, the Government of India and all the other Provincial Governments have adopted the policy of gradual release which means that we and they release these detenus as rapidly as they can be consistently with the public safety. Some provinces may be over-rash, some over-cautious. The decision rests entirely with them. They do not even ask us or report to us when they release any one.

They decide as to when someone should be released. The pace of release depends, if I may say so, almost entirely on the behaviour of those who have been released. If those who are released behave well and cause no trouble then Provincial Governments are encouraged to release more and more rapidly. If, on the other hand, they cause trouble then Provincial Governments naturally hold their hand. The pace of release is governed almost entirely by the detenus themselves after their release.

I have not the least doubt myself that the policy we are pursuing of gradual release is the correct policy. It is equally clear that it is not an excuse for keeping the maximum number of people in jail. If you take those who were detained in connection with the disturbances in August 1942, the largest number of detenus in jail at any one time, in June 1943, was 10,000. Six months later, in January 1944, the number had approximately halfed; it was 5,500. Ten months later it had decreased by more than half again; in October 1944 it was 2,000. And on February 1, this year, as I have said it was 1,350. That means that nearly 90 per cent. of those who were in detention only 18 months ago have been released. That has been done without any great disturbance to the law and order of the country. That is the policy which we are following and that is the process which I would ask the House to endorse when they come to vote on this motion.

Sir, I would like to say one word more before I sit down. I should like to pay a tribute to those who have, as ministers, in the Provinces had to deal with this very difficult and distasteful matter. They have been subject to criticism, wild criticism, ignorant criticism, in the Press. They have also been attacked in their own legislatures but they have never faltered in what they have considered their duty. I think that it would be disastrous from the point of view of India as a whole if any vote given in this House today could be interpreted, as, even by implication, showing lack of appreciation of what these people have done. Sir, I oppose the motion.

MR. JUSTICE NATVARLAL HARILAL BHAGWATI

The Governor General has been pleased to appoint the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Natvarlal Harilal Bhagwati to be an Additional Judge of the Bombay High Court for a period of one year with effect from March 1, 1945.

"SAFEGUARDING" CLAUSES IN CONSTITUTION ACT, 1935

Sir A. R. Dalal's Statement

SPEAKING on Mr. Manu Subedar's resolution regarding the deletion of Section 111 to 121 of the Government of India Act, 1935, in the Indian Legislative Assembly on March 2, 1945, the Hon'ble Sir Ardeshir Dalal, Member for Planning and Development, Government of India, said:

The motion before the House is of great importance and interest both inside and cutside India. I congratulate the Hon'ble the mover on the studied moderation of his tone and his speech and I would appeal to the other Members of the House to discuss the matter in a dispassionate spirit so that no illwill or misunderstanding might be created which might complicate an already complicated and difficult situation. It is mainly for that reason that I have decided to intervene at this early stage of the debate so that I may be able to explain the attitude of Government in the hope that discussion at a later stage may be confined to the right lines.

British Commerce

The history of the "Safeguarding" clauses is a somewhat long one, and I trust the House will bear with me if I give a summary of it. The question of the future of British commercial interests in India came up for the first time during the Montague-Chelmsford Enquiry. In para 345 of the Report, the joint authors made observations which have not lost their validity from lapse of time. They stated:

"What then are the obligations of the various parties? Clearly it is the duty of British commerce in India to identify itself with the interests of India which are higher than the interests of any community; to take part in political life; to use its considerable wealth and opportunities to commend itself to India; and having demonstrated both its value nd its good intentions, to be content to rest like other industries on the new foundation of government in the wishes of the people. No less is it the duty of Indian politicians to respect the expectations which have been implicitly held out; to remember how India has profited by commercial development which only British capital and enterprise achieved; . . . . and to abstain from advocating differential treatment aimed not so much at promoting Indian as at injuring British commerce."

These, Sir, are sage words enunciating a wise principle which, if followed in the letter and spirit by both sides, might have avoided much subsequent illwill and misunderstanding, and might perhaps have rendered the enactment of these clauses unnecessary.

The Simon Commission, which considered this question, came to the conclusion, as embodied in para 156 of volume II of their Report, that it was not feasible to prevent discriminatory legislation by attempting to define it in a constitutional instrument. Any such provision would in their opinion have to be drawn so widely as to be little more than a statement of abstract principles affording no precise guidance to courts in deciding whether any action complained of was discriminatory.

The question came up again for consideration before the First Round Table Conference in 1930 which adopted the formula that there should be no discrimination between the rights of the British mercantile community, firms and companies trading in India and the rights of Indian born subjects, and that an appropriate convention, based on reciprocity, should be entered into for the purpose of regulating these rights. The Second Round Table Conference thought that it would be more appropriate for the future Federal Government of India to negotiate the convention and in the meantime suitable provisions should be embodied in the Constitution Act. The Third Round Table Conference recommended that safeguards should operate in regard to legislative discrimination through specific provisions in the Act and with regard to administrative discrimination through the special responsibilities of the Governor-General and the Governors. The distinction sought to be drawn at one stage between persons and companies residing or incorporated in India and those merely trading in India was given up.

The White Paper of 1933 embodied the recommendations of the Reading Committee, but they were modified at a later stage by a memorandum submitted by the Secretary of State to the Joint Parliamentary Committee for the reasons that the White Paper proposals were expressed in too general terms. The British Indian Delegation criticised this memorandum on general lines, and particularly on the ground that the clauses were drawn up so widely as to prevent legitimate discrimination in favour of Indian industries.

The delegation went on to say that if these provisions were embodied in the Constitution Act, the Government would be driven to State socialism as the only method by which the provisions of the Act could be circumvented. The Delegation further went on to observe that friendly settlement by negotiation was by far the most satisfactory and proper method of dealing with the problem and that statutory safeguards would irritate public opinion and operate as an impediment to friendly settlement.

The Joint Select Committee accepted the Secretary of State's memorandum, including the provision for the "unconditional eligibility" of British businesses already in India to subsidise.

I might perhaps explain what this 'unconditional eligibility to subsidies' means. It means that the clause pertaining to it is so drafted that if, for instance, the Government decided to give a subsidy to a comparatively small Indian shipping company to promote the interests of Indian shipping, then they would be compelled to give similar subsidies to the P. and O. and the B.I.

Indian Opinion

Indian opinion has never reconciled itself to these provisions of the Act. In the Cripps' declaration there was no reference to this matter. The policy of His Majesty's Government was reaffirmed in the House of Commons on July 30, 1942, when Sir Alfred Knox asked the Secretary of State for India whether he would give him an assurance that in any post-war arrangement for the future Government of India adequate provision would be made for guaranteeing British commercial interests. Mr. Amery replied:

"His Majesty's Government made it clear in connection with the recent offer that a guarantee of special protection for British commercial interests in India would not be a condition for the acceptance of whatever constitution Indians might evolve after the war and that any such provisions would more appropriately be a matter for negotiations with the future Government of India."

My friend, Mr. Manu Subedar, has already quoted the Duke of Devonshire. But besides that, in the House of Lords on the motion of Lord Cragmirs, when several speakers including Lord Cato had spoken and Lord Hailey participated in the debate; in the course of his speech Lord Hailey observed:

"I can only say for myself and, I think, for a large number of others who have interested themselves in the Indian question that when the British Government and the British Parliament representing the British people have made a solemn declaration and made it in the most authoritative form, I should regard it as alike impolitic and dishonourable to suggest that we should hold out to India now anything less than full Dominion Status. It is certain that the imposition of restrictions similar to those contained in the 1935 Act would place India in a position inferior to other Dominions; it would place her, for instance, in an inferior position, if you were to attempt to deny to her the power requiring all companies operating in India to be registered there or if you were to attempt to deny to her the power to require all companies to comply with the Indian law in respect of their constitution or their directorate and the like."

The position then is that in regard to British commercial interests in India His Majesty's Government will negotiate an agreement with a future Government of India. Till that time the provisions of the existing Act, both in the field of legislation and executive action will continue. With the adoption of the policy of large scale economic planning and development of the country, including industrial development, these provisions have acquired a significance which they did not have before.

Government intend to take a far more active interest in industrial development than they have done in the past. It is contemplated to expand existing industries and to develop a number of new basic industries of great importance to the well-being and advancement of India. Under these clauses, it is open to any British Company with a hundred per cent British capital and a British directorate to establish itself in India and control such industries. More important still, it is possible for powerful combines and cartels, with international ramifications, to do the same. The chances of Indian industrialists competing on equal terms with such combines and companies with their vast experience and resources are very poor. As the Act stands at present, it is not possible for the Government of India to take any measures to help the indigenous industry against such competition.

Co-operation and Goodwill

It is realised that Indian opinion does not regard such a state of affairs with satisfaction. It will be a bold man who will prophesy when exactly the new constitution is to come into being. It will probably take some years before the new Constitution Act is placed on the Statute Book, even assuming that all the present outstanding issues are settled at a comparatively early date. But planning for the economic development of India has already commenced and is going ahead. It cannot wait till a new constitution is finally settled and becomes

the law of the land. The problem is to arrive at some satisfactory solution of this issue. The solution must be sought not in a spirit of mutual antagonism and mistrust but of mutual co-operation and goodwill. Under happier political conditions, one can look forward to an ever widening and almost endless vista of trade and business relationship between Great Britain and India for the benefit and prosperity of both. In the immediate post-war years India has to look to the United Kingdom to a large extent for the supply of capital goods and the expert advice and assistance in the development of its industries which she so sorely needs. Co-operation should be welcomed if it does not involve control or domination. That Indian industry should desire to control and direct its policy is a legitimate aspiration which should not be looked upon with hostility or mistrust.

The Difficulties

The problem therefore is to consider whether it is possible to arrive at any kind of convention or agreement now, without waiting for a complete constitutional settlement, so that the industrial development of the country may not be minimised. The difficulties in the way should not be minimised. The trade agreement is intended to be part of a general political and constitutional settlement. It is difficult to isolate one part only of the whole complex of issues, political as well as economic, and to insist upon its settlement without considering its effect on the rest. If the spirit in which a solution of this difficult problem is sought is misunderstood, either here or in Great Britain, it may have an unsettling effect upon the business communities in both countries which it is very desirable to avoid at a time when in the interests of India's own development, closer trade relations are being sought. If it is not found feasible to proceed by way of parliamentary legislation at this juncture pending consideration of the political and other issues involved, it will be necessary to explore the possibility of arriving at some kind of an understanding which may remove the apprehensions of the Indian business community regarding the effect of the future operation of these safeguards on the post-war industrial development of India.

I believe, Sir, I have made it quite clear that the Government of India are fully seized of this matter. It is engaging their active and earnest consideration.

As regards the amendment that has been moved, since the speech on the question is deferred, it is very difficult for me, as I have said before to say anything definite on the subject. It is not quite clear what the Committee which Mr. Essak Sait proposes, is intended to do, whether it will confine itself to the question of the "safeguards", or whether it will take upon itself the formulation of a comprehensive scheme for the running of key industries, shipping, public utility services, etc., by Provincial Governments or local bodies and questions of a similar nature as propounded in another amendment by Mr. Essak Sait. Government would desire the object of the amendment to be elucidated further in the course of the debate. They would then like to have an opportunity of further consideration of the matter in the light of the discussions before they decide upon the appointment of a Committee or otherwise. All that I have to say at the present moment I have mentioned. Government are fully aware of the situation, but would like to have an opportunity of further consideration of the matter. If what I have said satisfies the Hon'ble Mover, we can have the matter fully ventilated. The matter will be reported to the Secretary of State.

MR. SRI PRAKASA: What is in your mind?

SIR ARDESHIR DALAL: I have already stated that Government is fully seized of the matter, they are considering it, they will have another discussion with His Majesty's Government and will inform the House of the result of that discussion. We will communicate the result of the present discussion to the Secretary of State. We will enter upon negotiations on the lines that have been mentioned. Discussions will be carried on wtih His Majesty's Government in order to see whether a solution of such a difficult problem can be arrived at. The discussions that will take place will be communicated to the House. It is not possible for us to do anything more. That is all I have to say.

INDIAN TEA EXPORT ALLOTMENT FOR 1945-46

By a notification published in the *Gazette of India* dated March 24, 1945, the Government of India have declared the Indian tea export allotment for 1945-46, under the Indian Tea Control Act, at 375,578,058 lbs. This approximately corresponds with the quantity at present programmed for export during that year. This allotment represents 98 per cent of India's standard export figure, as against 125 per cent. permitted by the International Tea Committee.

In the event of any alteration in the quantity of tea permitted to be exported out of India at a later date, in the light of the actual production of tea, the question of necessary alteration in the Indian export allotment will be considered.

SIR MAHOMED USMAN ON WORKING OF THE DEFENCE OF INDIA ACT

IN the Council of State on March 14 speaking on Haji Syed Mahomed Husain's Resolution seeking the appointment of a committee to review the working of the Defence of India Act, the Hon'ble Sir Mahomed Usman, Member for Posts and Air Department, Government of India, said:

It is now the sixth year of the war when all officers of all ranks and status have been working at a great strain and to impose upon them greater burdens at this stage might have unfortunate consequences affecting the efficiency of the executive machinery of the Government. If a committee of the kind contemplated is appointed it would probably be necessary for every Department of the Government, both at the Centre and in the Provinces, each to depute an officer to collect the relevant material and place it before the committee and gather such further information as they would need, to come to well-considered conclusions.

Although the Resolution suggests an examination of the Rules made under the Defence of India Act and various Ordinances issued from time to time during the war, the committee would have to be apprised of how the rules are actually worked in practice and to study voluminous orders made under them. For example Rule 81 of the Defence of India Rules confers wide powers to make orders controlling the use and disposal of materials in short supply, and also provides for control of trade and industry in all its ramifications and no examination of Rule 81 would be complete without examination at least of some of the control orders promulgated under the same and action taken in typical cases.

Officers are now familiar with the powers they possess and now, when it is a case of ensuring the maximum effort to win the war in the shortest possible time, any diversion of time or energy on abstract examination of rules, may not only dislocate or slow down the war effort, but what is more dangerous, if far-reaching changes are now introduced, they are likely to prove bewildering to the people who have to administer them and prove disastrous in their consequences.

Government are always willing to re-examine Ordinances and Rules in the light of experience. Any representations made by individuals, associations or any organised body of persons, are always given the utmost possible consideration, in order to lighten, so far as may be, any burden that has been placed on any one; it is also open to this House to raise any specific issues and the Government are always willing to give the most careful consideration to their suggestions. But investigation on complaints and consideration of suggestions with reference to specific cases is not the same as a general examination and scrutiny of the whole field.



Sir Mahomed Usman.

The Legislature has clothed the executive Government with powers to make rules under the Defence of India Act to meet emergent conditions arising out of the war and any examination of the kind now contemplated by a committee might mean, defeating the very object of the Legislature in conferring the said powers on the Government.

Lengthy Procedure

A point which should not be overlooked at this stage is that inquiry by a committee is such a lengthy procedure that before it has finished its deliberations and made its report and the Government considered the suggestions, the war may well be over and the Act and Rules may lapse. The best thing for the Hon'ble Member to do would be to let Government have in writing his criticism of the working of the Act and Government would examine each suggestion most carefully and sympathetically.



Sir Hugh Raper (right), retiring member of the Railway Board, and his successor, Mr. S. E. L. West.

Mr. S. E. L. West, New Member of Railway Board

Sir Hugh Raper, Member (Transportation) of the Railway Board, has retired and has been succeeded by Mr. S. E. L. West.

Sir Hugh Raper relinquishes his appointment after six of the most exacting years that Indian Railways have had to face. The outbreak of war entailed not only greatly increased demands but unusual demands on the Railways. The "slack" season disappeared; the entire agricultural and the rapidly mounting industrial output, as well as the development of the war effort, became dependent on rail transport; and it fell to the Transportation Member to initiate completely new policies. Forward planning was often upset by the changing fortunes of the war, resulting in a complete reversal in the trend of traffic. Thus, the entire transportation machinery geared for movement in the western and northern direction to stop Rommel had to be switched over eastwards on Japan's entry into the war. Unusually heavy floods, earthquakes and cyclones almost brought the transport systems to a standstill.

The way in which these problems were tackled is a tribute to Sir Hugh Raper and to Indian railwaymen.

Mentioned in Despatches

Mr. S. E. L. West, the new Member, who has been Director (Traffic) of the Railway Board since 1938, saw service in the last war and was awarded the O.B.E. (Military) and was mentioned three times in despatches. He was later lent to the Colonial Office to put the newly acquired Tanganyika Railways on a civil footing. After his return to India he was for a year Principal of the Railway Staff College at Dehra Dun and later held several high appointments on the North Western Railway, being Chief Commercial Manager when he joined the Railway Board.

MR. J. VESUGAR

Appointed Head of India Supply Mission in U.S.A.

The Government of India have decided, in view of the stage which the work of the India Supply Mission has now reached and in view of the additional powers recently vested in the Agent General of general supervision over the activities of all Missions and organisations accredited to the United States by the Government of India, that permanent officials of the Government of India should be appointed to such Missions and organisations.

Mr. K. C. Mahindra, a businessman who was till recently Head of the Mission, has therefore relinquished his charge and the Government of India have decided to appoint Mr. J. Vesugar of the Indian Service of Engineers as Head of the India Supply Mission in U.S.A. in succession to Mr. Mahindra. Mr. Vesugar was till recently Chief Engineer in the Punjab and is now Industrial Adviser to the Planning and Development Department of the Government of India. Mr. Vesugar will shortly be proceeding to the U.S.A. to take up his appointment.

Meanwhile the Indian Trade Commissioner in New York, Mr. S. K. Kirpalani, has temporarily taken charge of the post of Head of the India Supply Mission.

MR. H. F. SIMPSON

The Indian Railway Conference Association has appointed Mr. H. F. Simpson to succeed Mr. S. G. Pick as General Secretary of the Association. Mr. Simpson was educated at Tonbridge School and, in 1919 joined the former S.E. and C.R., as a Probationer gaining varied experience in all branches of the Traffic Department.

After a period on the relief staff of the London (East) Division and in the Eastern Divisional Operating Superintendent's Office, then at Dover, he was appointed an Assistant Traffic Superintendent on the Bengal Nagpur Railway.

In 1940, he was appointed to the Government of India Railway Department (Railway Board), as Deputy Director in the Traffic Branch, and subsequently, as an Officer on Special Duty in connection with the Railway Exhibition. In January, 1945, he was appointed to his present post.

PLANT FOR FERTILISER FACTORY

Reports have appeared in the Press that the I.C.I. purchased before the War a plant of German make having a capacity to manufacture 350,000 tons of sulphate of ammonia, which was erected in Manchester but was found unsatisfactory and is now lying idle, and that the recommendations of the Technical Mission appointed to advise on the production of artificial fertilisers in India are designed to "dump" that plant on this country.

The Government of India wish to make it clear that these reports are pure fabrications. The I.C.I. owns no such plant. In fact there is no synthetic ammonia and sulphate plant in the Manchester area. The one or two small plants which the I.C.I. owns, besides its major plant at Billingham, are not of German make and the Company have no intention of disposing of them.

MARKETING OF CASHEW NUTS

India supplies about 95 per cent of the world demand for cashew kernels and the total export in 1941 was nearly 20,000 tons. The demand is steadily increasing. India is also the sole supplier of cashew shell oil which finds use in several important industries.

The cashew tree was introduced in India about 400 years back mainly for checking soil erosion on coastal lands and until recently it was grown mainly for fuel purposes. The cultivation of cashews on a plantation basis was taken up only during the last 15 years with the development of export trade.

A survey has now been made by the Agricultural Marketing Department of the Government of India who in their report recommended that production of cashew nuts should be encouraged. Cashews, it is pointed out, can be grown under suitable conditions on waste lands and on poor soils unsuitable for taking other crops. Further, production can be considerably increased without effecting the production of any other crop and the cashew tree can be made a lucrative source of subsidiary income to the cultivator.

The report recommends the marketing of cashew nuts on co-operative basis; improvement in roasting, grading and packing; and popularising consumption of cashew kernels.

EMPLOYMENT OF INDIAN LABOURERS IN NATAL

Out of 42,528 adult male Indians in Natal Province, approximately 26,000 are listed as employed and a number of others are stated to be farming on their own account or carrying on other trades, according to the Annual Report of the Protector of Indian Immigrants, Natal, for the year 1943.

The incidence of unemployment during the year under review showed a slight improvement over the previous year when out of 41,616 Indian Immigrants about 25,000 were listed as employed. The majority of these employed were working in the sugar industry. The total number of Indians employed and residing on coal mines and allied industries was only 1,901, including 368 women and 1,037 children.

Indian Population

The total Indian population in Natal in 1943 was 210,107 as compared with 203,050 in the previous year. No Indians returned to India during the year under review.

The total number of children attending Government and Government-aided schools during the year under review was 30,878 out of the total children population of 134,951 in the Colony. There were many Indian children who were receiving no education owing to there being no room for them in the schools.

The health of the Indian population, according to the Report was good during the year. The death rate, however, increased from 12.19 in 1942 to 16.71. No complaints were received regarding treatment of Indian labour on the Estates but the Report observes that the housing accommodation on many Estates was still very poor.

AIR TRANSPORT OPERATIONS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 445)

war fronts. The Indian operators have not been an exception and they are expected to take an increasing share as aircraft become available. There can be no doubt that the experience gained in the operation of wartime air services will stand them in good stead for the resumption of their peacetime activities, when they will be able to offer to the public facilities for fast and comfortable air travel which, after the war, will be a paramount requirement for a country as large as India.

Declaration for Electoral Registration

Persons who are employed on a temporary or duration of war basis in non-Government organisations engaged in work of national importance connected with the war, and who are on the National Register in the United Kingdom and are otherwise qualified to vote, are eligible to make the requisite declaration for electoral registration as war workers abroad under the Registration (Service Register) Regulations, 1944, said a Press Note issued by the Defence Department, Government of India, on February 2.

It added: As the qualifying date for registration in the United Kingdom is March 15, 1945, persons who desire to register, that is, persons brought out from the United Kingdom to serve in non-Government organizations engaged on war work in India, are advised to communicate immediately with the Secretary, Defence Department, Manpower Section, Government of India, New Delhi, stating briefly the grounds on which they believe themselves to be eligible for registration, and in particular their National Registration Identity Number and nature of work in which they are engaged.

Government servants desiring to register can obtain information through their Departments.

These arrangements will not apply to persons serving in the Armed Forces or Merchant Seamen.

VALIDITY OF IDENTITY CERTIFICATES EXTENDED

The Government of the Union of South Africa have agreed to extend the periods of validity of identity certificates issued to Indians who left the Union after May 1, 1942, and who have not been able to return to the Union for want of shipping accommodation, said a Press Note issued by the Commonwealth Relations Department, Government of India, on March 5.

It added: Holders of these certificates should apply to the Government of India in the Commonwealth Relations Department through the Provincial Government of the Province in which they are resident for grant of the necessary extensions before the expiry of the period of validity of their certificates, with documentary proof showing that they booked passages with Shipping Agents in India who failed to provide necessary passages.

JAP DEBACLE AT MEIKTILA

MORE than 1,200 Japs were wiped out when 14th Army troops swept into Meiktila, 80 miles south of Mandalay, after a lightning thrust across the Irrawaddy. The march on this important Jap communication centre has been the most outstanding operation in Burma since the Wingate Expedition, writes Capt. M. K. Unni Nayar, Indian Army Observer.

The advance began when our mechanised columns crossed to the east bank of the Irrawaddy at Pakokku, approximately 80 miles south-west of Mandalay. The force, which was entirely motorised, relied on the stores it carried, augmented by supplies which came from the sky. In massiveness of fire-power and speed of advance this operation has far surpassed anything the 14th Army has done before.

Setting off on February 20, the Meiktila column travelled 82 miles in eight days. The major part of the force was Indian. Many of the tanks and armoured cars were manned by Indians though the artillery was mostly British.

Throughout the hours of daylight fighter-bombers and fighters flew over the column and struck at any point where the ground forces met with opposition. On the last lap the column captured an airfield which had been rendered useless to the Japs by our bombing of some weeks before. Indian Engineers and bulldozers were soon at work and in a few hours Dakotas were landing in a steady stream, bringing fresh Indian Infantry.

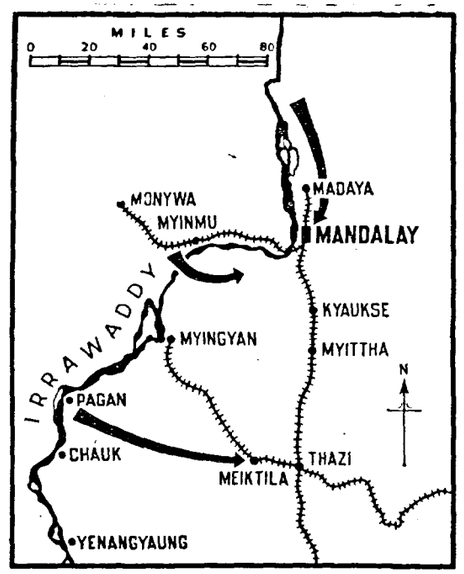
The Fighting

The fiercest fighting, writes Capt. Unni Nayar describing the operations, took place in the village of Oyin, four miles from Negathayauk, where tanks and Rajput infantrymen spent hours silencing Jap sharp-shooters. At Negathayauk the column spread itself into two, one part going south-east to Sektein and Walaung and the other north-east to Kamye and Taungtha, from where a road runs beside the railway all the way to Meiktila.

Heavy sniping was the first Jap reaction to the thrust, and along the road our progress was slowed down by mines.

Our troops were next reported on February 24 near Taungtha. Here, 24 hours later, the forces met and the two jaws of the vice crushed all enemy forces in between.

From Taungtha it was a straight run to Mahlaing (18 miles further to the south-east) which was captured two days after. Here there was little opposition.



Leading troops of the 14th Army then came up against a road block manned by about 300 Japs wired in and supported by artillery, machine-guns and mortars. The position was outflanked to the east following an Allied air-strike and tanks came in to the attack from the north and west. The Jap survivors retreated.

When 14th Army troops captured Thatbutkon, six miles south-east of Mahlaing, the first of the Meiktila satellite airstrips fell into our hands. The airstrip had been prepared by the Japs for demolition but mines were not actually laid, giving an indication of the surprise with which this new drive had been achieved.

On February 28, our armour and infantry encircled Meiktila. The town was defended fanatically by the enemy who took refuge in deep bunkers until our tanks had gone past and then leapt out and attacked the following infantry.

Meiktila was finally liberated on March 3 after the eight airfields in the area had been cleared by mechanised columns. As our troops approached the town they heard the sound of terrific explosions. The enemy were blowing up petrol and ammunition dumps.

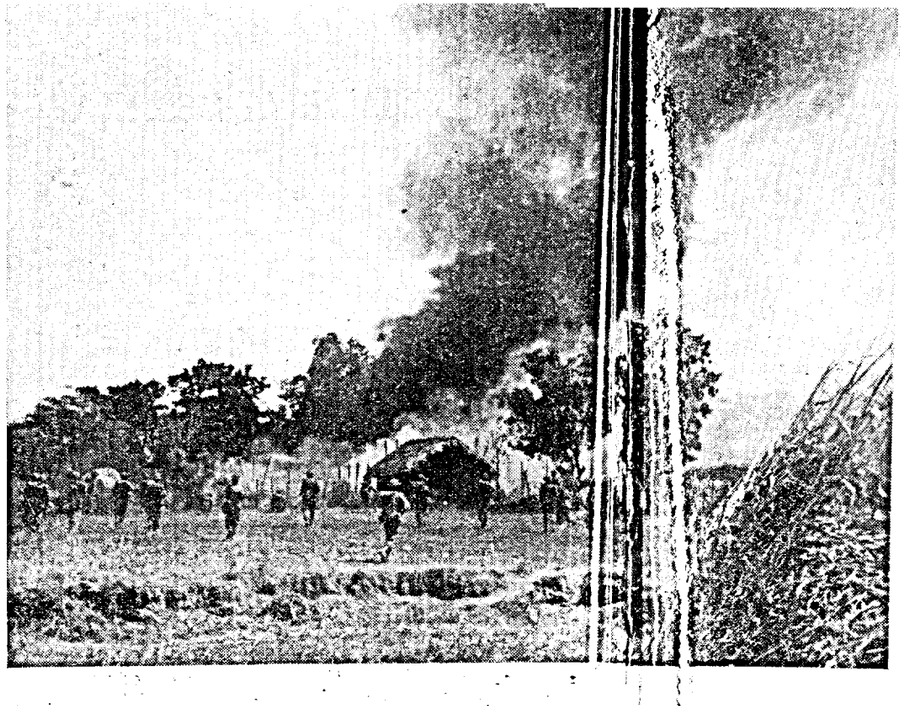
Huge amounts of food, ammunition, weapons and stores of every description have been captured. Sufficient food to last a division ten days fell into our hands at one swoop.

INTO THE HEART OF BURMA

Troops of the South-East Asia Command mounting their carefully coordinated offensive operations in Burma have taken the Japanese by storm and have penetrated into vital areas. Meiktila, Lashio, Mandalay and Sagaing are among their latest victories and they are now striking at the heart of Burma.

Meiktila, a hub of communications in Central Burma, 80 miles south of Mandalay, was captured by 14th Army troops in a lightning thrust 85 miles east of the Irrawaddy bridgehead at Pagan.

These pictures, among the first to arrive from the Meiktila front, show Indian troops in action.





Gurkha Rifles move forward on Meiktila.



(Above) Indian troops charge burning remnants of Seywa during the drive on Meiktila. (Below, left) Men of an Indian Regiment moving through burning Seywa. (Right) A Sikh Sapper directs search for snipers. In the background, Meiktila burns.





Watch for Jap snipers as Sappers fill crater in road to Meiktila. (Below) Indian troops hold railway near Meiktila.



20TH INDIAN DIVISION ON MANDALAY FRONT

ANOTHER famous Indian formation, it is now revealed, is fighting on the Mandalay Front. It is the 20th Indian Division, commanded by Major-Gen. Douglas Gracey. The Division is part of the 33rd Indian Corps under Lt.-Gen. Sir Montague Stopford.

Indian and British troops of the 20th Indian Division are firmly holding the Irrawaddy bridgehead at Myinmu. British troops established the first foothold on the south bank of the Irrawaddy on February 13.

Jap resistance was light at the outset but later increased in tempo. Constant air support was given to our troops and extension and consolidation of the bridgehead continued in the face of enemy counter-attacks and artillery fire.

Earlier, the 20th Indian Division after capturing Budalin, largest town on the outskirts of the Shwebo plain, had pushed on south towards Monywa. Then the Division squeezed the Japs out of the confluence formed by the Chindwin and Irrawaddy rivers and reached the north bank of the Irrawaddy.

Their march had begun over the west bank of the Upper Chindwin at the 14th Army's first bridgehead over that river, continued across north-west Burma and on to the central plains on the road to Mandalay.

Accurate Fire

In six weeks the troops had marched 250 miles cutting tracks through virgin jungle. Working night and day to keep pace with the flow of men and materials across the river, men of the Bombay Sappers and Miners built rafts and fitted outboard motors to Burmese country craft to ferry troops and supplies, mules and artillery.

Fighting at Budalin was as heavy as any in which the Division had been engaged. The

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 459)

MAJ.-GEN. DOUGLAS GRACEY

Commanding the 20th Indian Division is Major-General Douglas Gracey, O.B.E., M.C., who raised the Division in April, 1942.

He has served with Indian troops for the greater part of his career. In 1915, he joined a Gurkha regiment and served with the 1|1 Gurkha Rifles in Iraq, Palestine and Syria. He was awarded the M.C. and Bar and was slightly wounded. From 1921 to 1923 he served on the North-West Frontier.

Passing out of the Staff College at Quetta, he carried out various staff duties in the U.K. and regimental appointments with the 2|1 and 2|3 Gurkha Rifles. In 1941-42, he commanded the 17th Indian Infantry Brigade in the Iraq and Syrian campaigns and was awarded an O.B.E. and was mentioned in despatches. His present appointment followed.

A man of great personal charm, Maj.-Gen. Gracey possesses the complete confidence of all ranks under his command. It is characteristic of him that he should say on one occasion, "It is not difficult to be spectacular in battle if you are willing to throw away thousands of lives."

Once on a jungle exercise he found some of his troops had failed to carry out his strictest injunction, that of "digging in". He was very angry and told them, "You are precious to me." They knew what he meant and they dug in.



CHAMAR BATTALION IN ACTION AGAINST JAPS

Part in Defence of Kohima

FIGHTING in the Chamar Regiment—one of the youngest infantry regiments of the Indian Army — the Scheduled-class Chamars have been in action in Burma since September, 1943.

Although mostly engaged in patrol activities and guarding lines of communication, the Chamars have had many brushes with the Japs and have inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy each time.

First recruited in June, 1942, the Chamars formed the 27th Battalion of the 2nd Punjab Regiment. The non-commissioned and Viceroy's commissioned officers of the Battalion were then mostly Punjabis but they are now being replaced by Chamars promoted from the ranks.

Part of Kohima Defence Force

In March, 1943, the unit became the 1st Battalion, The Chamar Regiment, and in the following September it went to Assam, where it was given the task of guarding 400 miles of our communications.

Forming part of the mobile column of the Kohima defence force the Battalion came to this now famous village in March, 1944, where it was detailed to patrol the difficult Naga country—a task in which the men soon proved their skill and resource.

With the Jap threat becoming acute, Chamar patrols began probing the country lying south of the Imphal-Kohima road, hunting out the enemy from his hideouts and camouflaged positions.

Arduous March

They went deep into the jungles in two's and three's staying there for days on end. They thus gained a thorough and practical knowledge of the jungle and learnt the endless tricks and wiles of jungle warfare.

A little later the Chamars helped to cover the withdrawal of British troops to Ukhrul along the Jessami track. The Chamar Regiment then joined a brigade in Imphal which took to the Sittaung track.

From Sittaung one company crossed the Chindwin and operated on the east bank. It was their first experience of real action, the men and officers distinguishing themselves on many occasions.

The whole Battalion then crossed the Chindwin and made a difficult march for several days during which they lived on half rations. Their task accomplished, they undertook another arduous march, covering more than 130 miles of difficult country in eight days—an achievement of which any infantry Battalion may well be proud.

THE 20TH INDIAN DIVISION

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 458)

approach was over open country covered by well-sited machine-gun posts. The Japs used pagodas and shrines as hideouts for snipers and ground was only yielded yard by yard. It was afterwards reported that only 15 Japs escaped from the town. Considerable assistance in the assault came from mountain guns which poured in very accurate fire.

At Monywa, the Japs received the heaviest concentration of bombing they have experienced on this Front when Thunderbolts, Hurricanes and Hurribombers attacked the town. Resistance stiffened but finally under continuous pressure the enemy withdrew across the Chindwin.

Bitter Fighting

By January 22 Monywa was in our hands. Apart from the Japs wiped out in aerial attacks and by artillery fire at least 70 were killed during the final phase.

By February 1, the 20th Indian Division troops had reached the north bank of the Irrawaddy at several points, despite enemy shelling. A few days later the delta between the Irrawaddy and the Chindwin was the scene of bitter fighting.

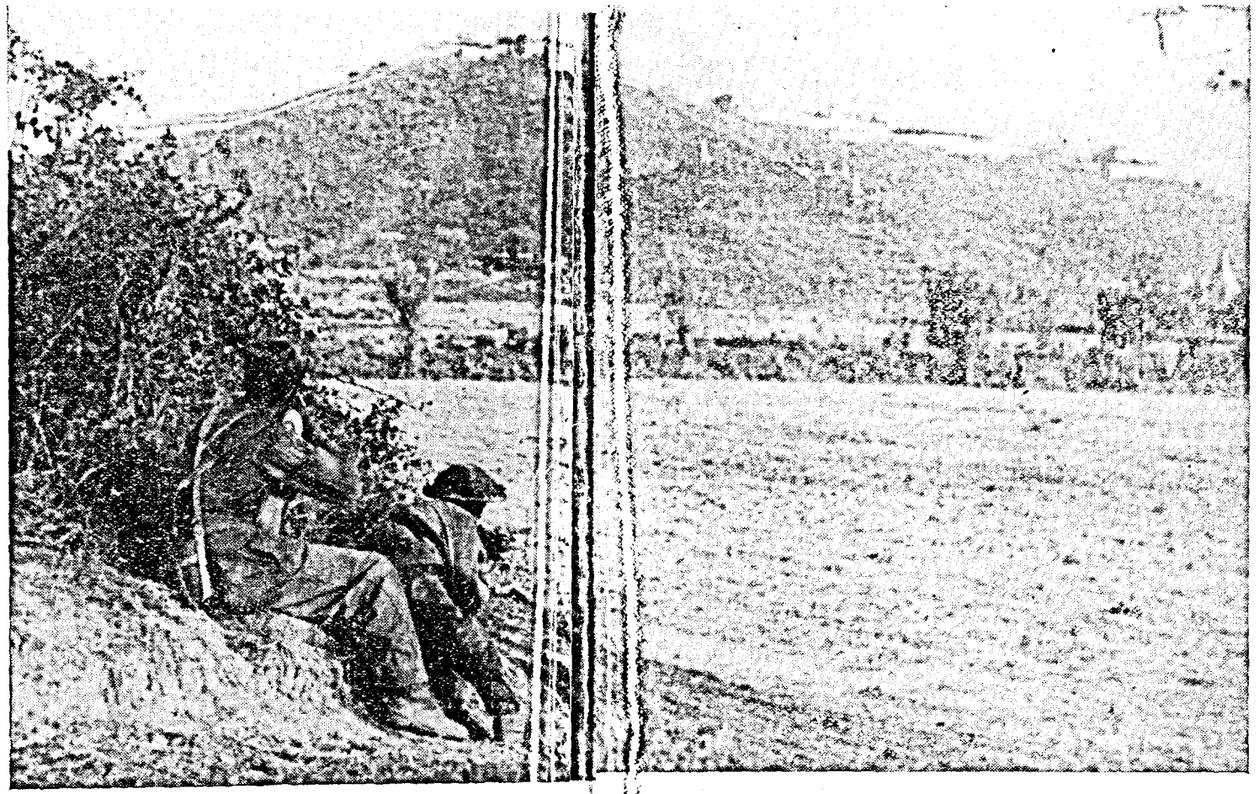
The enemy were then driven from Thaunggyi, a stronghold on the north-western bank of the Irrawaddy, after a daylight attack. Thunderbolts and Hurribombers again struck heavily and tanks of the Indian Armoured Corps went into action with the infantry.

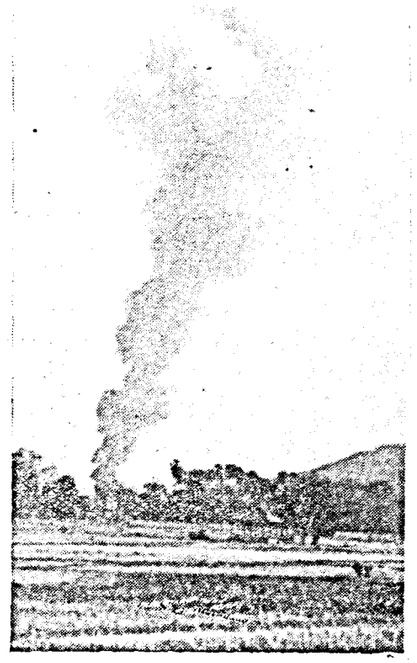
The stretch of river bank from Myinmu to the point where the Irrawaddy turns south was now clear.

FALL OF MANDALAY

Driving from the north, troops of the 19th Indian ("Dagger") Division, commanded by Major-General T. W. Rees, smashed into the outskirts of Mandalay, the chief Jap bastion in Central Burma. Enemy efforts to hold the town were crushed as the troops struck forward to the walls of Fort Dufferin, the last enemy stronghold in Mandalay.

These pictures show (right) Mandalay Hill, key to the town and scene of heavy fighting. (Below) The 'Dagger' Division's stocky and indomitable leader, Maj.-Gen. Rees, giving cigarettes to Gurkha troops going in to final attack.





Smoke rises from vehicles hit by Jap shell fire at the foot of Mandalay Hill. (Below) Maj.-Gen. Rees (standing near the wireless mast) watches the result of tank fire at enemy anti-tank gun at the base of Mandalay Hill.





ARMY BRINGS MINOR TRADE BOOM IN BURMA VILLAGE

AS life flows back into northern Burma the Army is bringing with it the breath of prosperity for the liberated villages.

Local purchase sections of the R.I.A.S.C. have made contracts worth thousands of rupees with the Burmese villages for stores and produce for the Army. Many remote communities are now enjoying a minor boom as a result.

In a Burmese hamlet which not long ago was in Jap hands—some of its houses are still in ruins and its fields are pockmarked by Allied bomb craters—I found an R.I.A.S.C. section negotiating with the headman of the village for 300 tons of straw for mules, writes an Indian Army Observer.

They closed the deal at a generous figure.

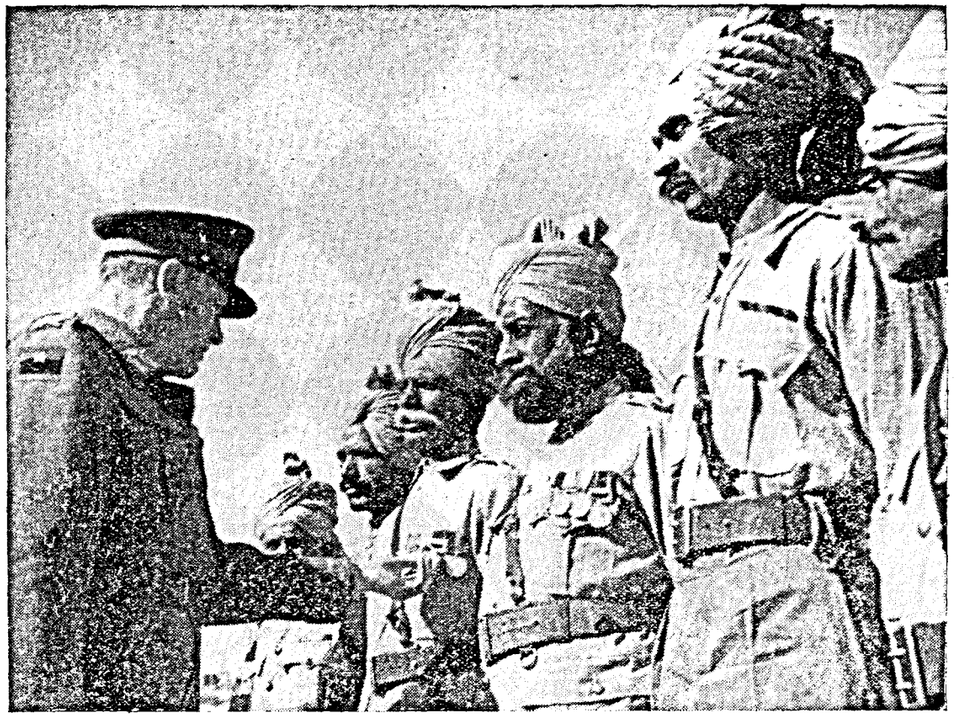
Perishable goods such as eggs, poultry, vegetables and fish are bought from the villagers in large quantities. For the army it means quick delivery to forward units of rations which would otherwise have to be brought by air; for the Burmese it means a new market in which prices are always fair and often generous.

This R.I.A.S.C unit is one of the most forward in Burma, moving only a short distance behind the fighting troops. The officer in charge, Capt. G. Rattenbury, of "Oakleigh", Horsmonden, Kent, was living in a typical "stilted" Burmese house which had been placed at his disposal by the village headman.

"The people are always glad to see us," he told me. "They come from miles around, by day and night, to bring their produce."



Lt. M. S. Daniels (Bombay) distributes food to villagers in Ru-Ywa in Burma.



Gen. Auchinleck inspecting retired Indian Army V.C.O.s of Pataudi State during his recent visit to the State.

Each local purchase section carries a strong box in which are hundreds of rupees in ready cash to pay the villagers on the spot.

Care is always taken to see that the purchase of local produce will not cause a shortage in the village.

In civil life Capt. Rattenbury was a private detective. He has been five years in the army and has been in India since 1942.

POSTAL SERVICE TO BULGARIA

Registration facilities are now available for correspondence for Bulgaria, said a Press Note issued by the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs on March 22.

C.-IN-C. VISITS PATAUDI

The Commander-in-Chief in India, General Sir Claude Auchinleck, recently paid a one-day visit to Pataudi State where His Highness the Nawab Sahib presented him with a sword and a purse of Rs. 10,000 in aid of military charities.

At a State durbar held in honour of the C.-in-C., His Highness referred to the popularity and respect which His Excellency commanded by reason of the profound interest he took in the welfare and training of Indian soldiers. The Nawab said that the fighting qualities and efficiency of India's sons were well known everywhere.

General Auchinleck announced that the purse would be spent in aiding families of Indian soldiers killed in the war.

At the durbar Khan Bahadur Sheikh Alam All, M.B.E., the Dewan, other high State officials and a number of retired V.C.O.s and men were presented to the C.-in-C.

DEWAS MAHARAJA VISITS MAHRATTAS IN ITALY

BEGINNING with a conference near the front with General Mark Clark, commanding the 15th Army Group in Italy, the Maharaja of Dewas (Senior) who served with the Eighth Army and went through General Auchinleck's advance to Benghazi in 1941-42, recently concluded a visit to Mahratta units on the Fifth and Eighth Armies' fronts.

His Highness visited Mahratta anti-tank men and saw a splendid "march-past" of half-tracked vehicles and 17-pounders. He addressed the men in Mahratti, exhorting them to maintain the warlike tradition handed down by Shivaji, and added that he would tell the people of India all he had heard about the Mahrattas' good work on the Italian Front.

The end of his speech was marked by cries and shouts of "Shivaji Maharaj ki Jai" from the several hundred troops who had been mustered.

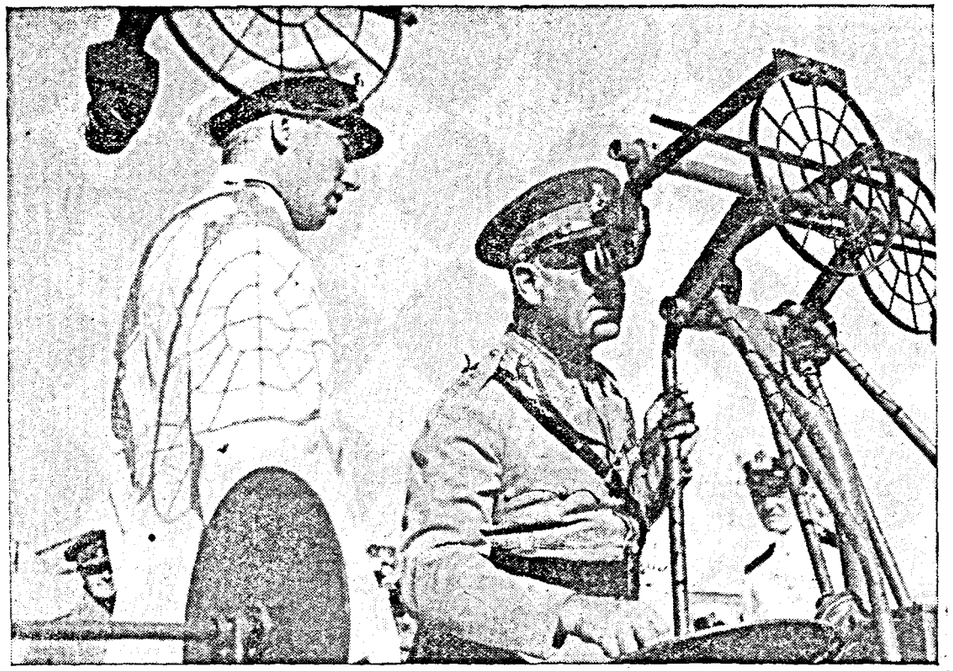
In a crowded programme the Maharaja of Dewas (Senior) showed considerable interest in mortar demonstrations and new types of guns, and also chatted with veteran campaigners about the early North African desert days.

The reception he received from one Mahratta unit surpassed all previous princely welcomes in Italy. A monster parade assembled, drawing an equally large crowd of Italian civilians from the neighbouring villages to greet the Maharaja. After the ceremonies traditional Mahratta gymnastic displays and folk dances called "Malkhambe Lezim" were enthusiastically executed and drew great applause.

After expressing pleasure and satisfaction at meeting these Mahrattas, His Highness visited the regimental *Mandir* where he did *pooja*.



Arriving in Italy from the Big Three Conference at Yalta, Gen. Marshall inspected a parade of Allied troops. Here, Gen. Marshall (right) and Gen. Mark Clark, C.-in-C., 15th Army Group, inspect men of an Indian Division.



H. E. the Viceroy looking through a Sight Trainer at the High Angle School which forms part of H.M.I.S. "Himalaya", R.I.N.'s Gunnery School, Karachi. His Excellency visited the "Himalaya" during his inspection of R.I.N. Training Establishments at Karachi.

INDIA'S NAVY—TODAY AND TOMORROW

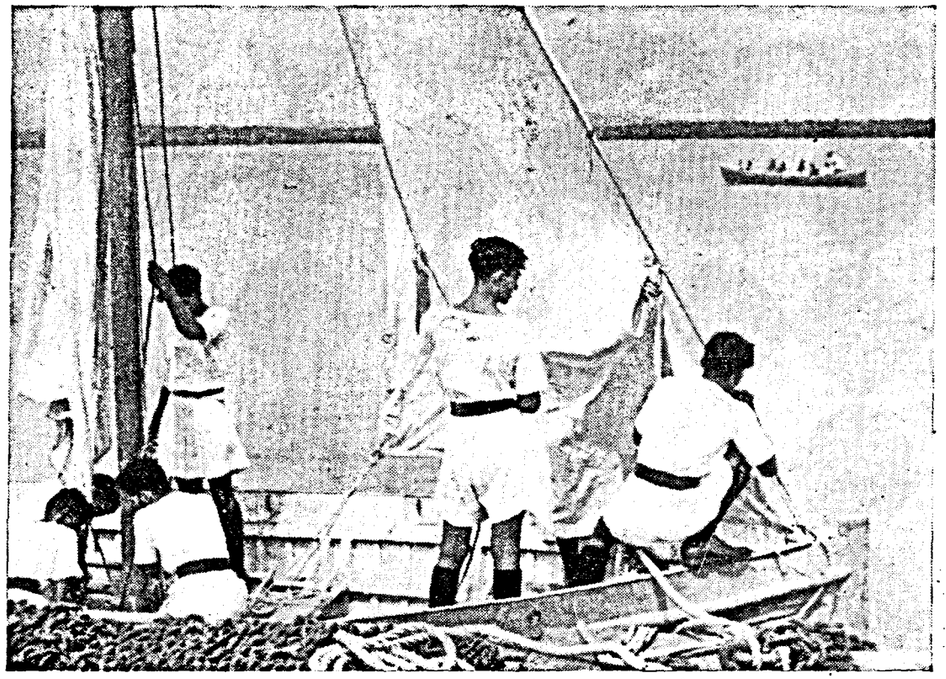
A strong plea for the formation of a Navy League in India and a review of the lines along which India's Navy should develop were features of an address by Vice-Admiral J. H. Godfrey, Flag Officer Commanding the Royal Indian Navy, to the Central Legislature on March 12.

H.M.I. ships' function in the recent Arakan operations, he said, was to assist the Army to assert mastery of the mainland. This they had done to the entire satisfaction of the Army, landing troops and supplies among the tricky network of *chaungs* and inland waterways, maintaining a Naval blockade of these waterways by motor launch patrols, and acting as artillery support by bombarding Japanese shore positions.

"When a country is threatened it is not enough to wait on your land and sea frontiers for the enemy to attack you," continued Admiral Godfrey. "You have got to go for him and push him back so that his air bases are made untenable, his men-of-war have nowhere to go to refuel, repair and rest, and his transports and supply ships are unable to reinforce the more advanced parts of his armies. This is what is happening in the Western Pacific and is beginning to happen in the Bay of Bengal.

Landing Craft Wing

"In this form of warfare the Royal Indian Navy has been taking a prominent part, and the type of ships that India possesses are ideally suited for this sort of work, and have proved a great asset to the South East Asia Command. The R.I.N. Landing Craft Wing has done splendid work. Collaborating with it have been the motor launches of the R.I.N. and some of our modern sloops." The Admiral added that two of these sloops were now commanded by Indian officers.



The 15th R.I.N. shore training establishment to be opened since the outbreak of war in 1939, H.M.I.S. "Akbar," at Bombay, provides preliminary training for all new entrants to the Service. Here, Ratings under training learn to handle a seaboat's sails.

After observing that the R.I.N. was now equipped with a brand new set of training establishments, most of them located at Bombay and Karachi, Admiral Godfrey said that when Singapore fell, a great weight of responsibility fell on India's wireless stations, which provided the sole link with our fleets working farther East and were manned predominantly by men from the South of India, particularly Madras and Travancore.

While the Punjab, Bombay, Madras and Travancore provided the major part of the Navy's personnel, there was no part of India which was not represented in the Indian Navy, and recruiting was on an all-India basis.

Every man in the Navy was in a sense a technician and had to understand complicated machinery. Therefore education was essential, and our only danger was that we might sacrifice quality for quantity. The Navy had many attractions to offer, the work being interesting and attention being paid to the men's welfare. The Indian sailor, properly lodged, clothed and fed, could do as well as and better than the British sailor in the particular conditions pertaining to the Tropics.

"It is sometimes thought," proceeded the Admiral, "that a Navy can only be useful if it is large, but this war has successfully dispelled all such ideas. A small Navy, if of good quality, can be of great value when allied and working in collaboration with a larger Navy with great resources at its back.

Expansion of India's Naval Forces

"I hope what I have said will convince you that the pattern of the Royal Navy must be closely followed and developed in India's Navy, for India can never afford to adopt a second-rate regime. 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 today India's Navy is still in the growing stage. Looking to the future and basing development on the experience gained in Dominion Navies, we must make sure that each step we take is well thought out and adapted to the conditions of Indian life. In a ship and in a Navy strength can only be achieved by unity, and the particular application of this in our Service is unity between many races, castes and creeds who have to live on board, whilst at the same time giving each one liberty of thought and custom commensurate with Naval efficiency and morale." Admiral Godfrey added that in bringing about such understanding, the R.I.N. was doing a great service to the country.

Interest in Naval Matters

Concluding, the Admiral said that wherever he went in India he found an intense interest in Naval matters. The post-war Government of India, whatever its complexion, could have a good, strong Navy if it wanted one. If Indian parents were prepared to send their best sons into the Navy, it would be a good Navy. A country, in fact, got the Navy it deserved. It was necessary in India to build up a public

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 468)



Promotion from the lower deck has been won by these men serving in R.I.N. A.C. P. O. Wrin shows them round the War Information Room of the Officers' Training Establishment. They are (L. to R.) Sub.-Lt. P. C. Andrews, R.I.N.V.R., of Alleppey, Travancore (formerly Yeoman of Signals); Sub.-Lt. Samuel Matthews, R.I.N.V.R., of Mavelikara, Travancore (formerly Leading Telegraphist); Sub.-Lt. Abdul Wali, R.I.N.V.R., of Peshawar (formerly P.O. Tel.); Sub.-Lt. A. Shoyeb, RI.N.V.R., of Calcutta (formerly Yeoman of Signals); Sub.-Lt. Amir Aslam, R.I.N.V.R., of Gujarkhan, Punjab (formerly C.P. O. Tel.) and Sub.-Lt. R. B. Fanderlinden, R.I.N.V.R., of Bangalore (formerly P.O. Tel.).

RATINGS YESTERDAY— OFFICERS TODAY

FROM Bengal, the Punjab, the North-West Frontier Province, Bangalore and Travancore State come six ratings commissioned under the new scheme of promotion from the lower deck in the Royal Indian Navy.

Now holding the rank of Sub-Lieutenant, R.I.N.V.R., are Chief Petty Officer Telegraphist Amir Aslam of Gujarkhan, Punjab; Petty Officer Telegraphist Abdul Wali of Peshawar District; Yeoman of Signals Abu Shoyeb of Calcutta; Petty Officer Telegraphist R. B. Fanderlinden of Bangalore; Yeoman of Signals P. C. Andrews of Alleppey, Travancore; and Leading Telegraphist Samuel Matthews of Mavelikara, Travancore.

All belong to the Communications Branch of the Navy. Sub-Lieutenants Abdul Wali and Amir Aslam served in H.M.I. ships during the invasion of Sicily. Sub.-Lieutenants P. C. Andrews, Abu Shoyeb and Samuel Matthews took part in the Battle of the Atlantic, having been sent to the United Kingdom to man warships constructed for India.

ADMIRAL SEES SAILORS' TRAINING IN RAJPUTANA

Temporary home of Science students from colleges all over India while they learn to be skilled artificers of the R.I.N., the Civnaval Centre at Pilani, Jaipur State, was recently inspected by Vice-Admiral J. H. Godfrey, Flag Officer Commanding the Royal Indian Navy.

The buildings and some of the machinery have been lent for the duration of the war by Mr. G. D. Birla, at whose invitation the Admiral also visited the Birla Dairy, the Birla College and Montessori School, and the Canal Kothi.

Among those who met him on his arrival were the Principal, Honorary Lieut.-Commander S. D. Pande, R.I.N.V.R., and Lieut.-Commander (E) B. N. Lele, R.I.N., Officer-in-Charge.

On completing his inspection, the Admiral congratulated officers, civilian 'nstructors and ratings on the efficiency of the Civnaval Centre, which gives preliminary instruction to the Navy's future artificers before they pass on to H.M.I.S. Shivaji, the R.I.N.'s new Mechanical Training Establishment at Lonavla, Bombay Presidency.

Later, Admiral Godfrey visited Loharu State where in company with the Nawab he saw a football match between a Loharu team and R.I.N. ratings from the Civnaval Centre. At a dinner given in his honour, the Admiral was presented by the Nawab with a cheque for Rs. 2,500 for the R.I.N. Benevolent Association.

LORD LOUIS MOUNTBATTEN PRAISES R.I.N. CREWS

In a message to General Sir Claude Auchinleck, Commander-in-Chief in India, Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten, Supreme Allied Commander, South East Asia, expresses high appreciation of the performance of the landing craft manned by the Royal Indian Navy in the opposed landing at Myebon, Arakan.

Admiral Mountbatten, who visited the beachhead soon after the first landing, says that he received a very favourable account—confirmed by the Naval and Military Force Commanders—of the excellent seamanship and courage of the R.I.N. crews.

He asks that this tribute be conveyed to the Flag Officer Commanding the Royal Indian Navy.

U-BOAT DESTROYED IN INDIAN OCEAN

D.S.C. For R.I.N. Officer

FOR their part in helping to "kill" a U-boat in the Indian Ocean, an officer of the Royal Indian Navy has been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, and another officer and two ratings of the R.I.N. have been mentioned in despatches. Several awards for the same action go to officers and men of the Royal Navy.

Commander A.B. Goord, R.I.N., who receives the D.S.C., was in command of a sloop of the Royal Indian Navy operating with H.M. ships. They contacted a submerged enemy submarine, and during a strenuous and persistent hunt, in which the Indian warship played a leading part, attacked the U-boat until they had definite evidence that she was destroyed.

The Awards

The awards to R.I.N. personnel are as follows:—

Distinguished Service Cross to Commander A. B. Goord, R.I.N.

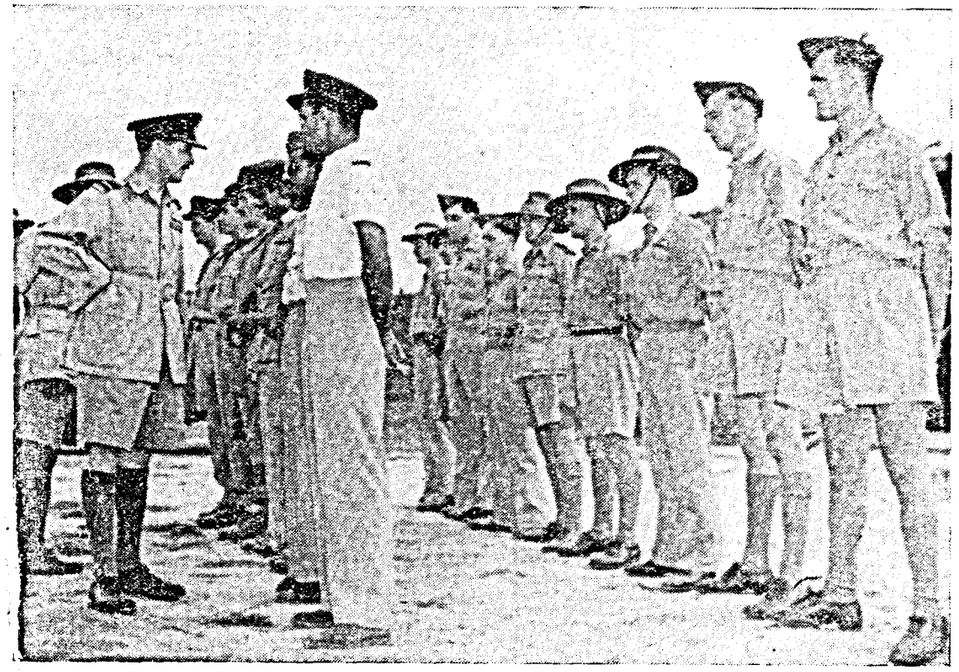
Lieut J. B. Akehurst, R.I.N., Mechanician II. Barkat Hussain and Leading Seaman Basharat Gill, (Mentioned in despatches).

INDIA'S NAVY

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 467)

opinion conscious of the sea which surrounded India and of the imports and exports which came by sea and needed protection. For instance, public men and private citizens could form an organisation like the Navy League in England which had been a potent factor in ensuring that the British Navy was of the right standard

The Navy League in the United Kingdom was a non-official, non-party organisation and any similar body which might be founded in India should be organised on similar lines. It was of importance that the League should not be identified with any narrow or sectional interests, nor be made the instrument of selfish industrial interests. It was for public-spirited men to come forward to found an Indian Navy League, and they could rely upon the help of the Admiral and members of the Service Such an organisation in India would be of great help to those in charge of the Navy and to the country.



Air Vice-Marshal Thomas inspecting the aircrew of an R.I.A.F. squadron in Burma.

"INDIAN AIR FORCE HAS PROVED ITSELF"

Air Chief's Tribute

"IT is fair to say that the small Indian Air Force has proved that it is thoroughly worthy of the trust placed in it", said the Air Officer Commanding, India Command, Air Vice-Marshal M. Thomas, in an address to the Central Legislature on March 9.

He added: "Although small in size, it has already become great. It has the spirit to become far greater, but it has first to surmount one big obstacle, that is, the reluctance of young Indians to help in manning the squadrons with first-class officers.

"We have spared no effort in attempts to overcome this serious obstacle to progress. Special recruiting parties have been working throughout the country for months past. The Indian Air Training Corps has been extended and expanded. Shortly every University in India will have an Indian Air Training Corps unit. A special flight has been formed to tour the country.

"Indian Air Force officers have been sent to their old Universities and schools to mingle and talk with the boys there. Free flights are being given to likely candidates, their parents, guardians and others. These are only a few of the efforts made to attract the youth of India to its Air Force."

Operational Achievements

Dealing with the operational achievements of the Indian Air Force, Air Vice-Marshal Thomas said: "Service on the Eastern Front is, as it should be, most popular, and all squadrons have now had an opportunity of serving there.

"Indian Air Force squadrons have helped in supporting the Army all the way in their advance



Pilots of the first R.I.A.F. Spitfire Squadron in Burma photographed with one of their Spitfires.

from the borders of India to the Irrawaddy and through the Arakan. An Indian Air Force squadron operated from Imphal throughout the siege and is now operating well forward in Central Burma.

"Indian Air Force squadrons have been engaged in supporting the recent advances in the Arakan. They took part in the invasion of Akyab and Ramree Island, and continue to give full support.

Dropping Urgent Supplies

"Their tasks include reconnaissance of large areas of most difficult and enclosed country. To do this, pilots must fly very close to the ground in order to see and recognise the carefully concealed enemy. Those who know anything about flying will appreciate how skilled pilots must be to fly at very high speed near the ground in hilly country and at the same time collect accurate information.

"Their tasks also include the laying of smoke screens, dropping urgent supplies, and attacking with bomb and cannon strongly defended enemy positions often in close proximity to our own land forces. This, you will readily appreciate, calls for expert map-reading and interpretation of air photographs of targets, and above all, bombing accuracy not only to ensure destruction of the targets but to make quite certain that no bomb or cannon-fire falls on our own troops.

"The aircrews have had the constant and able support of the ground crews and never fail to appreciate their efforts. While the aircraft have been working well ahead of our advancing forces the ground staffs have moved well forward to new bases not far behind them.

"These air operations are not of the spectacular kind. Accounts of them rarely appear in the newspapers. But of the Army's appreciation there is no doubt. The fine work of the Indian Air Force in support of our land forces has been acknowledged on several occasions. Numerous messages of thanks have been received for the help which the Indian Air Force has given in overcoming obstacles, and gratitude for extremely valuable reconnaissance work has also been expressed by gifts of captured Japanese trophies.

"A good measure of the reputation gained by the Indian Air Force is the recognition of its work. It has gained one D.S.O., eight D.F.C.s and a Bar, one A.F.C., five M.B.E.s, two B.E.M.s, and 26 Mentions in Despatches and Commendations.

"No matter how much we think and talk about the future of the Indian Air Force, one problem stands out from all the others. It is that of attracting the right man. No effort has been spared, nor will be spared, in attempting to attract the right man. The leading men in the Indian Air Force are engaged in the task. They are determined to succeed, and with your help they will succeed. If they get your help now, we can view the future with real confidence because the Indian Air Force has brilliant and valiant young men who are daily making history and have the interests of their Service and their country very much at heart."

R.I.A.F. DISPLAY AT DELHI

More than 150 college students, including a large number of girls, were given flights by the Royal Indian Air Force Display Flight at the Willingdon Airport, New Delhi, on March 11. This brings the total number of flights so far given by the Display Flight in the N.-W.F.P., Punjab and Delhi to over 1,460.

The Display Flight, run by eight officers of the R.I.A.F. who have been on operations on the Burma Front for over a year, has been touring Northern India to emphasise the development of India's youngest service.

Keen Interest in Aviation

Students have been showing a keen interest in aviation at all the places visited by the Display Flight. At Lahore a student from one of the local colleges and a member of the W.V.S., both volunteered for the aerobatics, which they much enjoyed.

Thoroughly appreciating their first ride, some of the college students seriously considered the possibilities of flying as a career. Some have applied for commissions in the R.I.A.F.

The Display Flight's programme during their stay in Delhi included some brilliant air displays which a large gathering watched on March 12 at the Airport.

ROYAL INDIAN AIR FORCE

HIS MAJESTY the King has been graciously pleased to approve that in future the designation of "Royal" shall be prefixed to the Indian Air Force, which will henceforth be designated, "The Royal Indian Air Force."

This signal honour is welcome recognition of the fine work done by a band of valiant young men of India during the short history of their service.

The development of the Royal Indian Air Force during the last 12 years, since its formation in 1933, from a few pioneers, to the present sizeable force, and its contribution to the allied air effort during the present war, is a story of achievement and romance.

Triumphant Advance

During the last 16 months squadrons of the Royal Indian Air Force have operated continuously on the Burma Front, and the work done by them has received full meed of praise and recognition. Their particular duties include the attack of enemy troops and supply dumps and lines of communications, tactical and photographic reconnaissance, fighter and escort work with supply-dropping aircraft and over shipping.

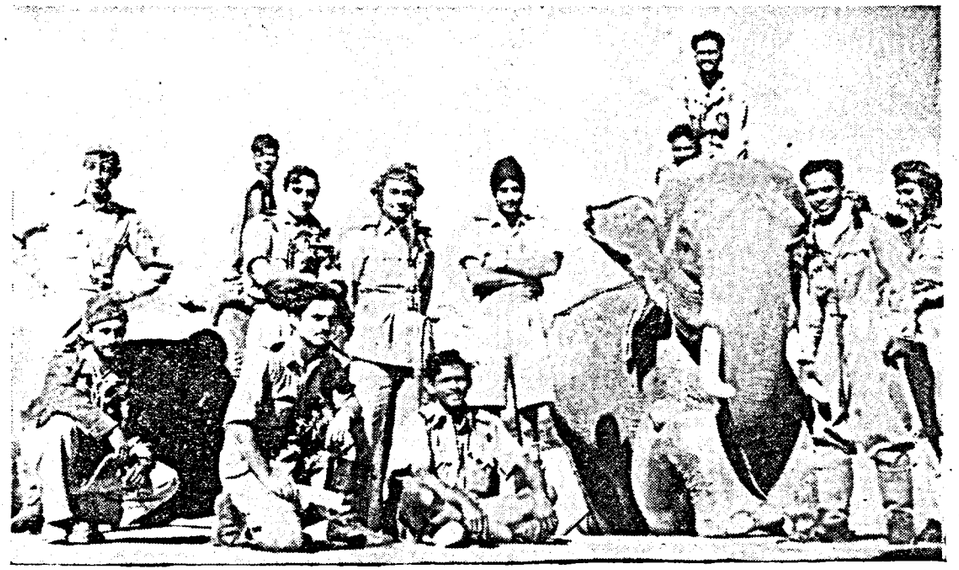
R.I.A.F. Squadrons have helped to support the Land Forces throughout the triumphant advance from the borders of India to the Irrawaddy and through the Arakan, and from Imphal into Central Burma: an advance which still continues. They took part in the invasion of Akyab and Ramree, and continue to give full support to the other fighting forces.

The pilots fully appreciate the vital but less obvious role of the ground staff, whose hard work and achievements, under trying conditions has been such a vital element in keeping up a high rate of air effort for a long time and through all kinds of weather.

This new and great honour accorded to India's Air Force marks a landmark on the way to greater achievements. The R.I.A.F. has won its spurs and will continue in the gallant company of the Allied Air Forces to add to its laurels until final victory is won.

VICEROY'S MESSAGE

"I congratulate you all on the honour which H.M. the King Emperor has conferred upon you. Within a few short years your strength has risen from 200 to 27,000; your squadrons engaged against the Japanese in Burma have done splendid work, and earned the confidence and



Pilots of an R.I.A.F. Hurricane Squadron operating on the Burma Front.

respect of all; and you have played a valuable part in keeping the peace on the North-West Frontier.

His Majesty's recognition of your achievements is a great event in your history, and you now take your place as one of the tried fighting services of India and the British Commonwealth. You have a great part to play in India's future. Good luck to you all."

C.-IN-C.'S CONGRATULATIONS

"The conferment by the King Emperor of the distinction "Royal" on the Indian Air Force has given me the greatest pleasure, as I have watched the growth of the Force from its earliest days and have always been most keenly interested in its progress.

"This signal honour which has been won on the battlefield will, I am sure, be warmly welcomed not only by the two sister Services, the Royal Indian Navy and the Indian Army, but throughout India.

"I wish the Royal Indian Air Forces good luck in the future. I am sure it will go from strength to strength."

C.-IN-C.'S MESSAGE TO H.M. THE KING

On the occasion of the granting of the title "Royal" to the Indian Air Force the Commander-in-Chief in India, General Sir Claude Auchinleck, has sent a message to the Secretary of State for India asking him to convey the following message to H.M. the King Emperor:

"The Commander-in-Chief in India presents his humble duty and on behalf of all ranks of the Royal Indian Air Force begs to offer to Your Majesty appreciation of the gracious mark of the Royal favour bestowed."

VICEROY'S WAR PURPOSES FUND

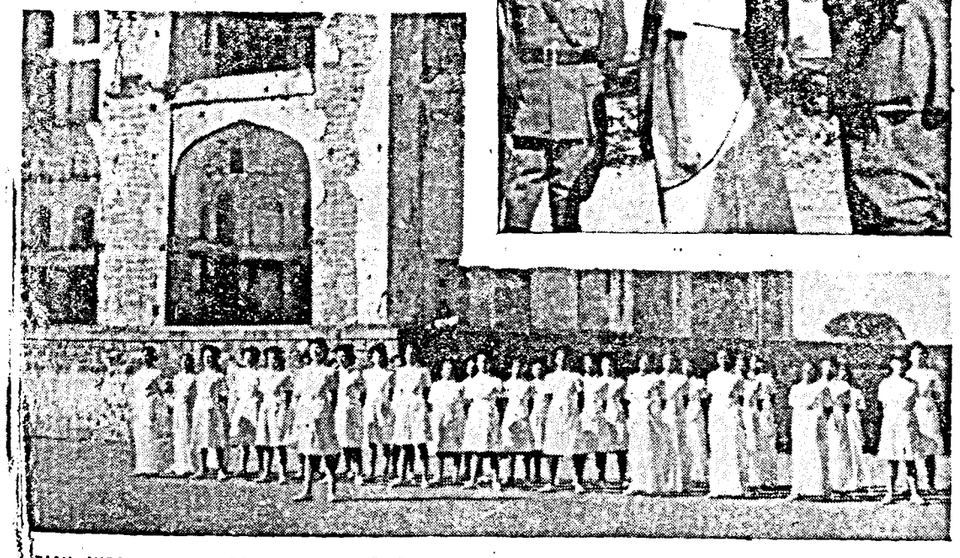
The following generous contributions hav been received in H. E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund:

Rajgarh Darbar, Rs. 20,000; His Highnes the Maharaja of Alirajpur, Rs. 15,000; Thaku Narain Singh of Jhahuavda, Umrao of Jhabu State, Rs. 500 and Kunwar Motisingh of Umekot, Umrao of Jhabua State, Rs. 150.





A passing out parade of W.A.C. (I) recruits was held recently at the Inter-Services W.A.C. (I) Recruits Training Centre, Ahmednagar. These pictures show (above) Col. Lloyd-Jones, O.C., Driving and Maintenance School, Arangaum, taking the salute at the march past, (right) members of the Afghan Military Mission, who also witnessed the ceremony, talking to a WRIN and (below) the WRINS of H.M.I.S. "Jahanara"—the naval wing of the training centre.



REPATRIATED INDIAN WAR PRISONERS' TRIBUTE TO THE RED CROSS

NEARLY one hundred prisoners of war repatriated from Germany arrived at Alexandria recently on their way home by hospital ship, writes an Indian Army Observer.

A Sikh stalwart, Risaldar Chaman Singh of the 11th Cavalry, 3rd Motor Brigade, was the first I met on board the ship and he took me round to his comrades who fell into enemy hands near Benghazi after their first encounter with the enemy. They had a grievance against Fate. In their own words, "We left our homes to fight but, due to hard luck, did not see much of the war. Now that we are free again, the enemy has not much left in him to fight."

Despite four years of captivity and the hardships of a German prison camp, their spirits were as high as ever. But their appearance was a clear index of the privations that must have been their lot. They attributed their weak physical condition to inclement climate and unpalatable food.

When asked how they were treated by their captors, a young daffadar replied: "We know how to get respectable treatment from an enemy, and we got it, though at times much to their distaste."

All the men were full of praise for the work of the Red Cross. They were certain that not one of them would have returned alive had the Red Cross not looked after them so well.

During the first few months of their captivity they struggled against cold and starvation. Then supplies of warm clothes and Indian foodstuffs started pouring in.

Red Cross Comforts

Although distribution was generally delayed owing to their transfer from one camp to another they did not suffer as a packet of Red Cross comforts lasted quite a while. Supplies and letters from their homes were also received regularly.

Even German officers were on short rations, said these former prisoners of war, and never refused a good offer from their captives. One cigarette to the camp quartermaster could always fetch a pound of coal, which was most needed by the inmates of the camp whose usual supply was about one ounce per head per week.



Repatriated Indian prisoners of war from Germany photographed with Sisters before disembarkation.



Indian war prisoners and Sisters cheer an ambulance train leaving Victoria Docks.

Cigarettes which were regularly supplied to them by the Red Cross helped them at times through many a tight corner. During all their years of captivity they knew nothing about our battlefields. This hunger for news was occasionally satisfied at the cost of a few cigarettes to civilians with whom they worked outside the camp.

An officer of the 6th Rajputana Rifles graphically described the scenes he witnessed at Constance when German prisoners were exchanged. These Germans were terrified at the prospect of their being sent to the front again. One of them even remarked to his companion: "Why worry? Around through the mist, hands up, and back to the Allied prison camp again."

The Governor-General has been pleased to appoint the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Jafar Imam and the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Beever, I.C.S., to be Additional Judges of the Patna High Court for a period of one year with effect from May 12, 1945.

ALL FORCES RADIO IS ONE YEAR OLD

The All Forces Radio Programme recently celebrated its first birthday—publicly by the broadcast of a special "Kaleidoscope" feature drawing on outstanding events in the programme during the year, and privately by a party in New Delhi for the staff, artists, helpers and friends.

The Services Broadcasting Section was formed in January, 1944, and six weeks later the programme began with an initial allotment of one hour a day air time. Before long that was extended to four hours a day, and since then the programme has become one of the brightest features of radio in India.

In the early days, especially, listener research probes were instigated to ascertain from the troops in India and Burma what they wanted in the way of entertainment. Inquiries made at that time have been pursued and it can safely be said that the Section's programmes meet the entertainment demands of the men.

Services Broadcasting Section

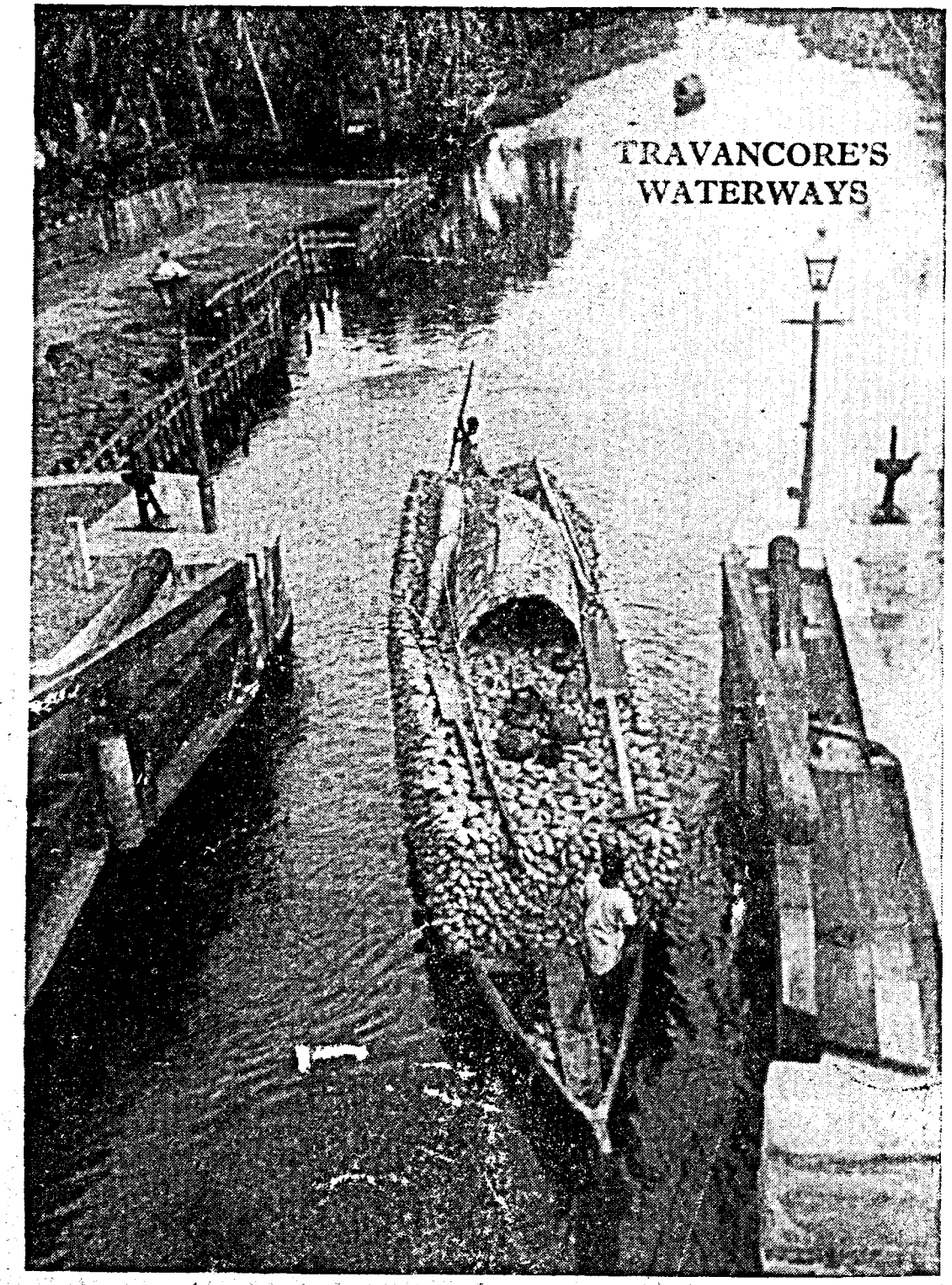
In addition to the normal programmes, largely made up of light and classical music, variety, quizzes, news and commentaries the All Forces Radio Programmes' microphone has been visited during the year by a number of outstanding stage personalities, including Elsie and Doris Waters, Vera Lynn, Liesl Stary, the concert pianist, Noel Coward and Bryan Easdale, the young British composer.

The Services Broadcasting Section is staffed by a team of radio experts led by Lieut.-Col. B. W. Cave-Brown-Cave, who had been with the B.B.C. before the forces claimed him.

VICEROY'S WAR PURPOSES FUND

The following contributions have been received in H. E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund:

From the Provincial War Fund, Orissa, Rs. 1,00,000 on account of the Province's guarantee to the Central Red Cross for 1945 and Rs. 10,800 for the maintenance of 15 Polish children; Rs. 10,000 from the Thakor Saheb of Palitana on the occasion of his Silver Jubilee; Rs. 6,323-3-6 from Mr. Dwarka Nath Ohri, a Central Asian trader in Kashmir; Rs. 3,000 from the subjects of Pataudi State for the Central Red Cross; Rs. 2,750 from the Chief Secretary, Benares State; and Rs. 2,000 from Messrs. Khimji Ramdas, General Merchants and Contractors, Muscat.



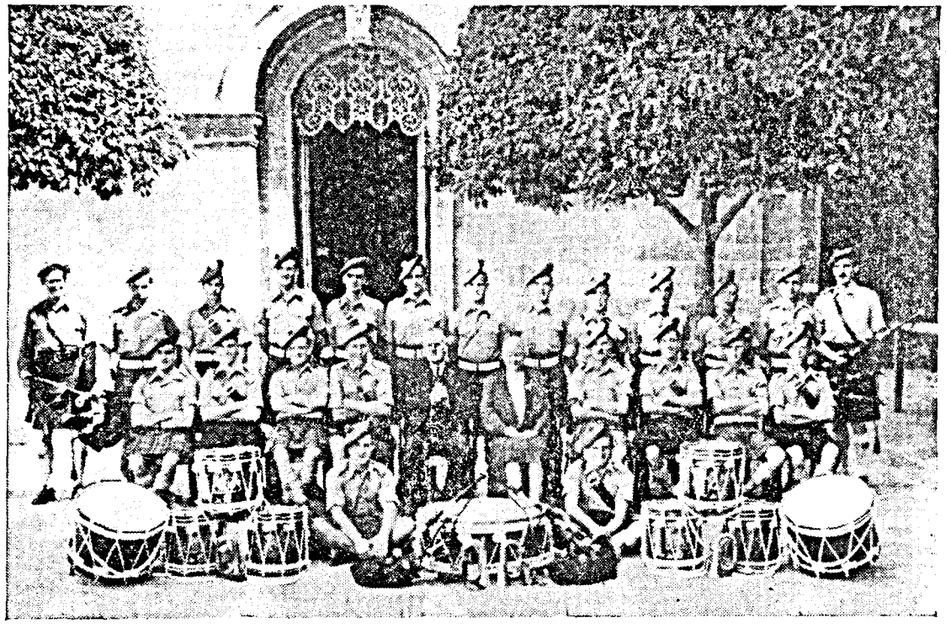
Issued fortnightly by J. Natarajan, Principal Information Officer, Government of India. Printed in India by E. G. Tilt (Manager) at The Civil & Military Gazette, Ltd., Lahore. Communications for the Editor should be addressed to the Bureau of Public Information, Government of India, Lahore, and not to the Printers.

INDIAN INFORMATION



No. 158: April 15, 1945.
Fortnightly by the
Information Officer,
Government of India

● LORD WAVELL'S VISIT TO U. K.



Pipes and Drums of the Black Watch (R.H.R.) photographed with Their Excellencies Lord and Lady Wavell in the gardens of the Viceroy's House on the occasion of their visit to Delhi when they gave a display of Highland dancing.

Vol. 16 No. 158. INDIAN INFORMATION April 15, 1945.

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

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

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

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

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

MAIN CONTENTS

	Page
H.E. Sir John Colville's address to Boy Scouts Association	479
Sir Jogendra Singh's address at Lady Irwin College	481
Sir Jeremy Raisman's reply to Finance Bill Criticisms	484
Sir Francis Verner Wylie: Governor-designate of U.P.	496
Sir A. R. Dalal on Post-War Planning	497
Supplementary Grant for Road Services: Sir Edward Benthall's Speech	509
Indian Delegation to World Security Conference: Sir Olaf Caroe's statement	514
Seamen's Amenities: Sir M. Azizul Huque's Speech	516
Fall of Fort Dufferin	529
Indian Journalists visit Italian Front	542

COVER PICTURE: H.M. the King greeting Indian soldiers during his visit to the Islamic Cultural Centre, London.



Mr. L. S. Amery, Secretary of State for India, greets Lord Wavell on his arrival at Victoria Station, London, on March 23.

ORD WAVELL'S VISIT TO UNITED KINGDOM

Mr. L. S. Amery's Statement at Press Conference

A Press Note issued from the Viceroy's House on March 21 stated:

"Last September, towards the end of his first year in office, the Viceroy suggested that he might at some convenient time before the end of the war report personally to His Majesty's Government on conditions in India. His Majesty's Government agreed and intimated that a discussion in the Spring of 1945 would probably be convenient. The Viceroy's visit to the United Kingdom has been arranged accordingly. His discussions with His Majesty's Government are likely to cover a wide field, including questions connected with the maintenance of India as a base for operations against Japan after the defeat of Germany."

Addressing a Press Conference of representatives of newspapers in India, on March 21 in London, Mr. L. S. Amery, Secretary of State for India, said:

"I thought you would like to hear from me personally what little I can tell you at this stage about Lord Wavell's visit. It has been in contemplation for some time and it was in fact last September towards the end of his first year in office that the Viceroy suggested to me that he might at some convenient time before the end of the war in Europe come home for consultations with His Majesty's Government. The Cabinet agreed and intimated that a discussion early in the Spring of 1945 would probably be convenient.

"The visit has how been arranged and Lord Wavell will arrive by air in the immediate future. His discussions with His Majesty's Government will of course cover a very wide field and questions connected with the maintenance of India as a base for operations against

Japan after the defeat of Germany will naturally be included.

"You will appreciate that during a Viceroy's term of office even in peacetime many problems must arise which could more speedily and profitably be discussed in London than by telegram and letters. In wartime the number of problems which can be more satisfactorily tackled by personal contact is even greater and their nature even more intricate. It is only sensible that we should make use of the facilities for talks of this sort which are provided by modern air transport and Parliament has lately made new provision to enable the Viceroy to leave India for consultations.

Constitutional and Political Future

"I have said that these discussions will cover a wide range and have specifically mentioned the continuation of India's war effort in the period between the surrender of Germany and the final defeat of Japan. Only the other day General Auchinleck spoke again of his and of the Government of India's responsibility for providing an efficient base and for meeting the maintenance needs of the forces in the South-East Asia Command as well as of those in India. This is the essential background for a huge overseas force and India must continue to discharge its primary task of training and equipping the vast forces deployed by Lord Louis Mountbatten until Japan has been finally disposed of. The immensity of the task of providing the entire administrative needs for the wellbeing and fighting efficiency of that army including as it does India's own soldiers the largest volunteer army of all time poses many problems for solution.

"Naturally the question of India's constitutional and political future will be discussed. The policy announced by His Majesty's Government in the Draft Declaration of March 1942 (the Cripps Offer) and confirmed in subsequent pronouncements still holds the field. That the necessary common measure of agreement between the principal political elements in India on an alternative plan does not yet seem in sight is, of course, a matter for regret. Both the Viceroy and His Majesty's Government have indeed fully shared the anxiety of all reasonable men to see an end to the impasse. It has been constantly in their minds and we have all naturally watched with sympathy the efforts of the committee under the chairmanship of Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru and look forward with interest to their outcome.

"It would be very wrong of me to encourage any assumption that quick and far reaching decisions are likely to follow the Viceroy's visit. But much happens in 18 months and Lord Wavell has been in India for that period as a close and indefatigable observer at first hand. It will therefore be of greatest value to me and to my colleagues in the Cabinet to be able to review the whole situation personally with the Viceroy at this juncture."

SIR JOHN COLVILLE TO ACT AS GOVERNOR-GENERAL

A Communique issued from the Viceroy's House on March 21 stated:

His Majesty's Government have invited His Excellency Field Marshal the Right Hon'ble Viscount Wavell, Viceroy and Governor-General of India, to come to London by air for personal consultations.

His Majesty the King has been pleased to approve that during His Excellency's absence, His Excellency the Rt. Hon'ble Sir John Colville, G.C.I.E., Governor of Bombay, who is the senior Privy Councillor among the Presidency Governors, should act as Governor-General and Crown Representative and that Sir Henry Foley Knight, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., should act as Governor of Bombay during the absence of Sir John Colville.

HOME MEMBER LEAVES FOR LONDON

Sir Francis Mudie, Home Member and M. E. Conran-Smith, Home Secretary, are leaving for Lonodn for consultations regarding recruitment to the Secretary of State Services. They expect to be away for about a fortnight, said a Press Communique issued by the Home Department, Government of India, on March 21.

SIR BERTIE STAIG

Her Excellency the Viscountess Wavell, President of the Countess of Dufferin's Fund, is pleased to appoint Sir Bertie Staig, C.S.I., to be Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Countess of Dufferin's Fund Council, with effect from April 7, 1945, when Sir Cameron Badenoch, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., vacates that office on retiring from the public service, said a Communique issued from the Viceroy's House on March 20.

BOY SCOUTS HAVE RENDERED MOST VALUABLE SERVICE

H. E. The Viceroy's Tribute



H.E. Sir John Colville.

"BOY Scouts have rendered most valuable services recently in the Bengal famine, the Bombay explosion, as I myself saw, and the serious floods of last year in Sind. Just as in battered London, Boy Scouts have risen to a great opportunity and won renown for the movement, so here when danger and discomfort have had to be faced our scouts have faced them, have done the job, and done it well," said H. E. the Viceroy in his opening speech at the Triennial Conference of the Boy Scouts Association in India on April 6.

Here is the full text of His Excellency's speech:

Gentlemen,—It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to this Third Triennial Conference of the All-India Boy Scouts Association. I know it will be a disappointment to you that Lord Wavell is not here to greet you and to address the delegates. He was looking forward to meeting you, but it has turned out otherwise, and in his name as well as mine I extend a hearty welcome to you.

At the last Conference in 1941 scouts all over the world were mourning the death of their leader and founder, Lord Baden-Powell. This year we meet under the shadow of the death of his successor Lord Somers. But the movement marches on, and in the new Chief Scout, Lord Rowallan, whom I know very well, we have one who all his life has worked earnestly for youth and will make an inspiring leader.

Lord Rowallan is a prominent Scottish Peer, who served with distinction in the last war in the Grenadier Guards, was wounded and awarded the M.C. During this war he has commanded a battalion of the Royal Scots Fusiliers. He has long been an ardent scout.

Notable Progress

The Nawab of Chhatari was still Chief Commissioner when the last Conference was held. He guided the movement through a most serious crisis, held it together, and established it on a surer basis than ever before. The Association is deeply indebted to him, and I am glad to know that he still keeps up a close interest in the movement.

When the Nawab of Chhatari resigned in 1942 we were indeed fortunate in the appointment of so eminent a man as Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru to be the new Chief Commissioner. Under him the movement has made, and will, I am sure, continue to make, notable progress.

In scouting we do not look primarily to numbers. Ten good scouts are worth a thousand bad ones, but the vigour of the movement may be gathered from the fact that since the last Conference there has been a continual rise in its strength. In the year 1941-42, the number of scouts leapt up by over 33,000. Complete records are not available for 1942-43, but from those that we have it is clear that there was another substantial increase. Accurate figures are again available for 1943-44, and though they are not yet complete they indicate another increase of over 35,000. Thus this Conference represents a great force of some 350,000 scouts.

But we must not be smug or self-satisfied. We all know that all our scout troops and our individual scouts are by no means equal in quality. We are trying—and I speak from my experience as a Provincial Chief Scout—we are trying our best to make the whole movement progressive and lively; to learn and to demonstrate the essential lesson of service; to convince the man in the street and the man in the village too that wherever he sees a scout uniform

he will find a good friend and a willing helper, regardless of class or community or any other consideration whatever.

Such evidence of the faith we stand for must usually be given in an inconspicuous way by scouts who will never stand in the glare of publicity or gain any individual credit for their actions. But from time to time there have been opportunities that have brought us into the public eye and we have not failed. Boy Scouts have rendered most valuable services recently in the Bengal famine, the Bombay explosion, as I myself saw, and the serious floods of last year in Sind. Just as in battered London, Boy Scouts have risen to a great opportunity and won renown for the movement, so here when danger and discomfort have had to be faced our scouts have faced them, have done the job, and done it well.

Two New Branches

Large numbers of scouts have joined the Services and fought in all parts of the world with famous Indian Divisions, and there are few kinds of activity connected with the prosecution of the war in which scouts are not to be found. They were frequently the backbone of the A.R.P. organisations which had to be organised when Burma fell. They are in the Civic Guards and Village Defence Parties; they have given their blood for the Blood Transfusion Service; they have helped with recruiting, with the "Grow More Food" campaign, with activities for the welfare of Indian troops, with the collection of scrap, and with many other services which, though they may appear small in themselves, are a real contribution, in the aggregate, to the country's war effort.

There are two new branches of the movement in India to which I should like to give a word of welcome. The first is the All-India Services Rovers Branch which has recently been organised amongst the many Rover Scouts serving in the Navy, Army and Air Force. General Headquarters have given every assistance in forming this new branch, and it is fortunate in having His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief as its Patron. The other new branch which I should like to welcome is that of the Air Scouts. Here Air Headquarters has been most co-operative, and I feel sure that many future pilots in the Royal Indian Air Force will be found from the ranks of these new Air Scouts.

I must not speak at too great length as you have much business before you. Amongst other business you will be considering the important question of Central finance and I shall be ready to consider very carefully any recommendations which your Conference may make.

This Conference takes place in stirring days, and your newspapers show you clearly that the war has reached such a stage that we are justified in planning for peace.

The Scout Movement, though its members are all the better soldiers for what they have learnt as scouts, stands for much that war seems to obliterate. It is an international movement and believes in international brotherhood and in service to all men.

India is so vast that our service is likely to lie mainly within our own country, where there is no end to the tasks that confront us. But there will be a great work of healing and rehabilitation to be done by scouts in Europe and elsewhere. We shall seek to build up by service the value and the prestige of our movement in India, while all over the world in the next few years scouts will be trying to live up to one of the greatest opportunities the movement has ever had. There will be a chance for great achievement in the years immediately ahead of us and in the best spirit of friendly rivalry I think we should see that India's Scouts are in the forefront of the great movement to which they belong.

Gentlemen, it has been a real privilege for me to meet you all, and I am grateful for the attention with which you have listened to me. I trust that success will attend your deliberations and the execution of the plans that you will draw up here. It is my earnest wish that this Conference will give a new stimulus to scouting in India.

AIR PASSAGES TO U. K.

Some criticism has lately been voiced of the fact that a certain number of air passages are available on payment for civilians to travel to the United Kingdom from India. The true position is as follows:

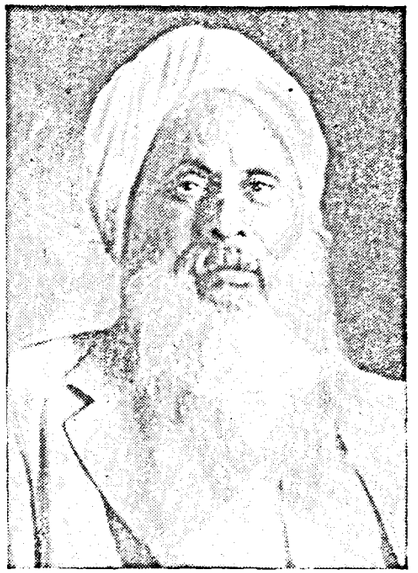
There is now sufficient aircraft capacity available to enable all, particularly urgent compassionate or "life and death" cases of Service personnel to go by air. The previous limitation on passages by air no longer applies.

It is because there is now more than sufficient capacity for all, particularly urgent compassionate or "life and death" Service cases, that it has become possible to allot 40 non-priority passages per month to civil passengers.

These 40 form a very small proportion of the total number of air passages available for all purposes, and this civil allotment, therefore, will not stop any "life and death" Service cases going by air.

IMPORTANCE OF DOMESTIC AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Sir Jogendra Singh's Address at Lady Irwin College



Sir Jogendra Singh.

THE importance of the Faculty of Domestic and Social Sciences for women in all Universities was emphasised by Sir Jogendra Singh, Member for Education, Health and Lands, Government of India, in his address on the Annual Day of the Lady Irwin College, New Delhi, on March 19.

Here is the full text of Sir Jogendra Singh's speech:

In a moment of weakness I agreed to address you to-day. Ever since I have been wondering what to say to you who are preening your wings to experience the joys of life; I who am ready to cast off garments worn out by the tide of time. What new tidings can I bring to you but to try to talk like the Pundits who deliver Convocation Addresses.

I cannot speak to you from such a pedestal, nor I can walk amongst you and share your feelings and win applause by giving expression to that which fills your hearts. I can do no better but to give you fleeting glimpses of truth that I have caught through the passage of years.

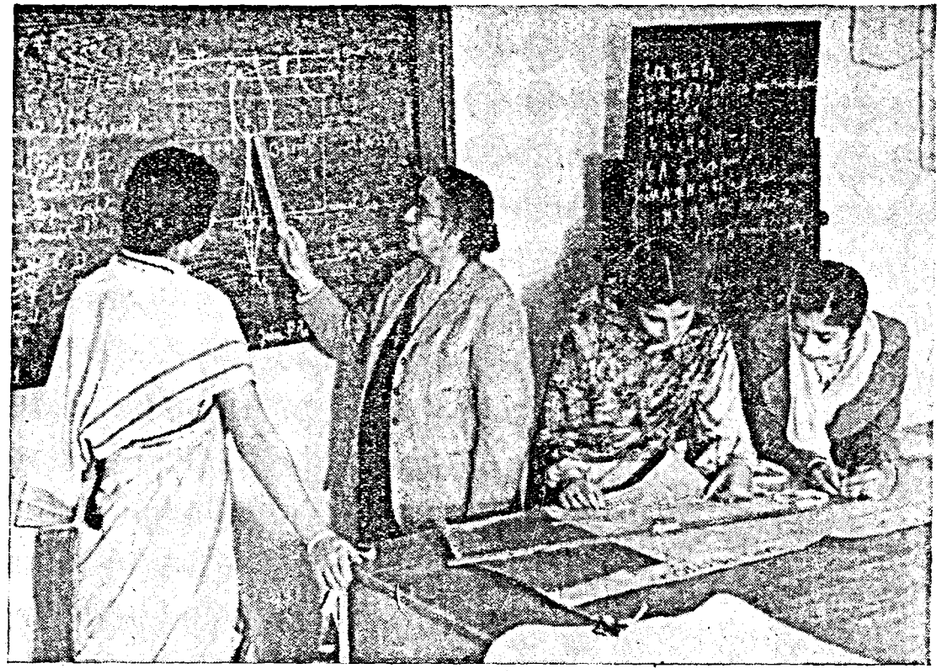
Education begins with teaching the art of reading and writing, to prepare those who seek to receive the stored treasures of knowledge of all ages. It should equip the mind to meet with faith and fortitude any changes which fortune may bring. It should reveal the truth that all that we see, must pass and we with it, and that unwittingly we nurse up attraction and aversion, self-assertion and greed which rob us of our heritage of happiness. It is true that the narrow vision of the greedy Ether contentment or the dust of grave can fill.

Way to Happy Living

The way to happy and healthful living is to be found in overcoming these thieves that lurk in the secret places of the mind, and in dethroning them by filling our hearts with the Eternal. We do not realise it and yet all the time God reveals Himself in the love of father and mother, in their selflessness, in their devotion, for no sacrifice is too great which parents are not prepared to make for their offspring.

Your minds to-day are filled with the light of a new dawn, with the ideals of freedom, of equality, and assertion of individuality, but remember humanity cannot survive without practising humanities, cultivating a spirit of sacrifice, harmlessness and neighbourly behaviour. The truth is that we make a heaven for ourselves by becoming centres of concord, and a hell for ourselves by cultivating a spirit of discord. We can become a nation by fostering communal unity and by overcoming disruptive tendencies. If we turn our eyes away from the stars to the training of our own thoughts and temper, we can enter upon the path of achievement. Without it, we cannot find our way out of the wilderness wherein we have strayed. We must weld all communities into a nation to enjoy national self-government. It is given to you to work steadfastly for the union of hearts and mind. Work for it while you have light and a spirit unclouded by material ends.

Our friends in the West are engaged in obtaining control over the externals: we in the East were trained to obtain control over our own selves by constant practice of laws, which in the modern language, may be called mental hygiene. India needs men and women in whose hearts dwells God, who are equipped with



Training for girls in domestic arts and crafts is given at the Lady Irwin College, New Delhi. Picture shows a dress-making class in progress.

modern knowledge, but that knowledge is illuminated by ancient wisdom, so that India may retrieve the Western world from the ways of war and harmonise all castes and creeds in the service of Him without Whose light we cannot live or enjoy the gifts which every dawn distributes in His name. Indeed it is in the training of the mind that education performs its most important function, for they who control the mind control their own destiny.

Domestic and Social Sciences

I must not talk of these things any more for here in your college you are trained in social and domestic sciences. For my part I should see established in all Universities a Faculty of Domestic and Social Sciences, managed by the women themselves. I am trying to induce the authorities of your Committee to enrich and be enriched by joining our Delhi University.

You may ask why I am anxious that women should have a separate Faculty in Social and Domestic Sciences. There is a clear division of functions between man and woman. It is the destiny of man to labour and to produce and that of a woman to use the fruit of his labour. The distinction has been to some extent blurred, but it has not disappeared and will not disappear. The largest majority of men and women follow their normal functions; the man works in the fields of production, the woman in the domestic sphere makes the best use of what his labour produces. It is man's function to protect and defend the home and the woman's to make it attractive and hospitable.

Every man and woman has rooted within his or her heart an instinct for his or her duties. In the heart of every woman is enshrined an instinct of love. It is the source of all sanctities of life. Any one can see how these functions fulfil their true purpose in the villages in the Punjab. The man walks with his plough before the break of day to his fields, and then comes the woman with her roll of *chapattis* and jars of

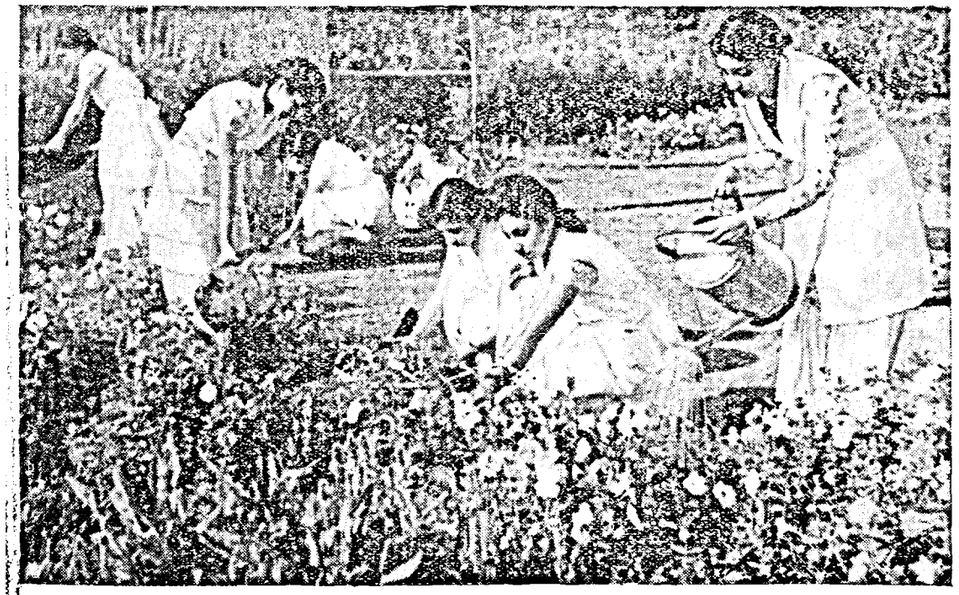
buttermilk. Men leave the plough and sit round the breadgiver who serves them and lightens their labour with her presence, her laughter and her love. It is a scene, once seen never to be forgotten, the man engaged in the labours of the day, his powerful arms ready to leave the plough and to wield the protecting sword to shield his home and the women ready to satisfy the hungers of the body and the mind and to heal and to comfort.

The domain of a woman is that of the heart. She ascends her throne by steps of mercy and loving service. She misses it when, through idleness or carelessness, she grasps at things which delude the mind and betray its stainless purity. *Bibi Rances,* it is thus we Punjabis address our daughters. I pray that wherever you go, you may carry with you the aroma of purity, the healing balm of loving kindness finding your joy in beneficent activities. Go into the world resolved to make others happy and in making others happy find your own happiness, for the harvest is of your own sowing: they whom we serve will be true to you, not those whom we have betrayed.

(Right) Girl students in the pantry.

(Below) Gardening is also included in the College syllabus.





DEFENCE EXPENDITURE AND FINANCIAL SETTLEMENT

Sir Jeremy Raisman's Reply to Finance Bill Criticisms

CONCLUDING the eight-day debate on the Finance Bill, the Hon'ble Sir Jeremy Raisman, Finance Member, Government of India, spoke for nearly two hours in the Central Assembly on March 26, and explained in detail the various financial problems that arose as a result of the criticisms of the Finance Bill by the non-official members of the Assembly. He dealt at length with such questions as Defence expenditure, allocation of Defence expenditure between the Government of India and His Majesty's Government, inflation and measures adopted to control it, Lend-Lease and Reciprocal Aid, post-war price level and the problem of transition from war to peace.

The Hon'ble Member said:

This is at least the sixth occasion on which I have had to answer to a long-drawn out debate on the Finance Bill and have found myself at the end of periods, varying from four to eight days, having to answer on the last day speeches which touched very little, if at all, on finance.

I am afraid that it is not possible for me to continue the debate on the high level to which it was taken by my Hon'ble friend, the Leader of the Opposition. I cannot deal with the question of San Francisco nor yet can I say anything useful about the immediate political future of the country. I do not know whether at the end of a week of so called discussion on the Finance Bill the House wishes to concern itself at this late hour with matters dealing with expenditure and the contents of that Bill and all that it implies. But many things have been said in the course of a week's debate which as Finance Member and not merely as the last spokesman on behalf of the Government—many things which, as Finance Member, I shall have to say something about.

Defence Expenditure

First of course comes the old question of Defence expenditure and the Financial Settlement. It is in no spirit of logic-chopping or sophistication that I said the last time I spoke that it is difficult if not impossible to talk on this matter when you have so little common ground as I have with some of the speakers on the other side. But the fact remains that their approach to the whole question of the war and of India's participation in the war is so entirely different



Sir Jeremy Raisman.

from that of the Government of a belligerent country that every argument and every statement takes on a novel complexion according to whether one stands on one or the other side of this particular issue.

From my point of view, a speech such as that of Mr. Manu Subedar's can only be a series of distortions, of misrepresentations, a continuous travesty of the whole financial conduct of the war. War is a chaotic and confused thing. It is a very difficult thing at any time and in any country to evolve an ordered set of accounts out of the huddled and chaotic transactions of war. It is a very difficult thing for accountants, however well qualified, and for a system of financial administration however efficient to catch up on all these manifold transactions and to evolve some sort of order out of the confusion and to present it in a way in which the man in the street will be able to understand what has happened That difficulty is the same in all countries.

I do not believe for a moment that the ordinary Englishman has any clearer idea of the financing of the war in England than people in this country have of the financing of the war in India. It simply cannot be made so plain and so clear as to appeal to the intelligence of the ordinary man. It is intrinsically a very difficult and complicated thing. When, in addition, you have certain sections in the country, when you

have people like some of the speakers whose whole object is to discredit the Government, and to attempt by insinuation and innuendo to convey the impression that everything is fraudulent and *mala fide*, then I must admit there is no answer to it. It all depends on where you stand in relation to the main issue. However long I took up the time of this House, I could not catch up with the issue of misrepresentations that fell from the lips of such a speaker as Mr. Manu Subedar. I do not wish to harp on that particular speaker, but he presents himself as the essence of that particular attitude, the attitude of distortion, travesty and misrepresentation, against which it is my duty to defend this Government.

Inflation Inevitable in War

The same thing, Sir, arises in connection with the issue of inflation. Inflation is an inevitable accompaniment of war. There are means of counteracting inflation, but it is a very hard and difficult task. Inflation can only be combated by a people who grit their teeth and accept certain extremely unpleasant, but inevitable sacrifices during a period of war. It is possible, it has been possible, for Governments to explain to some extent to the people of their countries how inflation may be mitigated, if not avoided. It is a very difficult thing, but it has proved possible. It has proved possible to say to the people in war time—"There are few things to buy, but there will be much money going out, you will be paid more, you will be busier, but yet there will be fewer things for you; if you will put aside the money, if you will submit to taxation, if you will lend the money, then the worst evils of inflation can be avoided."

Now, if Government can succeed in getting that message across to the people, it may avoid inflation to a large extent. That has been done in a country like England; to some extent it has been done in the United States of America; but it cannot be done, Sir, in a country in which there are a large number of people going about saying, "You must not co-operate with Government, you must resist any attempt on their part to enlist your co-operation, you must not lend them your money, you must not submit to controls which they consider necessary." So long as that happens, Sir, it is impossible to prevent inflation in time of war.

PROF. N. G. RANGA: Is inflation in England half as much as it is in India?

SIR JEREMY RAISMAN: Certainly not, there is not the same degree of inflation in England as there is in India. I have explained why it is so. It is idle to pretend that you can separate the economic issues from the political issues. You cannot get away from the fact that in the circumstances of this country, unless you could somehow abstract this country entirely from the belligerent world, it was impossible to prevent inflation. Unless my Hon'ble friends opposite, came to a frame of mind in which they were prepared to co-operate whole-heartedly with Government or participate in the Government for the conduct of the war . . . .

MR. BHULABHAI J. DESAI: That is better.

SIR JEREMY RAISMAN: I will put it in the way you like. I am now trying to put the matter objectively. What I say is this. From whatever causes it might arise, I will not even presume to judge on the merits of these causes, but from whatever causes it might arise, because of the fact that there were large elements in this country who were disposed not to co-operate with Government, who would not assist people to recognise what was necessary in order to prevent inflation, you could not prevent a certain degree of inflation.

PROF. N. G. RANGA: Why spend on account of U.S.A. and England? If you do not do so, then there will be much less inflation.

SIR JEREMY RAISMAN: I am grateful to my Hon'ble friend. He says do not spend on account of U.S.A. and England. In other words, as I said a little while ago, take this country off this planet, take it for the time being to a planet where America and Britain are not fighting this war, for after all the essence of the situation is that a war is being waged, and that America and Britain are fighting the Japanese in countries contiguous to India and in India. Therefore, the expenditure was bound to happen in India unless my Hon'ble friend was prepared to give his services or products entirely free, but if he was not prepared to do that, then that expenditure was bound to happen in this country. Or does he also suggest that the whole of this country could have been kept in a state of depression or in the doldrums when the rest of the world was engaged at the highest level of economic activity of the last century? Does he think that was possible in the alternative?

Countering Inflation

Well, Sir, I do not wish to labour the point. I have spoken on it many times, nobody could have regretted more than I that during the period of my office this degree of inflation with the miseries attendant on inflation, should have been inflicted on the people of this country. But if I were to appear at any time before a tribunal of competent and critical judges, and if they were to ask me what I had to say in my defence, I would have told them something of

what I said in the last few minutes, and in addition I should have said to them: "You must read the debates in the Legislative Assembly that took place during the period of my office and not least those that took place towards the end. I must remind you, My Lords, that at this stage I was subjected to a vote of censure in this House because in the course of the savings drive it was suggested that some of the methods used amounted to compulsion. You must remember that, My Lords. You must also remember, My Lords, that in spite of my efforts at taxation, my Finance Bill was thrown out."

This would be my reply to the tribunal sitting in judgment upon me for having inflicted inflation on this country. I would tell them: Oh Ye economists and experts, I know that your prescription for preventing inflation is taxation and borrowing. This is what happened to my taxation, and that is what happened to my borrowing. So I now ask you to judge and decide what the verdict should be, and what should be the sentence.

PROF. N. G. RANGA: Six years simple imprisonment.

SIR JEREMY RAISMAN: Perhaps it will be no worse than that. But to what will they sentence you, a Professor of Economics? You told the people not to pay taxes, you told them not to lend money to Government, and yet you knew that unless they did that they were bound to suffer from inflation. You sinned against the light.

PROF. N. G. RANGA: We showed you light, but you would not see.

Financial Settlement

SIR JEREMY RAISMAN: I must go on. I wish to deal now with certain points of a less general character, which were dealt with by my Hon'ble friend, Mr. Neogi. But, first of all, I must traverse certain remarks in regard to the position of the Auditor-General and the Financial Settlement. As the House has frequently been informed, the Auditor-General of India is entrusted with the responsibility for seeing that the allocation of Defence expenditure between the Government of India and His Majesty's Government is in accordance with the settlement. In thus acting as an arbiter in matters of allocation of expenditure, the Auditor-General must, like any other arbitrator, be guided by facts such, for instance, as the strengths of the forces certified by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief to be necessary for India's local defence. It is not possible for the Auditor-General to attempt to go behind that military judgment any more than it is possible for me.

My Hon'ble friend, Mr. Neogy, suggested that I had become an Hon'ble Member for Arithmetic and not for Finance; but I would like him to show me any country at war in which the Chancellor of the Exchequer dictates to the War Minister what the size of the army shall be.

This does not, however, as Mr. Neogy suggests, reduce the Auditor-General to complete impotence in the matter of allocation of expenditure. All new measures are scrutinised most carefully by the Auditor-General's representative in conjunction with senior officials of the Military Finance Department, to ensure that the cost of such measures is properly allocated and that the orders sanctioning them contain correct directions regarding the incidence of cost. There is no question of the Auditor-General or his representative being faced with a fait accompli, for even if expenditure on any particular measure had been incurred before its incidence was thus examined, the ultimate adjustment of the expenditure in the accounts would be in accordance with the decision reached at that examination.

Allocation of Expenditure

I hope I have made that point clear. There is no question of finally debiting expenditure to particular revenues before this examination. In important cases in which doubts arise in regard to the correct allocation of expenditure on any particular measure, and in all cases of disputed incidence, the advice of the Auditor-General is formally sought, and so far has been invariably acted upon. Should the Government of India feel compelled to disregard such advice, a most unlikely contingency which has never occurred, the Auditor-General would bring the matter to notice in his Audit Report. I hope that has made the position clear.

In regard to the expenditure on the two airfields, referred to in para 29 of the Audit Report of 1944, I would repeat that the Auditor-General was consulted before the matter of allocation was finally settled, and it was with his express concurrence, given after considering a very full statement of all the relevant circumstances, and not a bare assertion, that the airfields were for India's local defence, with his full concurrence given after such consideration, that the expenditure on these airfields was charged to India.

I have stated those words in very careful language because the position of the Auditor-General is one which must be maintained both for the sake of this House as well as for the sake of all canons of public expenditure; and it is not the case that in this or in any other arrangement the Auditor-General could accept a position in which he was considered to have discharged his function without actually himself

applying his mind to the merits of the matter. It is this same Auditor-General, I must point out, who has censured various transactions which have been quoted with great approbation by hon'ble members opposite. It is this same Auditor-General who has certified that as far as he could find out the allocation of Defence expenditure was in accordance with the financial settlement.

Now, I myself have very little to do, as I have often stated, with that allocation. I am anything but an expert on the multifarious transactions which take place before the accounts are finally made up. But I am quite prepared to answer on my own behalf and on behalf of those who work under my orders, to any committee or tribunal which wishes to question us on these matters . . .

Financial Transactions

MR. T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR: May I point out that we do not object so much over the allocation of items, as to the financial settlement itself?

SIR JEREMY RAISMAN: There are two issues. I am glad my Hon'ble friend said that. The whole tenor of the speech of the Hon'ble Member who sits beside him, Mr. Manu Subedar, was that this was a very cunning series of slim financial transactions, that somehow or other—I do not know how he contrived to throw mud and ink all round the place—but he gave the impression that what was being done was something which was exceedingly, well, *mala fide* to say the least of it; and it is that part of the criticism or attack which I am answering now.

Mr. Subedar adopted a more conciliatory note and he did not use the same offensive expressions which he had used in this first speech; but actually the tenor of his speech in my opinion was at least equally offensive; and I would rather—if he wants to call me a cheat and a liar and a fraud—that he would use those words, and not say that he is casting no doubts whatsoever on my integrity or my *bona fides* but that I have lent myself to a series of transactions which amount to a complete fraud on the Indian taxpayer: I would much rather that he used direct language so that we knew exactly where we stood.

My Hon'ble friend, Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar, says the point is another one altogether. As I understand his point, his objection is to the financial settlement itself, not that it has been fraudulently administered, but that the settlement itself is wrong. In regard to that, all I can say is that extreme discontent with it has also been expressed on the other side; that if I am to be called to account before any tribunal over the financial settlement, I would like at least to have the advantage of being subjected to a single trial at one time and that my accusers from both sides should come together. I do not see how it is possible to answer both sets of charges unless one is dealing with them at the same time. My Hon'ble friends here suggest that the financial settlement is an act of extortion and gross injustice to the Indian taxpayer; there are a lot of very voluble critics on the other side who say that it is a monstrous imposition on the British taxpayer; and I find myself in the difficult position of balancing on a knife edge . . . .

MR. T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR: On which side are you?

SIR JEREMY RAISMAN: I hope that I am on the side of truth and justice, at any rate . . . .

MR. T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR: You are really very dispassionate in this matter: we expect you to be very much attached to the Indian side.

SIR JEREMY RAISMAN: My affections are very heavily engaged with the country in which I have spent so large a part of my life. At the same time I am now answering charges coming from two directions; and if I said to my Hon'ble friend that I had favoured him in this matter, I should give away his case to the critics on the other side.

H.M.G.'s Share in Defence Expenditure

I am glad that my Hon'ble friend, Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan, used the words which he did this morning. My own position is—and I have no desire to be smug or self-satisfied—my position is that in my own conscience. I am satisfied: I am prepared to meet any committee which may be set up at any time on this matter and I am prepared to answer all questions which may be asked from me. I shall answer any summons whenever I am called. My conscience is perfectly clear and in that I am happy. And that is why, as he rightly says the very harsh criticisms which have been made—though they may have tried my patience—have not upset my fundamental equilibrium.

There is one other specific matter which I should like to mention because I think it was used to imply that I had been less than frank in putting forward the figures. I was reminded that I had not given to the House the share of His Majesty's Government of the total

defence expenditure booked in India. I must apologise for not having done that, as it is a matter of interest to the House, although strictly speaking it is not part of the Government of India's budget. But I will now make good that omission. The figures in the Revised Estimates for 1944-45 are Rs. 439.53 crores and the figures in the budget for 1945-46 are Rs. 483.8 crores.

SARDAR MANGAL SINGH: May we have the accounts of last year too?

SIR JEREMY RAISMAN: I had intended to give my Hon'ble friend the figures he had asked for when I replied to the general debate on the budget but it slipped my mind. I have them here now. In the accounts for 1943-44, the total defence expenditure was Rs. 774 crores of which His Majesty's Government's share was Rs. 378 crores and I have given the revised estimates for 1944-45. The total figure is Rs. 896 crores of which His Majesty's Government's share was Rs. 439, and our forecast for the budget for 1945-46 is Rs. 901 crores of which His Majesty's Government's share is Rs. 489 crores. Altogether my impression is that taking the last six years India's share of the total defence expenditure has been a little less than half.

PROF. N. G. RANGA: Is all that money spent in India?

SIR JEREMY RAISMAN: It is the expenditure in India that I am now talking about. Of course His Majesty's Government's expenditure outside India, including expenditure for operations in India, that is to say, supply of munitions and so on, is very much larger. The expenditure that I am talking about is actual rupees put out in India, and the way in which they are debited is shown by the figures that I have just mentioned.

Lend-Lease

My Hon'ble friend Mr. Neogy dealt at some length with the question of lend-lease and I do not know whether the House would like me to go into details on that matter. I have actually prepared a summary on the matter and I will, if the House desires, take them through it once again.

I would remind the House that India was declared by the U.S. Government eligible for lend-lease, in conformity with the Lend-Lease Act of Congress of November 11, 1941. Lend-lease began to reach India in substantial quantities from 1942 onwards. As the House knows, lend-lease is not a gift. There is a consideration attached to it. The nature of the consideration which America expects to receive is indicated in what is known as the Mutual Aid Agreement of February 23, 1942, entered into between His Majesty's Government and the United States of America, a copy of which I am placing in the library of the House. This agreement does not apply directly to either the Dominions or to India and none of the Dominions or India has in fact signed it. It contains in Article 2 an obligation to render reciprocal aid and in Article 7 an acceptance of the principle of the elimination of discriminatory treatment in international commerce and of the reduction of tariffs and other trade barriers.

MR. K. C. NEOGY: Is the Hon'ble Member referring to the Lend-Lease Agreement? It is not the reciprocal agreement which has been signed by the Dominions?

Mutual Aid Agreement

SIR JEREMY RAISMAN: I am referring to the Mutual Aid Agreement, the Master Agreement. I was going on to say that as American forces began to go to overseas theatres in increasing numbers in 1942, the United States Government raised the question of their local supplies being obtained on reciprocal aid as adumbrated in this Mutual Aid Agreement. Later, on September 3, 1942, the United Kingdom entered into a reciprocal aid agreement with the United States of America agreeing to provide certain types of assistance to the United States or to its armed forces.

Shortly after, both Australia and New Zealand signed a similar agreement, somewhat more restricted in scope, with the United States of America and in these agreements the Mutual Aid Agreement of February 23, 1942, was specifically referred to and these principles, including those of Article 7 were specifically accepted. So that although New Zealand and Australia have not signed a separate lend-lease agreement with the United States of America they have formally accepted the principles and conditions of lend-lease. I have placed copies of these agreements in the library of the House.

South Africa has not entered into either a lend-lease or a reciprocal aid agreement with the United States of America nor has Canada. The latter country, Canada, I believe, deals with the United States of America on a cash basis.

Now, the question of India signing a similar reciprocal aid agreement with the United States of America, confined at that time to the needs of the U.S. Forces in India was discussed by the Government of India direct with the U.S. Government in January 1943. I think I mentioned at that time in reply to questions in this House that those discussions were going on. As in the case of Australia and New Zealand, this would have involved our accepting the lend-lease agreement with its Article 7.

This is a somewhat delicate matter but the fact is that the Government of India did make an endeavour to detach the question of a signed agreement with the United States of America from certain implications of Article 7 of the main agreement. It was not possible to secure that for reasons not specifically connected with India but because that article had already been subscribed to by other countries and because of the effect which it might have on certain other signatories who had already accepted the implications of Article 7 of the main lease-lend agreement.

Now, Sir, I want to make it clear that it was not that the Government of India wished to pursue a policy of extreme isolationism or anything of that kind. They were broadly in sympathy with the general objects of international economic co-operation which are expressed in this document. But they feared that the use of certain phrases in relation to tariffs might give rise to misunderstandings.

Reciprocal Aid

My Hon'ble friend Mr. Neogy has pointed out that although Great Britain signed that agreement, they did not consider themselves as being automatically precluded from, say, the continuance of imperial preferential tariffs clause thereby. That is true. They have made it clear that that is their view of the matter. But the Government of India found it difficult to obtain sufficient categorical indication of what the position would be. Therefore they decided that it was better, since they did not think it absolutely essential to execute a formal agreement in order to secure what each side desired in the matter of reciprocal aid, they came to the not unnatural conclusion that it was better to keep clear of any phraseology which might afterwards be thrown up against India in connection with post-war fiscal politics.

Now, Sir, I do not see why the Hon'ble Member has come to the conclusion that that was in any way disadvantageous to India. I do not think it had any effect on the actual transactions. I think it was entirely to India's advantage to make her position clear in the matter. After all, India has always put forward the argument in regard to infant industries and the peculiar position of backward countries. It might well be that a formula which appeared to be harmless to other countries would have been embarrassing, if it had been subscribed to by the Government of India.

MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: (Tanjore cum Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Were any notes exchanged with U.S.A. Government on this matter?

SIR JEREMY RAISMAN: Actually notes were not exchanged because it would have been impossible to do that in any non-public manner and the same disadvantages would have arisen as would have arisen from a public contracting out of some of the implications of Article VII of the Lease-Lend Agreement. When we came to the case of Canada, then at a certain stage the Government of Canada realised what our difficulties were in regard to that matter and they so re-worded the comparable article that we found no difficulty in signing the agreement with Canada.

Economic Clause of Atlantic Charter

MR. K. C. NEOGY (Dacca Division: Non-Muhammedan Rural): If my Hon'ble friend would not mind any interruption, do I take it then that the economic clause of the Atlantic Charter constitutes the economic policy of the Government of India?

SIR JEREMY RAISMAN: No, Sir, I did not put it like that. All that I said was that the Government of India were broadly in sympathy with the aims of general international economic co-operation which were expressed in some of these documents, but at the same time, their attitude towards them was a little more than critical than that of some of the other participants and therefore they came to the conclusion that they had better not subscribe to them in so many words. I want to make it clear that the Government of India in declining to accept the implications of those words was not sticking to the policy of extreme isolationism, because, I think it is realised by everybody that although the interests of India must be safeguarded, India will not be able to live in an economic or geographical vacuum. She will have to maintain relations with the rest of the world and in those relations, there are certain fundamental principles which have to be accepted. However, the Government of India, I think, in this matter, has done the most it can to preserve the utmost liberty of action for its successors, and I do not see that in that matter, they are susceptible to criticism.

We continued to receive lend-lease supplies, continued to grant reciprocal aid without any formal agreement with U.S.A. Government and that is the position to-day. As far as I am aware, many other countries are in the same position. They came to the conclusion that whereas reciprocal aid was a sensible arrangement in war time it was not absolutely inevitable that it should bring in its train, that it

should be tied up with certain undertakings in regard to the future. So, without signing any document, they merely entered into a mutual aid arrangement.

Scope of Reciprocal Aid

Now, Sir, my Hon'ble friend appeared to me to be critical of the gradual extension of the scope of reciprocal aid granted by India. He wished to know what were the reasons for the expansion of the scope of that aid? It is quite true that whereas in relation to our defence expenditure generally the criterion of the local defence of India is applied, it is not applied now in regard to reciprocal aid to America.

I cannot go into the history of this matter in any detail, it is hardly possible to state in public the exchanges that have passed between the Government of India and the Government of U.S.A. on this subject. I am sure my Hon'ble friend will recognise that in a matter of this kind, if the desire of the other side is for certain facilities and if the facilities which we are to receive are ultimately dependent on our meeting the desire of the other side, then we are in a difficult position. Indeed, India was very badly in need of certain supplies which could only be obtained on lend-lease.

My Hon'ble friend will perhaps remember that when certain supplies were put on the lend-lease list, they were no longer obtainable for cash. There was a time in which certain articles could only be obtained on lend-lease terms and could not be bought or obtained by gold or in any other way. The position was that the U.S.A. said "these things are essential to the conduct of the war, and therefore, if we are to supply them at all, we supply them because we recognise that they are necessary for the conduct of war, and we supply them on lend-lease terms and they cannot be supplied to anybody else."

Now India required certain things and had to get them. There were two parties to the arrangement and it was not possible to maintain the position that India was bound in all circumstances to be the net beneficiary. It is quite possible that India in the last resort will be a net beneficiary and it is quite clear to the Government of India that in no circumstances will the reverse position be allowed to occur. But, short of that, I do not see, what ceiling, in the circumstances, the Government of India could place on this reciprocal aid.

I must make it quite clear that nothing is supplied which the country cannot afford to supply, that is to say, our own decision is necessary to the provision of any type of supply and naturally nothing is supplied unless India can afford, can spare those particular supplies, but subject to that over-riding criterion, the Government of India was more or less bound to reciprocate. Acceptance of certain essential supplies through the lend-lease arrangement meant that you were in principle bound to reciprocate.

It is true that one might have hoped that so much would not have been called for from this country. And undoubtedly at earlier stages of the war it seemed improbable that the demands on this country would be at all comparable with the benefits which this country could expect to receive from lend-lease. But all that I can say is that in the event that expectation has not been fulfilled and is not being fulfilled to the extent which appeared probable. I would not like my Hon'ble friend to go away with the impression that the Government of India complied with every request that was made of them. They did not, but the present situation is the result of what they felt they had to agree to.

Lend-Lease Figures Difficult to Compile

Now my Hon'ble friend asked for certain figures, and I have some figures here with me which I could give to the House. These figures are very difficult to compile. Lend-lease transactions originally, as far as we understood, were meant to be transactions from which the dollar sign and of course the pound or the rupee sign had been excluded. In other words we did not embark on the business of valuing each consignment; so that later on when we found ourselves under the necessity of preparing some kind of accounts it was a matter of considerable difficulty. And that is the reason why when my Hon'ble friend said that it is extremely difficult for Members to find out what is happening or to follow the financial magnitudes of these things, I reminded him that that is a difficulty which is not confined only to Hon'ble Members opposite; we ourselves have at different times found ourselves in great difficulties over these matters.

MR. T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR: What was the object of removing the dollar values on those shipments? It could only be to hide the actual cost of those shipments.

SIR JEREMY RAISMAN: I would remind my Hon'ble friend that lend-lease was a new conception in international co-operation during war time. The idea no longer was that you lent to your allies something which can be valued in terms of money and which forms a war debt but that you freely contribute. Therefore I seemed, at that stage at any rate, that there was no need for the recipient ally to keep any accounts of it. I hope my Hon'ble friend has understood the point.

MR. T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR: I have understood the point but I am not convinced of the fairness of the arrangement.

SIR JEREMY RAISMAN: It was not my arrangement; I am explaining how lend-lease was first conceived. Undoubtedly it has undergone certain modifications and developments as the war developed. Originally, of course, lend-lease was provided at a stage when America was not participating in the war to the same extent as she is now. And naturally as American participation in the war in other ways expanded, the people of America felt that the conception of lend-lease should be adjusted to the altered circumstances. Thence arose the request for something in return for reciprocal aid and the present conception of mutual aid. If the House would like me to read out some of these figures I will do so.

MR. K. C. NEOGY: Sir, the House does not seem to be quite interested in all these details, but if my Hon'ble friend will kindly make an attempt to have an exhaustive note prepared before he leaves this country and has it published that would be a great favour to some of us who take some interest in this question.

SIR JEREMY RAISMAN: I agree with my Hon'ble friend that the House possibly would not wish to follow the details. I was merely anxious to absolve myself of the charge of having been less than willing to provide my Hon'ble friend with such information as we have. But I agree that the course which he suggests is probably more suitable.

Post-War Price Level

There is one other topic with which I should like to deal before I sit down and that is the question which was raised by my Hon'ble friend Mr. Tyson regarding the post-war price level. I say it was raised by my Hon'ble friend Mr. Tyson but actually the theme was suggested to him by myself, because I was surprised to find during the debate in this House on the cut motion by the European Group that nearly everybody was talking in terms which I found difficult to distinguish from the old-fashioned retrenchment notions which followed the last war.

It has been generally recognised that the retrenchment idea of the early twenties which was pursued in many countries set in motion deflationary and contractionist tendencies which eventually led to the unprecedented economic depression of 1929 and onwards. And I was surprised to find that in a House so well-informed as this and on the notion of no less a person than my Hon'ble friend the discussion was entirely of the old type, of an axe-wielding character. I had no time then to develop the theme; but I said to myself, "Can it really be that this House, after all that has been said and written since the crisis and depression of the early thirties, is thinking merely in crude terms of retrenchment, of contraction and of deflation?

PROF. N. G. RANGA: No.

SIR JEREMY RAISMAN: I have forgotten whether my Hon'ble friend Prof. Ranga spoke on the motion.

PROF. N. G. RANGA: I spoke and I made it clear that we do not want any retrenchments on the developments of social services and departments.

SIR JEREMY RAISMAN: Thank you. It was for that reason that I threw out the question which, I was glad to see, resulted in the speech which my Hon'ble friend Mr. Tyson made the other day. At the same time I cannot say that he has done very much more than pass the baby back to me. After all, who started the discussion? He said, "I want expenditure to be cut down." I said to him, "Are you aware that expenditure is going to come down with a bang? And does that suggest nothing to you?" And he said to me, "What do you propose to do when expenditure comes down with a bang?"

SIR F. E. JAMES: My Hon'ble friend said that he proposes to hand the baby on to his successor.

SIR JEREMY RAISMAN: Whatever I may say to-day, a real live baby will have to be handed on to my successor or rather to our successors. It is not merely a matter for the Finance Member. I must point out that the Government of India as a whole are actually aware of the whole complex of problems that underlie this question of the post-war price level. To talk of the post-war price level, I suggest is somewhat to over-simplify the issue. The level of prices at any particular time is the resultant of a large number of factors and I do not think that there would be much hope in attempting to operate directly on the price level. You have got to think of all the factors at work which go to make that result and to see to what extent you can intervene and help.

Contractionist Methods

I was saying that after the last war we had a crisis brought about by contractionist and deflationary methods. The idea was to cut down costs, to reduce wages, to discharge superfluous labour and somehow or other to bring about a state of affairs in which private enterprise felt that it could operate profitably again and float the ship of the economy off the rocks on to which it had got.

As far as I can make out, in the world to-day there is one thing which almost everybody is agreed upon and that is that the post-war problem, however it is tackled, should not be

tackled in that particular way, that whatever may be right, that method is wrong—the method of merely cutting down, of attempting to balance the budget at the lowest level to which you can get.

The way it was actually put to me, rather graphically, by no less a person than Prof. D. H. Robertson, Professor of Political Economy at Cambridge, in the course of an informal chat, was this. He said: "It seems to me that you can either obtain a balance (not merely of the Government Budget but the whole national economy) at the highest possible level, or you can obtain a balance at the minimum level." And he said, what happened last time was that everybody tried to get down to the barest possible economy and at that stage they found eventually a balance but it was only after inflicting the most terrific suffering and misery on very large sections of mankind.

Expansionist Ideas

It seems to be generally agreed that whatever you do, this time you will not do it that way. And so the expansionist philosophy now holds the field and it is held by some very distinguished thinkers—by men like Lord Keynes and Sir William Beveridge—it is the philosophy which was being put into practice in the course of the New Deal in America by President Roosevelt and his advisers, and it is the philosophy which may be said to underlie the British White Paper on employment which is one of the most remarkable state documents which was ever produced.

I must make it clear that it has never yet, as far as I am aware, been demonstrated that a balance can be achieved at the highest level. It involves something of an act of faith. It has not been actually historically carried out. But the economists have pursued a line of thought which leads them to think that there is more hope at any rate in that direction than in the other, and as I say it has been pretty generally agreed that it is that direction in which the world should move and that Governments should not follow the course which they pursued after the last war, which eventually led to the crisis of the early thirties.

Current Economic Thought

The Government of India does not live in a vacuum although many people seem to think so; the Government of India is very conscious of these currents in the realm of economic thought and its own thinking if following in those lines.

At the same time, I must make it clear that it is extremely improbable that any Government in the world will be able to protect its economy entirely from the effects of the jolt which will come when the war ceases. That tremendous transference of activity—the reduction of various forms of wasteful production—all those tremendous changes must have an effect and it is quite impossible for any Government, however constituted, to make such plans as to counteract every one of those effects.

Difficult to Prophesy

Therefore, it is difficult to prophesy what the world post-war price level will be. It is almost certain that, no matter what is done, it will probably be a good deal lower than it is now, certainly in India.

India suffers from the disadvantage that a good deal of the expenditure in this country happens to it; it is not expenditure which is consciously incurred by the Government of this country, but it merely results from the developments of the war and from the fact that this country or rather countries contiguous to it happen to become theatres of war. That determines the total volume of rupee expenditure and therefore tends to determine the total volume of economic activity in this country and the price level.

But there is another thing. As I was saying earlier in the course of my speech, we have had inflation in this country. We still are in the position that we have not entirely succeeded in raising by taxation and borrowing all the rupees necessary for the present level of rupee outgo, and therefore there is an inflationary element in our present set-up. It obviously is undesirable—as soon as that matter can be brought completely under control as it could be when Allied expenditure in this country ceased—it is obviously undesirable that that inflationary gap should be allowed to continue. To the extent that the price level in India at the present time has been determined by the existence and the continuance of an inflationary gap, to that extent it is neither possible nor desirable to maintain the price level at its existing height so that in my opinion there would have to be a certain subsidence on the cessation of Allied war expenditure. But it would be possible for the scale of expenditure of the Government of India to continue. That does not mean, as I pointed out the other day, that forms of waste or extravagance should continue, but what I mean is that it would be possible for the Government of India to concentrate on maintaining, as far as it can, a pretty high level of useful expenditure.

DR. P. N. BANERJEA: Expenditure on nation-building services.

SIR JEREMY RAISMAN: Yes.

Then, again we must assume that with the conditions obtaining at the end of the war economic activity on private initiative will occupy a much larger part in the picture than it does at present. After all, at present practically the whole economy is geared to the requirements of war. When the requirements of war cease, obviously there will be enormously more scope for private enterprise to enter into fields which will not be so closely controlled by the Government.

If the expansion of private economic activity is on a sufficient scale then it is possible that it may completely neutralise the effects of the cessation of Government expenditure. I hope, and I believe, that that will happen to a very great extent. Besides that, of course, we shall have export markets open to us which at the present moment are either not open or are difficult of access. That again will tend to fill the vacuum which is left by the cessation of war expenditure.

Implications of Expansionist Theory

I do not wish to be thought as subscribing to all the implications of what is called the expansionist theory. I believe that it is based to a somewhat excessive extent on a somewhat optimistic estimate of the mobility of labour and of the possibility of adjusting various other sources of friction in the general economy. It is based on a certain degree of optimism about the extent to which the levers which are in the hands of Government can actually operate the whole economy. That may be true to a much greater extent in highly integrated countries like Great Britain and the United States of America. But in a country with an economy which is more primitive such as that of India, you cannot produce the same effects merely by moving the familiar handles of the bank rate and the volume of credit.

There is a good deal of slack in the various joints of the Indian economy and the mere adoption of the expansionist theory and the pursuit of an expansionist policy by the Government would not in itself in the conditions of India suffice to neutralise the effects of the cessation of large scale war expenditure. Nevertheless, there are certain remedies which can be applied to mitigate the disadvantages of a post-war reaction, I will not say "collapse" because I hope and believe that there need not be a collapse. I think that even as far as our present thinking has gone we would be in a position to prevent a collapse. After all it may even be better than having a collapse to go on maintaining an army of two million or providing them with uniforms. It may be better, to take the extreme instance to go on producing munitions which you never intend to use. That is a reduction ad absurdum.

What it does show is that you are not entirely helpless in the face of these things. You can to some extent control the rate at which the reaction takes place. Actually I do conceive that certainly in the matter of the demobilization of troops, it will be necessary for the Government to pursue a cautious policy in the matter of demobilization.

I do not think any Government nowadays will merely turn away hundreds of thousands of men and say "we do not want you any more" without any conception of what they are going to do. That obviously would be asking for trouble of the most serious kind. So one of the policies which it is possible to pursue is to regulate the pace at which you unwind your war economy, to regulate the demobilization both of men and materials and of industry generally.

Then again, although I threw some cold water on it a moment ago, the policy of cheap money has been pursued with considerable success during the war and it undoubtedly creates conditions and helps to maintain conditions favourable to a high level of economic activity. So long as that is so I have no doubt that the Government of India would continue the cheap money policy.

Similarly, the control of capital issues seems to me to be a measure which will be as necessary for the health of the country in peace as it is in war. It will be just as necessary immediately after the war to ensure that the capital resources of this country are directed into the most beneficial and fruitful channels as it is now and that is one of the levers which is ready to our hands and which I hope will remain so.

Public Works Programme

Then again the Government of India hope to be able to facilitate the import of capital goods which will assist to increase the whole level of production of this country. That is one of the principal concerns of my Hon'ble friend, the Planning and Development Member. Obviously if we can secure imports of capital goods, then that enables us to maintain a high level of economic activity to replace the results of the cessation of war. So again with industrial rehabilitation generally.

Another policy which has been indicated in

our pamphlets on reconstruction is the policy of pushing on with public works and rehabilitation of railways and so on. These are plans which have been and still are being worked out and they are capable of employing large numbers of men and also of keeping industry moving.

PANDIT LAKSHMI KANTA MAITRA: Can you explain how the control of capital issues after the war will help industrial rehabilitation?

SIR JEREMY RAISMAN: After the war it will help because any kind of chaos or uncontrolled speculation would obstruct planned economic activity and would therefore militate against bringing economic activity to the highest level. It is not a man suffering with 105 degrees of fever who is the most energetic person, although he may seem to be. Similarly it would not be a fact if depression in India were active and if people could offer new issues every day regardless of their merit that the tempo of economic life in India would reach its optimum point.

DR. P. N. BANERJEA (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): What guarantee is there that this control would be wisely and carefully exercised?

Controls Necessary

SIR JEREMY RAISMAN: My Hon'ble friend touches on the whole problem of planned economy. What guarantee is there? It is assumed nowadays, and it is part of the expansionist philosophy that the giving of thought to these matters produces better results than chaotic *laissez faire*. If it should prove to be otherwise, then in twenty years' time some one standing in my place may be propounding a return of the conditions of the thirties. They may come to the conclusion that even a depression of that magnitude is better than the results of economic planning. But I do not think so. The best thought of the world today is looking to a planning of this kind and control by Governments in this way as the solution of this type of problem. They are so certain that the contractionist course is bad that they are prepared to commit an act of faith and move in the opposite direction this time.

There are certain other measures which are possible. Mr. Tyson said that he thought that this Government would have to depend on a great extension of physical controls.

MR. G. W. TYSON (Bengal: European): I said that you would have to depend on reinforcing your money policy with the existing physical control. I would not advocate a great extension of it.

SIR JEREMY RAISMAN: I quite agree with my Hon'ble friend that the answer cannot be produced by what he called 'money magic' or mere monetary manipulation. I quite agree with that and some measures of intervention and control are necessary. Of course the existing controls are directed rather to preventing the price level from going too high. There are controls which provide maxima at the present time. That is one thing. But if you are faced with a contractionary, with a deflationary crisis, then you have to consider the opposite type of action, namely providing floors, not ceilings, and that is a different type of control altogether. It involves such action as going into the markets and buying up stocks when they are redundant and are depressing the price level, when prices fall below what is considered to be desirable minimum. That type of action of course is possible and we have even resorted to it to a certain extent during this war. I must warn the House that this has very far-reaching financial implications. It is a kind of action which should not be lightly entered upon.

At the same time, I conceive that the Government of this country after the war will have to maintain a sympathetic attitude towards the problem of guaranteeing a minimum return to the cultivator. It will not be in a position.....

PROF. N. G. RANGA (Guntur cum Nellor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): So at last the cultivator comes into the picture!

SIR JEREMY RAISMAN: Not last. As far as I am concerned he is first and last. I think that that is one of the important elements in the problem. If you are to prevent a disastrous drop in the whole price structure, then one of the main things which will and which must engage your attention is the problem of maintaining minimum prices for primary products.

It is a very difficult problem and it has very far-reaching implications and it certainly would not be consistent with the old-fashioned attitude towards balanced budget or with anything in the nature of a retrenchment or economy drive. It might easily land the Government into much larger sums than anything which they have yet embarked upon and if it were not very skilfully pursued or fortunately and successfully pursued, it might land the country in a degree of inflation which would be much more difficult to control than the inflation which has resulted from the war. At the same time, it is a type of remedy which must be kept in mind, because the degree of hardship and misery which could result from a completely *laissez faire* attitude towards agricultural prices is too colossal to contemplate.

PANDIT LAKSHMI KANTA MAITRA: For how long after the war will this artificial price level be necessary?

SIR JEREMY RAISMAN: I cannot say: I would not venture to prophesy about a thing like that. I said sometime ago that there would inevitably be some reduction in the price level and that will apply very definitely to agricultural products. For instance, I make no secret of the fact that I do not consider that the present price of wheat in the Punjab could possibly be maintained at anything like the existing level, nor do I think that it would be to the advantage of the country that it should be so maintained. It is cocked up high above the general average of the price level. Other articles too. But the fact remains that it is in a highly artificial position due to special reasons. I merely alluded to it as one element in the situation.

What will happen, in my opinion, will be a certain subsidence in prices and it may be necessary and it may be possible for a Government to intervene to prevent that fall from degenerating into collapse . . . .

DR. P N. BANERJEA: Regulate the process of deflation.

Preventing Collapse

SIR JEREMY RAISMAN: To prevent it from going too far it may be necessary, probably will be necessary. Even if your object is to attain ultimately a lower level it may be necessary for you to support prices at intermediate stages in order to prevent a collapse, because a situation of collapse will be one in which it will be far more difficult for you to intervene and to apply remedies. Therefore you will have to keep in close touch with the situation and attempt to adjust it from week to week and to prevent it getting beyond your control.

Those are such ideas as I have to offer at the present time on which is undoubtedly a very important question. I can not pretend in this short period to have dealt with it comprehensively. I merely indicated some of the channels of thought and some of the policies which the Government of India already have in mind for dealing with the very serious problem which Mr. Tyson mentioned.

Before I sit down I would like to express my intense appreciation of the kind words which have been uttered regarding me from various quarters of this House. I think that some of them were considerably more than I would claim as my desert. I have endeavoured in a period of difficulty to carry out my duties. I think I have been very ably assisted in that matter by the officials in my Department.

I have endeavoured to follow the policies which I thought would be most advantageous to the country and I am very grateful that most members in this House who have worked with me have, at any rate, recognised that that was my single purpose. I realise that many unhappy things have occurred during the period of my stewardship. I could have wished it had been otherwise. I believe that I did my utmost to mitigate them.

Tribute to Colleagues

There is one other thing that I would like to say and that is in relation to my colleagues and particularly in relation to my Indian colleagues. I have worked with them now for several years and we have tackled some of the most difficult problems which could ever face any Government. I cannot imagine that any Government in this country will ever deal with problems of that character with a more concentrated and genuine intention to do the best for this country than has been exhibited by my Hon'ble colleagues. I have found them to be a body of sincere, devoted, and distinguished men, and I am proud to have been associated with them.

I am glad that at this stage of India's development I was privileged to play so intimate a part, and I feel that I shall carry away with me some very vivid and extremely happy memories.

Finally, I would like to say, in response to Sir Frederick James, that I agree with him that my memories of this House will not all be painful ones. I must admit that there have been times, while I was sitting on this bench, which seemed incredibly trying, and when I returned home I wondered why anybody would want to adopt this particular form of activity for his livelihood. There have been times when it seemed to be a way of life which provided extremely few compensations.

At the same time I have no doubt that when I have left this scene, the usual nostalgic effect, the kindly influence of memory, will assert itself, and that things will fall into proportion in which the sunny aspects will stand out, and I shall be conscious of the very pleasant human relations which I have had with so many members of this House.

That reminds me that I am quite an old member of this House, now I have been used to regard myself as so much a part of you in this House that I had almost forgotten that it was so long ago as 1933 that I first appeared in this House. I do not know if I can claim that in comparison with some of the real old giants such

as my Honb'le friend, Mr. N. M. Joshi, who is no doubt a patriarch of this institution.

SIR MUHAMMAD YAMIN KHAN: I also came in 1925.

SIR JEREMY RAISMAN: I apologise to my friend if I have omitted to accord him equal honour. As I said, I have been here for 12 years, and 12 years is a bit of a slice in one's life, and when one comes to look back on these years, it is not easy to ignore the associations of that long time. I feel that I have made many friends in this House, and I have no doubt that I shall remember these associations and many of the interesting happenings in this House with a good deal of pleasure.

Appeal to the Opposition

Now, Sir, in this mood I find myself tempted almost to appeal to the other side not to throw out the Finance Bill, but I think that would not be fair on my part. I realise that they will have to be as inflexibly committed to the course which they have announced, as we on these benches have to do our duty in relation to our responsibility in connection with the war. It might even cause some embarrassment if at this late stage my Hon'ble friends were to allow this Bill to pass through to the stage of consideration of clauses.

It might be difficult to arrange the time-table so that the Bill will go through all the stages which will be necessary before the end of this financial year. I am grateful to my Hon'ble friends that they had this thought in mind in arranging the debate on this stage of the Bill. I cannot say I feel like King Charles walking to the block. I feel that the procedure of voting down the Finance Bill will shortly become a time honoured institution like some of the most ancient customs of Parliament. However, if that is our fate to be, we must reconcile ourselves to it.

My Hon'ble friend, the Leader of the Opposition, has assured the members of the European Group that it is unnecessary to attach undue significance to this action, and he appears to entertain a lively expectation that the actual financial administration in the ensuing year will not be affected. After all we cannot entirely anticipate the actions of exalted individuals. I do not know what he would say if that expectation were not realised. I must say that I would almost feel he had let me down. He would have led me up the garden path to a position which I should find extremely embarrassing for myself and for my successor. Perhaps it is unnecessary to contemplate these improbable eventualities.

I thank the House for the patient hearing which for the last time they have given to my reply to the debate on the Finance Bill.

GOVERNOR-DESIGNATE OF U. P.



Sir Francis Verner Wylie

A Communique issued from the Viceroy's House on April 3 stated:

His Majesty the King has been pleased to approve the appointment of the Hon'ble Sir Francis Verner Wylie, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., to be Governor of the United Provinces in succession to His Excellency Sir Maurice Hallett, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I., on the expiry of his term of office on December 7, next.

Before taking up this appointment Sir Francis Verner Wylie, will take four months' leave.

His Excellency the Crown Representative, with the approval of the Secretary of State, has appointed the Hon'ble Mr. Conrad Lawrence Corfield, C.S.I., C.I.E., to succeed the Hon'ble Sir Francis Verner Wylie, as Political Adviser to the Crown Representative.

PROGRESS OF POST-WAR PLANNING IN INDIA

Sir A. R. Dalal's Speech in Central Assembly



Sir Ardeshir Dalal.

INTERVENING in the general debate on the Finance Bill in the Central Assembly, the Hon'ble Sir Ardeshir Dalal, Member for Planning and Development, Government of India, on March 21, replied to criticism against his Department and detailed the progress made with the preparatory task of post-war planning in the Centre and in the Provinces. He further explained the steps that had been taken to safeguard the interests of the Muslims and other backward communities.

Here is the full text of the Hon'ble Member's speech:

I propose to touch on one or two points only. The first is misapprehension which seems to have been created by some remarks of my Hon'ble friend, the Finance Member, on the Budget in connection with the Planning and Development Department. To me those remarks appear to admit of no misapprehension. Nevertheless I have heard from many quarters and even seen in some papers that the intention was to throw cold water on the planning and development schemes. I am perfectly certain that it was far from being the case. What the Hon'ble the Finance Member pointed out was that when the war was going on and when the whole economy of the country was engaged in the prosecution of the war it would not be possible to spend large sums of money in executing important schemes of development but he added that money would be forthcoming for all the necessary preparatory measures.

Preparatory Task

That is exactly the position with which we are in agreement. In the first place even if the money was forthcoming it takes some time to prepare the schemes and in the meantime there is no particular necessity to spend large sums of money. The whole position has been made very clear by the Hon'ble the Finance Member in paragraph 37 of his speech. Over and above the one crore of rupees which have been allotted in the budget for this department, additional sums are allotted to the various departments and the Finance Member has been careful to add: "Should these amounts prove to be less than can usefully be spent the House will be moved to vote such supplementary grants as may be required."

That, I think, ought to set all these misapprehensions on this matter at rest. The provinces have also large surpluses, unlike the Central Government which has a heavy deficit, and important work in connection with the preparatory task of planning is going on in the provinces. They have enlarged their establishment, appointed special staff, they are expanding or have in many cases already expanded educational and technical institutions and their training personnel. Both in the Provinces, as well as in the Centre, the difficult point is the training of adequate personnel in proper time and it was in this context that I mentioned that it is not finance that is going to prove the bottleneck, but personnel. That did not imply as my Hon'ble friend, Mr. Tyson, seems to have understood that I paid no attention to the subject of finance or that we were in any way embarking upon a rake's progress.

Mr. Tyson referred to the important question of conversion from war to peace. That

subject has been very seriously engaging the attention of Government. In Supply Department a special staff is going to be appointed to look into the matter of the conversion from war to peace of a number of industries with which that Department is dealing. The Disposal Board is also considering that subject together with various Provincial Governments.

I agree with Mr. Tyson regarding the importance of maintaining a proper price level in the post-war period. It is not possible to maintain prices at the extraordinary high level at which they stand at the present moment. The objective would be to maintain as high a price level as is possible, but greater emphasis would be laid on the stability of the price level than upon the actual height of it. Mr Tyson complained that these matters had not been adequately dealt with in the second report on Reconstruction Planning, but the second report is after all a summary of various matters which were engaging the attenion of the Government, and he cannot expect all these important financial and other matters to be dealt with in great detail in what is meant to be a summary for the information of the Government as well as of the public. Given a stable, fairly high price level, full production and taxation equal to the present level, although not the same in kind, I do not believe that money is going to prove any very serious handicap to planning and the whole essence of successful planning is that the wealth which will be created in one stage of planning would be employed for creating further wealth in the succeeding stage.

Object of Bombay Plan

Before I pass from this subject, I should like to add my tribute to the numerous tributes that have already been paid to my Hon'ble friend, the Finance Member. Although I have had the honour of being his colleague for a short time only, I have watched his work in a non-official capacity for many years and I have no hesitation in saying that no Finance Member, no matter to what race or creed he belonged, would have worked so wholeheartedly in the interest of the country that he has served as the present Finance Member has done. Those of us who are in a position to understand and appreciate what he has done will long remember his services to the country.

Now, Sir, I come to another subject on which it is somewhat distasteful for me to talk, but I think it is very necessary to dispel the suspicion, prejudice and misunderstanding that seem to exist in the minds of some of the Hon'ble Members of the Muslim League Party opposite as well as some of their organs of public opinion with regard to the activities of this Department and myself. It might be that that is due to my being one of the authors of the Bombay Plan and therefore of being branded as a capitalist.

It has been said that the Bombay Plan is intended to make the rich richer. I submit, Sir, that even a cursory glance at the Plan will show that it is meant to do nothing of the kind. Its object is to raise the standard of living, to get rid of the evil of dire poverty from our country and to the extent to which it succeeds in doing so, it can only benefit the backward classes at the expense of the more privileged classes. If there had been any doubt about the intentions of the authors of the Bombay Plan in that respect, they should have beet set at rest by the issue of the second part of the Plan.

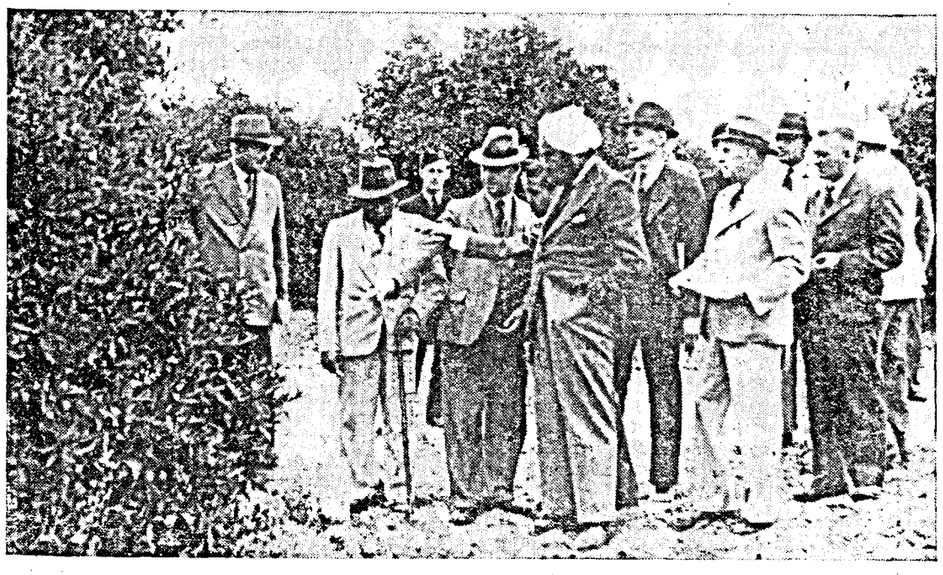
I would invite your attention, Sir, to paragraph 4 of the Plan, second part. "The primary object of the Plan of economic development outlined in the previous memorandum is to improve the standard of living of the masses. In fact an increased production will be meaningless unless it is directed towards the eradication of poverty. Then, again, concentration of the means of production in the hands of a small group of people has been considered as one of the patent causes of inequalities of income which prevails in the world at present as this is also to some extent, incidentally the result of such inequality."

Then, the authors go on to suggest various means of remedying these inequalities, such as imposition of death duties, reform of the system of land tenure, small scale and cottage industries, regional distribution of industries, control by the State, accompanied in proper cases by state ownership or management and so on. May I ask, what there is in this programme with which either the Muslim League or anybody else would differ from?

I have not come here to implement the Bombay Plan in all its details. As a matter of fact, the authors of the Bombay Plan have themselves been very careful to point out that they have not put forward any detailed blue print at all. All that they have put forward is a mere sketch of the objectives and the targets aimed at and the rough methods of achieving those objectives, but not a detailed plan. What I have said is that we agree with the objectives of the Bombay Plan. But then my Hon'ble friend, Mr. Piracha himself, has stated in his speech last November that he too agreed with the objectives of the Bombay Plan. The principles underlying the objectives, as just now mentioned by me, are more or less the same, as the principles we have laid down in the second



Members of the Indian Industrial Mission to Australia listen to the story of the irrigation settlement at Mildura, Victoria (Australia) and learn the secrets of the successful handling of vine fruits. Picture shows the members of the Mission with their leader, Sir Datar Singh (marked X). (Below) Sir Datar Singh inquires about citrus growing at Mildura.



report of the Reconstruction Committee of the Council.

I will not weary the House by going into details over these but I would particularly invite the attention of my Hon'ble friends to the first three pages and the ninth page of the second report. Then, there is the constitutional issue. On the constitutional issue, I made my position very clear in my last speech that the work of planning and development is absolutely without any prejudice to the constitutional issue. Whatever shape that future constitution may take, the work that we are now doing is not likely in any way to prejudice that; on the contrary it will only benefit the various parts of the country to which it is extended.

If for instance, there are irrigation works in the Punjab, how is it going to injure the Punjab or any future constitution that the Punjab may have. If free primary education is extended to Bengal, how is it going to hurt Bengal or its future constitution. It can only help those provinces and not hinder them in any way.

Communal Interests

Apart from that, it has been found by historical experience that even Provinces and States which enjoy the utmost measure of autonomy have had to come together in the interests of economic development. That has been the experience of the U.S.A., that has been the experience of Australia, and in many other places. Various methods have been devised for bringing about such economic co-ordination. One of these is the method of regional authorities which was first tried in the Tennessee Valley and is now being adopted in other parts of the world.

Now, Sir, I come to some specific allegations which Mr. Piracha has made against me in the November session in this House and repeated in this session. It has been particularly painful for me to have to listen to these allegations because I have always had the utmost sympathy for the struggles and aspirations of the Muslim and other backward communities. I realise the handicaps from which they suffer, and I am also very well conscious of the fact that a mere policy of fair-field-and-no-favour is not going to do any particular good to the backward communities. They have got to be brought to the level of the more advanced communities, and for that purpose special measures are necessary.

Mr. Piracha stated that it was in 1934 that Government realised the existence of the Muslims as a separate community and allowed them a separate ratio. But, Sir, it was in 1930 that as Municipal Commissioner and Chief Executive Officer of the Bombay Municipality that I issued a circular providing for special treatment for the Muslims and backward classes in the Bombay Municipality.

The Tata Traditions

Then it has been stated that true to the Tata traditions I have been unfair to the Muslims. Sir, I am proud of the Tata traditions. I do not believe that there is a single concern in the whole of India, Indian or European, which has nobler traditions than the house of Tata's, and I am particularly proud of those traditions.

The method by which the house of Tata functions has not been properly understood by the majority of people. It is presumed that every individual member of the house of Tata is a multi-millionaire. As a matter of fact an overwhelming proportion of the profits which accrue to the house of Tata goes to charities; over 90 per cent of the profits which are made by the house of Tata's go to the proprietors of two trusts, Sir D. J. Tata Trust and Sir R. J. Tata Trust, and that money is entirely disbursed in charity, and charity which is of an entirely cosmopolitan character, not only not confined to any caste or creed or community, not even confined to India, but world-wide charity and charity under which among other communities the Muslim community has also benefited. That is in connection with the allegation that the traditions of the house of Tata's are hostile to the Muslims; I submit that it is nothing of the kind.

MR. MUHAMMAD NAUMAN: They do not want charities, they want their rights.

SIR ARDESHIR DALAL: I entirely agree, and I am fully in sympathy with the claims that Muslims might legitimately make for their rights. What I am trying to point out is that the traditions of the house of Tata's are not hostile in any way to the Muslim community.

Then, Sir, another allegation is that the Tata Iron and Steel Company has been particularly hostile to the interests of Muslims. In the Tata Iron and Steel Company, so far as the lower ranks are concerned, Muslims are adequately represented. In the higher technical ranks their proportion is not what it should be, but that is not due to any fault on the part of the management but because the necessary technical experience has not already been obtained by the members of the Muslim community. The remedy for that is to promote further technical training and that is what we should try to do.

There is a Technical Institute connected with the Tata Iron and Steel Company in which instructions have been issued to admit Muslim students as far as possible. But out of about 200 applications every year barely two or three come from Muslims. But every time special care is taken to see that Muslims, in so far as their qualifications permit, are admitted to that Technical Institute. I do not deny that in an institution of that character, since the Muslims in the higher ranks are in a minority, some cases of injustice might take place. But wherever such cases have come to my notice in the past adequate action has been taken, and the management has been asked every time to see that, because they are in a minority, Muslim interests should not suffer.

Then I come to the allegations made by Mr. Piracha regarding my own department. In his first speech he stated that Sir Ardeshir Dalal had taken good care to exclude Muslims from positions of responsibility. The communal ratio has been completely observed in making all appointments in my department; the Home Department circular has been fully carried out. In the case of such posts as Secretary, Joint Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, Superintendents, and so on, the communal ratio does not apply because they have already been selected on the basis of that communal ratio. Nevertheless, my first appointment was notified in June though I did not actually take charge until August. But from June onwards I tried to get a Muslim Deputy Secretary for my department, as one post was vacant. I literally begged the other departments of Government to spare me a Muslim Deputy Secretary and even attempted to take over one man who was Assistant Secretary and promote him as Deputy Secretary; but I could not succeed. However, after four months a Muslim officer wrote to me from Bombay, and the Supply Member under whose charge he was, agreed to spare him. That will illustrate the efforts made by me to secure Muslims for the superior posts in my department.

Similarly in the case of the Adviser's department, they are posts of a technical and special kind and therefore the Home Department's circular does not apply. Nevertheless two out of ten superior posts in the Industrial Branch belong to the Muslim community.

In the case of the Industrial Adviser himself, which is one of the most important posts in my department, Mr. Piracha stated that when it fell vacant by accident a Muslim was not appointed.

Now, Sir, I submit that it is not reasonable on the part of any community to say that any particular post, no matter of what importance, must be and should be allotted to any particular community. As a matter of fact that post did not fall vacant by accident, and perhaps Mr. Piracha is unaware of it. It was held by a Parsee officer of very high attainments, and it will show how communally-minded I am when I say that that Parsee officer no longer holds that post in spite of his very high attainments, but another officer, a retired I.C.S., an officer who was formerly Adviser to the Governor of Bombay, has now been appointed to the post. But even in connection with that post there is a Muslim officer—not an I.C.S.—who to my mind was suitable for the post, but three or four attempts of mine to get that gentleman for that or any other post in my department has been turned down by the department to which he belongs. If Mr. Piracha desires I shall mention his name to him.

Unfounded Misapprehensions

Except in the case of comparatively small appointments like P.A.'s and stenographers, the proportion has been fully observed, and in many cases I have gone out of my way to get recruits from the Muslim community for jobs. In the case of stenographers I am informed that they are as rare as Birds of Paradise in India and it is extremely difficult to get Muslim stenographers. Nevertheless we have written to the Delhi branch of the League to spare us a Muslim stenographer if they can.

MR. JAMNADAS M. MEHTA: Why did you go out of your way like that?

SIR ARDESHIR DALAL: It is not going out of my way, because it is very necessary, if we are to proceed in a friendly spirit that these absolutely unfounded misapprehensions should be corrected. And I am only doing so in a very friendly spirit; and in that very friendly spirit I would lay down a challenge to Mr. Piracha or anybody to prove on the floor of this House or to the satisfaction of any impartial authority that any injustice whatsoever has been done to the Muslim community.

SARDAR MANGAL SINGH (East Punjab: Sikh): Will he keep the interests of other small communities in view, or will he require a reminder like that of Mr. Piracha?

SIR ARDESHIR DALAL: I can assure my Hon'ble friend, Sardar Mangal Singh, that I require no reminders because I began making these attempts the moment I took over charge, and what I say about the Muslim community naturally also applies to the other minority communities.

Regarding the panels, I have made it perfectly clear that these Panels are not going to be representative of any caste or creed or community. These Panels are composed of people possessed of technical and industrial experience.

Because the Panels are composed of members of certain firms, of members of certain communities, it does not mean that those firms or those communities are going to be favoured in the industries that are to be established. Their business is to recommend the establishment of an industry on all-India basis. Besides, their recommendations are entirely advisory. When they come to us, the Government will decide—and the Standing Committee of this House will have a voice in the matter—what industries are to be promoted, how they are to be promoted, whether any particular industries are to be nationalised, how regionalisation is to be carried out, how the interests of backward areas are to be met, and so on. Therefore my Hon'ble friend need not be in a hurry with his dynamite stick to blow up those factories when they come to be established.

Technical Training

Sir, I submit that a proper line to take in this matter for the Muslim community is to devote special attention to the technical training of their men and it is in that connection that in the scheme of technical training we have already written to the Provincial Governments and we ourselves are paying special attention to the interests of the backward classes. I have myself sent up a list of a number of graduates from the Aligarh University for the information of the Education Department and I am also in touch with Dr. Sir Zia-ud-Din Ahmed on that subject.

Another line open to the Muslim community is to start industries. The Muslim community possesses the necessary enterprise and I am also sure the necessary means for the purpose of starting these industries. I have already stated to a particular Muslim friend of mine that if they started a company with a capital of five crores of rupees in order to undertake industries in the country, he would receive my co-operation and support. No proposal of that kind has been forthcoming but that is the line on which to proceed instead of making these allegations which I hope I have succeeded in showing are entirely groundless.

I apologise for going into all these details; I thought it was necessary to do so. I hope I have said enough to show what foundation there is for this charge that I am unmindful of the interests of Muslims or any other backward community.

MR. SRI PRAKASA (Allahabad and Jhansi Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): What about my community?

SIR ARDESHIR DALAL: I have no intention whatever to injure the interests of the Muslim community or any community whatever. My intention is to try to the best of my humble abilities to promote the advancement of the country.

STUDENTS GOING ABROAD FOR ADVANCED COURSES

Selection Board Constituted

A Press Note issued by the Education, Health and Lands Department, Government of India, on March 29 stated:

The Government of India have appointed the following Selection Board to make the final selection of students to be sent abroad for advanced courses in technical and agricultural subjects directly related to the various plans for post-war development:

1. Sir Maurice Gwyer (Chairman).
2. Dr. John Sargent, Education Adviser to the Government of India.
3. Dr. Sir S. S. Bhatnagar.
4. Sir Shafaat Ahmed Khan.
5. Captain Sardar Nau Nihal Singh.
6. An expert in each technical subject for which students are to be selected will be co-opted on the Board.

The selection of students to be sent abroad, including those nominated by Provincial Governments, is expected to be completed by the end of May.

ADVANCED STUDIES OVERSEAS

Arrangements are now complete for sending students overseas for advanced studies. In addition to the provision made for stipendiary students, the Government of India are also making arrangements for assisting in placing in foreign institutions of those students who desire to proceed overseas for advanced studies at their own expense.

The Government of India, in addition to the students sponsored by Provincial Governments, will send overseas a number of students who will receive adequate stipends for further education and training in various branches of Technology, Applied Science and Agricultural subjects. Government servants will also be eligible for stipends, and they may also be sent overseas at their own expense.

Applications are being invited to reach the Selection Board (Overseas Students) set up by the Education, Health and Lands Department by April 15, 1945, on a special form which has been included in a booklet "Information for Students desiring to proceed Overseas for Advanced Studies (1945)," being issued by the Manager of Publications.

POST-WAR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

OUT of 29 panels proposed to be set up to make recommendations to Government on the development of industries, both existing and new, 25 have now been constituted. On receipt of the reports of the various panels and in consultation with Provincial Industrial Committees, the overall plan of industrial development for the country for the first five-year period after the war will be decided upon.

Each panel will be given the target to be aimed at in the first post-war five-year period and, wherever possible, of the target to be reached within 15 years. For example, the Iron and Steel (Major) panel is expected to plan for an increase of 80 to 100 per cent production in the first five years. A 50 per cent increase in textiles and 100 per cent in cement have also been indicated. For the textile industry, the Textile Control Board will act as the panel. As regards cement, since full information is available with Government no panel has been constituted.

General Directive

The panels will start work immediately and will be supplied with factual information by Government. In the case of new industries, the information will consist of the nature and scope of the industry and its importance to India. In the case of existing industries, the information will naturally be more comprehensive and besides a general survey of the present conditions of the industry will indicate the targets to be aimed at.

A general directive is being issued to each panel to report on the scope and extent of development; whether the industry should be State-owned either on grounds of national interest or because private capital is unlikely to take it up; the capital required for development; the extent to which technical advice from abroad may be necessary; the manner and the degree of co-operation with foreign firms both as regards capital and management; the location of the industry; the nature of assistance required from Government in the form of protective duties, bounties, research grant, expert advice, etc.; the control that Government should exercise in the case of private ownership; whether the industry should cater for the export market and whether it should develop, as in Japan, on the cottage industry basis, and, if so, to what extent.

Where necessary special directives will be issued to certain panels to ask them to report on points peculiar to the industries concerned, not covered by the general directive.

The personnel of each panel includes persons prominently associated with the industry concerned and one or two experts and also those who by their general knowledge of trade and industry are likely to be useful as members. The panels are not meant to be representative of any particular industrial concern. They are expected to get into touch with all industries concerned as also with the Industries Committee of the Provinces and major States.

Personnel

The following is the personnel of the 25 panels:

1. IRON AND STEEL (MAJOR): Sir Padamji Ginwala (Chairman); Sir J. J. Ghandy; Mr. S. M. Bashir; Mr. Hain; Mr. Frank Parr (Members).

2. IRON AND STEEL (MINOR): Rai Bahadur Aftab Rai (Chairman), Messrs. Chiswell Jones, N. N. Rakshit, B. Viswanath, Baijnath Bajoria, S. M. Bashir, Ajaib Singh, Rafi Butt, Dr. Venkat Rao and Lt.-Col. D. M. Reid.

3. HEAVY CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES: Sir Shri Ram (Chairman), Mr. Kapilram Vakil, Dr. M. S. Patel, Messrs. Seshasayee, S. G. Shastri and P. R. Crerar (Members).

4. PAPER, PULP, WOOD PULP, CHEMICALS, COTTON, ETC.: Mr. M. L. Narasimha Iyengar (Chairman), Dr. E. Schoenberg, Messrs. G. D. Birla, Jagraj, Bhargava and Laiq Ali (Members).

5. SUGAR, ALCOHOL AND FOOD YEAST: Sir Shri Ram (Chairman), Messrs. R. C. Srivastava, Lalchand Hirachand, M. B. Amin, Vishan Sahay, S. M. Dhar, W. H. A. Webb, and Dr. B. C. Guha (Members).

6. REFRACTORIES AND CERAMICS: Mr. M. G. Bhagat (Chairman), Mr. K. B. Sen, Dr. H. K. Mitra, Mr. C. P. Shah, Dr. Atmaram and Mr. Krishen Singh (Members).

7. SOAPS AND OILS: Mr. P. A. Narielwala (Chairman), Messrs. S. G. Shastri, A. K. Menon, Shiv Dayal Kapoor and Dr. S. S. Sciatore (Members).

8. PAINTS AND VARNISHES: Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, M.L.A. (Chairman), Messrs. P. C. Chanda, Hampson, B. D. Gupta, F. H. Kemple and Dr. R. Bhattacharya (Members).

9. ELECTRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES: Sir J. C. Ghosh (Chairman), Messrs. Kenneth

Hall, M. S. Patel, Kapil Ram Vakil, Parker and Dr. B. K. Ram Prasad (Members).

10. SILK: Mr. N. Rama Rao (Chairman), Messrs. R. Peychand, H. Pullman, Rutnam and Bose (Members).

11. COIR, ROPE AND CORDAGE: Mr. Karunakaran (Chairman), Messrs. W. G. Grant, M.L.A. and Rutnam (Members).

12. HOSIERY: Mr. H. G. Misra (Chairman), Messrs. H. R. Dande, A. K. Chowdhury, Fakhruddin, Firth and A. W. Tatlow (Members).

13. READYMADE CLOTHING: Mr. S. Jajodia (Chairman), Messrs. Khandka, Wachel Molla and Narendra Singh (Members).

14. NON-FERROUS METAL INDUSTRIES: Dr. A. H. Pandya (Chairman), Messrs. A. Schwartz, R. H. Kamani, Motichand Saha and Dr. Malhotra (Members).

15. LEATHER AND LEATHER GOODS: Raj Bahadur B. M. Dass (Chairman), Sir M. Balasundaram Naidu, Messrs. A. C. Inskip, Kaiser Ahmad, Bhool Chand and Capt. P. S. Choudhury (Members).

16. SCIENTIFIC INDUSTRIES: Dr. Meghnad Saha (Chairman), Prof. G. B. Paranjpe, Dr. Venkat Rao, Mr. Rafi Butt, Mr. A. Lacamp, Dr. P. N. Ghosh and Lt.-Col. D. M. Reid (Members).

17. LIGHT CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES: Col. Sir R. N. Chopra (Chairman), Dr. Hameed, Dr. J. N. Ray, Messrs. M. B. Amin, Adhikari, Fielder, Dr. Habib Hasan, Col. S. S. Sokhey and Dr. Mukherji (Members).

18. GLASS: Mr. I. D. Varshney (Chairman), Messrs. D. N. Sen, P. Ogale, Sridhar, R. D. Chandorkar, Dr. A. Nadel and Dr. Atmaram (Members).

19. WOOL: The Hon'ble Lala Ramsaran Das (Chairman), Messrs. Jivandas Bhagwandas, W. R. Watt, S. Ratnam, J. C. Lal and A. K. Watal (Members).

20. SHIP-BUILDING AND MARINE ENGINEERING: Sir B. Rama Rao (Chairman), Mr. M. A. Master, Mr. Henderson, Mr. Taylor, Sir Abdul Halim Ghaznavi and Mr. Shivrattan Mohatta (Members).

21. INDUSTRIAL PLANT AND MACHINERY: Mr. G. L. Mehta (Chairman), Mr. K. K. Birla, Mr. S. L. Kirloskar, Brig. Cox, Mr. Malgaokar, Mr. P. F. S. Warren, and Mr. Barraclough (Members).

22. MACHINE TOOLS: Sir Lakshmipati Misra (Chairman), Sir Dhunjishev Cooper, Mr. S. L. Kirloskar, Mr. J. Hodkinson, Dr. Seth, Mr. Latif and Khan Bahadur A. G. Khan (Members).

23. RAYON AND ARTIFICIAL SILK: Dr. Nazir Ahmad (Chairman), Mr. M. Subba Rao, Mr. P. N. Sinha, Mr. M. P. Bhargava and Mr. Gautam Sarabhai (Members).

24. PLASTICS AND CELLULOID: Dr. John Mathai (Chairman), Dr. S. Siddiqui, Mr. Akbar Fazalbhoy, Dr. M. S. Patel and Dr. H. K. Sen (Members).

25. LIGHT ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES: Mr. B. M. Birla (Chairman), Mr. P. H. Krishna Rao, Mr. Kishen Chand, Dr. Wahid, Mr. G. D. Naidu, Mr. Sahai, Mr. Bishendas Basil, Col. R. C. Lyons and Mr. S. L. Kirloskar (Members).

PRICES OF COFFEE REDUCED

A Press Note issued by the Industries and Civil Supplies Department, Government of India, on March 16 stated:

With effect from April 1, 1945, the Government of India have fixed the prices at which coffee may be sold retail per pound, ex-packing, first quality. The following are the details:

Description	Zone I	Zone II	Zone III
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
RAW COFFEE			
Plantation Flats ..	1 4 0	1 5 0	1 6 0
Plantation PB ..	1 6 0	1 7 0	1 8 0
Arabica Cherry Flats	1 1 9	1 2 9	1 3 9
Arabica Cherry PB	1 3 9	1 4 9	1 5 9
Robusta Cherry Flats	0 14 9	0 15 9	1 0 9
Robusta Cherry PB	1 0 6	1 1 6	1 2 6
ROASTED AND GROUND COFFEE PURE POWDER, LOOSE			
Plantation ..	1 10 0	1 11 0	1 12 0
Arabica Cherry ..	1 7 0	1 8 0	1 9 0
Robusta Cherry ..	1 3 3	1 4 3	1 5 3

In the case of Raw Coffee, packing charges at the maximum rate of 3 pice per lb. for paper bags or one anna per lb. for cloth bags (maximum being seven annas), and in the case of Roasted and Ground Coffee, packing charges at the maximum rate of six pies per lb. may be added to the above prices.

Zone I indicates the Provinces of Madras and Coorg.

Zone II, the Provinces of Bombay, C.P. and Berar, Orissa, Ajmer-Merwara and Panth Piploda, and

Zone III indicates the rest of British India.

HEALTH INSURANCE FOR INDUSTRIAL WORKERS

Standing Labour Committee Discuss Adarkar Report

PROF. Adarkar's Report on Health Insurance for Industrial Workers in India was discussed at the sixth meeting of the Standing Labour Committee which concluded in New Delhi on March 17. The Hon'ble Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Labour Member, Government of India, presided. Mr. Stack and Mr. Rao of the I.L.O. also attended the meeting as visitors, and some comments made by them on the scheme were circulated.

The delegates, including those representing employers and workers, warmly appreciated Prof. Adarkar's Report and expressed their respective views on questions relating to medical and cash benefits, the qualifying or waiting periods, the type of treatment, medical organisation and State contribution. A number of delegates emphasised the importance of going ahead with the scheme as early as possible, and there was general agreement that in order to secure the benefits resulting from broadening the basis of the scheme it was advisable to extend its scope to all organised industries and perennial factories.

Maternity Benefits

It was also agreed that the Centre should go ahead with the preparation of a scheme, and, if they found it possible to do so, they should include in this scheme maternity benefits and workmen's compensation. After the scheme was prepared, the Centre should consult provinces and the Employers' and Workers' Organisations and, after consideration of their replies, should introduce a Bill in the Legislative Assembly.

Another item on the agenda for the meeting was a proposal to change the constitution and functions of the Tripartite Labour Conference and the Standing Labour Committee with a view to classify these functions in two lists, one dealing with general subjects such as terms and conditions of employment, labour legislation, social security, etc., and the other with concrete questions relating to labour welfare and administration of labour laws.

In the memorandum placed before the Committee it was suggested that a Labour Welfare Committee should be set up to deal with functions in the second list, the intention being to secure through this Committee a body which would deal with the actual problems arising in the various industries, and to bring into such committee representatives of various important industries. The Labour Conference and its Standing Labour Committee should confine themselves to terms and conditions of employment, labour legislation, social security, etc., looked at on broad lines and from an all-India stand point. It was agreed that a sub-committee should be appointed to examine these proposals.

BUSINESS CORRESPONDENCE WITH BULGARIA

In accordance with the action taken by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, Government of India have authorised persons and concerns in British India to have correspondence with persons and concerns in Bulgaria, subject to the conditions that business and financial correspondence is confined to ascertaining facts and exchanging information only and that such correspondence from British India is conducted through letters (including printed and commercial papers) or postcards in accordance with postal notices issued on the subject, said a Press Communique issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on March 17.

It added: Banks and other financial institutions may now reply to requests for information from their depositors in Bulgaria, but remittances from British India to Bulgaria, unless specifically authorised, are not permissible. Documents such as birth, death and marriage certificates and wills may be transmitted. Indian and Bulgarian firms may exchange business information with a view to the future resumption of business relationships, but the resumption of private trade is not yet allowed. The despatch of powers of attorney and proxies to Bulgaria will be permissible, but prior approval of the Government of India should be obtained in each case.

Bulgarian-owned property in India will continue to be governed by the Defence of India Rules and will remain under the general control of the custodian of Enemy Property, Bombay.

Applications and inquiries regarding British-owned property in Bulgaria should be addressed by persons in India to the Government of India in the Department of Commerce, Simla.

POST-WAR PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Standing Finance Committee Approves Proposals

EXPENDITURE on expansion of the All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health and extension of training facilities at the Central Imperial Research Institutes for agriculture, veterinary and dairy research was approved of by the Standing Finance Committee at its meeting in New Delhi on March 17, 1945.

The Committee also approved of the proposal to increase the existing rates of allowances paid to the Members of the Central Legislature from a total of Rs. 30 per diem to a total of Rs. 45 per diem for the duration of the war.

Among other proposals sanctioned by the Committee, in connection with post-war planning and development, were preliminary expenditure on the proposed Ammonium Sulphate factory to be erected at Sindri (Bihar) and the employment of extra staff required for the investigation and preparation of post-war schemes for the N.-W.F.P.

Ammonium Sulphate Factory

The Committee sanctioned Rs. 2,12,552 plus £10,000 for preliminary expenditure on the proposed Ammonium Sulphate Factory. £10,000 is sanctioned for payment of fees to any specialist advisers whose services may be required in connection with the purchase of machinery, entering into contracts, etc., by the Mission headed by Sir James Pitkeathly. Other expenses are on air survey of the site of the factory and preparation of maps, exploratory survey of Khewra mines and the expenditure incurred on the Technical Mission on Fertilisers and the estimated cost of Purchasing Mission sent to U.K. and U.S.A.

A sum of Rs. 2,22,980 in 1944-45 and Rs. 1,41,100 in 1945-46 was sanctioned for extra staff required for investigation and preparation of post-war schemes for the N.-W.F.P. The amount sanctioned will be taken into account in fixing the Central contribution to be made to the Provinces during the first post-war quinquennium.

The Committee approved of non-recurring expenditure of Rs. 65,000 and recurring expenditure of Rs. 55,300 for the expansion of the All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health. The Institute at Calcutta is the only institution in India which gives post-graduate training to medical officers for the diploma of Public Health. During the past three years steps have been taken to re-organise the Institute on modern lines with the object of raising it to the level of a first class institution comparable with similar institutions in the United Kingdom and the United States of America. The syllabus has been revised, a field for practical training has been provided and the teaching and research work of the Institute has been re-organised. Among the new schemes contemplated are a course of training in industrial hygiene and a course of training in public health engineering.

Research in Agriculture

Expenditure for extension of facilities for post-graduate training at the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute was also sanctioned. The Institute, which is designed to carry on fundamental research in Agriculture and to impart post-graduate training in the different agricultural sciences, has to meet the growing demand for higher agricultural staff at the Centre and in Provinces and States. The annual admissions of students for training at the Institute in the past three years has averaged 16. It is proposed to admit 50 students a year from 1945 onwards.

Similar facilities for training in veterinary science and animal husbandry at the Imperial Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar, and facilities for training in dairying at the Imperial Dairy Research Institute have been expanded.

A sum of Rs. 4,91,200 has been sanctioned for a scheme which will provide adequate water supply for Delhi and at the same time obviate any serious danger of interruption to the electric supply of New Delhi during the summer. For some time past Jumna has moved to the left bank with the result that the water level at the Delhi Gate Pumping Station on the right bank has often fallen very low in the hot weather. In the summer of 1943 the levels in the river fell so low that it could not feed the pumps for lifting water or for cooling the turbo-alternators of the Power House.

A technical Committee recommended the diversion of the Hindan Cut, which at present joins the Jumna a little above Okhla, so that it might join the river near the Power House. This, the Committee said, would enable water to be drawn into the Jumna whenever the level of the river fell. The project is expected to be completed before the peak of the summer season.

PROGRESS OF FOOD PRODUCTION

AN additional production of nearly 850,000 tons of foodstuffs is estimated for the year 1944-45 as a result of the Government of India's loans and subsidies made to the various provinces and Indian States out of the Central Revenues and Cotton Fund during the years 1943-1944 and 1944-45.

Under various heads, viz., irrigation facilities, land clearance and improvement, manure for distribution, seed multiplicates and distribution, compost making, bonus to cultivators for diverting areas from s's cotton to food crops, fish production and miscellaneous schemes, the Government of India have made grants totalling Rs. 2,67,96,744 and loans totalling Rs. 2,95,17,987.

The object for which these grants and loans are made is not only to increase the production capacity of India, but also to improve the quality and variety of foodstuffs. With this object in view Fisheries departments have been set up in several provinces and the training of technical staff has been taken up, the possibilities of increasing milk-supply are being looked into, while a milk marketing specialist has been brought out for 3 months to advise on the marketing organisation required for milk under Indian conditions; there is, again, a scheme afoot for improving the quality of fruit products, for manufacturing them under hygienic conditions and for introducing quick-growing fruits; larger quantities of chemical fertilizers are being imported and compost is being manufactured; improved seed is being multiplied and distributed, while vegetable seeds are being produced to replace those formerly imported; and finally, emergency irrigation schemes, to which grant to the extent of Rs. 36 lakhs have been made, are progressively working in various provinces and States.



The Far Eastern Committee of the Council of U.N.R.R.A. met at The Hotel Lapstone, New South Wales, Australia, from February 15 to 20, 1945. The Governments of Australia, China, France, India, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Philippine Commonwealth, the United Kingdom and the United States of America were represented. Sir Raghunath Paranjpya (third from left) High Commissioner for India in Australia, represented India at the Conference.

MANUFACTURE OF FOOD YEAST IN INDIA

Prospects of Industry

THAT food yeast can be manufactured in India cheaply and on a large scale, that its use as corrective for malnutrition should be developed by the Food Department and that a factory with a capacity of 3,000 tons per annum should be started immediately, are some of the recommendations made by Dewan Nanak Chand, Special Officer, Food Department, in his Report on the manufacture of food yeast in India, which is now under active consideration of the Government.

The Food Department has long been interested in finding a cheap source of some highly nutritive foodstuff largely needed by the poorer sections of the people, and in securing as a long term policy, a new and profitable utilization of surplus molasses.

It has been known that a very large supply of molasses is cheaply available in India and competent observers were of the opinion that the manufacture of food yeast was a practical proposition in India. A committee with Sir S. S. Bhatnagar as chairman pursued the question and Mr. Nanak Chand was asked to report on the best methods for the disposal of effluent from the factory and for the utilization of the manufactured product from the nutritional point of view.

In choosing the site of the proposed factory, attention has to be paid to proximity to source of molasses, transport facilities, disposal of effluent and the availability of power. It is admitted that the cheapest and the easiest means of disposal of the effluent consists in discharging it into a large river or canal.

Yeast and Nutrition

The principal deficiency of Indian diets, it is pointed out, is lack of high grade proteins and vitamins of the B complex, both of which are found in food yeast. Animal proteins (meat, fish and eggs) are practically excluded from Indian diets partly on account of religious objections and partly because of their high price.

One of the problems which Government have to solve is to make food yeast available to the rice-eating population which, generally speaking, is poorer and therefore less adequately nourished than those whose staple diet is wheat. While it is conceded that there is no means of mixing food yeast with rice at any stage in milling or in cooking, many methods are suggested in which rice-eaters can take food yeast, such as cooking with curry or vegetables, mixing with spices and taking with milk or in sweets.

In the case of wheat-eaters the problem is simpler. Food yeast can be given very easily by mixing with flour and *atta*. This will provide additional vitamins and proteins some of which are lost in wheat milling. A mixture of 2 per cent. food yeast does not make any alteration in the taste of bread although the colour is slightly more brown. In the case of *chapattis* there is no noticeable change nor are vitamins destroyed in the cooking process.

Food Yeast Cheaper

The Report contemplates that with experience gained it should be possible to expand production to much more than 3,000 tons and food yeast could be introduced for civil consumption through schools, hospitals, health and maternity centres and jails and be a powerful weapon in the fight against malnutrition which has been intensified by war conditions. It is estimated that the cost to the consumer will not be more than annas 6 per lb.

Food yeast is thus far cheaper than any animal product. In terms of yield per acre it is a most economical means of rapidly improving the content of deficient diets and the Report mentions several ways of incorporating it into the various types of Indian dishes both savoury and sweet.

GUARANTEE TO WHEAT PRODUCERS

In order to safeguard the interests of producers, while maintaining price control in the interests of consumers, the Government of India announced in April, 1944, their willingness to accept, should prices fall, all wheat of fair average quality offered for sale at centres which would be notified in the Punjab, United Provinces and Sind, at a price of Rs. 7-8 per maund, said a Press Note issued by the Food Department, Government of India, on April 3.

It added: Following the recommendation of the Price Advisory Committee, the Government of India have decided that this guarantee shall be continued until further notice, and in any case for a period of not less than 12 months from the date of this announcement.

SUPPLEMENTARY GRANT FOR ROAD SERVICES

Railway Member's Speech in Central Assembly



Sir Edward Benthall

MOVING for a supplementary grant in the Indian Legislative Assembly on April 3, in respect of railways, Sir Edward Benthall, Member for War Transport, Government of India, said:

Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 82,00,000 be granted to the Governor-General-in-Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending March 31, 1946, in respect of Working Expenses—Miscellaneous Expenses."

This supplementary grant is moved in accordance with Rule 50 (2) of the Indian Legislative Rules and Para. 167 (ii) of the Manual of Business and Procedure.

In presenting the Railway Budget for 1945-46, I included in the Revenue Estimates under Demand No. 6-G, Miscellaneous Expenses —an item of 82 lakhs for road services. This particular item was intended to cover certain road services which are already running as well as certain projected services for the relief of the existing congestion of goods and passenger traffic on the railways during wartime. The scheme or schemes for which this demand was intended have been explained on pages 99 to 101 of the Proceedings of the meetings of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways held on January 29 and 30, 1945.

Objects of Demand

The House will recollect, however, that my Hon'ble friend, Sir Mohd. Yamin Khan, on behalf of his party moved a cut motion and in the course of the debate it became apparent that the House did feel that it had been fully informed either upon the objects for which this demand was made or upon Government's general policy on post-war road-rail co-ordination with the result that the cut motion was passed by the House. I freely acknowledge that the House might have been more closely seized of the issue had a Government spokesman intervened at an earlier stage of the debate and explained the objects for which the demand was actully made. I also recognise freely the desire of the House to be fully informed on Government's post-war road transport policy in view of the importance of the subject and the interest which has been taken in it throughout the country.

After consulting the Party Leaders regarding the situation which has arisen as a result of this cut motion Government have decided to place this supplementary demand before the House with the two-fold object, first, of satisfying the House regarding the objects of the particular grant in question, and, secondly, of amplifying certain aspects of Government's post-war policy which have arisen out of the previous debate.

The main considerations on which the Railway Department has inaugurated or proposes to inaugurate, as a short-term wartime policy, road services to be operated departmentally or on a contract basis and for which they tabled the demand for Rs. 82 lakhs in the Budget are the following:

(i) The relief of congested sections of railways for the movement of essential goods traffic.

(ii) The provision of supplementary transport facilities where railway capacity is insufficient to ensure movement of essential goods, which would not otherwise move, between particular points.

(iii) The relief of overcrowding.

(iv) The saving of wagon and line capacity, power, etc.

The services already running are as follows:

(1) A goods service of about 42 lorries operated by the B. and A. Railway between Siliguri and Bagrakote for the conveyance of coal in one direction and tea in the other, for the relief of traffic on the line of communication to the Burma Front.

(2) A goods service of 50 lorries operated by the E.I. Railway betwen Howrah and Asansol for the transit of 'smalls' traffic.

(3) Express goods service between Lahore and Nagrota, and Lahore and Multan operated by the N.W. Railway.

(4) A parcels and goods service of 20 lorries between Poona and Bombay operated by the G.I.P. Railway.

(5) A service of 25 lorries to carry perishables and essential goods between Ootacamund and Coimbatore to relieve the hill section of the S.I. Railway.

The further services projected are:

(a) A passenger and goods service between Calcutta and Jessore and Ranaghat to relieve the congested broad-gauge section of the lines of communication.

(b) Two bus services between Dacca and Narainganj and Shantipur and Nabadwip on the B. and A. Railway.

(c) A goods service between Lucknow and Cawnpore of 32 lorries.

(d) A parcels service between Madras and Bangalore to relieve the pressure of heavy military traffic.

(e) A passenger service between Ootacamund and Mettupalayam to relieve the hill railway.

To Relieve Congestion

The House will observe that none of these projects involves any long-term policy except to the extent that the railways will be owners of buses or lorries which will either have to be disposed of or employed on some other post-war project when the congestion on these sections no longer exists. I trust that the House will agree that the relief of congestion by these means, which was asked for by the Central Advisory Council for Railways, is an object for which the demand should be granted and it is permissible to express the regret that more vehicles are not available to relieve the intolerable strain on present-day passenger and goods congestion.

Turning now to the larger question of post-war policy, I circulated to members of the House in moving the original demand a copy of a speech to the Post-War Policy Committee which set out the policy of Government. I welcomed the debate in the House as an opportunity to explain this policy further and I welcome the present opportunity for the same reason. As a result of the previous debate and of discussions with the Leaders of the Parties in the House, I recognise there are a number of points of principle which the House, and indeed the country, would wish to have further clarified.

Post-War Transport Policy

The question of post-war transport policy is a most important subject upon the principles of which Government are anxious to obtain the maximum possible agreement. The subject has in the past proved most controversial and it is unquestionably a most complicated problem, involving as it does not only Central Government policy but the policy of Provincial Governments and the rights of individuals, be they road operators or members of the public using these services. It is a problem which will require considerable statesmanship and patience spread over a number of years if we are to secure the orderly development of transport for the country's welfare. I am anxious, therefore, that we should embark on this problem with a countrywide understanding of Government's policy and with the maximum possible agreement in the House, as only in this manner can our united energies be directed towards a satisfactory solution.

I will now deal with the most important points of principle. There has been general agreement both on the Transport Advisory Council, on the Post-War Transport Policy Committee and in this House on the need for co-ordination between road and rail. The alternatives to which I referred in the speech which I circulated to members are acceptable to no one. A unified control of transport throughout India is at present Utopian, contrary to the existing Constitution Act and might well turn out to be a Frankenstein, to use the phrase of the Leader of the Opposition. A policy of *laissez-faire* or cut-throat competition equally is not calculated to lead to the orderly development of transport.

In these circumstances there is, I believe, now a large measure of agreement that the closest integration of road and rail interests is likely to be secured by the railways taking a financial interest in road transport not so much

for making profits as for securing good co-ordinated service to the public. Certainly some of the Provinces have not yet accepted this proposition and the House will recognise that the Central Government are not free agents in this matter since the executive authority on motor transport is Provincial.

Th Central Government will, of course, respect the views of the Provinces but they will try to reconcile them with their own and to persuade them by argument to accept a common policy. If this House can give a lead, it may be possible, having regard to the views already expressed by many Provinces, to evolve in harmonious agreement a general all-India policy modified as necessary to meet the views of particular Provinces.

There appears to be also a large measure of agreement that the best way to proceed is to form in each Province a number of road operating companies in which road operators, the Centre and, where they wish to, the Province will each have a financial interest which will vary according to the different circumstances of each particular case. There is wide scope for variety throughout the length and breadth of India having regard to the fact that we propose to proceed not in any way by regimentation but by negotiation with the Provincial Governments and the road operators. I have no doubt that this policy is best designed to protect the Central and Provincial Government finances, to provide for an orderly development of road transport with more efficient services to the public than uncu-ordinated competition would permit, while at the same time offering the best prospects of reasonable profits to road operating companies and railways and reasonable employment in managerial or operating posts to the existing road operators.

Railways' Interest

I have several times stated clearly that it is not the intention of the railways to secure a dominating interest. All that they seek is an interest sufficienly substantial to make it worth their while to co-operate financially. That, of course, does not exclude a major interest in a particular company where the Provincial Government is in agreement and/or sufficient capital is not forthcoming from the public. It should be quite clear:

(a) that railways do not seek to dominate road transport policy in any way;

(b) that joint companies such as are proposed will come under the authority of the Provincial Transport Authority under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939, as much as any other road transport company; and

(c) that we shall endeavour to agree with the Provinces a code of principles to govern the operation of road services to be applied by Provincial Transport Authorities in co-operation with the railways.

Generally speaking, the Central Government feel that there should be no supremacy of any one interest in these companies whether it be railways, the Provincial Government or any large capitalist interest. The best policy is that all interested parties should combine to operate a route or an area in which case, of course, the company might be given sole operating rights over that particular route or area so that in the latter case the company may work the unremunerative as well as the remunerative routes. Care must be taken to see that no particular interest secures a hold over the country's road transport, which would be contrary to the public interest. In saying this, however, I do not wish in any way to impinge upon the freedom of the Province to decide whether or not it should itself adopt State or Provincial ownership of the transport within the Province. That is for the Province to decide although the Central Government will do their best to persuade such Provinces that a combine is in the best interests of the country.

Capitalist Interests

Discussions have shown that the House feels strongly upon two things, that large capitalist interests outside the motor transport trade should not be allowed to seize this opportunity to secure a hold on the country's transport and that existing road interests must be protected fully provided hat their demands are reasonable. The Central Government emphatically supports these two objectives. We will guard against the first and will attempt actively to negotiate that existing operators shall receive shares or stock in the companies equivalent to their existing assets in road transport at a fair valuation or the equivalent in cash. Shares offered to the public will be spread over as large a number of shareholders as possible with, if it can be arranged, a restriction on the voting power in order to prevent individual capitalists from a controlling interest.

As regards employment in the companies, preference will be given to those who are already directly employed in the existing road services if they are qualified for the work and in new development also to soldiers returning from the war.

There is another point which was forcibly expressed, notably by the Leader of the Opposition, namely, that the interests of bullock cart

owners must be watched and that bullock carts must not be so detrimentally affected by Central and Provincial motor transport policies as to upset rural economy. This is an important point to which we propose to draw the attention of Provincial Governments since possibly in the enthusiasm for road and road transport development this point has not been fully examined.

Road Transport Companies

Finally, the discussions have shown that there is considerable consensus of opinion that in the formation of road transport companies, managing agencies should be avoided. The Central Government is in agreement with this opinion and will negotiate further arrangements on the basis that companies are managed by managing directors or managers, preferably on a salary basis, under a Board of Directors. This principle is fully accepted by Government, but it is possible that certain Provincial Governments or certain railways may have already gone so far with negotiations with road transport interests that they are to a large degree committed to a managing agency. I undertake, however, that any case remaining open will be specifically placed before the Standing Finance Committee for Railways for their approval before an agreement is finalised.

I trust that after hearing this further explanation the House will agree to the supplementary demand for the purposes which I have specified. With regard to the post-war policy I am satisfied that Government's policy embraces the maximum possible measure of agreement.

If the House accepts the supplementary grant, Government will assume that the House gives general agreement to the policy. I shall then proceed to address Provincial Governments to urge on them the acceptance of the principles laid down where they have not already accepted them. Sir, if the House is prepared to give its general backing to this policy, this Government can embark on it as trustees for the future with confidence that with patience and goodwill a new era of transport development and of road-rail co-ordination will be inaugurated in the general interest of the country for years to come.

As from April 1, 1945, Government control on the distribution of penicillin in India has been lifted. Those desirous of obtaining supplies of this drug can now approach the importer firms direct, said a Press Note issued by the Director-General, Indian Medical Service, on April 4.

POST-WAR PLANNING FOR ROAD DEVELOPMENT

QUESTIONS relating to post-war planning of road development were discussed on March 24, at a meeting of the Standing Committee for Roads at New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Sir Edward Benthall, Member for War Transport, Government of India. The Committee was informed of the decision of Government to constitute a Departmental Committee to be called the Road Board.

The Central Government was examining the possibility of entrusting the following functions to the Board, namely, the preparation for the approval of Government of a five-year plan of road development; provision in the plan for the absorption of returned soldiers in road building and of returned soldiers and surplus vehicles in road transport; the disposal of such technical questions as those concerning ribbon development, betterment values, systematization of motor vehicle taxation etc.; the initiation and direction of schemes for road research, including traffic studies, etc.; preliminary discussion with the Railway Board of road and rail development plans and road and rail bridge questions, and with the Provincial Governments of proposed amendments of the Motor Vehicles Act and Rules.

The Committee approved, subject to certain conditions, the proposed provisional debit of the cost of land acquisition for National Highways in Bengal to the Provincial Road Fund Allocation and also agreed to the general principle that such debits might be authorised in suitable cases for other Provinces.

Road Development in Provinces

Other items approved by the Committee included certain items of road development in Madras, Bihar, C.P. and Berar and Delhi; grants for the operation of the Road Test Track at Calcutta; a road project in the Eastern States; an economic and traffic survey in Bengal and Bihar; continuance of special establishment in the Punjab; and the Budget of the Consulting Engineer to the Government of India (Roads) for 1945-46.

The Committee discussed Government's plans for road-rail co-ordination in the light of the opinions expressed on the Transport Advisory Council, the Post-War Transport Policy Committee and in recent debates in the Legislature, and expressed approval of the policy of Government as modified as a result of these discussions.

FIRST INDIAN PRESIDENT OF I.R.C.A.



Mr. J. N. Nanda

FOR the first time an Indian officer has been elected President of the Indian Railway Conference Association. He is Mr. J. N. Nanda, General Manager of H. E. H. the Nizam's State Railway.

Mr. Nanda, who has made a special study of transport problems in various countries, is responsible, as head of the N.S.R., for the administration of the considerable network of road motor transport services operated by that Railway. Born in 1891, Mr. Nanda graduated from the Government College at Lahore in 1909 and proceeded to England and after a three-year course with the City and Guilds College, London, obtained the diploma of Civil and Mechanical Engineering. He spent a further year in England with a firm of Consulting Engineers to gain practical experience.

In 1917, Mr. Nanda joined the service of the Burma Government as an Engineer. Two

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 546)

RAILWAY EXHIBITION AT NEW DELHI

"THE railways of India and the army in India are good friends. We help each other in every way we can and we work together in the greatest harmony. The railways have never let the army down and I feel I can say with confidence that the army will not let the railways down either."

This statement was made by Lieut.-Gen. Sir Wilfrid Lindsell, Principal Administrative Officer, India, when he opened an exhibition organised by the Railway Department at New Delhi station to show the work of Indian railways during the war.

He had just given figures to demonstrate the strain which had been placed on the railway system during the war years. In 1944, he said, the railways had carried 1,162,000 tons of military stores, "a pretty weighty argument with which to assist the overthrow of Japan."

In addition, the railways were carrying more than 550,000 military passengers every month.

Railways' War Effort

"These immense figures are only a fraction of the total load that the railways carry," continued Gen. Lindsell, "but it is an indispensable contribution to the war effort for which the navy, army and air forces in India are grateful.

"The railways have also served the Allied cause by the number of their personnel of all grades who have been handed over for service in the armed forces. Railway workshops have also rendered a great service, by manufacturing many types of munitions which have been of inestimable value in the equipment and maintenance of our forces."

General Lindsell also referred to the sacrifices made by the railways before Japan entered the war. Locomotives and wagons and many miles of track had been sent to Persia, Iraq and the Middle East to support the war effort. That help at a critical stage had a far-reaching effect in the development of Allied strategy in the Middle East and contributed to the success of subsequent campaigns in North Africa.

The exhibition opened by Gen. Lindsell will show how, by the close co-operation which exists between the civil railways and military transportation, the railways are playing such an important part in India's war effort.

INDIA'S DELEGATION TO WORLD SECURITY CONFERENCE

Sir Olaf Caroe's Speech in Council of State

"IT is natural that popular opinion in India should wish to be associated with great events in the outside world. What we have to consider is, how that can be done and what are the lessons that ought to be drawn from that very natural desire. At any rate, that is a very comprehensible position with which, I think, every patriotic Indian would feel a good deal of sympathy, and not only Indians but people who are looking at the Indian stage, people like myself, who have endeavoured for 30 years to give their best to this great country."

Thus said the Hon'ble Sir Olaf Caroe, Secretary, External Affairs Department, Government of India, speaking on Mr. H. Thirumal Rao's Resolution in the Council of State on March 21, asking for more adequate representation of Indian non-official opinion at the San Francisco Conference. The resolution was rejected by 24 votes to 15.

Here is the full text of Sir Olaf Caroe's speech:

Sir, might I start by saying that I personally noted with great satisfaction the fact that the Hon'ble Mover of the amendment should have refrained from criticising—in fact he praised—the Leader of the Delegation and acknowledged that the constituted Government of the day must nominate at least, in his view, a proportion of any delegation which goes to represent India in international affairs. That was very satisfying. And may I also say, Sir, that I view the general feeling that lies behind both the original Resolution and the amendment with very great sympathy? I think that out of it a great deal of good might come for reasons which I will try to develop later in my speech.

Popular Opinion in India

It is natural that popular opinion in India should wish to be associated with great events in the outside world. What we have to consider is, how that can be done and what are the lessons that ought to be drawn from that very natural desire. At any rate, that is a very comprehensible position with which, I think, every patriotic Indian would feel a good deal of sympathy, and not only Indians but people who are looking at the Indian stage, people like myself who have endeavoured for 30 years to give their best to this great country.

Something has already been said about the make-up of delegations from the British Commonwealth countries and a good deal has been said in the statesmanlike speech of the Hon'ble the Mover of the amendment about the make-up of delegations from America.

Now, Sir, as regards the British Commonwealth delegations, the United Kingdom and all the other Dominions, the general principle is to be that they should be Ministers of the Crown. It will be said, "That is all very well where there is responsible Government." Now, I agree with that point entirely. I only wish there were responsible Government in India. There is responsible Government in the Provinces wherever a certain Party has been ready to work it. But, unfortunately, we have not yet got responsible Government at the Centre. We are, therefore, in a very different position. One must realise as has been suggested by the last speaker, that it is not really possible for Parties who have not had responsibility in governing their own country or any share in the Government or in taking office, who have not assumed, who have edged away from responsibility perhaps for one reason or another or have for some other reason felt that they could not take up or have not wished to take up office . . . .

THE HON'BLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Were they ever invited?

SIR OLAF CAROE: Cripps! It is not possible for such parties to come forward and say now, "It is all very well; we will have nothing to do with the Government of India, but we wish to represent India on the international stage." Is that, I ask you, a possible situation? If they were to go, what would their credentials be? One must remember that in one's own country one can understand the dust and turmoil of political opposition and even dislikes. We can take hard knocks and there has been a good deal of it, we understand it. But in the outside world it is different.

If the Opposition who have not held any responsibility in India's affairs were to go forward and claim to represent India, what would their credentials be? The argument might be used as regards one great Party that they have not shown any marked enthusiasm in the war. Can they be accepted as having good credentials for keeping the peace, for making organisations which have to keep the peace?

In the case of another Party, they might be asked whether they represent one India or two Indias. What do they stand for? Do they want one India or two Indias? That Party would have to adopt a very careful attitude before they can stand on an international stage for India. They have not thought about it, I know.

Then there are many examples that we have had lately of eminent Indians, a gracious lady, and a most Honourable Member of this House, another *Pandit* of this Honourable House, who have been in America and giving out views which are said to represent the views of India in certain circles.

I was very disappointed to see—it is a matter in which I took the keenest interest when I last had the honour of appearing in this House—that the question of entry and citizenship in America has been indefinitely postponed. I hope that postponement was not in any way connected with what these unofficial representatives have been saying in America. But one of those representatives at least has indulged in cheap gibs directed at the great fighting element in this country and that is not the sort of thing that can be said in a foreign country if India is to stand as a great country before the world. I ask Hon'ble Members to ponder that most deeply and gravely.

All these things might be said about associating the Opposition. But, as I said at the beginning of my speech, in spite of all that, I can not but feel a real sympathy for any patriotic Indian who wishes to stand up, that the leading parties should wish to stand up and represent their country on a foreign stage and that is why I should like to speak as if I am myself an Indian patriot who feels the very deepest desire that this country should become a great power, as she may well be.

Cast Aside Party Differences

As the statesmanlike speech of the second speaker mentioned, India is in the middle of Asia. She is a great land mass, with a magnificent history, culture and tradition and an enormous population, a huge war effort, a great industrial potential. In many ways he is quite right in saying that India may well vie with China and possibly even with France.

Great things are going to be done at this Conference. It is essential that India should stand well and should be worthily represented. And is it too much to hope that that desire, that very natural desire, to stand well on the international stage, will induce those people who suffer from frustration, one way or another, for one reason or another, to stand in and come in the Government of this country internally and to take their due share in responsibility in this country? Is that too much to hope? Is it not possible that with that vision of a great India before us, before all of us, all patriotic men, we should cast aside these party differences? We should stand not for a party but for the State and first of all consolidate ourselves inside our own State, then, and only then, shall we have the right to claim to represent India abroad.

A Great Tradition

In my own country there is a great tradition. That tradition is that when there is a threat from abroad, when foreign affairs are under discussion, when matters of security come up, we close our ranks and stand as one man before the world as a rock. In foreign affairs there are no parties, not when essential questions are under consideration, and when it comes to the defence of England, party matters fade away.

So it seems to me it should be with India. All this discussion of party, one party, two parties, all parties, should not loom large, when we have under consideration the honour and dignity of India in the ranks of nations. In international affairs we must in fact rise above internal differences. And I would like to give my faith, the belief that when in India that attitude is taken, it will alter the whole approach of political parties to the political problems within India, because in matters of security on the world stage one has to deal with realities and not with figments of the imagination. So that any movement or urge like this to come forward to represent India internationally is much to be welcomed and worthy of every encouragement and sympathy and understanding if only the suggestions that it fixes in our minds can be turned to practical use in the governance of this great country.

I would therefore appeal to the House to turn into a new channel, a new and fruitful channel, that would irrigate fresh fields, this wish that all parties should take their part in making India great. (Applause).

POSTAL SERVICE TO HOLLAND

A Press Note issued by the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, on March 17 stated:

The postal service to Holland has now been extended to the following places:

(*a*) The towns of Bergen Op Zoom, Breda, Dongen, Gemert, Helmond, Kaatsheuval, Oosterhout, Ondenbosch, Roosendaal, Veghel and Weert.

(*b*) The areas in the immediate vicinity of the above towns.

(*c*) The territory south of the River Scheldt including the towns of Axel, Breskens, Hulst, Neuzen, Oostburg and Sas-van-Gent.

SUSTAINED EFFORTS TO IMPROVE SEAMEN'S AMENITIES

Commerce Member's Speech in Central Assembly

SPEAKING on the Finance Bill in the Central Assembly on March 23, the Hon'ble Sir Azizul Huque, Commerce Member, Government of India, announced that it had been decided to create a Welfare Directorate for Seamen in the Commerce Department with a Director who would be responsible for planning and provision of amenities throughout India and two Deputy Directors one of whom will concern himself with British and Allied seamen and the other with Indian seamen.

The Hon'ble Member referred to the recent increases in the wages of Indian seamen with retrospective effect. According to the figures given by him, a carpenter seaman, who received in the pre-war period Rs. 120 per month, will now be receiving Rs. 426. Similar increases mentioned by him are as follows: cook from Rs. 70 to Rs. 276, serang from Rs. 60 to Rs. 246, seacunny from Rs. 55 to Rs. 231, pantryman and second cook from Rs. 40 each to Rs. 186 each and first tindal from Rs. 37 to Rs. 177. Others who were getting between Rs. 22 (which represented the minimum wages) and Rs. 33 would now be getting five times their pre-war wages.



Sir M. Azizul Huque.

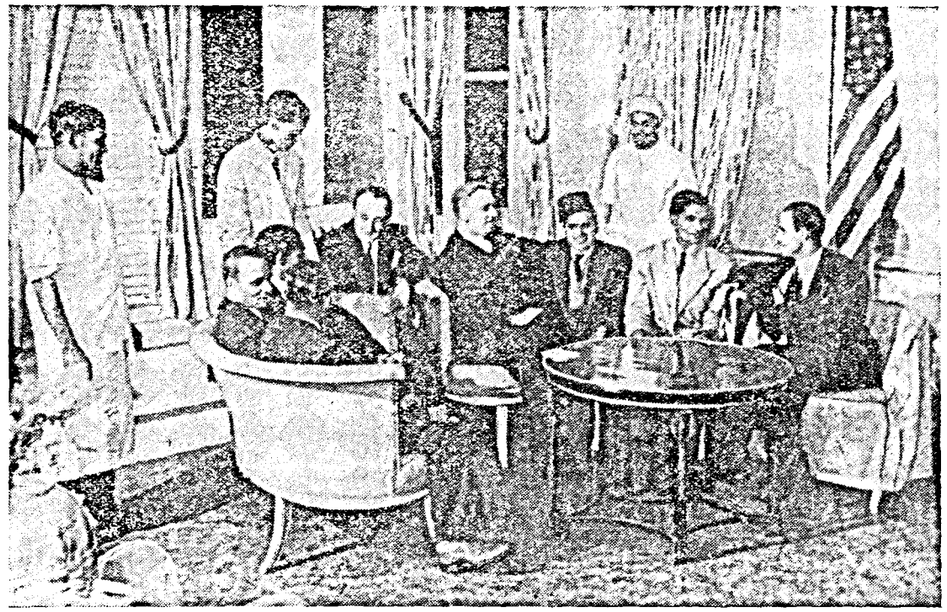
The Hon'ble Member said: Soon after my arrival in London in April 1942, as the High Commissioner for India, I received various representations about the inadequacy of wages of Indian seamen and the conditions of accommodation in the United Kingdom ports. After visiting a number of places in the United Kingdom, I took up the question of accommodation, amenities and other requirements of Indian seamen in various ports in the United Kingdom. Within a few months a magnificent hostel was constructed at Birkenhead and thereafter hostels, welfare centres, clubs, etc. were also established at other places in the United Kingdom.

Wages Question

I also took up the question of wages of Indian seamen at London. After a few months' discussion with various persons and authorities and later after my discussion at a conference with Lord Leathers, Minister of War Transport, Mr. Ernest Bevin, Minister of Labour and Mr. Amery, Secretary of State for India, I sent a memorandum to the Government of India in December 1942. In fact one of the reasons why I decided to return for a few months to India in March 1943, was to take up this question further at this end. Anyway, as Commerce Member it has been my privilege to deal with this question here and I had to meet with a number of difficulties. The Indian seamen draw their wages from shipping companies, and to have the demands of the seamen properly adjusted to what the shipping companies were prepared to agree was a most difficult matter. The wages of Indian seamen had also to be considered in relation to the general wage structure of this country. This involved long-drawn discussions and took much longer time than my original anticipations.

Increase Effected

I am glad to say that in December last an increase in the wages of Indian seamen was announced by the shipowners with 12 months' retrospective effect. This increase and specially the retrospective effect have been welcomed by Indian seamen throughout India.



In the Club Room of the Indian Seamen's Club in New York.

I pay my tribute to Mr. Amery who right from the time I brought up this question before him in June, 1942, till this question was finally settled in December, 1944, took special interest in the cause of Indian seamen; nor should I forget here to express my gratitude to Lord Leathers, who took a keen interest to have the wages of Indian seamen suitably fixed. Mr. Bevin has all along taken most active interest in improving the amenities and welfare of Indian seamen. And here the shipping companies have to be specially thanked for their ungrudging support. They will have to pay for all increases and I should take this opportunity to specially thank them for this increase of the wages of Indian seamen. I cannot speak too highly of the efforts of the Calcutta Liners Conference for all that they did in this connection. Representing as they did the shipping companies in the United Kingdom, the ultimate decision must largely be due to the views of their agents in this country, and to their firm support.

To understand the effect of the present increase in terms of money, I may quote certain figures. An average Indian seaman of the lowest rank received about Rs. 22 to Rs. 25 before the present war. He will now be getting five times that amount. Instead of Rs. 22 he will be getting Rs. 110 and instead of Rs. 25 he will be getting Rs. 125. A man who was getting Rs. 33 before the war, will now receive Rs. 165. But any one whose pre-war wages were higher than Rs. 33 p.m. will, under the present increase, receive an additional increase of Rs. 66 only. Before the present increase, every one was drawing three times the pre-war wages; a seaman who was drawing Rs. 50 before the war was drawing Rs. 150. With the new increase he will be drawing Rs. 216, i.e., a ceiling of this increase being fixed at Rs. 66.

Post-War Credit

The shipping companies have also agreed to give retrospective effect for one year to the present increase. Any seaman who was in service after December 31, 1943, will get the benefit of the new increase. In order that every seaman may also be able to save a part of his money and learn thrift, half of the increase will be funded to his credit as post-war credit. A man who will be getting Rs. 125 as his wages under the new scale will actually be drawing

Rs. 100 in cash, with Rs. 25 as post-war credit. I have tried to calculate all these in terms of the different categories of seamen. A carpenter in the pre-war period received Rs. 120; before the present increase he was getting Rs. 360 and with the present increase he will get Rs. 426.

Before the war a cook used to get Rs. 70; before the present increase he was drawing Rs. 210. Now he will be getting Rs. 276. A serang in the pre-war period used to receive Rs. 60; before the present increase he was getting Rs. 180 and now he will draw Rs. 240. A secunny was getting Rs. 55 before the war; he was getting Rs. 165 before this increase and now will get Rs. 231. A pantryman and a second cook were getting Rs. 40 each before the war; each of them was getting Rs. 120 before this increase and will get Rs. 186 now. The first tindal was getting Rs. 37 as his pre-war wage. Before the present increase he was getting Rs. 111 and at present he will draw Rs. 177. Others who were getting between Rs. 22 (which represented the minimum wages) and Rs. 33 were getting three times that amount before the increase and will now get five times his pre-war wages.

Taking the pre-war wages of Indian seamen as the basic or standard, their present basic wages are double their pre-war wages. Their war risk money used to be till recently equal to their pre-war wages. Now they have got another 200 per cent increase in war risk money with a ceiling of Rs. 66 p.m.

Better Amenities and Comforts

We have also taken steps to provide better amenities and comforts for seamen in this country. His Excellency the Viceroy has been taking a keen personal interest in the matter and adequate funds have been made available from his War Purposes Fund. For providing amenities for Indian seamen a sum of Rs. 6 lakhs has been allotted so far and a similar amount has also been provided for amenities for British and Allied seamen.

Two Amenities Officers for Indian seamen have already been appointed, one is posted at Calcutta and the other at Bombay. A strong Welfare Committee composed of officials and non-officials has been established at each of these ports; other ports have also not been neglected. The jurisdiction of the Amenities Officer at Bombay has been extended to cover all ports on the West Coast and that of the Calcutta Officer to all ports on the East Coast including Chittagong. We have also decided to have special Welfare Officers at Cochin, Karachi and Madras in addition to those already appointed at Bombay and Calcutta.

Better arrangements for clubs, institutions, canteens, etc., have been provided and Indian seamen are now allowed facilities of the Indian Troops Amenities Shop and canteen in Calcutta; special arrangements have also been made for the issue of free cinema tickets to them; a club has been started with radio sets, gramophones and facilities for games; food and refreshment are also available there at concessional rates. We are trying to find better accommodation and more accommodation for them.

In Bombay, the Indian Sailors' Home caters for the needs of Indian seamen at the port and has sleeping accommodation for 494 men. The Home has a library, reading room and a store room. A grain shop has been opened in the premises for sale at cost price of rationed articles. But in the nature of things this is insufficient and we are taking steps to provide additional accommodation with an up-to-date club, canteen and other arrangements for the seamen at each of these two places.

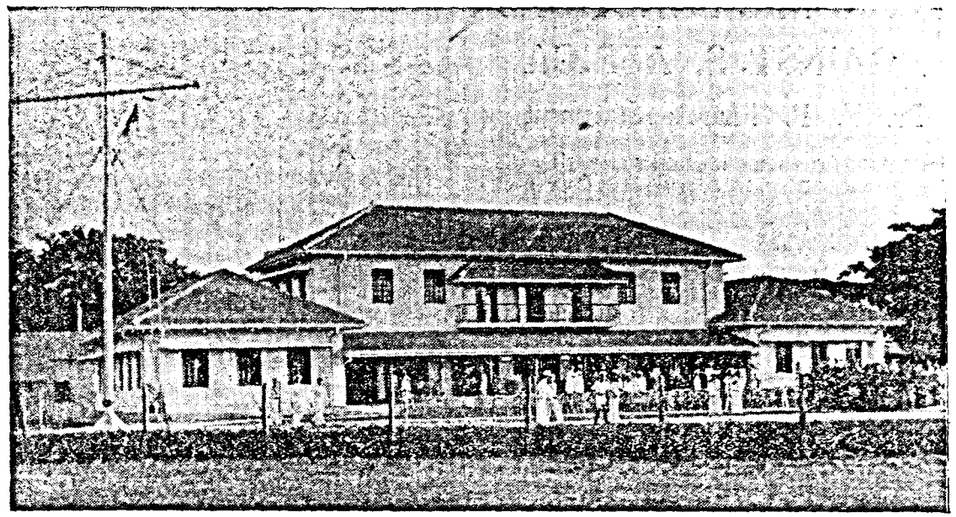
A scheme to accommodate seamen with arrangements for all amenities and comforts in a temporary building for the present is under active consideration both for Calcutta, and for Bombay. Steps are also being taken so that as soon as the war is over the construction of an Indian Seamen's Home in Calcutta and of a similar Home in Bombay may immediately be proceeded with, the cost of each of which will come to at least Rs. 30 lakhs. The needs of Karachi, Vizagapatam, Cochin and Chittagong have also been looked into.

The problem of transport for seamen has been specially gone into. Six buses have been provided at Calcutta. A bus service has been arranged exclusively for seamen at Karachi. Steps are being taken to make similar arrangements in other places.

Clinics for the treatment of venereal diseases have been provided at different ports and arrangements have also been made for the treatment of seamen in special cases in general hospitals.

Relief to Distressed Seamen

Funds have also been placed at the disposal of Principal Officers, Mercantile Marine Department at Calcutta, Bombay, Madras and Karachi to provide relief to distressed and shipwrecked seamen on arrival at these ports; at minor ports the work is done by the local officials of maritime Provincial Governments and any expenditure incurred by them is reimbursed by the Central Government; adequate stocks of clothing have also been provided on a number



The Cornwallis Fleet Club for R.I.N. ratings which was opened in Bombay recently by H.E. Sir John Colville.

of R.I.N. escort vessels and at major and more important minor ports for rescued merchant seamen.

The arrangements for amenities of Indian seamen in the United Kingdom, United States of America, South Africa, Ceylon and Australia have been looked into and a Welfare Officer for Indian seamen has recently been appointed at New York; three Welfare Officers and one Assistant Welfare Officer for Indian seamen have been appointed for the United Kingdom ports. It is proposed to have a similar officer in Australia, and the question of appointing Welfare Officers at other ports visited by Indian seamen is also under consideration. Special arrangements are also being made to provide comforts and amenities for Indian seamen in all these Colonial and foreign ports.

We have decided to create a Welfare Directorate in the Commerce Department with a Director who will be responsible for planning and provision of amenities throughout India and two Deputy Directors, one of whom will concern himself with British and Allied seamen and the other with Indian seamen.

Apart from these there are other important problems which we are taking up almost immediately in the Commerce Department, namely, unemployment, medical examination at ports, training, care of disabled and injured men, pensions and compensation paid to dependants of deceased seamen with a view to see that they are regularly paid and timely provided for. The care of children is also another matter we are specially looking into. In addition, we propose to take almost immediately the question of sickness insurance and old age pension, National Maritime Board quite apart from other minor matters such as protection from civil litigations during absence from this country, articles of agreement as also all recommendations sponsored in International Labour Conferences.

I am sure Hon'ble Members of the House will agree that we have been able to do a good deal and we propose to pursue this matter as actively and as rapidly as possible. We have in mind the preparation of a brochure showing the valour and services of the Indian seamen in this war. Theirs is a heroic record and India as a whole can well be proud of the seamen who have kept the life line open in all oceans, bringing services and supplies and playing a noble part in this war. They have lost their lives. They have shown their valour and heroism. They have suffered utmost privations of the present day sea life. In the steps that we have taken and also propose to take, I am only anxious that in years to come their services are not forgotten, and we are taking all these steps to do only a little which can tangibly express our gratitude for their achievements and valour.

ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST S. AFRICA

Dr. N. B. Khare's Statement

SPEAKING on the resolution moved by the Hon'ble Mr. P. N. Sapru in the Council of State regarding the enforcement of economic sanctions against South Africa and recall of High Commissioner, the Hon'ble Dr. N. B. Khare, Member for Commonwealth Relations, Government of India, said:

This is a matter involving more than anything else—our self-respect—and our self-respect Government has in a large measure vindicated. This self-respect means tit for tat. I claim that we have vindicated our self-respect in a very large measure and in double quick time—within 48 hours. The Ordinances were passed in Natal Council on November 2, and we have applied the Reciprocity Act, as I have said, on November 4, last. So this measure will show how promptly Government acts when it is necessary.

Our difficulty is that at present very complicated kinds of negotiations are going on between the two Governments and this is a question which after all is not of recent origin. It is an old sore of more than three generations, and under these conditions it will not be reasonable to expect that negotiations will terminate very soon. After all in the case of negotiations two parties are required. It is not in the hands of one party alone to accelerate the pace of negotiations. Under these conditions I think the House should give us some latitude to see the end of the negotiations. Till then I am sorry to say our hands are tied down. But that time will not last eternally. It must come to an end some time or other.

Complicated Problem

MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: No indicatable period? One year, two years.

DR. N. B. KHARE: How can I say? It may take two months, four months or one year. It is a very complicated problem. It may have been solved very early, if I may say so, if India had been independent or a Dominion with equal status. There is no doubt about that fact. I may cite a very recent example of how this handicap of India affects her in other respects also. I may tell the House that about six or 10 months ago, the U.S.A. passed a Bill permitting Chinese people to enter U.S.A. and acquire citizenship rights. I thought that India also would get similar treatment, because it was also



Dr. N. B. Khare.

an Ally of the United Nations such as China, if not more. But I was sorry to see yesterday in the papers that the Indian Immigration Bill in U.S.A. has been shelved indefinitely and the person who has made this motion for shelving it has declared unequivocally that India cannot compare with China because China is our Ally: as if India is not? And China is independent and India is not. He has made no bones about it. He has told us very frankly. The House will realise that this constitutional drawback, this handicap, comes in our way and nothing else. So the Government of India need not be blamed for these delays and lack of enthusiasm.

Public Opinion

I may tell the House, that I know public opinion here, and in the other House, as well as that of the wider public of India with whom I mix very freely still, that I know what the reaction is of the people at large in this country and their feelings.. This is the position of Indians everywhere, and if I may say so, it hurts the self-respect of anybody, any coloured person.

The world statesmen are meeting now to take preliminary steps for the Peace Conference; if they are wise, if they are honest in the

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 521)

THE AFGHAN MISSION

ON March 19, the Afghan Mission, who are touring India, visited the Central Asian Antiquities Museum at Queensway, New Delhi, and were shown round by Mr. Hilary Waddington, Acting Curator. They showed great interest in the objects recovered from Mohenjodaro. They stated that while the Museum was a fine example of its kind, the antiquities museum in Kabul was on a much larger scale. Afterwards they paid a visit to the Anglo-Arabic College.

In the afternoon they were entertained to tea by the Hon'ble Sir Jogendra Singh, Member for Education, Health and Lands, Government of India, at his residence.

Later, at an invitation, they attended the annual function of the Lady Irwin College, Delhi. The members highly appreciated the impromptu speeches of the College students and their acting in a drama which incidentally happened to be founded on a Persian story.

Visit to Delhi Polytechnic

The Mission paid a visit to the Delhi Polytechnic Institute on March 20, where they were received by Mr. W. W. Wood, Principal of the Institute. The visitors, who were shown round the training centre, workshops and other departments, expressed their appreciation of the various activities of this institution, specially the pictures and scale drawings in the field of poster-making and architecture.

The distinguished visitors also visited the Imperial Records Office where Dr. S. N. Sen, Keeper of Records of the Government of India, took them round. Amongst other things, the visitors saw old documents sent by the Afghan Government to the Government of India. They took special note of the devices for preserving, repairing and indexing the old records.

In the afternoon, they visited the office of the *Statesman* and attended a tea party given in their honour by the Afghan Consul-General at the Hotel Imperial.

Visit to Agra

The party visited Agra on March 22, and spent the day in visiting the Taj and other historical buildings. They left for Lahore on the night of March 24.

On March 23 the Mission paid a visit to the Lady Harding Medical College for Women where they were shown round the classes, dissecting rooms, the museum and the hospital by the Principal of the College, Miss R. E. R. Mitton. The visitors were impressed by the management and expressed their opinion that the college was excellent and well-kept.

Later they visited the Indraprastha college for Girls where they were taken round by Miss K. Gupta, Principal of the college. Afterwards they had lunch with Mr. W. W. Wood, Principal of the Delhi Polytechnic Institute.

GOVERNMENT THANKED

In a telegram to the Hon'ble Sir Syed Sultan Ahmed, Member for Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, Said Kassim Khan Rishtya, Vice-President of the Afghan Press Department and Leader of the Afghan Publicity and Cultural Mission, which recently visited Delhi and other places, tenders the Mission's grateful thanks to the Government of India for the "cordial reception and hospitality and ideal arrangements enabling us to see so much in such a short time. We are certain that direct contact between our cultural and Press institutions will vastly improve the friendly relations between our respective institutions."

Sir Syed Sultan Ahmed has replied: "I am most grateful for your kind telegram and trust you will retain the same happy memories of your visit as myself. I shall always be ready to do all I can to strengthen and improve our cultural contacts and to establish cordial co-operation between our institutions."

DR. N. B. KHARE'S SPEECH

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 520)

proclamations made by them from time to time, they ought to heal this sore of unequal treatment to the coloured people, wherever they are, for all times to come: I do not know whether that will happen but one thing will certainly happen and that is that a large number of white races would be enslaved as a result of this war. They may call me devillish but, situated as I am—feeling these insults and pinpricks every now and then—I would welcome that also. At least that will remove to a certain extent the inequality from which we suffer. (*Hear, hear*). These are my sentiments and I hope I have made the whole position quite clear. Government is not going to oppose this Resolution at all.

SCHEMES FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

The Governing Body of the Indian Research Fund Association approved of the programme for medical research for 1945-46 drawn up by its Scientific Advisory Board and sanctioned the continuation of 35 research schemes costing about Rs. 6½ lakhs and 14 new schemes estimated to cost over Rs. 81,000 at its 34th annual meeting held at New Delhi on March 7. The Hon'ble Sir Jogendra Singh, Member for Education, Health and Lands, Government of India, presided.

Among the schemes sanctioned were inquiries to test the efficacy of the Sulfa Group of drugs in the treatment of cholera and plague; an inquiry to test the efficacy of D.D.T. and certain mosquitoes and insecticide repellants under field conditions; inquiries on the value and use of certain indigenous drugs; an inquiry into methods for the manufacture of penicillin and other problems connected with it, and inquiries on nutrition, trachoma, kala-azar, anaemia, maternal mortality, clinical conditions associated with malnutrition and certain other diseases.

Grants for Nutrition Research

The Governing Body also sanctioned grants for nutrition research units established by the Association at Bombay and Dacca, and for the Nutrition Research Laboratories, Coonoor, and the Research Section of the Malaria Institute at Delhi.

The Clinical Research Unit is being set up at the Tata Memorial Hospital, Bombay, and a Clinical Research Advisory Committee will shortly be appointed to draw up a programme for clinical research in India.

REVISED RATES FOR POSTAL PARCELS

With effect from April 1, 1945, the rate of postage on inland parcels will be six annas for a weight not exceeding 40 tolas and six annas for every additional 40 tolas or fraction thereof; and the rate of postage on parcels to Ceylon will be nine annas for a weight not exceeding 40 tolas and six annas for every additional 40 tolas or fraction thereof, said a Press Communique issued by the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, on March 31.

INCREASED PRODUCTION AND USES OF LAC

"From a number of experiments carried out with a view to finding out the most suitable seasons and pruning methods for different host trees, it appears possible to grow crops on Kusum every six months instead of every one and half year, as at present," states the Report of the Indian Lac Research Institute for the year 1943-44.

During the year under review the Institute busied itself in various problems, *e.g.*, further work on the improvement of shellac moulding powders, plasticisers, varnishes, adhesives, improved types of bleached lac, seed lac, dewaxed lac, etc.

Another important contribution of the Institute was the study of Dielectric Properties of lac. In this connection a number of papers and pamphlets, containing results of these investigations, were published by the Institute.

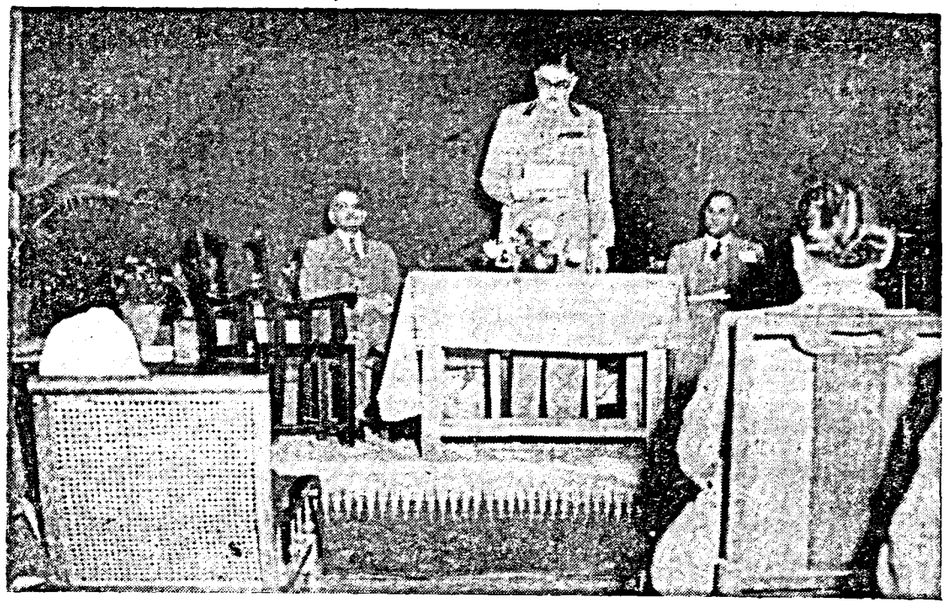
At the request of various commercial firms, Shellac compositions were developed for making varnishes suitable as varnishes for bottle capsules and topping wooden corks. Shellac varnishes suitable as varnishes for bobbin enamels, for dry mounting of photo-prints were also evolved.

The Institute carried out an order for 60,000 cream containers for the Defence Department.

KATHIAWAR FOOD SITUATION

Latest reports received by the Central Food Department indicate that the food situation in Kathiawar States has eased to a great extent with the arrival of quotas of millets and wheat. Harvesting of *bajra* and *jowar* has been completed and stocks are being brought to the markets. In addition, supplying areas have been able to accelerate grain movements, while recipient states are completing their arrangements for grain inspection, finance and transport. The stock position seems to be fair at present though there is still a large demand for *bajra*.

Kathiawar's grain allocation under the Central Food Department's plan has been progressively increased to 94,000 tons of which 60,000 tons are millets.



Lt.-Gen. J. B. Hance, Director-General, I.M.S., welcoming delegates to the Third Tuberculosis Workers' Conference.

POST-WAR PLANS FOR COMBATING TUBERCULOSIS

HER Excellency the Viscountess Wavell, C.I., President of the Tuberculosis Association in India sent the following message to the Third Tuberculosis Workers' Conference which opened at New Delhi on March 20.

"Greatly regretting my inability to be present, I write to wish the Tuberculosis Workers' Conference every success.

"After three years you will have many experiences and ideas to talk over together. This is the time when plans for the expansion of India's health services after the war are being drawn up and your advice on the best way to improve the machinery for the treatment of tuberculosis will be invaluable to those responsible for central planning. I am glad to know that you will be working out acceptance of an All India standard for training and equipment as it is important that resources should be evenly and fairly distributed.

"The fight against tuberculosis is a task for which of all tasks a calling and spirit of enthusiasm are essential, and in this you come in a common spirit to your discussions. May your three days' hard work result in great good for India."

Lieut.-General J. B. Hance, C.I.E., O.B.E., K.H.S., Director General, Indian Medical Service, and Chairman, Tuberculosis Association of India, in welcoming the gathering said:

"On behalf of the Tuberculosis Association of India I extend to all the delegates and visitors attending a most cordial welcome to this, the third Conference of Tuberculosis Workers to be held since the inception of the Association in 1939.

"A good doctor is a medical student until the day he or she dies; and the study of medical science is promoted much more by observation and discussion than by formal didactic instruction. Careful and accurate observation, deductions therefrom and the testing of the value of those deductions in the refinery of criticism by other workers in the same field constitute the keystone of scientific progress, and the study of tuberculosis is no exception to this rule.

"The organisation of conferences of this kind is an important function of the Tuberculosis Association of India, and it was originally intended that such gathering should be held annually, but restrictions imposed by the war upon travel and accommodation have prevented the holding of annual Conferences since 1940. In the meantime, the process of observation and deduction, to which I have referred, has been continuing among workers in tuberculosis, as the number of papers submitted testifies, and the time is now over-ripe for their assessment in the refinery of discussion and criticism. This, it is hoped, will result in this Third Conference.

"It is a source of great pleasure and pride to the Association, as, we are sure, it will be to all those, attending that Sir Joseph Bhore, the distinguished Chairman of the Health Survey and Development Committee, has consented to preside over the proceedings this morning, when papers dealing with the subject of future development will be discussed.

"By Her Excellency's instruction, and on her behalf I declare the Third Conference of Tuberculosis Workers open; and it is now my privilege to invite Sir Joseph Bhore to the Chair."

Post-War Plan

"It is obvious that if a qualification in tuberculosis is to carry appropriate prestige it should also convey a guarantee of standards of instructions and examinations which command general acceptance," declared Lieut.-General J. B. Hance in the course of his closing address to the Third Tuberculosis Workers' Conference at New Delhi on March 22.

Sir Joseph Bhore, President of the Health Survey and Development Committee of the Government of India presided over the first meeting when Lieut.-General Hance outlined the gravity of the Public Health problem of India with the help of charts and diagrams and characterised tuberculosis as Public Enemy No. 2, No. 1 being Malaria.

The main theme of the Conference was the Post-war Plan for a countrywide campaign against tuberculosis in India. The Conference came to the unanimous understanding that isolated efforts, which are being made at present, are inadequate and that a co-ordinated plan is extremely essential.

According to the Memorandum of Dr. Benjamin, Technical Adviser to the T.B. Association of India, every 50 to 100 thousand of the population should be served by a T.B. clinic and a hospital or sanitorium with accommodation for 100 to 200 patients. This would mean about 4,800 clinics and about 5,00,000 for the whole of India.

The Conference also expressed the desire that one of the first steps in this direction should be the development of more centres for the training of doctors and health visitors in T.B. and stressed the need of more extensive and intensive training in tuberculosis for students in Mendical Colleges and Schools.

Laboratory Facilities

In view of the variations in the standards of existing Tuberculosis Institutions, the Conference declared the desirability of having X-ray and laboratory facilities for every tuberculosis institution and that clinics serving a population of 500,000 or more should have at least two doctors.

The Conference also decided to set up subcommittees to go into the problems of revising the classification of pulmonary tuberculosis.

NURSING DEVELOPMENTS IN PUBLIC HEALTH

Miss Janet D. Corwin arrived recently in Delhi from the United States to take up an asesignment as Public Health Nursing Consultant of the International Health Division of the Rockefeller Foundation, which maintains its Regional Far Eastern office here. Besides maintaining contact with Government of India officials and being available for advice in connection with nursing developments in the Public Health field, she will visit the different Provinces and States in a similar capacity.

Miss Corwin is a B.S., graduate of Vassar College, New York; graduate of the New York Hospital School of Nursing, and a Master of Public Health (MPH) of Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health. Before joining the staff of the Foundation she served with the East Harlem Nursing and Health Service in New York City and for two years was Public Health Instructor of the Toronto (Canada) University School of Nursing.

Miss Corwin, accompanied by Dr. M. C. Balfour, has just concluded a brief tour in the United Provinces. She is now in Calcutta studying the activities of the Singur Health Centre which is being developed as a demonstration and practice field of the All-India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health and for Health Visitors' training in connection with post-war development in Bengal.

MANUFACTURE OF PENICILLIN IN INDIA

A committee is to be appointed to advise the Government of India on the steps to be taken to establish the manufacture of penicillin.

This was one of the decisions made at the 8th meeting of the Governing Body of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research held in New Delhi on March 18 under the Presidentship of the Hon'ble Sir Ardeshir Dalal, Member for Planning and Development, Government of India. The previous day the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research held its 14th meeting.

The Governing Body approved the recommendations of the Board in regard to the continuation of 71 research schemes (costing about Rs. 6½ lakhs) in operation in various research laboratories all over India under the auspices of the Council. In addition, certain new schemes of research, estimated to cost Rs. 1½ lakhs, were also sanctioned. Among the schemes were: manufacture of milk from groundnut, cashewnut and coconut; investigation into the chemistry of penicillin and related anti-bacterial substances and the manufacture of disinfectants from lemon grass oil. Research on these is being conducted by Dr. V. Subrahmanyan, Head of the Bio-chemistry Department, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

New Schemes

Utilisation of waste products from the shark by Dr. B. B. Dey, Madras; the manufacture of Seger Cones (a chemical composition for measuring the temperatures of furnaces) by Dr. H. N. Roy, Benares University, and the investigation of proteins and proteases with reference to their industrial application, by Prof. Damodaram, Madras, were other new schemes sanctioned by the Governing Body.

A firm of architects was selected for the building of the National Metallurgical Laboratory at Jamshedpur and it was also decided to locate the National Physical Laboratory in Delhi.

The report submitted by the Industrial Research Planning Committee, of which Sir Shanmukham Chetty was Chairman, is to be referred to a small committee to be appointed by the President for consideration and report at the next meeting.

The budget estimates of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research for the year 1945-46, amounting to Rs. 19 lakhs, were approved. The Governing Body also approved the reports of the various research committees constituted under the auspices of the Board and sanctioned a sum of Rs. 88,000 for important activities of these committees.

The Governing Body noted with satisfaction that the Millowners' Association of Ahmedabad had decided to establish a Textile Research Laboratory at an estimated cost of Rs. 60 lakhs. The Council had advocated the formation of such laboratories

PENICILLIN CONTROL ORDER

To prevent the manufacture and marketing of spurious products under the guise of penicillin and to ensure that penicillin placed on the market conforms to the recognised standards, the Central Government have issued the Penicillin Control Order, 1945, under the Defence of India Rules, said a Press Note issued by the Education, Health and Lands Department, Government of India, on March 22

It added: Under this Order penicillin which is sold or offered for sale must conform to the recognised standards of strength, quality and purity. Products which purport to have the therapeutic effects of penicillin must be sold under the recognised names and penicillin may not be manufactured for sale except under a licence and must be tested in accordance with the approved procedure before it is issued for sale.

INCREASE IN SURCHARGE ON INLAND TELEGRAMS

With effect from April 1, 1945, the surcharge on telegrams addressed to places in India, Burma, Ceylon, Afghanistan and Tibet (Lhasa) will be increased to four annas on every "Ordinary" telegram and eight annas on every "Express" telegram, said a Press Note issued by the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, on March 21.

It added: The total charge for an ordinary telegram addressed to an office in India will then be 13 annas for the first eight words and one anna for every additional word. The charge for an express inland telegram will be double that for an ordinary telegram of the same length. These surcharges will be levied on all inland telegrams, i.e., State, Raj, Private and Press.

PRICES FIXED FOR LANTERNS, BICYCLE RIMS, SOAPS CIGARETTES AND GRAMOPHONE RECORDS

THE Government of India in the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies have, by notifications issued under the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance, regulated the sale of incandescent lanterns, stoves, torches, Dunlop bicycle rims, certain brands of cigarettes and pipe-smoking tobacco, various brands of washing, toilet and carbolic soaps, and gramophone records. The notifications are:

Lanterns

The Central Government have fixed the maximum wholesale and retail selling prices of incandescent lanterns, stoves, their spare parts and of torches and bulbs.

The retail selling price of a Sweden Stove No. 100 has been fixed at Rs. 7-14. Some of the other retail selling prices are: Petromax incandescent lanterns Rs. 21-10 (100 candle power); Rs. 27 (200 candle power); and Rs. 28-12 (300 candle power). The retail selling prices of Continental and China make torches (without bulbs and batteries) range from Re. 1 to Rs. 2-8, and from annas 4 to Rs. 2-8 respectively.

Dealers in these articles shall receive a discount of not less than 15 per cent off the retail prices. All dealers, wholesalers as well as retailers, in these articles have been directed by the Controller General to mark these prices or to exhibit price lists prominently in their shops.

*

Bicycle Rims

The maximum wholesale and retail selling prices of Dunlop Bicycle Rims have been fixed by the Central Government. The retail selling prices per pair in respect of these rims in various finishes have been fixed ranging from Rs. 5-8 (rough finish) to Rs. 9-1 ("C" finish, chromium plated).

Dealers in these rims have been directed to display these prices prominently in their shops.

*

Cigarettes

The Government of India have fixed with effect from March 1, 1945, the maximum retail prices which can be charged by a dealer or producer in respect of certain brands of cigarettes of Messrs. D. Macropolo and Co., Ltd., and in respect of certain brands of pipe-smoking tobacco, produced by Messrs. Marcovitch and Co., Ltd.; Godfrey Phillips, Ltd.; Fryer and Sons (Overseas); Cohen Weenen and Co., Ltd.; Sobranie, Ltd.; George Doble and Sons, Ltd.; John Cotton, Ltd.; Alfred Dunhill, Ltd.; and Misdorp's, Ltd.

*

Soaps

The Central Government have fixed the maximum wholesale and retail prices chargeable in respect of the various proprietory brands of washing, toilet and carbolic soaps manufactured by the Tata Oil Mills Company, Ltd., Swastik Oil Mills, Ltd., Godrej Soaps, Ltd., Calcutta Chemical Company, Ltd., Nasco Ltd., Lever Brothers (India), Ltd. Unless otherwise stated the wholesale prices are f.o.r. destination and retail prices exclude octroi, terminal and such other local taxes.

*

Gramophone Records

The Central Government have added "Bangaphone" and "Gulshan" makes, to the list of H.M.V., Columbia, Parlophone, etc., gramophone records in respect of which maximum prices have been fixed. The retail selling price now fixed of standard category 8" size records of all the makes for which ceiling prices have been fixed (such as H.M.V., Columbia, Parlophone, etc.) at Re. 1-8 if it is in European language and Rs. 2 if in an Indian language. The maximum retail selling price of a standard category 8" Twin, Regal, Regal-Zono, Rex or Orient record has been revised to Re. 1-10. The price of a main spring of any make, size 1" and below, has been revised to Rs. 6.

*

Antenna Wire.

The maximum selling prices of Antenna Wire (bronze 16 AWG single stranded weather proofed) have been revised downward by the Central Government. The importer's issue price, wholesaler's price to retailers and retailer's selling prices have now been fixed at Rs. 6, Rs. 7 and Rs. 9 per 100 feet respectively. Freight and packing charges will be borne by the wholesalers.

PASSAGES BETWEEN INDIA AND U. K.

OWING to the present heavy demands for shipping required for operational purposes, accommodation available to meet passages between India and the United Kingdom is considerably short of requirements, says a Press Note issued by the Defence Department, Government of India, on March 16.

It added: Until the situation improves it is unlikely that passages will be available for other than those going home under the Key Leave Scheme and their families, and priority categories I to V, i.e. (a) those travelling on duty or Government business, (b) those travelling on business certified by Government as essential to the War Effort or of National Importance, (c) those travelling on certificate of a Provincial Medical Board both with regard to saving life or reason, or permanent impairment of health and (d) Government Servants whose contracts include a clause guaranteeing repatriation on termination of contract.

Control of Sea Passages

It cannot be foreseen with any accuracy when passages for other than the above may become available and those not falling in the above categories would be well advised not to count on leaving India for some months.

The assumption of control of all sea passages from India to the United Kingdom by Government has led to some misunderstanding.

Before control was assumed passages were given to those on the pooled list for commercial passages which was maintained in Bombay, only when berths were available after all Government Priority demands had been satisfied.

The same principle still continues. Those on the pooled list, are, if they qualify, allotted priority passages according to existing categories. Those who do not qualify are given passages, as far as possible, in the same order as they were on the pooled list, according to the berths available after priority demands have been satisfied.

It is hoped that the publication of this information will obviate the necessity of addressing individual inquiries to the Government of India.

H.E. the Viceroy has sactioned a grant of Rs. 1,00,000 from the War Purposes Fund to the Indian Red Cross Society for affording help to sister societies of war-stricken countries.

TRAVELLING BY MILITARY AIRCRAFT

Foreigners Order, 1939, Amended

The Government of India have found it necessary to control the entry into, and the exit from, India of foreign civilians by military aircraft or aircraft under military charter and have made some amendments in the Foeigners Order, 1939, to achieve this object, said a Press Note issued by the Home Department, Government of India, on March 17.

It added: The effect of these amendments is that unless he is a member of the Armed Forces, either of His Majesty or of an Allied Power, or an official, travelling on the official business of an Imperial or Allied Government or the member of the air crew of an aircraft, any foreigner who wishes to enter or leave India by a military aircraft or by a civil aircraft under charter of the military authorities must obtain permission in writing from certain authorities. If he is in India, he should apply for permission either to any District Magistrate in Assam, to the District Magistrates of Chingleput, Trichinopoly and Karachi, the Commissioners of Police in Bombay or Calcutta or to the Government of India, Home Department.

Applications for Permission

If he wishes to travel by R.A.F. plane, he can obtain permission from an officer of the Army or Air Force not lower in rank than a Colonel or a Group Captain. If he is abroad, he should apply for permission to a British Consular Officer at the time of obtaining his visa for India.

Permission will only be given if the authority concerned is satisfied that a journey by military aircraft is essential for the war effort or that other reasons exist which make it imperative that the applicant should not wait for a passage in an ordinary civil aircraft. Intending travellers must also make sure that the aircraft in which they intend to travel is scheduled to make its first stop after arriving in India or its last stop before leaving India at a customs airport.

H. H. the Raja of Pudukkottai has generously contributed a further sum of Rs. 1,06,852,-3-0 to H. E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund for the purchase of a Mosquito Bomber for the Royal Air Force.

EXPANSION OF DEHRA DUN FOREST COLLEGE

To meet the demand for a larger number of trained Forest Rangers and Forest Officers made by Provinces and Indian States, the Government of India have decided to double the classes at the Dehra Dun Forest Institutions with effect from April, 1945.

So far the Indian Forest College admitted only 32 students every alternate year, while the Forest Ranger College provided accommodation for 38 students annually. Under the new arrangement there will be one extra class for Gazetted Officers (24 to 30 students) and another extra class for Rangers (36 students) from April 1945. From the next year (April 1946), however, a second extra class in the Rangers' College will be opened.

Additional Buildings

As the result of this expansion a number of new posts have been created, e.g., Education Conservator, Instructor and Assistant Instructors, Assistant Lecturer in Engineering etc.

For the present additional hostel accommodation for the extra students on a temporary basis has been constructed. The educational buildings will be built on a permanent basis and residential accommodation for the extra students will be provided.

The total cost of this expansion on a permanent basis is estimated at about Rs. 12 lakhs.

TEN STUDENTS TO BE SENT ABROAD FOR TRAINING IN FORESTRY

To supplement the available facilities provided at the Indian Forest College at Dehra Dun for the training of Gazetted Forest Officers, the Government of India now propose to depute at least 10 students from the Provinces to the Edinburgh University for a degree in forestry.

This decision has been taken to help the Provinces in implementing their post-war Reconstruction Plans by bringing up the Cadres of Forest Officers to an adequate strength as soon as possible after the war.

The Edinburgh course in forestry is ordinarily of three years, but if a student selected has an Indian Science Degree covering Botany, Physics, Chemistry and Zoology—roughly equivalent to a B.Sc. Hon.'s degree—he would be able to obtain the degree in two years. The cost of this course for two years would be Rs. 9,000 per student, exclusive of passage money, which will be about Rs. 1,700. The Central Government have offered to pay half the cost for sending these provincial nominees to Edinburgh.

CIVIL MOTOR CYCLES CONTROL ORDER

A Press Note issued by the War Transport Department, Government of India, on March 31 stated:

The Government of India have issued a Civil Motor Cycles Control Order, 1945, to control the sale and distribution of a limited number of light motor cycles available for civil use at a cost of Rs. 825 per machine (subject to revision) plus transportation charges from the centre of distribution to the premises of the dealer.

In view of the acute shortage of motor cycles, it is proposed to issue these only to essential users both among officials and non-officials, Persons desiring to purchase these light motor cycles should apply to the Provincial Motor Transport Controller concerned.

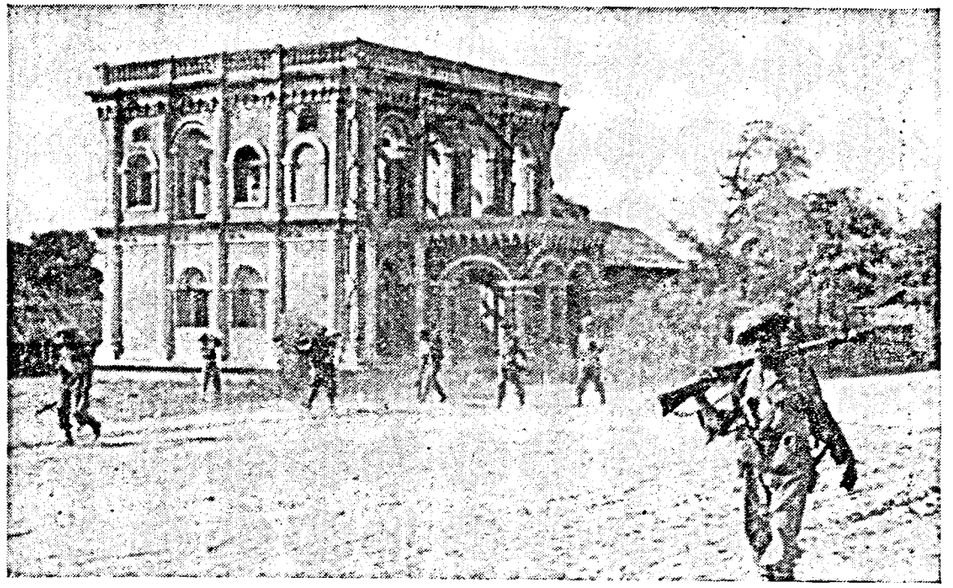
Distribution will be through a single 'distributor' for India assisted by 'dealers' for specified areas.

LIBERATION OF CIVILIAN BRITISH SUBJECTS FROM PHILIPPINES

Allied successes in the Philippines have resulted in the liberation of a number of civilian British subjects from internment camps in the Islands, said a Press Note issued by the External Affairs Department, Government of India, on March 14.

It added: Information is being received from day to day of individual British subjects whose next of kin are in India and is being passed on to those concerned. The Government of India understand that the ex-internees are being cared for in special camps and will be repatriated as soon as conditions permit.

Next of kin or near relatives may communicate with civilians in the Philippines through the American Red Cross (Civilian War Relief), APO 442, c/o the Postmaster, San Francisco, California.



Men of the Frontier Force Regiment move up Mandalay street to attack Fort Dufferin.

FALL OF FORT DUFFERIN ENDED BATTLE FOR MANDALAY

LIEUT.-GENERAL SIR OLIVER LEESE, Commander of the 19th Indian Division, missed by a few minutes the final "kill" in the closing stages of the battle of Mandalay, which fell at 12-45 p.m. on March 20, to men of the 15th Punjab Regiment. He had been in the town in the morning encouraging his troops but went to the air strip. His plane took off. A few minutes later it was learned that Fort Dufferin had fallen after a terrific bombardment.

The Fort fell after a 12-day siege, writes Major Howard Kitchin, Indian Army Observer. The 15th Punjab Regiment had been the first infantry troops to reach the city as part of General Rees' mobile column.

After the break-out from the Singu Bridgehead and the drive down the east bank of the Irrawaddy, our forces reached a point three miles north of Mandalay from where they could see Mandalay Hill, the gateway to the city.

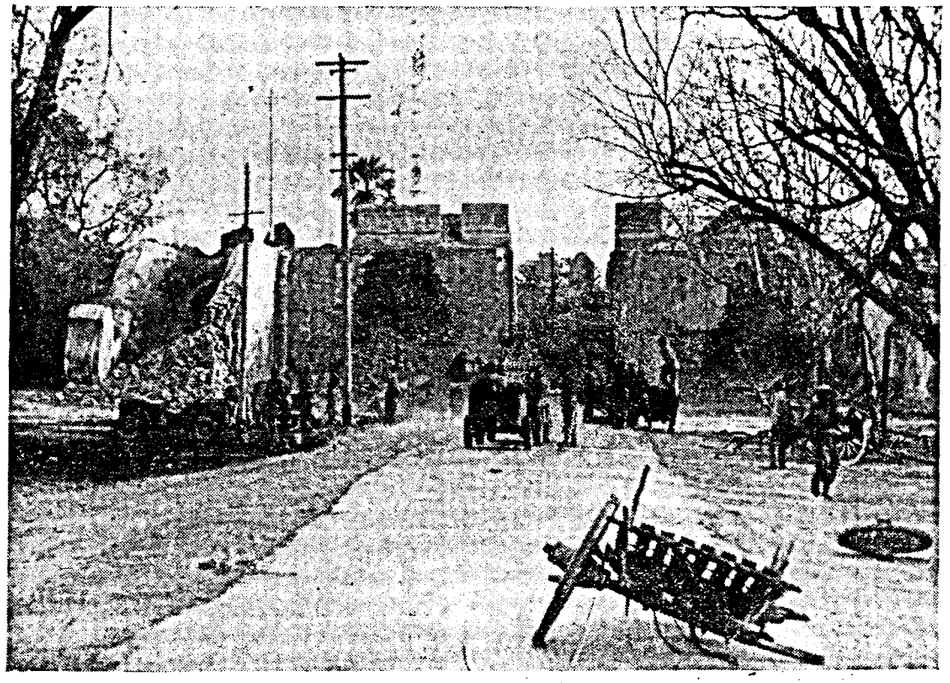
At first light they moved forward and captured Obo railway station. As the battalion pushed forward into Obo village it came under heavy fire from enemy guns and mortars. The battle continued the whole day, in the course of which the west end of Mandalay Hill was captured.

Next morning (March 24) the enemy began a series of counter-attacks. The Sikh company of the 15th Punjab Regiment had a "field day" repulsing all these assaults, and by dusk had accounted for at least 32 Japs.

Street Fighting

Pathans of the battalion were in their element in the street fighting round the south-west corner of the Fort. They liquidated Jap strongpoints by capturing a school and a pagoda. Sepoy Lal Mir, of Nar village, Kohat district, during an attack on a Jap-held position, collected grenades from a wounded comrade and engaged the enemy with these and a Bren gun alternately. He had to stand up repeatedly to fire on the enemy in some "dead ground" below while they showered grenades at him.

The fall of the Fort came as an anti-climax. For days British medium bombers and medium and fighter-bombers had blasted at the thick



Military Police check vehicles at the south gate of the Fort.

walls to create breaches through which infantry and tanks could infiltrate into the square of ruined buildings and park land. The difficulty of crossing the 75-yard moat, added to the complexities of charging up 20-feet high heaps of rubble in the face of defensive fire from well-sited mortars and guns, forced the commander of the famous "Dagger" Division to surround the Fort.

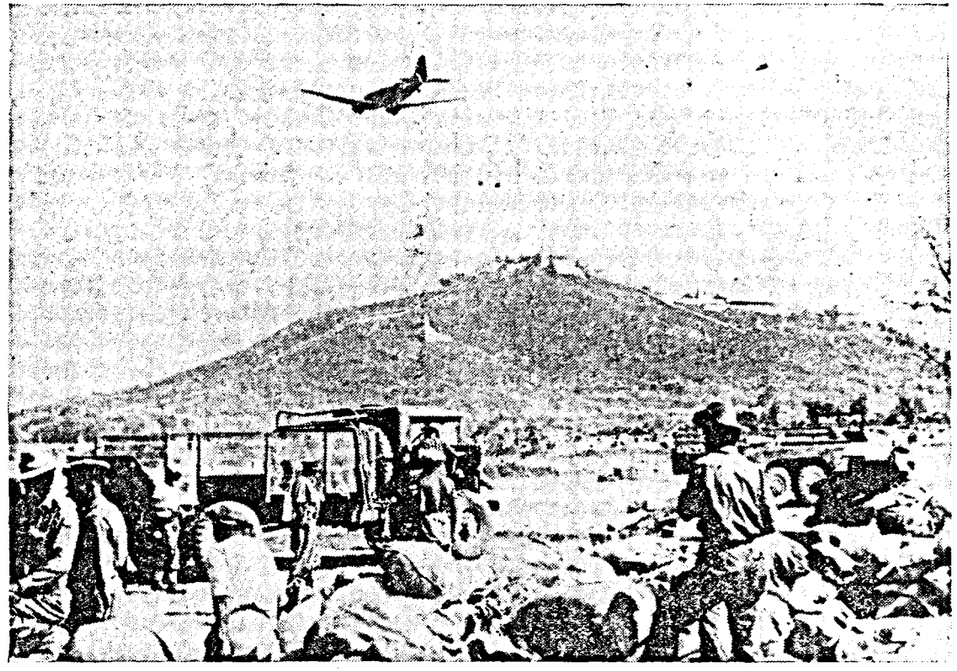
Concentrated Bombardment

For an hour and a half there was a concentrated bombardment of the northern wall and Thunderbolts also dived into the attack. The wall was so thick that many of the bombs skidded off the target to explode amongst the trees inside the Fort.

About three more breaches had been made in the northern wall bringing the total to 25 most of which had been created by medium gunners of a Streatham (London) battery who, even until a few minutes before the fall of the Fort, had been blasting at 300 yards range.

Evidently as a result of the terrific air bombardment five Burmese, dressed in khaki shirts and shorts, were spotted by an artillery observation post at the top of the northern wall, waving a white flag and the Union Jack.

Gunner B. O. Payne, aged 33, of 546|113 New Civil Lines, Cawnpore, formerly employed in the Cooper Allen Leather Works, was first to spot the flags from his gun position near the side of Mandalay Hill. He told me, "Five Burmese came out at about quarter to one, waving the flags. At first I did not know whether they were Japs or not, so I told my pals to get down. I advanced 100 yards with my Bren ready to shoot and then I realised they were Burmese. I took the Union Jack from them and then saw the Punjabis rushing forward at the north gate. I joined in the charge and we tore into the Fort. On the right I saw a flagpole and I raced there to get up first and place the Union Jack where it used to be three years ago."



Supplies arrive by air for troops fighting in Mandalay. (Below) a truckload of Jap prisoners of war on their way to internment.



The Punjabis were close on his heels and one of them ascended the rickety wire-rope ladder to place his Regimental flag below the Union Jack.

Whilst the Punjabis were streaming in from the north men of the Rajputana Rifles were invading from the southern gate; their colonel was flying in a light 'plane overhead. He told me, "We were in a few minutes after the 15th Punjab Regiment. I have to admit that it was touch and go."

Baluchis followed the Punjabis and when I went into the Fort along with General Rees, who had returned, and other senior commanders, Madras Sappers and Miners were already busy clearing the debris away from the bomb-splintered massive gate, so that jeeps and mules could move in.

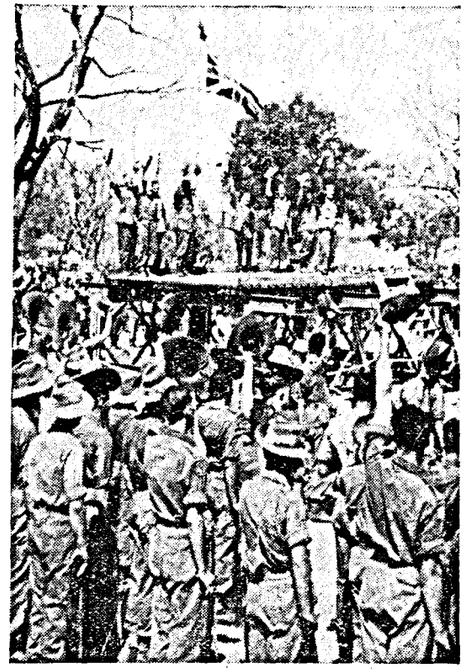
Occupation of Fort Dufferin

The occupation of Fort Dufferin was done by soldiers from all parts of India. Men who have distinguished themselves throughout this bitter campaign of the bridgehead battles and of the fight for Mandalay itself. It was a representative crowd of the "Dagger" Division troops, headed by their General, which gathered around the flagpole to watch the Division's insignia—a golden dagger held in a clenched fist on a red background—hauled up by Havildar Gurbachan Singh, of Sukko village, Rawalpindi, of the 15th Punjab Regiment, selected by General Rees to place the Division's flag below the Union Jack.

While the formal ceremony was going on, Jeeps and mules were moving past the small assembly of Senior officers and men. They had to avoid a huge crater caused by one of the bombs. Everywhere around were signs of havoc, clouds of dry grey earth scattered about, rubble from the breaches in the wall, splintered and sick trees.

It is now certain that the garrison, probably 300 strong, headed by a little-weakened Regimental Headquarters but well armed, pulled out during the night from the south gate.

Whilst small bands of enemy were "jittering" the 15th Punjab Regiment's forward position outside the northern gate as a diversion, the remainder of the garrison, accompanied by motor transport, bullock carts, and a tracked vehicle probably drawing a field gun, were sneaking out along the streets leading to the eastern outskirts of the city.



"Three Cheers" as the Union Jack flies over Fort Dufferin.

Patrols of the 6th Rajputana Rifles reported this movement and all the weapons at their command—medium and field guns, infantry mortars and machine-guns—were directed at the column. Jap casualties are not yet known, though the last of the column blew a bridge over a canal after their departure from the city suburbs.

The huge scattered screen of the 19th Indian Division and the 2nd British Division around Mandalay, from the smashed Ava Bridge to the road to Maymyo, gives them few usable routes out.

It is now certain that the simultaneous fires which broke out in the Mandalay Palace and the Mandalay Club areas in the Fort grounds were started by the Japs, with the intention of destroying some of their own dumps there.

The Palace stood in the exact centre of Fort Dufferin. It consisted of a walled square divided into numerous courts and in an inner enclosure was the Palace proper.

King Thebaw's Palace was undoubtedly the most famous secular building in Burma, though its roof of corrugated iron and general tinsel appearance gave it a somewhat incongruous among the buildings of tall spires, winged roofs and lily thrones, where the last of the Burmese kings received the representatives of foreign powers.

The Japs were reported using a wooden building a few hundred yards west of the Palace as an observation point. Our commander was reluctantly compelled to take on this target and the flames spread across the dry grass to the Palace. The smoke indicated that dumps of oil or petrol had been sited in the area of the palace and many unfortunate refugees were seen streaming out pushing handcarts laden with their belongings. A few Japs were also seen moving about.

During the night Jap "jitter" parties left the northern edge of the Fort to engage men of the 15th Punjab Regiment, while enemy machine-guns from the area of the north-eastern corner engaged our patrols. Rajputana Rifles patrols directed artillery fire on enemy M.T. moving away from the eastern gate of the Fort.

Further south, on the northern bank of the River Myitnge, Gurkhas occupied the village of Nyaungnilin, which had been previously held in strength. Four enemy were killed. The party of enemy which struck between British infantry positions south of the Fort lost 12 by tank fire.

With the fall of Fort Dufferin the battle for Mandalay, Burma's second city and the last seat of the Burman Kings, is virtually ended. Small areas are still held by the Japs, south of the Fort and they may well put up determined, even suicidal, resistance but it cannot now interfere with our general consolidation in the city and to the south.

The Fort is 1¼ miles square in the centre of the city. It resembles Fort Attock on the Indus and the Red Fort at Delhi.

INDIAN VALOUR AND ENDURANCE

Mandalay marks the completion of the first big stride along the road to Tokyo from India, writes an Indian Army Observer.

With the fall of Mandalay the Jap outer defence zone, which in the east is already crumbling under the blows of General MacArthur, has been pierced from the west.

Once again Indian valour and endurance have been the foundations of this dramatic fulfilment of Allied war plans. Indian and British troops showing once again that comradeship in arms which has so often distinguished their association on this war's battlefields, have for many weeks been wearing down the Jap defences on the road to Mandalay.

Although half of Burma still remains to be recovered the fall of Mandalay emphasises anew our immense inroad into Jap resources. In the 1944-45 Battle of Burma more than 60,000 Japs have been killed, some of the most famous Jap divisions have been hurled back crippled, thousands of tons of equipment have been captured and enemy morale and propaganda have suffered a heavy battering.

The advance on Mandalay was paralleled by the successes of the 15th Indian Corps in the Arakan, where Akyab was taken and our forces pushed on southwards. The Burma campaign thus emerges as a vast inverted nut cracker movement, embracing almost the whole of the country, with Rangoon as its objective.

Much hard fighting, however, lies ahead before we can retrace our steps down the road along which in the spring of 1942, General Alexander's army retreated into India. It fought a gruelling rearguard action, taking toll of the enemy until the Japanese advance through Burma spent itself. Then our men turned and stood on the Burma border with outposts in the hills west of the Chindwin.

Vigorous Patrolling

During the 1942-43 dry season vigorous patrolling was developed and in the early months of 1943 the first Wingate expedition marched into Burma to penetrate as far as the Irrawaddy, deep behind the Jap forward positions.

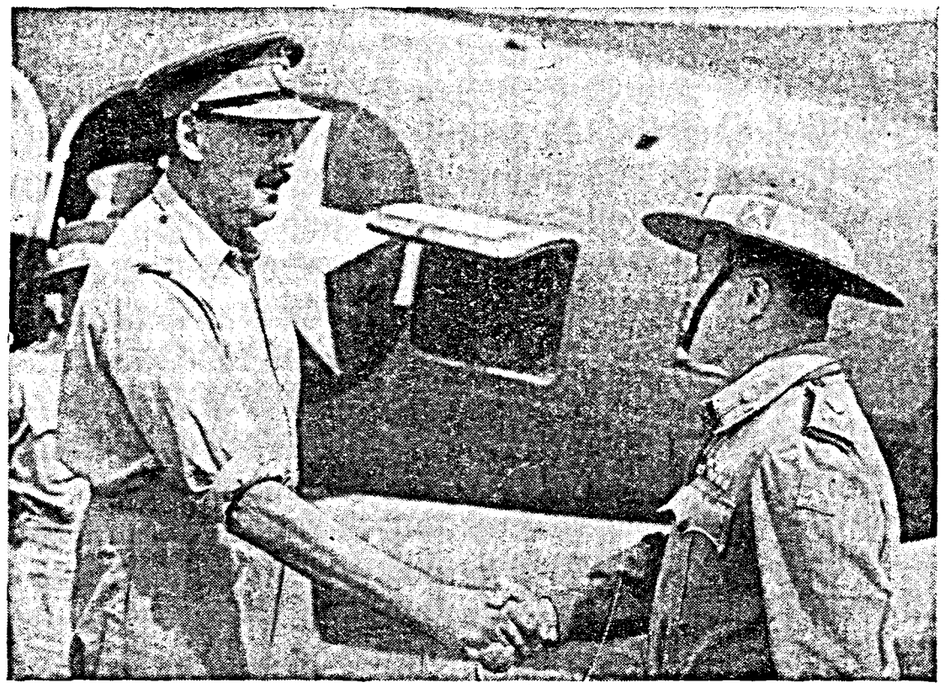
In the winter of 1943 work on the Ledo Road was stepped up and the Sino-American forces under General Stilwell advanced against the Japs in the Hukawng Valley, clearing the way for the road builders.

As our threat from the north-west increased and the veteran 13th Jap Division was driven back by Gen. Stilwell the Japs decided to make a bold offensive effort with two main objectives:

1. To cut the vital lines of communication of Gen. Stilwell's forces running up the Bramahputra Valley;

2. Having succeeded in attaining that objective to develop their advance and threaten Eastern India. The propaganda value of such a move would have been of immense value to the Japs, who hoped that it might result in an uprising in India.

Coinciding with the launching of this Jap offensive on the Chindwin front the second Wingate expedition—this time glider-borne was launched and the Third Indian Division was dropped near the Irrawaddy, well to the rear of the Jap



Gen. Sir Oliver Leese, G.O.C.-in-C., A.L.F.S.E.A., who watched the airstrike, greets Maj.-Gen. T. W. Rees, Commander of the 19th Indian Division, which beat the Japs at Mandalay.

forces defending North Burma and those striking on the Manipur front. Their task was to cut the road, rail and river lines of communication of both these Jap forces.

Three Jap divisions, the 15th, 31st and 33rd, comprised the Jap offensive force which struck across the Chindwin in March, 1944. Their immediate aim was to capture Imphal with its air bases, and Kohima.

The first move of the enemy's offensive was a left hook by the 33rd Division, aimed at cutting off the 17th Indian Division, which was maintaining an outpost at Tiddim. This threat was foiled by the cleverly-executed fighting withdrawal of the 17th Indian Division, which made a stand on the southern edge of the Imphal plain about 18 miles south of Imphal. There the 33rd Jap Division was held.

Simultaneously the 15th Jap Division pushed across the Chindwin in an atempt to cut off the division at Tamu. This too was foiled and our troops pulled back to strong positions at Palel. This formation was the 23rd Indian Division. The Japs then walked round to the north to cut the main Dimapur road.

Meanwhile a third blow was developing to the north, where the 31st Jap Division penetrated difficult country and struck at Kohima. Valiant delaying actions were fought by men of the Assam Rifles, at Jessami and along the track running west to Kohima.

Heroic Stand at Kohima

Pushed back by overwhelming forces the Assam Rifles, reinforced by a battalion of the Royal West Kents, made a heroic stand for 17 days at Kohima, where they were surrounded by the Jap forces, which had cut the main road to Imphal to the south and Dimapur to the north.

Had Kohima fallen the Japs would have been enabled to push on for the 46 miles to Dimapur and there threaten the road and railway running north-east to the Ledo Road, along which supplies for Gen. Stilwell's forces were being carried.

With each of their three offensive prongs blunted the Japs endeavoured to over-run the Indian and British forces standing on the perimeter of the Imphal Plain. The Fifth Indian Division had been flown in from the Arakan to bolster this defensive force, which comprised the 17th, 20th and 23rd Indian Divisions.

The Silchar track running westwards to India from the Imphal Plain was cut by the Japs but stubborn resistance prevented them from fully exploiting this success.

Regardless of cost the Japs threw themselves again and again against this defensive wall around the Plain but without gaining any ground.

By this time reinforcements had been brought up to Dimapur. The second British Division broke through and relieved what was left of the Kohima Garrison.

A Terrific Battle

The Seventh Indian Division from the Arakan then came up. A terrific battle took place for 40 days without a lull for the surrounding heights (9,000 feet), in which tanks operated by both British and Indian crews took part and air support (including strafing and dive-bombing by the R.A.F. and the I.A.F.) had an outstanding place.

Early in June, with monsoon mists and rains blotting out the battlefield, the Japs were driven to the south-east and an Allied force driving down the main road from Kohima linked up with a relieving force pushing north from Imphal.

Meanwhile the 23rd (Chindit) Brigade had marched south to harass the enemy's lines of communication to the east of Kohima. They gave the Japs no rest as they fell back on to Ukhrul, about 30 miles to the north-east of Imphal.

Here a considerable number of the defeated 31st Jap Division was caught in the pincer grip of our two forces, the Fifth and Seventh Indian Divisions, from Kohima and Imphal respectively and destroyed. The remainder were pushed further south-east to the Chindwin.

With the road to the north once more clear it was now the turn of the two remaining Jap divisions to be pushed back. British and Indian troops at Palel and Bishenpur, supported by tanks, went over to the offensive and by the end of July the Japs were scurrying back the way they had come only a few months earlier.

The 20th Indian Division took over in the Palel sector, retook Tamu and inflicted very heavy casualties on the fleeing 15th Jap Division.

At this stage the 11th East African Division took over and cleared the remaining few miles to Sittaung on the banks of the Chindwin. From there they pushed south through the Kabaw Valley, constructing roads as they went and relentlessly winkling out the Japs.

Meantime the Fifth Indian Division was forging ahead down the road at the expense of the 33rd Jap Division. By the middle of August all live Japs were out of India.

Fall of Tiddim

Soon Tiddim itself, 163 miles from Imphal, fell to the Fifth Indian Division. Fort White followed and then the division reached Kalemyo, a few miles from the Chindwin, simultaneously with the 11th East African Division. The capture of Kelewa, on the river, rounded off a successful campaign on this part of the front.

While this drive was going on the Japs in north and central Burma had been as badly mauled as on the Manipur front. The Chindits had overrun their lines of communication, inflicted several thousand casualties, destroyed great quantities of much-needed stores and struck a blow which contributed greatly to the virtual annihilation of the 18th Jap Division in North Burma by Gen. Stilwell's forces.

One Chindit brigade took part in the capture of Mogaung at the end of June, and other Chindit troops helped to isolate Myitkyina, which fell after 72 days' siege.

The 36th British Division then came into the picture and pushed down the railway corridor which runs South-west from Mogaung to Mandalay. Chinese troops moved south from Myitkyina and held off any possible Jap counter-offensive from that direction. Contact was then made across the Sino-Burma border with the American-trained Chinese troops on the Salween front.

With the monsoon rains past the British, Indian, Chinese and American forces were all ready to go again. Advances against slight resistance were made across the Chindwin from Sittaung and Kalewa and southwards by the two forces in North Burma, which were now under Lieut.-Gen. Sultan, who had succeeded Gen. Stilwell as commander of the northern Combat Area Command.

Chinese Divisions quickly invested Bhamo and pushed on south-east towards Burma to threaten the rear of the Jap forces holding back the Chinese on the Salween front.

The 36th British Division took the vital communication centres of Indaw and Katha. The Allied forces moving east from the Chindwin soon established contact with it in this area and then swung south.

The great squeeze then started to clear the Japs from north and central Burma.

To the north-east the Chinese and the American Mars Task Force pushed on and captured Namkham, on a Branch of the Burma Road. The Salween Chinese forged ahead and took Wanting, thus compressing the Japs standing on the Burma Road.

To the south-west N.C.A.C. forces were crossing the Shucli River, and the area north of Lashio and the Burma Road.

Air Support

Down the Irrawaddy on both banks came Indian and British troops, while between them and the Chindwin were other forces converging on Mandalay. Aided by tanks and with heavy air support, both tactical and strategical, they took village after village and ultimately there came the final show down on the banks of the Irrawaddy.

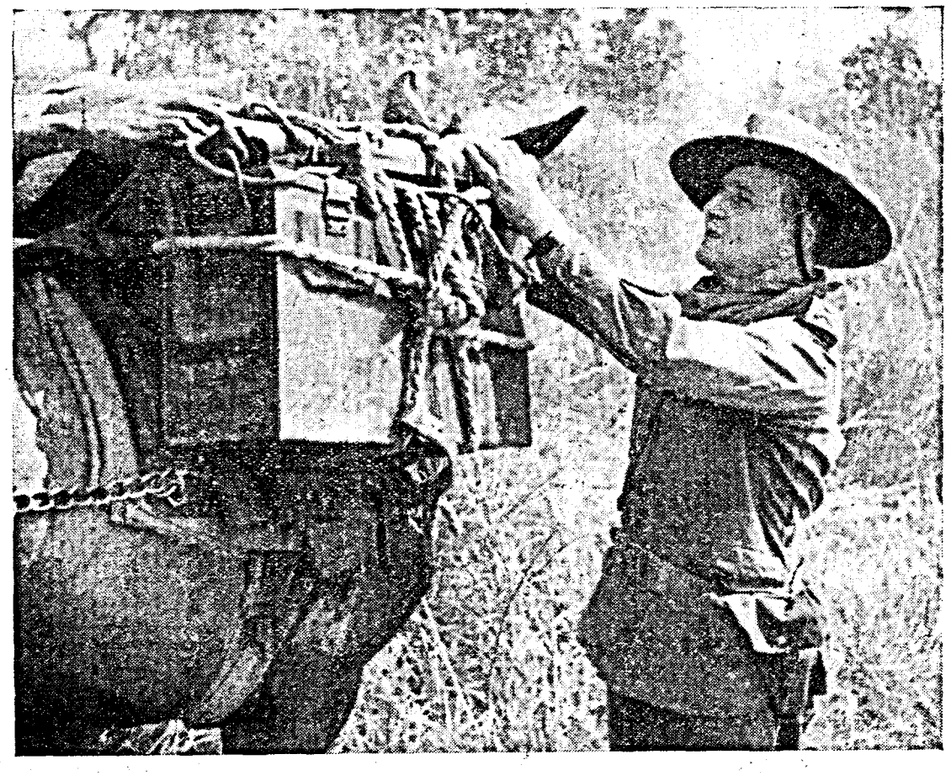
INDIAN TROOPS CONGRATULATED

Speaking for several minutes in Hindustani Lord Louis Mountbatten personally congratulated Indian troops who helped to take Mandalay.

The Indian soldiers gave him three rousing cheers after he had finished speaking to them at Fort Dufferin, writes an Indian Army Observer.

Lord Louis Mountbatten heard the full story of the fall of Mandalay from Major-General T. V. Rees, commander of 19th Indian Division, sitting beside him near a shrine overlooking the town.

While inspecting Indian troops he chatted with Jemadar Darya Singh, 4th Bombay Grenadiers, of Rohtak, who blew out the Jap bunker positions with grenades and killed four Japs single handed with his Bren gun.



Maj.-Gen. Rees, who helped to push jeeps and lorries through difficult country in Mandalay, adjusts a mule pack.

"AIR WAR IN BURMA"

Allied Air C.-in-C.'s Broadcast

AIR MARSHAL SIR KEITH PARK, the Allied Air Commander-in-Chief, South East Asia, in a broadcast from the Delhi Station of All India Radio on March 29 discussed the air war in Burma and in particular the close air support given to the armies in the field.

"After completing more than three years' service in the Mediterranean and Middle East theatres, I have just returned from a quick tour of the Allied Air Forces on the Burma front. Having taken an active part in the various campaigns in the Mediterranean, it is extremely interesting to compare the work of the Air Forces out here with the work of similar Air Forces in the Mediterranean theatre. Though the Desert Air Force originated the first effective system of close support for the Army, and the Mediterranean Allied Air Forces have given magnificent support to the Armies in Italy, in neither case has the Army been so dependent on the Air Force as in Burma.

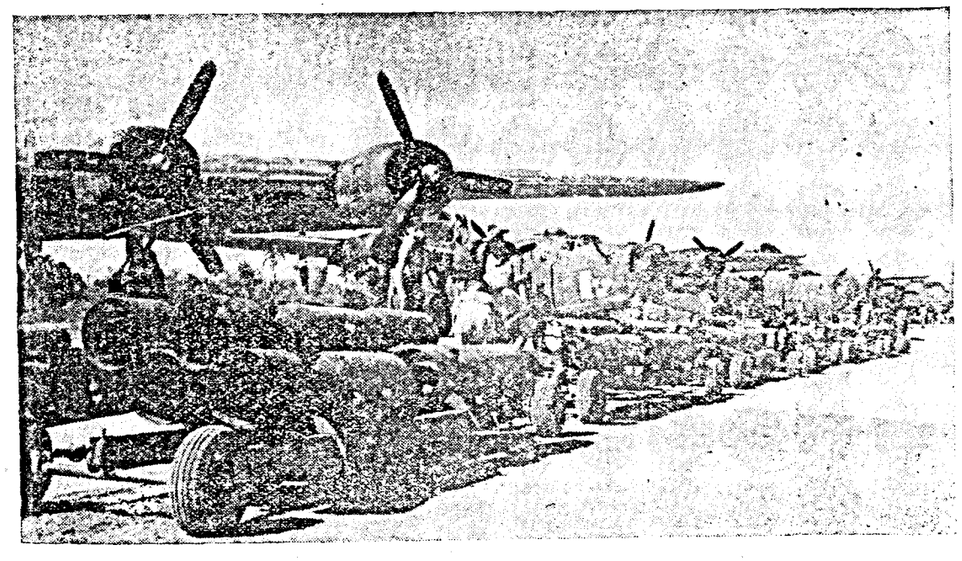
"The Allied Air Force in Burma has not only provided close support for the land forces but has actually transported divisions to the battle.



Air Marshal Sir Keith Park.

It has then supplied the divisions in the line, because there were no other lines of communication available. This is the only theatre in which this type of operation has been carried out on such a scale or for such a long time.

"When I congratulated one of the military commanders on the recent advances of the 14th



R.A.F. armourers on the Burma Front bombing-up R.A.F. Liberators of the Strategic Air Force.

Army on Mandalay, he replied quietly but sincerely that there could not have been any advance without the Transport aircraft and the close support of the squadrons of the Allied Air Forces. I know that at home the exploits of the Allied Air Forces are followed with keen interest and admiration, but I feel that this generous first-hand testimony by the Army Commander, of the value of the support received from the Air Forces, will bring pride and pleasure to relatives and friends of British, Indian, Dominions and American Air Force personnel on the Burma Front.

"Our heavy bomber squadrons have isolated the Japanese land forces by destroying railway and road bridges, thus preventing the arrival of reinforcements and supplies from back areas. At the same time our fighters and fighter-bombers have prevented the movement of supplies from forward dumps by making movement by road and river impossible by day and hazardous by night.

Air Supremacy

"The lack of land communication has made it impossible to move forward by road or rail artillery ammunition, and on parts of the Front very difficult to get even the guns forward to the battle area. In these conditions the Army have turned to the Air Forces to take on artillery targets within a few hundred yards of the front-line troops, targets that would normally have required a great expenditure of artillery ammunition. Light aircraft have provided continuous reconnaissance of the battle zone because our fighters maintained air superiority throughout the battle. Some of our bomber squadrons specialised on bridge-busting, and the photographic results I was shown are better than I have even seen before. Some of our long-range squadrons attacked coast-wise shipping so effectively as practically to put a stop to daylight movement. Whilst the Air Force has co-operated with the Army, the Army has also co-operated with the Air Force by capturing and then making serviceable airfields in the forward areas.

"Finally, the Allied Air Forces rendered great assistance to our Army by establishing air supremacy through air fighting and destruction of enemy aircraft by bombing. Whereas the Japanese dare not show a leg by day, our land forces are free to move unmolested along congested roads leading to the battle. Moreover, our Army's forward dumps remain quite free from attack, while the enemy's dumps are being daily attacked by bomb, rocket and cannon-fire.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 541)

BARODA INFANTRY IN ACTION

Fighting alongside other units of the Indian Army, a battalion of the Baroda Infantry, Indian State Forces, has been in action on the Burma Front almost continuously for over two years, writes an Indian Army Observer. The unit took an active part in the Irrawaddy crossings.

During these two years the battalion has done such vital work as guarding aerodromes, at which they came in for their share of enemy bombing, and has been given various infantry assignments.

One company of the battalion commanded by Major Dataji Rao Shirke of Ratnagiri fought off a Jap force attacking a brigade headquarters when the brigade was on the point of moving. Another company, commanded by Capt. Diwanji of Baroda city, drove away an enemy patrol which tried to infiltrate into the company's defenive box.

In these and similar clashes with the enemy the battalion has acquitted itself worthily. Both Hindus and Mohammedans are serving in the Baroda Infantry.

C.-IN-C. CONGRATULATES MAHARAJA OF NEPAL ON LATEST GURKHA V.C.

The Commander-in-Chief in India, General Sir Claude Auchinleck, has congratulated His Highness the Maharaja of Nepal on the award of the Victoria Cross to Rfn. Thaman Gurung, 5th Royal Gurkha Rifles.

"Your Highness will be delighted to know," says the C.-in-C., "that this latest award has gained for the regiment the unsurpassed record of having won four Victoria Crosses in this war. It is a magnificent achievement in which I and the whole Indian Army take the greatest pride."

In a message to the 5th Royal Gurkha Rifles Regimental Centre the C.-in-C. declares, "I only regret that Rfn. Thaman Gurung did not live to share in the honour and glory he has brought to the Indian Army, to the Gurkhas and to his Regiment. Please convey my personal congratulations and deepest sympathy to Rfn. Thaman Gurung's relatives."

Congratulating Rfn. Thaman Gurung's own battalion on their honour in sharing, with one other regiment of His Majesty's forces, the outstanding distinction of having won four Victoria Crosses in this war, Gen. Auchinleck says: "The story of his magnificent example of courage and supreme self-sacrifice will be an inspiration to all."

HONGKONG REGIMENT ARRIVES IN INDIA

ONE of the lesser known units of the British Army—and the only one consisting of Indians—has arrived in Bombay.

It is a heavy anti-aircraft regiment of the Hongkong and Singapore Royal Artillery, writes an Indian Army Observer. Most of the men have not seen their own country for nearly six years.

On their arrival the regiment was greeted by Brig. C. Southgate, M.C., Sub-Area Commander, who read a message to the men from the Commander-in-Chief in India, General Sir Claude Auchinleck.

"I am glad to welcome you back to India after your long-service overseas, during which time your efforts have contributed greatly to the defence of the countries in which you have served," said the C.-in-C. "I wish all ranks the best of luck."

The "H.K.S.," as they are usually called, are the only unit in the British Army composed almost entirely of Indian Other Ranks. These men, mostly Jats and Punjabi Mussalmans, are all volunteers and every one is specially selected before he is accepted.

Before the war the unit served overseas only. It was sent to Aden, Mauritius and other outposts, as well as Hongkong and Singapore. When the Japs made their attacks on the two latter ports most of the "H.K.S." were there and went on fighting gallantly against terrific odds until they were finally overwhelmed.

The only men not captured were those serving with three batteries which were in the Middle East. Now, after a long spell, these men are back in India. They have seen service in Palestine, Syria and Africa.

One battery was in action against the Italians in British Somaliland and another, fighting with the Eighth Army, was one of the last units to retire to Alamein at the time of Rommel's great attack.

The regiment is commanded by Lt.-Col. C. Fitz Barratt, who served with the "H.K.S." as a subaltern and was chosen to form this regiment from the remaining units of an exceptionally fine fighting force. Since its formation many more members have arrived, some of them escaping from the Japs and eventually finding their way to India, from where they were sent to the Middle East.

KUMAON RIFLES WELCOMED HOME

RETURNING to India after a long spell of service overseas, men of the 1st Kumaon Rifles were welcomed home by Lt.-Gen. Sir Geoffrey Scoones, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Central Command, at a parade held at Agra.

Received by Col. G. B. Faulder, D.S.O., Commandant of the 19th Hyderabad Regimental Centre, and Lt.-Col. L. J. C. Loch, commanding the Kumaon Rifles, the Army Commander inspected all ranks and then took the salute at the march past.

Gen. Scoones congratulated the battalion on their fine appearance and told the officers that with material such as this there would be no great difficulty in training them for jungle warfare. He asked officers to keep the importance of training and discipline in the foreground.

Tribute to Indian Soldier

He warned them against the dangers of malaria and stressed the vital need of good malaria discipline. To emphasise this importance he quoted figures of ravages caused by malaria in units where adequate precautions had not been taken.

Gen. Scoones paid a tribute to the jungle fighting qualities of the Indian soldier who, he said, had got the measure of the Jap in this form of warfare.

From 1936 to 1940 the Kumaon Rifles saw service in Hongkong. They then moved to the Middle East where they formed part of Paiforce and saw action at Abadan during the short and swift campaign to liquidate the Persian rebels.

VICEROY'S WAR PURPOSES FUND

Contributions amounting to Rs. 16,00,638 during February, 1945, have brought the total of H. E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund to Rs. 11,63,90,801 while the payments in the same month amounting to Rs. 23,77,617 raised the total of payments to Rs. 10,10,29,965 leaving a balance in hand of Rs. 1,53,60,835 of which about Rs. 1¼ crores represented unearmarked money.

Notable donations for general purposes during the month were Rs. 4,00,000 from the Sind War Purposes Fund for the Indian Red Cross Society and St. John Ambulance Association; Rs. 5,00,000 from Mysore State; Rs. 2,00,000 from Travancore State; Rs. 1,50,000 from Hyderabad State and Rs. 50,000 from Banswara State.



Camouflaged, warmly clad Sikhs of a famous Indian Cavalry Regiment in Italy wait in the snow, their tommy guns ready, whilst on patrol.

INDIAN TROOPS' SECOND WINTER IN ITALY

SEVERAL thousand Indian troops have now spent two winters in Italy—winters of unusual severity, spent in inhospitable terrain.

In conditions so rigorous that Canadian troops, accustomed to the harsh climate of their own country, have had their endurance tested to the full, the Indian sepoys have shown that they are hardy men who, though used to the warmth of their own land, can also endure extreme cold.

Most of these Indian troops went to Italy from the Middle East and have been in action for nearly four years. Some have spent a leave in India and returned to the fighting line refreshed and fit.

They are men of the Fourth, Eighth and Tenth Indian Divisions; men who have fought up the length of Italy, smashing through natural barriers and cleverly-erected artificial obstacles. Lasting friendships have been formed with troops from the Dominions, the Indian-Canadian combination being perhaps the closest approach to the ideal conception of brotherhood in arms.

The Indian entry into the battle for Italy was in October, 1943, the Eighth Indian Division forcing the crossing of the Biferno, following up that success with the more difficult crossing of the Trigno. The Sangro came next, then the Moro. The remainder of the winter was spent in the Orsogna sector.

The Fourth Indian Division

The Fourth Indian Division entered the arena in December, 1943, and after short spells in the Orsogna and Maiella sectors shifted, over to the Cassino front in February, 1944. Spearheading the Fifth Army's second and third offensives to break past Cassino the "Fighting Fourth" added a glorious chapter to its history in fierce battles which lasted for six weeks until the end of March.

It was in April, 1944, that the third of the trio, the Tenth Indian Division, arrived in Italy to relieve Canadians in the Adriatic sector. Because of the appalling conditions it was held in check and chafed at patrol work.



Sikhs, on patrol, move through a shell-torn village in Italy. (Below) Wireless operators in white camouflage suits.



When the grand offensive for breaking through Cassino started in May, the Eighth Indian Division was given the task of crossing the Rapido, south of the town. They did so after bitter fighting; Cassino fell almost immediately.

After the fall of Rome the three Divisions were assigned new roles. The Eighth crossed the Arno, entered Florence and went on to Sieve. The Tenth maintained a steady advance along the upper reaches of the Tiber.

Attack on Gothic Line

Meanwhile the Fourth travelled "incognito" to the Adriatic, there to spearhead the Eighth Army's all-out attack on the Gothic Line.

The sepoys take with them everywhere an unspoken motto, "Charity begins with a chapatti." Many Italians have benefited from it and have been grateful.

O.B.I. RIBBON CHANGES

The ribbon of the Order of British India, which is awarded to Viceroy's Commissioned Officers, is being altered to show the difference between the two classes of the Order.

The award of the O.B.I. is open to V.C.O.s with long, faithful and honourable service. The O.B.I., 1st Class, carries with it the title "Sardar Bahadur" and an allowance of Rs. 2 a day for life; the O.B.I., 2nd Class, carries with it the title of "Bahadur" and an allowance of Re. 1. The insignia is worn round the neck by a dark red ribbon.

A new breast ribbon has been introduced for wear when the insignia is not worn. The ribbon is dark red, like the old O.B.I. ribbon, but has two thin vertical light blue lines for the 1st Class and one similar line for the 2nd Class. The 1st Class ribbon is two inches wide and the 2nd Class one and a half.

SIR KEITH PARK'S BROADCAST

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 538)

"One of the outstanding impressions of my tour was the friendly and close co-operation that exists between the British, Indian and American Air Force units operating on this Front under the control of General Stratemeyer and his Deputy, Air Marshal Coryton, who are ably supported by an integrated staff of British and Americans."



Ten journalists representing prominent newspapers in India recently completed six weeks' tour of Iran, Iraq, Syria, the Lebanon, Palestine, Egypt and Italy, visiting Indian units and formations. Picture shows (R. to L.) Messrs. Pothan Joseph ("Dawn," Delhi); Narasimhan ("Hindu," Madras); Deshmukh ("Sakal," Poona) and Nand Kishore ("Nava Bharat," Nagpur); Lieut.-General Mark Clark; Mr. Durga Das, ("Hindustan Times," Delhi) (behind him) Mr. F. W. Bustin (The "Civil & Military Gazette," Lahore); Mr. Sivaraman ("Dhinamani," Madras); Mr. Sarkar ("Amrita Bazar Patrika," Calcutta) and Mr. Mahmud "Nawa-i-Waqt," Lahore).

INDIAN JOURNALISTS VISIT ITALIAN FRONT

ARRIVING in Italy from Cairo in a special R.A.F. plane ten Indian journalists, representing prominent national daily papers, drove past Cassino and Rome to the 15th Army Group headquarters.

After a conference with Gen. Mark Clark they visited front-line troops of the 10th Indian Division, where they got their first baptism of fire.

To reach Punjabis the party made a strenuous pilgrimage up a 700-foot ascent and along a rocky gully to watch an artillery shoot at enemy strong-points in the valley below. Later they talked with members of two patrols who had just returned from a penetration into German positions.

Before leaving the 10th Indian Division's area the journalists visited several other units and were entertained to dinner by Gen. Denys Reid.

For a tour of the Eighth Indian Division the party split up into groups, going in different directions to visit various battalions in their positions. The representative of the "Hindu" flew in an "observation post" plane to direct gunfire while his fellow journalists remained on gun sites below, watching the shells speed across to enemy positions. Some of the party ventured far afield into a zone of daily patrol clashes on the Eighth Army Front.

Crowded Programme

Madrassi jawans crowded around the 'Hindu' representative, asking him questions about India and giving him special messages for their home folk. Mr. Durga Das, of the "Hindustan Times", spent a long time with Punjabi, Sikh and Pathan V.C.O.s, sharing tea with them close to the front line.

When the party visited the unit of the late Rfn. Thaman Gurung, V.C., they heard an account of the action in which he won the award by two Gurkhas who had fought in it.

A crowded programme finished with a visit to the Division's artillery and a conference with the Divisional Commander and other important officers.

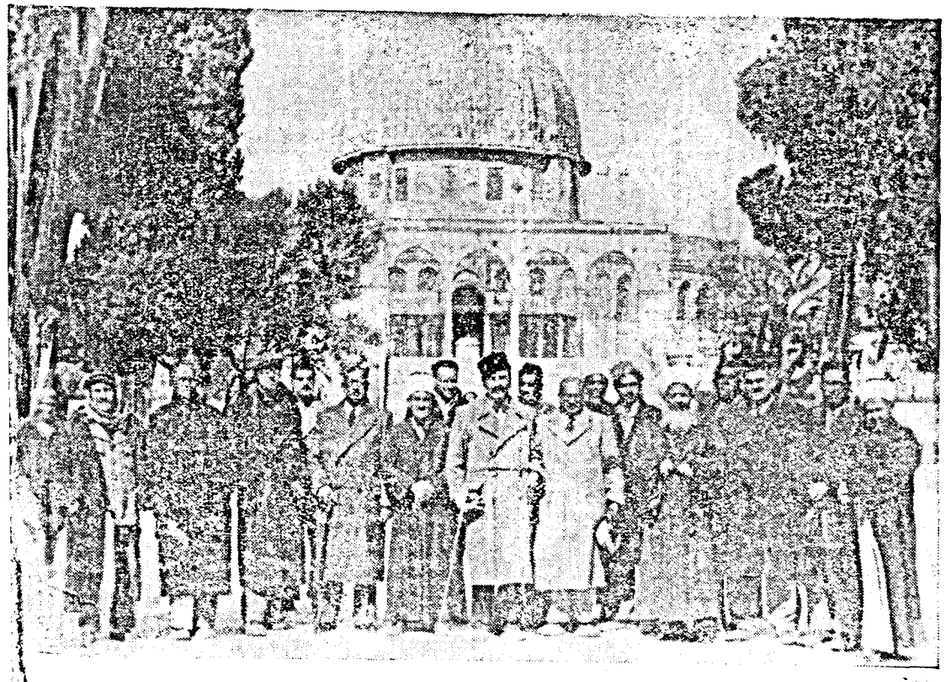
AT TEHERAN

The party visited Teheran on their way back to India on March 24. The visitors attended a tea party held by the Irani-Indian Cultural Society and the Department of Publicity and Propaganda of Iran, at which they were greeted by H. E. M. Ashgar Hekmat, President of the Society, and Dr. Safavi, Director of Publicity. Mr. Pothan Joseph, of "Dawn," replied on behalf of the guests.

The journalists explained that the aim of their visit to Italy was to enquire on the spot into conditions of the fighting men of India. They found that the morale of the Indian soldier was sky-high. Commanding Officers, both British and American, highly praised the qualities of Indian fighting men, of whom General Mark Clark said: "They are the toughest and bravest soldiers in the world."



Some of the journalists chatting with officers of a battalion of the 2nd Punjab Regiment in a forward area of the Italian Front.



The journalists photographed with their guide outside the Mosque of Omar at Jerusalem.



The first team of Indian Red Cross women workers, who left India recently to work in overseas war theatres, photographed on arrival at a Middle East port. Picture shows (L. to R.) Mrs. P. Johannes, Mrs. A. Hassan, Mrs. L. Seeley (in charge of the team), Mrs. S. Chatterjee, Mrs. B. Saxena and Mrs. M. Bence.

INDIAN RED CROSS WOMEN WORKERS IN MIDDLE EAST

SENT by the Indian Red Cross organisation to work in overseas theatres, a team of six women has arrived in the Middle East. The workers have been posted to various stations including those in Syria, Palestine and Italy.

All the women were trained in India for Red Cross work and served in hospitals in various parts of the country before going abroad. Mrs. L. Seeley, who comes from Bengal, is the staff officer in charge of the team and is working at the headquarters of the Indian Red Cross.

Mrs. S. Chatterjee is another worker from Bengal. Mrs. A. Hassan comes from Hyderabad (Deccan) and Mrs. B. Saxena from the United Provinces, formerly served in hospitals at Ranchi and Dacca.

An Irish lady, Mrs. M. Bence, who was in India for several years with her husband, Major Bence, and Mrs. P. Johannes, who was for some time in a 14th Army hospital, complete the team, the first to arrive in this theatre.

Arrangements are now in hand to bring out more Red Cross workers. With their arrival the comforts and amenities for Indian troops in various hospitals here will be still further improved.

GRANT FOR Y.W.C.A.

H. E. the Viceroy has made a grant of Rs. 30,000 from the War Purposes Fund to the National Committee of the Y.W.C.A., India, Burma and Ceylon, for establishing a Hostel for Nurses at Ernakulam, Cochin.

BRITISH PREMIER'S WELFARE REPRESENTATIVE LEAVES FOR U. K.



Lt.-Gen. C. J. S. King.

LIEUT.-GEN. C. J. S. KING, the Prime Minister's personal representative on welfare matters, who came to India following publication of the Munster Report, has left for a short visit to the United Kingdom.

While in England he will report on a tour of the India-Burma theatre which he recently completed.

"I have gone round the course once and feel that I now have a fair idea of the fences that have to be taken," Gen. King told an Indian Army Observer.

"My job has not been to re-write the Munster Report but to study in detail the problems it raised and to help those responsible to implement its recommendations.

"I have had a very good welcome from everyone wherever I have gone. Everybody seems to have appreciated my visits and all were very co-operative."

In three months of almost incessant travelling, Gen. King has covered about 30,000 miles. He has visited military stations of every kind in forward and rear areas, and also in the hills, in Burma, India and Ceylon.

All the services, including the Merchant Navy, have come within the scope of Gen. King's tour.

INDIAN SOLDIERS' RELATIVES ENTERTAINED

A hundred wives and mothers of Indian soldiers were entertained to tea at the Viceroy's House, New Delhi, by Lady Colville, deputising for Lady Wavell, President of the Women's Voluntary Services (India).

The guests included relatives of men of the 6th Rajputana Rifles and the Central Ordnance Stores and women introduced by the Fauji Sevadarni organisation in the villages surrounding Delhi.

Special Transport Arrangements

Special transport arrangements had been made to bring the relatives, some of whom had come 50 miles. On their arrival they were met by Lady Colville and given tea in the State Dining Room, after which they gathered in the gardens, now ablaze with flowers.

Equally colourful were the fine spreading skirts, jackets and *saris* of the guests, who chattered and laughed throughout the evening. The visitors were able to meet for the first time a small group of Indian and British W.A.C. (I) officers.

Many of the guests wore the W.V.S. badge, to which they proudly pointed. One woman remarked: "We are Rajputs. My husband fights and I help him by working here."

A Communique issued from the Viceroy's House on March 28 stated:

His Imperial Majesty the King, Emperor of India, has been graciously pleased to give orders for the following appointment to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire:

To be an Honorary Knight Commander, Civil Division:

His Excellency Monsieur Louis Bonvin, Governor of the French Establishments in India.



W.A.C. (I) store women issue spare parts for machinery and other technical stores from the Southern Army's workshop. Here, Sgt. Bunny Cradock, of Bangalore, reaches for a spare part.

W.A.C.(I) RUN DEPOTS

Fresh proof of the increasing importance of the Women's Auxiliary Corps (India) is the fact that in Southern India to-day the Corps controls all Officers' Shops under the Ordnance Directorate and administers without male help all the Detailed Issue Depots.

With the W.A.C. (I)s in charge the stores are clean, bright and brisk. There is usually an officer to supervise but at Coimbatore Sgt. D. Brown directs a smooth running organisation which caters for the army authorities and the civil population alike.

Shops are an easier proposition, but the Officer in Command has a staff to control and has to supervise stock, in-take and out-take, packing and unpacking in addition to controlling civil labour—tailors, cutters and pressers. At Cochin for the first time an Indian Officer, Sub. P. Ayiappan, is the O.C. and runs an excellent shop for the navy, army, air force and nursing sisters.

The all feminine staffs of these depots and shops are showing that they can organise with efficiency and smooth team work a service involving lakhs of rupees and many thousands of people.

RS. 14 LAKHS FOR INDIAN SERVICEMEN

Gift of British Red Cross

LADY LOUIS MOUNTBATTEN, Superintendent-in-Chief, Nursing Division of St. John Ambulance Brigade, and Major-General A. D. Telfer-Smollett, British Red Cross Commissioner for South East Asia Command, recently brought Her Excellency the Viscountess Wavell, Lady President of the Joint War Organisation of the Indian Red Cross Society and St. John Ambulance Association, an offer of a sum £100,000 (about Rs. 13,33,000) from the Joint War Organisation of the British Red Cross Society, London, to be used for the benefit of Indian servicemen as a trioute to their gallantry and devotion to duty in this war.

The Scottish Branch of the British Red Cross Society, wishing to associate itself with this gift, have added a further gift of £10,000 (about Rs. 1,33,000) as a mark of admiration and gratitude felt by their subscribers towards the Indian sailors, soldiers and airmen.

The form which the scheme, financed by this munificent gift, will take is now under discussion, and Her Excellency the Lady President has asked for suggestions from His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in India, the Hon'ble Sir Feroze Khan Noon, the Chairman, and other members of the Central Committee of the Red Cross and St. John Joint War Organisation, as well as from a number of medical authorities.

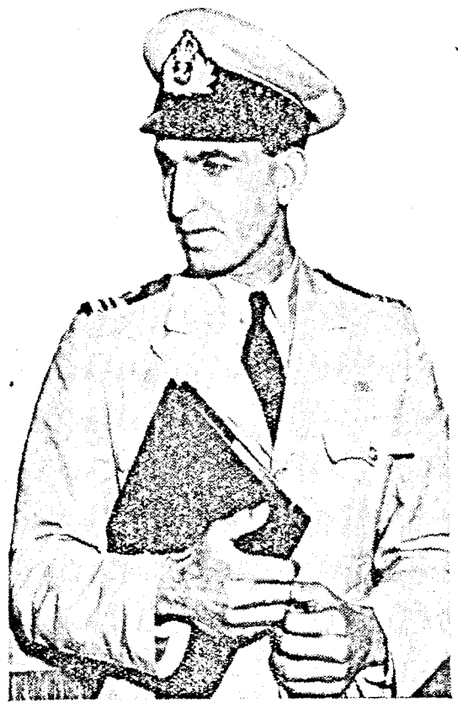
MR. J. N. NANDA

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 513)

years later he took up an appointment as an Assistant Engineer with the N.S.R. (then Nizam's Guaranteed State Railways Company, Ltd.). His visit to Europe, America and the Far East in 1935 gave him much additional experience of transport problems. Soon after his return he was appointed Deputy General Manager of the N. S. Railway and later became Chief Engineer. Since 1941 Mr. Nanda has been General Manager.

The election of the President of the Indian Railway Conference Association is made by the delegates of the different railways, and this is the first time that their choice has fallen on an Indian officer.

INDIAN OFFICER COMMANDS ANOTHER H.M.I. SLOOP



Lt.-Commander H.M.S. Choudri

COMMANDING Officer of one of the Royal Indian Navy's latest ships built in the United Kingdom is Lieut.-Commander Haji Mohammed Siddiq Choudri, R.I.N., whose home is at Batala in the Punjab.

He is the second Indian officer whose appointment in command of a sloop has been announced in recent weeks. The other is Commander Sadashiv Ganesh Karmarkar, R.I.N.R., of Poona.

Lieut.-Commander Choudri, who is 34, joined the Royal Indian Navy in 1931, and was trained with the Royal Navy in the United Kingdom. Earlier in the present war, when in command of one of H.M.I. ships, he saw action against the Italians in the Red Sea and off the Somaliland Coast, assisting in the bombardment of Italian positions at Berbera and in the recapture of the town. Later, while entering an enemy harbour his ship was sunk under him when it struck a mine, but the majority of the ship's company was saved.

In 1942 he qualified in the United Kingdom as a specialist officer in the Torpedo Branch, and latterly has been in command of escort vessels engaged in convoy duties.

During 1943 Lieut.-Commander Choudri made a short tour of the United States lecturing on the Royal Indian Navy's role in the present war. He visited all the main centres of production and training, such as the Norfolk Naval Base and the Naval Academy at Annapolis. His audiences ranged from scores of Pressmen to thousands of Naval personnel.

MOBILE OPERATING THEATRE IN BURMA

A mobile operating theatre, specially constructed to the designs of a former Punjab doctor who is now a lieutenant-colonel in the I.A.M.C., is proving of inestimable value in a forward area on the Burma Front.

The theatre is built of wood on the chassis of a three-ton lorry. It is divided down its length to provide a reception room on one side and a "work room" on the other, writes an Indian Army Observer.

The latter—used for blood transfusion, resuscitation work and dressing—has operating and anaesthetic tables as well as a bench for medical stores. There are also electric lights, a fan and a wash basin to complete the principal fittings.

Attached to the lorry is a trailer for transporting the luggage and personal effects of wounded men who are being treated.

A small, light barrow has also been made from part of the wing of a damaged Spitfire. This is used for transporting wounded men over difficult terrain to the operating theatre.

Already many men have passed throug this improvised surgery before being sent bac to established dressing stations and hospitals

---

The public and the servants of the Radh pur State have contributed Rs. 1,320-4 to H the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund for the In Red Cross and St. John Ambulance Associa



Lieut. M. L. Barua, R.I.N.R.

ASSAM OFFICER PAYS OFF OLD SCORE

NOW serving with our naval forces on the Burma coast is Lieut. Makhan Lal Barua, R.I.N.R., of Shillong, Assam, who has first-hand experience of how the tide of sea warfare has changed since the Japs' initial attack on Burma.

Second in command of a large R.I.N. depot ship, he now sees our warships ranging unopposed throughout the Indian Ocean. In contrast are the days—which he well remembers—when a Japanese cruiser squadron raided the Indian coast.

A Merchant Service officer until late in 1942, he made the America-West Indies run for several years and also gained useful experience on the Indian and Burma coasts where he was serving in April, 1942, when the weight of the Jap attack carried the enemy far into the Indian Ocean. The Japs' success was short-lived. While it lasted, however, a cruiser squadron made a daring raid on our shipping lanes off the East Coast of India.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 551)

R.I.N. LANDING CRAFT HAVE OWN "DOCTORS"

WORKING at top pressure to maintain the advance down the Arakan Coast, R.I.N. and Royal Marine landing craft must receive careful attention if they are to be kept in operational condition. This is the job of a small group of technicians of the R.I.N. Landing Craft Wing: the Landing Craft Recovery Unit.

I visited their workshops the other day in a quiet bay on the Burma coast, writes an R.I.N. Observer. High and dry on the shiny sand were landing craft of various shapes and sizes requiring all kinds of 'doctoring,' from extensive repairs to the renewal of broken or worn out parts. My guide was Lt. (E) A. B. Glennie, R.I.N.V.R., who is in charge of the unit.

First we visited a section of the beach where work was beginning on newly arrived craft. Some had been stripped of their ramps and armoured

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 553)



Stoker I. P. Y. Raj, of Rawalpindi, operating a radial drill in the fitters' shop of the R.I.N.'s Landing Craft Wing.

TRAINING THE ARMY OFFICER

DETAILS of the training which an army officer candidate must undergo before he is commissioned were the highlights of a talk by Major-General D. R. Bateman, Director of Military Training, India, to members of the Central Legislature on March 15.

Training the officer was a grave responsibility because not only was he to be a better soldier than the man he commanded but he had to be a leader in battle and be responsible for the lives and well-being of the men under his command, he said.

In general the officer's training began with pre-Officers' Training School training. This might last anything up to eight weeks and was designed to ensure that all cadets started their O.T.S. training at a common level. It was carried out at one of the four main O.T.S.'s in India.

After this training those cadets destined for arms other than infantry went to the O.T.S. designed for the training of their particular arm. Infantry and most of the services continued their training at the main O.T.S.'s. In the case of infantry the period of O.T.S. training lasted for 20 weeks.

After this O.T.S. training the cadet was commissioned as an officer and then moved on to one or other of the training divisions. Here he remained for another four months, during which he learned, as in the case of the young soldier, to live and fight in jungle conditions; he also learned to command men and was practised in the elements of man management. After this he was available for posting to a unit as a reinforcement.

"We have recently started a most interesting experiment from which we hope great results will be achieved," General Bateman continued.

At Kitchener College

"We have found that many candidates for commissions fail before Selection Boards because of a lack of self-confidence, physical fitness or the elements of leadership. We have, therefore, set up at the Kitchener College, Nowgong, an Inter-Service Pre-Cadet College.

"To this are invited individuals who, having appeared before Selection Boards, are deferred for further development. At the Kitchener College we put them through a five months' course designed to develop initiative, self-confidence, self-reliance, qualities of leadership and knowledge of English.

"No form of militarism is introduced but we merely aim at bringing the boy out of himself and giving him a much broader outlook. From what I saw when I was down there in December, the experiment promises well."



"Toughening" exercises are in the daily programme of the North Western Army Physical and Recreational Training School in the wooded hills of the north Punjab. Here, officers drag a roller up a steep embankment.



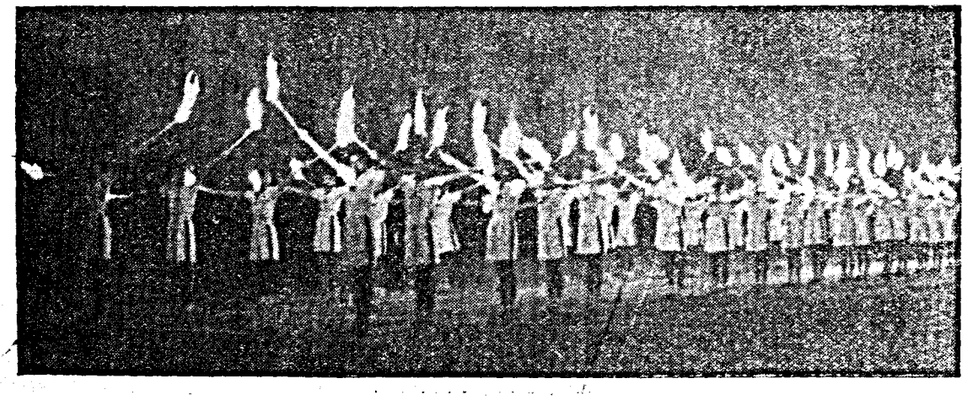
General Sir Claude Auchinleck entertained members of the Central Legislature at a Military Tattoo held at the Irwin Stadium, New Delhi, on March 17. Picture shows the C.-in-C. with two of his A.D.C.'s, Hon. Capt. Tika Khan (left) and Hon. Capt. Fateh Mohammad.

MILITARY TATTOO IN NEW DELHI

More than 25,000 people saw the Indian armed forces display and military tattoo which, following the garden party given on March 17 by the Commander-in-Chief in India, General Sir Claude Auchinleck, to members of the Central Legislature, was open to the public on the following two nights.

A special morning performance was attended by the Viceroy, Field Marshal Lord Wavell, who expressed appreciation of the excellent display.

It was on the suggestion of the C.-in-C. himself that the public were invited to attend the repeat performances. The thousands who took advantage of the opportunity were enabled to see the biggest and most colourful display of its kind ever staged in India.



Torch swinging by the Boys' Companies of the 1st Punjab Regiment.

C.-IN-C.'S AFFECTION FOR PUNJAB

The Commander-in-Chief in India, General Sir Claude Auchinleck, spoke with affection of his past associations with the Punjab when he attended a National War Front Mela and Soldiers' reunion at Talagang village, Attock district.

"Attock is a well known stronghold of the Indian Army," he said.

"I spent my youth serving with soldiers of these parts in a Punjab Regiment.

"During the last 40 years I formed such close ties with the Punjabis that the Punjab feels like my own home."

The C.-in-C. joined the 62nd Punjabis, today the 1|1st Punjab Regiment, in 1904. He was given command of the 1st Punjab Regiment in 1927.

Gen. Auchinleck drove to the mela at the head of a procession of bren gun carriers, the leading carrier flying his pennant. He inspected a parade, watched a flying display and met many old soldiers.

LIEUT. M. L. BARUA

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 548)

Heavily bombed by carrier aircraft, the merchant vessel of which he was an officer was finally cornered by three Japanese cruisers early one morning. A preliminary shot across the bows gave the crew two minutes to abandon ship, but many men were killed by heavy salvoes. After half an hour in the water he clambered aboard a lifeboat and navigated it for seven days before reaching India.

To-day, as the Japs flee down the Burma coast in scattered bands, Lieut. Barua remembers April, 1942. "We knew the tide would turn," he told an R.I.N. Observer. "That was the Japs' mistake; they didn't."



A motor cyclist of the Indian Signal Corps leaps over a party of colleagues playing cards—an incident during the Tattoo.



A Jawan leaps through a burning ring during a display of physical training.

GENERAL AUCHINLECK VISITS MILITARY TRAINING CENTRES IN SIALKOT

THE Commander-in-Chief in India, General Sir Claude Auchinleck, recently paid his first visit of inspection as C.-in-C. to Sialkot, a military training centre in the Punjab. In two busy days he visited four large training depots, two hospitals and an I.A.O.C. parachute factory, attended an inter-regimental boys' boxing tournament, inspected the work of the local branch of the Red Cross, met commanding officers and addressed all the officers in the garrison.

Everywhere he went Gen. Auchinleck asked many questions and he had a few words with almost every patient in both hospitals. He closed his tour by taking tea in the house of Khan Bahadur Shahnawaz Khan, father of Major Shabaz Khan, 12th Frontier Force Regiment, a well-known Recruiting Officer, at the village of Pasrur, where his aircraft waited to bring him back to New Delhi.

Standard of Training

Addressing officers of the Sialkot Garrison the C.-in-C. praised the standard of training in the India Command and repeated the warning that the war against Japan might be long and would certainly be difficult.

"I have been training troops all my life and I have not seen a bad example in India since I began to tour the Command just about a year ago," he said. "Lord Louis Mountbatten, General Slim, General Leese and their Corps Commanders have each said, without being asked, that the material they are getting is as good as they want and they could not want better.

"In the last war I was a regimental officer. As that war progressed drafts did not get better and better; they got weaker and weaker. This time the position is different. Drafts during this war have improved month by month and that is a very fine achievement."

"Until the Jap is beaten the war is only half finished," he said. "The Japs now understand that they are up against it and eventually they will learn that they are for it. But it will take a long time to drive that into their heads. They are stupid people and cunning enough. They know they are fighting a losing battle.

"The Japs, being what they are, are not likely to throw their hand in. It is more likely that they will go on fighting for a considerable time. It looks as though they have been thrown off their balance in Burma and we have seen them go on fighting for the sake of fighting. They may do this elsewhere and it is going to take a long time to dig them out.

"With the war against Germany finished British soldiers' minds will turn towards England. It is your business, if you are British service officers, to make the men understand the importance of finishing the war with Japan properly if we are to have a proper peace afterwards. The best thing is to put Japan right under and keep her there."

At the training centres of the 16th Punjab Regiment and the 12th Frontier Force Regiment squads of recruits were seen practising the use of their close-quarter weapons under realistic conditions.

At the 16th Punjab Regimental Centre the C.-in-C. presented the I.D.S.M. to Subedar Mian Mohd., Havildar Hukam Dad, Havildar Chanan Singh, Lance-Naik Mohd. Niwaz and Naik Mohd. Hussain. He also met Subedar Dhaja Singh, with most of the 700 men he led out of captivity in New Guinea

At Parachute Factory

At an ordnance parachute factory Gen Auchinleck was shown every process in the manufacture of supply-dropping parachutes. He also visited a signal training centre, the British Military Hospital and Sialkot Red Cross depot, from which nearly 33,000 gifts of all kinds were dispatched during 1944.

Highlight of the tour was a spectacular and realistic demonstration by men of a depot of the Indian Engineers. Gen. Auchinleck with the Area Commander, Brigadier King, who accompanied him throughout the tour, stood on the Aik Nala Bridge, where the river is 50 yards wide, and watched a platoon of recruits cross the river, demolish an "enemy oil well" and withdraw—with only one visible 'casualty.'

The undermentioned contributions have been received in H. E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund:

Udaipur Darbar (Eastern States) Rs. 20,000; Kalahandi Darbar Rs. 10,000 and Nayagarh State Rs. 500.

C.-IN-C. AT PRE-CADET COLLEGE

THE Commander-in-Chief in India, General Sir Claude Auchinleck, recently saw for himself the special training which is being given to certain candidates for commissions in India's three fighting services.

This training, which is given at the Kitchener Inter-Services Pre-Cadet College at Nowgong, near Jhansi, is intended for candidates who have appeared before selection boards and have been found to require further development before passing on to officers training establishments.

The C.-in-C. arrived at Nowgong by air at 9 a.m., and immediately began an exhaustive tour to see every aspect of the comprehensive training which is being given.

He attended a class for English instruction, watched students bridging and rafting under the eye of a naval officer, and followed a team around the jungle training course. After speaking to each of the team in turn Gen. Auchinleck expressed satisfaction at the young men's physical condition and the enterprise which was shown in meeting the extremely hazardous obstacles on the course.

Physical Training Displays

At Mau the C.-in-C. saw men learning to climb rocks and, carefully watched by a mountaineering expert, "abseiling"—letting themselves down a rock face by means of a rope. Later he saw students "debussing" from lorries moving at 15 miles an hour.

After he had lunched with them His Excellency addressed the students and congratulated them on the progress they had made and their obvious determination to reach the high standard required of them.

During the afternoon he watched students preparing for a four-day exercise involving a march of 100 miles through difficult country. The men carry their own rations and rely on maps and compasses to cover the course.

A visit to boxing and physical training displays rounded off a lightning tour, the C.-in-C. returning to New Delhi by air the same afternoon.

ADMIRAL GODFREY'S VISIT

Vice-Admiral J. H. Godfrey, Flag Officer Commanding the Royal Indian Navy, recently visited the Kitchener Inter-Services Pre-Cadet College at Nowgong, near Jhansi, where potential officers of the Royal Indian Navy, Indian Army, and Royal Indian Air Force receive special training prior to appearing before a Selection Board.

Every month 50 candidates who just fail to get immediate commissions in the Indian Services are asked if they would care to undergo five months' training to improve their chances when they reappear before the Board. The selected 50 are young men with latent ability, and the course is designed to build them up physically, improve their English, banish their shyness and increase their power of command.

The Admiral was much impressed by the obvious improvement shown by the "deferred candidates." He lunched in their mess and chatted with many of them. They all had terrific appetites through spending most of their time out of doors, doing P.T., playing games, and learning fieldcraft and map-reading.

The first batch are due to appear before the Selection Board again this month. The College is largely modelled on the successful Highland Fieldcraft Training Centre established somewhere in Scotland earlier in this war, and it is hoped that its results will be as good.

Admiral Godfrey was accompanied by Captain L. C. P. Tudway, R.N., Director of Training and Education in the Royal Indian Navy.

R.I.N. LANDING CRAFT

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 545)

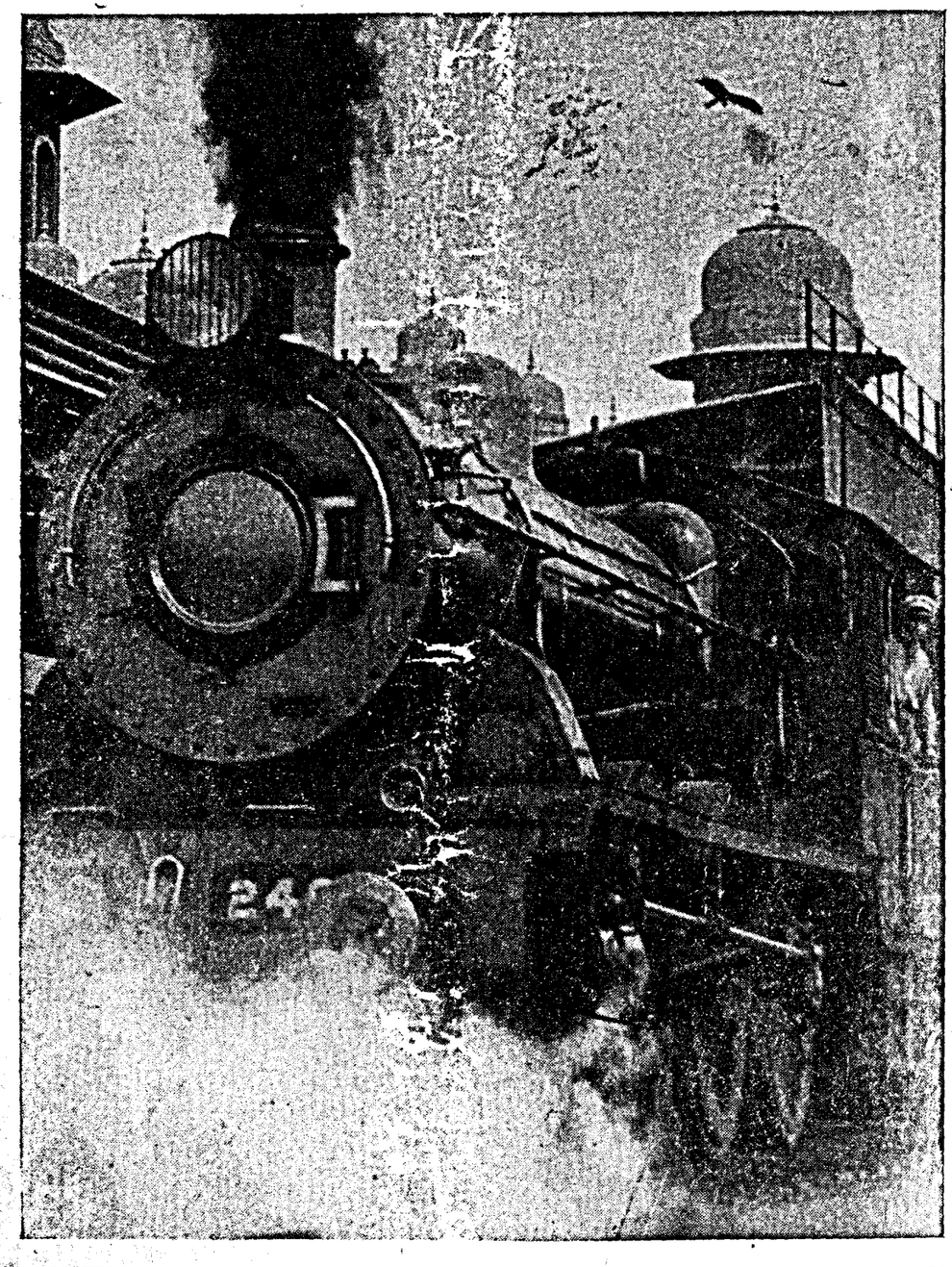
cockpits, and engineers and artificers were invading their innermost compartments.

I spoke to Leading Stoker M. Abdullah of Campbellpore District, Punjab, who was operating a welding torch on the ramp of a landing craft. Between showers of sparks he told me that he had been with the unit since the beginning of its southward "trek" from the Indo-Burma border.

Show-piece was a new crane hauled by a giant tractor. Lifting a landing craft up by the stern, it drags it out of the surf into a position where the maintenance men can work.

Further up the beach, Lieut. Glennie showed me the mobile workshops, housed in lorries, which have followed the landing craft down the Arakan coast. All heavy work is done here; parts are manufactured and repaired or replacements supplied.

"You want the spares—we'll scrounge them" is the unit's motto.



Issued fortnightly by J. Natarajan, Principal Information Officer, Government of India. Printed in India by E. G. Tilt (General Manager) at The Civil & Military Gazette, Ltd., Lahore: Communications for the Editor should be addressed to the Bureau of Public Information, Government of India, Lahore, and not to the Printers.

INDIAN INFORMATION



No. 153.—May 1, 1945.
Fortnightly by the
Information Officer,
Government of India.

• VICEROY'S TRIBUTE TO RED CROSS



Indian delegates to the San Francisco Conference photographed in their suite at the Savoy Hotel when they were in London attending the preliminary conference of Empire delegates. Picture shows (L. to R.) Sir V. T. Krishnama chari, Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar and Sir Feroze Khan Noon.

Vol 16 No. 159. INDIAN INFORMATION May 1, 1945.

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

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

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

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

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

MAIN CONTENTS

	Page
Death of President Roosevelt	561
Sir Jogendra Singh on Progress of Agricultural Development	562
Government Plans for Improved Storage: Lieut.-Gen. Sir Clarence Bird's Broadcast	567
New Tuberculosis Institutions Opened	573
Government Railway Inspectors' Conference: Sir Mahomed 'Usman's Address	578
Hydari Mission: Agreement with U.K.	583
Story of Letpan Landings	589
Indian Doctors' Fine Work in Italy	594
Indian Commissioned Officers' Pay	598

COVER PAGE: Men of the Frontier Force Rifles launch an assault on a precipitous hill feature on the road to Taungup.

VICEROY'S TRIBUTE TO RED CROSS WORK

ADDRESSING the annual general meeting of the St. John Ambulance Association and the Indian Red Cross Society on April 10, H.E. the Viceroy said:

Your Excellency, Lady Louis Mountbatten, Ladies and Gentlemen,—

My first duty is to extend you all a very warm welcome, though you will not misunderstand me when I say that I regret that it should fall upon me rather than upon Lord Wavell to do so. Their Excellencies, Lord and Lady Wavell are well known to take an intense interest in St. John and Red Cross work of all kinds, and I know how much they regret not being able to be here to greet you, and equally how great a disappointment it is to you not to have the opportunity of meeting them. In their absence my wife and I extend you a most cordial welcome, and wish all success to your deliberations.

I can assure you that we both greatly appreciate this opportunity of getting to know St. John and Red Cross workers from all over India. Both Lady Colville and I can claim to have a fairly detailed knowledge of what your three organisations are doing in the Presidency of Bombay, and it is of special interest to us to take part on this occasion in your Central discussions. For you will agree with me when I say that the Centre and the Provinces do not always see eye to eye on all points, and only by a full appreciation of each other's problems can we resolve differences, and secure unity and progress. For myself I can assure you that not only in the matter of Red Cross but in other and wider fields I am finding the Central viewpoint one of intense interest. Well did our Scottish poet Burns once say:

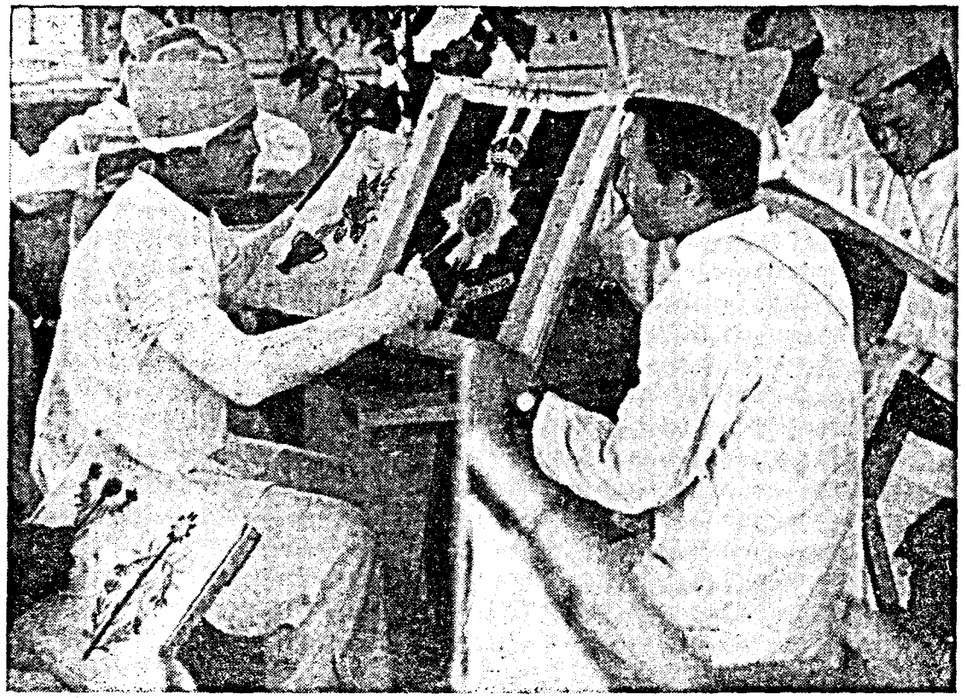
"O wad some power the giftie gie us
To see oorselves as ithers see us.
It wad frae mony a blunder free us
And foolish notion."



H.E. Sir John Colville.

This conference is made memorable by the fact that Lady Louis Mountbatten has been able to attend it and will address us this evening. Just as the Supreme Allied Commander is one of our most famous fighting commanders so his wife is amongst the most devoted and the best known of our women war workers. Her wide experience has already been of great value to us in many parts of India; while her personality and enthusiasm have given inspiration and encouragement wherever she has gone. We look forward eagerly to hearing her address.

Before I speak of the work of the individual organisations I should like to pay a tribute to one who has served all three of them and served them well. I refer of course to Sir Cameron Badenoch. He has been an enthusiastic Chairman of the Executive Committee of the St. John Ambulance Association and Chief Commissioner of the Brigade Overseas for 4½ years; for six years he has been a member of the Central Joint War Committee; for four years, up to 1940, he was Honorary Treasurer of the Indian Red Cross Society and St. John Ambulance; for nine years he has been a member of the Managing Body of the Indian Red Cross Society. Apart from all these duties he has found time for other responsibilities including the Joint Honorary Treasurership of the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund. He



Patients in an Indian Military Hospital in the Middle East being rehabilitated through occupational therapy. They are doing embroidery work, the material for which is supplied by the Indian Red Cross.

will be very much missed and the three organisations represented here today will certainly be the poorer for his departure. I think you will agree that we all owe him a deep debt of gratitude.

As the report shows the St. John Ambulance Association and the Brigade Overseas have again done a very valuable year's work. The increase in the Brigade divisions during the year and the total membership standing at a figure nearly four times the pre-war strength are features that are very satisfying. But for one who was present in Bombay at the time of the explosions last April and who saw the work done then by the No. 3 Bombay, and the No. 16 G.I.P. Railway Districts of the St. John Ambulance Brigade no further evidence is needed of the morale and the efficiency of the Brigade Overseas. As Sir Cameron Badenoch has said the Parsee Ambulance Division suffered two fatal casualties and the members of the Transport Unit worked laboriously in circumstances of great danger. It was a fine performance and one which the Association and Brigade should always remember with pride. The Nursing Divisions also did fine work under very trying conditions, and hundreds of injured people have reason to bless the work of the St. John's nurses.

I am sure you will all be delighted as I am at the appointment of the Chief Justice of India, Sir Patrick Spens, to succeed Sir Cameron Badenoch as Chairman of the Executive Committee and Chief Commissioner of the Brigade Overseas. The Association and the Brigade will, I am quite certain, flourish under so distinguished and so keen a leader.

The Indian Red Cross Society whose Chairman Sir Feroze Khan Noon, has gone with the good wishes of all of us to represent India at the San Francisco Conference, has reported another year of valuable activity. The assistance that was rendered in Bengal and in other areas where there were food shortages continued during 1944 on a very large scale. It is quite certain that the Society saved very many lives and helped to restore to health numberless children who might have been condemned to a life time of weakness and intermittent sickness owing to under-nourishment during these years.



Sir Feroze Khan Noon, Defence Member, Government of India, recently gave a Garden Party to invalids from the Indian Military Hospital, Delhi. Picture shows Sir Feroze and Lady Noon receiving the guests.

The Friends Ambulance Unit deserves a special word of thanks for its devoted service to suffering humanity in Bengal. The Unit has, I believe, issued recently an appeal for funds in America and I hope it receives all the support it deserves.

The obligations of the Joint War Organisation already large have enormously expanded and will continue to expand. With ever increasing forces in India and with Burma being rapidly reconquered there seems to be no end to the demands that must be met. I need not go into details, but I think it would be well for me to announce now that in spite of the magnificent response to the Red Cross appeal last year it will be necessary to make another all out appeal in the autumn of this year and to obtain at least as good a response. I am sure we can rely on the provinces and the States to do their share and to enable the Joint War Organisation to go ahead confidently with its work of rendering help and comfort to the wounded and prisoners of war, and to bring credit to India.

General Jolly has had a very busy year, and the Indian Joint War Organisation's expenditure is now necessarily on a large scale. As you know it does not by any means confine its activities to India but operates in Italy and the Middle East for the benefit of Indian troops, and shares with the British, American and Australian Red Cross organisations in service to South East Asia Command. There is a reminder of the scope of the organisation's activities in the fact that it was necessary recently for General Jolly who already has a very large beat in India to fly to Egypt, Italy and Iraq. One conviction with which he came back was that more Indian ladies must be found for Red Cross welfare work in hospitals overseas. I warmly support his appeal for more workers and do hope they will be forthcoming.

The machinery of the Joint War Organisation has been strengthened by the appointment of Regional Commissioners who can smooth out local difficulties, represent the organisation in dealing with the highest authorities in their regions and keep the Centre in touch with all that is going on. The provincial organisations will I am sure give the fullest support to Regional Commissioners and will find that their help and advice are of the greatest value. Speaking from the point of view of the Presidency of Bombay I can say at once that we warmly welcome the appointment of General Alban.

The welfare service is an interesting innovation which has been found to be invaluable elsewhere and which under Lady Hutton will I am sure win fresh laurels in India. Already it is proving its worth in many hospitals.

Indian Comforts Fund

Mrs. Amery and her devoted band of workers have continued to give the most splendid service to Indian prisoners of war through their Indian Comforts Fund. They have had to work in conditions that few of us have experienced. I have just seen a letter from Mrs. Amery in which she mentions how one of her workers continued to pack parcels after the adjoining wall had been blown in and the bricks and mortar scattered all over the room. The mess was cleared up and the work continued. Neither bombing nor the long years of anxiety and black-outs and rationing have dimmed the ardour of these ladies. The Indian prisoners of war for whom they have worked will, we hope, soon be back in friendly hands.

We all rejoice at the magnificent news that we read each day of victories in Europe. There are victories in the Pacific too and our redoubtable allies, the Americans, have gone forward at a pace that we could hardly have believed possible. But we cannot expect an early end of our wartime duties and I think the greatest test of all is likely to come in 1945 and 1946.

THE RED CROSS IS DOING WONDERFUL WORK

Lady Louis Mountbatten's Tribute

"None of us in England have realised the contribution made by the thousands of Red Cross and St. John welfare workers in India, and of those doing canteen work," said Lady Louis Mountbatten at the annual meeting of the St. John Ambulance Association and the Indian Red Cross Society at the Viceroy's House, New Delhi. The Acting Viceroy (Sir John Colville) presided.

Lady Louis has completed a three-month tour of India and South East Asia as Superintendent in Chief of the Nursing Division of the St. John Ambulance Association. She has travelled 30,000 miles to study hospital and medical conditions.

At the invitation of the Chinese Government Lady Louis also visited medical units in China.

Lady Louis said she had travelled by 'plane, train, jeep and on foot. It had been an inspiration to her to visit units in the forward areas and see for herself the magnificent *spirit of the troops.*

Shortage of Nurses

"I have seen wounded men flown back from improvised landing strips," she said. "The psychological effect on these men of knowing that they will have the best treatment quickly is tremendous.

"The Indian Red Cross is doing wonderful work in sending 'battle bags' to the forward areas. Could they see the joy on the faces of wounded men who have lost all their possessions and then open one of these bags and discover a handkerchief, toothbrush, a mirror, and other little things, they would be rewarded."

There was a big shortage of nurses; welfare workers had arrived from the U.K. but many more were needed.

Lt.-Gen. J. B. Hance, Vice-Chairman of the Indian Red Cross Society, said the outstanding work of Indian Red Cross Society had been the continuance of milk distribution in Bengal and extension to Travancore, Cochin, Malabar, Orissa and Vizagapatam.

INDIAN RED CROSS WELFARE SERVICE

AN organisation which exists for the welfare of the sick, wounded and convalescent men of the fighting forces is that of the Indian Red Cross Welfare Service.

While the work has been carried on to a certain extent for the past few years it is less than a year since this Red Cross Service came into existence. The work of recruiting and training is being carried on actively and daily more work is being undertaken by this well-trained and disciplined body of women. The Commanding Officers of the hospitals, the matrons and the patients are constantly asking for more workers.

Co-operation of W.V.S.

At present the aim of the Red Cross Headquarters is to allow one welfare worker for every 250 patients but this number may have to be augmented as the welfare workers are undertaking more and more work.

In many hospitals, welfare work has been carried on by the Women's Voluntary Service (the W.V.S.) but there were many areas where this service was not available; it was moreover not always possible for members of the W.V.S. to give the necessary full time to the work nor were they always able, for domestic reasons, to work all the year round. Now, however, a very pleasant practical arrangement has been arrived at whereby the W.V.S. can work along with the Indian Red Cross Service and give as much of their time as they can spare to welfare work in the hospitals—this co-operation is greatly appreciated by all and is working well.

The Indian Red Cross Welfare Service was brought into being in order to extend the assistance already being given to British and Indian Hospitals particularly in regions where little or nothing had been previously done.

"Ladies in Blue"

Women may join for local or for general service when they may be sent to forward areas — already members are serving in the South East Asia Command, in Burma, in the Middle East and 'Paiforce.' It is a great boon to the Indian soldier serving overseas to be greeted by the Indian Red Cross Welfare workers. Many of them are Indian ladies and all workers, at any rate, speaking Indian dialects.

The welfare workers are all given officer status and receive an extensive training of six weeks where they have lectures from Matrons,



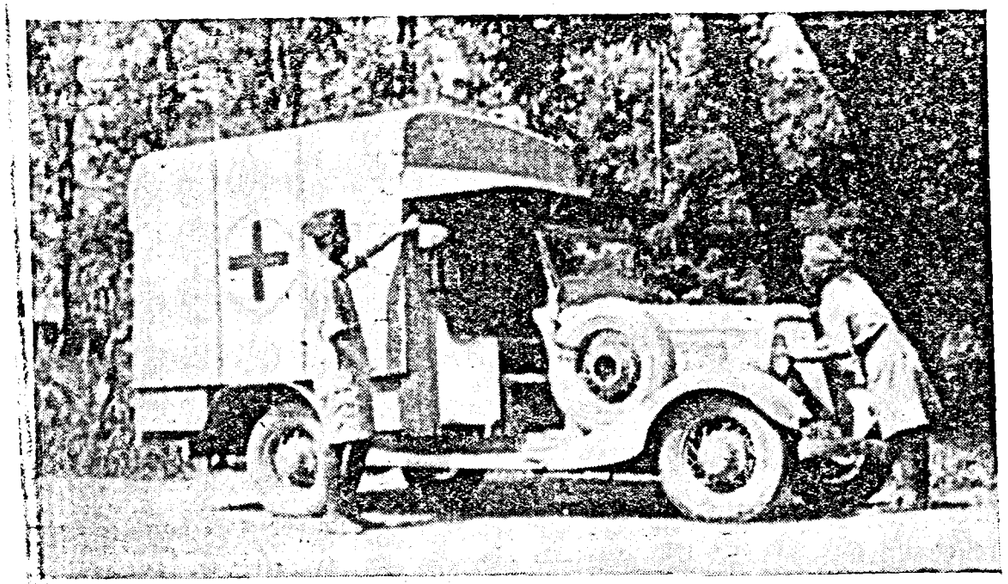
Lady Hutton who has been appointed Director, Indian Red Cross Welfare Service.

Army Officials, officers of the Red Cross and St. John Headquarters staff and others. There are members belonging to nearly every community and women from 23 years of age and upwards (middle-aged workers are doing splendid work since their experience of life, their broad sympathies and matured womanly qualities are of special service in the work). The uniforms are a cheerful, clear blue and the *saris* are of the same colour which lead to their being popularly called the 'ladies in blue.' All are working under the inspiring emblems of the Red Cross and the age-old Order of St. John of Jerusalem and all are very proud to do so

Diversional Therapy

The work the welfare workers undertake is wide and includes Red Cross store keeping, library organisations, the superintendence of kitchens and diets, entertainments for patients, letter-writing and shopping for them, progress reports to anxious relatives, and so on. An important part of the work is dealing with inquiries about wounded and missing and the 'searching' service is also undertaken.

Healing through handicrafts is also an important part of the training of work, the so-called 'Diversional Therapy,' and both Indian and British patients enjoy this greatly. They learn to do wood-carving, leather-working, toy-making, knitting, embroidery, weaving, modelling and so on and thus the weary time in bed is whiled



A blinded Gurkha and a blinded and one-armed Rajput clean a gift ambulance at the St. Dunstan's Training Centre for Indian war-blinded in Dehra Dun.

away. There is nothing better for restoring body, spirit and mind than this hand-work which they learn from the Indian Red Cross Welfare Workers. They enjoy not only doing it but it gives them great joy to make beautiful and useful articles of dress and household goods for their mothers, wives and children.

Lady Hutton, wife of Lieut.-General Sir Thomas Hutton, who returned to India recently after studying welfare work in England, has been appointed Director of the Indian Red Cross Welfare Service. She is a distinguished Doctor of Medicine and had already graduated before the last Greet War when she had six years' service under war conditions in Yugoslavia (Serbia as it then was) and in the Crimea in Russia with the Scottish Women's Hospitals. She was C.O. of Hospitals at Ostrovo, Vranya Belgrade and later Sebastopol in the Crimea.

Lady Hutton is greatly interested in Women's Services especially in their connection with hospitals and has been Chairman of the Advisory Committee to the Auxiliary Nursing Service (A.N.S.).

She also founded the Thrift Shop—an original idea which has now spread over India and has resulted in much money being collected for war charities.

Lady Hutton has just returned from a tour of inspection during which she has lectured at the Indian Red Cross Welfare Schools at Secunderabad, Bangalore, Madras and Lucknow. She has plans for the continuance of the Service in hospitals for many years after the war and hopes that this service will be carried on in civil hospitals when peace comes. More Indian ladies of good education are still needed for the work and they are coming forward slowly but surely. This body of women of the Indian Red Cross Service will co-operate, having had training and experience, to peace-times requirements.

SIR PATRICK SPENS

H. E. the Viceroy is pleased to appoint the Hon'ble Sir Patrick Spens, O.B.E., Chief Justice of India, to be Chairman of the Executive Committee of the St. John Ambulance Association (Indian Council), with effect from the afternoon of April 10, 1945, when Sir Cameron Badenoch, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., vacates that office on retiring from the public service, said a Communique issued from the Viceroy's House on April 8.

The Chapter-General of the Grand Priory in the British Realm, Order of St. John, have approved the appointment of the Hon'ble Sir Patrick Spens, to be Chief Commissioner for the Empire of India St. John Ambulance Brigade Overseas.



The W.A.C. (I) celebrated its third anniversary in Delhi on April 9. Here, Gen. Sir John des R. Swayne, Chief of the General Staff, inspects the Delhi Army Platoon.

W.A.C.(I) CELEBRATES THIRD BIRTHDAY

GIRLS of the W.A.C. (I) all over India celebrated the third birthday of the Corps on April 9.

At a ceremonial parade at Kingsway, New Delhi, the salute was taken by the Chief of General Staff (India), Lt.-General Sir John des R. Swayne.

Over 600 girls, officers and auxiliaries of the Corps, serving with the Army, Navy and Air Force, participated. The parade was brought to attention on the arrival of the Director, W.A.C. (I), Senior Controller the Countess of Carlisle. On the arrival of the Chief of General Staff a general salute was given, followed by an inspection. An impressive march past the saluting base, behind which staff officers of the Corps had taken their stand, brought the parade to a close.

DEATH OF PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT

Viceroy's Message of Smpathy

A Press Note issued from the Viceroy's House on April 13 stated:

The Military Secretary to H.E. the Viceroy, on behalf of H.E. the Vicercy, and Sir Olaf Caroe, Secretary of the External Affairs Department, on behalf of the Government of India, called this morning at the American Mission to express the sympathy of the Viceroy and Lady Colville and of the Government of India on the death of the President of the United States.

The following message has been sent by H.E. the Viceroy to the Agent-General of the Government of India in Washington:

Please convey to the Government of the United States a message of deep sympathy from the Government of India and from myself on the sudden and untimely death of the President.



THE LATE PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT

C.-IN-C.'S MESSAGE

The Commander-in-Chief in India, General Sir Claude Auchinleck, sent the following message to General R. A. Wheeler, Deputy Supreme Allied Commander, S.E.A., on April 13.

"I will not try to tell how shocked and indeed stunned I was to read in the paper this morning of the sudden death of your President. It is impossible yet to begin to try to think what his loss means to the Allies and I can do no more than convey to you on behalf of all the armed forces, British and Indian, under my command our most sincere sympathy and our deepest sorrow.

"We, one and all, feel we have sustained a personal loss by the passing of this truly great man who has died in the dawn of the victory he did so much to achieve."

To Field Marshal Sir Maitland Wilson, British representative on the Joint Staff Mission, Washington, General Auchinleck sent this message: "Please convey to General Marshall my most sincere sympathy and deepest sorrow on behalf of the armed forces of the India Command."

General Auchinleck also sent expressions of condolence to Lt.-Gen. Dan I Sultan, Commanding General, India-Burma Theatre, and Maj-Gen. W. E. R. Covell, Commanding General, Services of Supply, India-Burma Theatre.

A Memorial Service for the late President Franklin Delano D. Roosevelt was held at the Church of the Redemption, New Delhi, at 11 a.m. on Sunday, April 15, 1945. Their Excellencies the Viceroy and Lady Colville attended.

PROGRESS OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Sir Jogendra Singh's Address to Policy Committee



Sir Jogendra Singh

"INDIA in relation to its size and resources is at the lowest scale of production. We want to make the full use of the manpower that is available. If village conditions are to improve, there is the urgent need to provide industrial employment for 50 per cent of our population," remarked Sir Jogendra Singh, Member for Education, Health and Lands, Government of India, in his opening address to the Second Meeting of the Policy Committee on Agriculture which met at New Delhi on April 12.

Here is the full text of Sir Jogendra Singh's speech:

May I, at this our second meeting of the Policy Committee, extend to you a very sincere welcome on my own behalf and on behalf of the Government of India. These meetings are exceedingly helpful and, as the Chairman of your Committee, I greatly appreciate the assistance which you, the Provinces and the States have rendered, and, I trust, will continue to render towards the solution of the complex and difficult problem of increasing production and improving the living conditions of our people. I am particularly beholden to the Fish and Milk Sub-Committees for submitting their valuable reports. The reports of Sub-Committees dealing with co-operation and Agricultural Credit are still awaited.

Pace of Progress

I trust you are not disappointed at the pace of progress. No one is more anxious than my Department to accelerate the pace and to implement the resolutions of the Committee, but age-old traditions of slow movement, to which we as a people and the Government machine are accustomed, are not easy to overcome. The note which the Department has circulated will show that we have not been idle, and I can safely say without violating any canons of modesty that the Department has never been as active as in the last two years.

I am sure you will agree with me that the time at our disposal is short and we must utilise it to the best possible advantage to deal with the agenda. I propose that at this session we take into consideration the methods of increasing yields, improving livestock to increase production of milk, developing fisheries, poultry, fruit and other protective foods. Perhaps you will be so good as to indicate how you would like to consider each item and to frame concrete proposals which the Provinces and States may readily accept and carry out.

A rough review of the sources of production has convinced me that we have all the resources available to be able to improve rural as well as urban life. What we need is an adequate organisation and systematic utilisation of these resources. Other countries have taken measures and made use of modern scientific discoveries to develop industry as well as agriculture. We have so far depended almost entirely on agriculture. Industrial development must proceed side by side with agricultural development if we are to provide full time employment for all and to improve the living standard.

The problem of industrial development is engaging the earnest attention of my Colleague the Hon'ble Sir Ardeshir Dalal, who is endeavouring to evolve an all-India industrial policy. In our post-war planning we expect considerable developments of water power, irrigation and expansion of industry, all of which, directly or indirectly, should help to better the lot of the agriculturist and tend to improve the level of our agriculture.

I must not, however, wander into unfamiliar fields and now hasten to return to the problems of land, in which the first place must be given to the preparation of the land itself, the seed-bed, which requires careful husbandry. It would be useful to inquire if for small holdings a bullock plough is an economic and efficient method of cultivation and to determine the size of a holding which could be worked to advantage with different kinds of power plough. Experiments may be started to ascertain whether deep ploughing is capable of yielding better results or frequent turning of the soil and exposing it to the sun to enrich it has a practical value and under what conditions.

Improved Seeds

The second place must be given to seed for producing high yielding and disease resistant crops. Great advances have been made in producing seeds with these qualities. The problem is to make new seeds available for all the area under cultivation. A programme should be framed to produce and to provide a sufficient quantity of improved seed within a definite number of years for each province and State within its limits. For this purpose an adequate number of seed farms should be established for the multiplication of new seed, and seed stores set up for the supply of seed to the villages.

In the third place comes manure. We must ascertain the requirements of the different types of manure for each province and State and arrange supplies for all irrigated areas. It is necessary to frame a programme for the utilisation of all available manure from farm yards, bones and oil cakes supplemented by green manure and compositing all refuse that is wasted and by providing additional material for compositing by sowing fast growing crops on vacant lands. This will mean examining the fuel needs of the villages and establishing the fuel plantations, the erection of cattle sheds to conserve the urine, dung and litter, the digging of pits for compositing, the crushing of the oil seeds to secure the oil cake, the utilisation of bones, blood and other waste material. At the same time work must be carried out to ascertain the most suitable manure to be used for a particular type of soil or in a given set of conditions.

I come next to irrigation, though it is indeed the most vital element for the growing of crops. The development of irrigation from all available sources and a study of water requirements of crops is our urgent necessity. In areas

An irrigation canal of the Cauvery-Mettur irrigation system in South India.

of short rainfall, it may be useful to determine the minimum quantity of water that would give a crop and to arrange for the conservation of moisture by contour bounding, etc. In areas of heavy rainfall it may be necessary to consider the problem of drainage. In either case the system of farming may have to be altered and adapted to the new conditions.

I am placing the man last, though he is the main factor of production. He must be physically fit and mentally alert. This depends on our providing for him a balanced diet, both for the body and brain. This needs study of nutritional needs and provision of protective foods and supplementing them by such bye-products as yeast from molasses and vitamins from *amla*, etc. He must be educated to appreciate and seek after a more balanced diet and to understand the advantages offered by improved agricultural practice As you know a national system of education with a strong agricultural bias for rural area schools has been prepared by the Central Advisory Board of Education under the leadership of Dr. Sargent.

Protective Foods

The problems of increasing our protective foods figures largely on our agenda for this meeting and rightly so. It is of the utmost importance. By intensive methods we must increase the yield per acre of our cereal crops. We can then decrease the area under cereals without reducing the quantity produced and so secure some area for pasture and fodder productions and fuel plantations.

Amongst the protective foods, milk must occupy the first place in our country. We must provide centres for milk production in every province and the means of multiplying them. In my view every district should have a cattle breeding farm for producing good milking stock under Managers who understand the laws of animal husbandry. Villages in the neighbourhood of these farms should be selected and provided with cattle sheds for the installation of selected cows and buffaloes and serving them with pedigree bulls. These herds will pay for their upkeep, but in the early stages some subsidies may be needed. This system, if it succeeds, would spread from village to village, and lead to the proper care of our livestock, the weeding out of the unfit and the breeding of the best available stock. For the milk supply of the towns, there is no other way but to establish dairies or colonies of *gwalas* outside the towns with pasture lands. In such cases adequate arrangements should be made for the supply of food to the cattle and the transport of the milk.

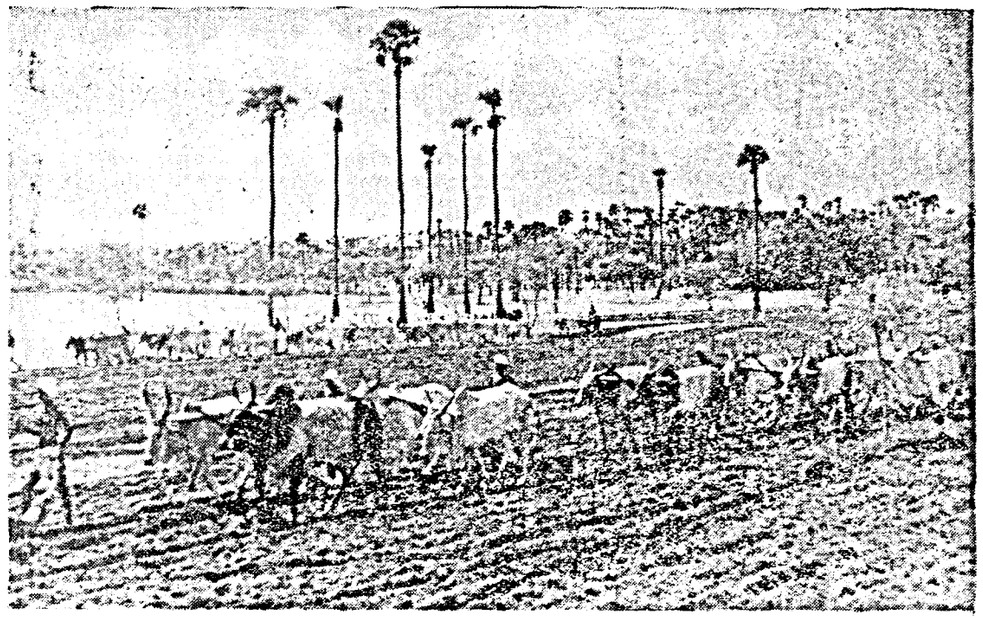
The programme to organise a Fisheries Department is already under way. The Fish Sub-Committee has already reported, but I would value any suggestions that the Committee can make to enlist popular support and to carry out its recommendations. No less important is the establishment of poultry and bee farms. The Army has shown how within a few months poultry farms can be established leading to the early production of eggs and chickens.

Agricultural Research

The problem of proper storage and marketing has been under examination for some time. The Marketing Department has produced valuable surveys and in the light of these surveys there is need for all the Provinces and States to adopt standards of purity, arrangements for bulking the produce and securing the best possible price. It is price that fixes the value in money of a producer's labour. It is essential that the agriculturist should have an assured market and a remunerative price for his produce. Government have recognised the necessity of guaranteeing the minimum price of wheat and it is in continuing this guarantee that the hope of preventing slump in prices rests.

I have dealt so far with some of the most obvious needs of the agriculturist and of the greater population that depends on the agriculturist, the horticulturist, the dairyman and the fisherman for its daily food, for a balanced diet. In the meanwhile we are not neglecting research which has yielded the largest dividends in all countries. We are taking steps to intensify our work on research. We are reorganising our Agricultural Research Institute at Delhi. We are enlarging the scope of the Animal Husbandry Institute at Izatnagar. We are planning to establish Commodity Committees for all crops We have within the course of two years established a Sugarcane Committee, a Coconut Committee and a Tobacco Committee. We had already Cotton, Jute and Lac Committees. The Bills for establishing Rice and Oil Seed Committees are before the Legislature. I trust we will have similar Committees on Wheat, Milk Fish and Fruit. These Committees will have their own funds and their own research workers who would devote all their time to the improvement of a particular crop and leave it to the Provinces to extend the use of their results to the villages with such local adaptations as are necessary.

I have so far dwelt on the essential needs of agriculture and our endeavour to meet these needs. There are other aspects with which the minds of thoughtful men are busy, such as, what should be the pattern of farming in future. This is a matter on which there is so much talk and so little data. Some people believe that the existing system should continue and



A big field in a South Indian village comes under the plough.

all that is required is for Government to provide certain facilities in the shape of water, manure, seed, etc. Some insist that holdings must be consolidated and fragmentation prevented. Some hold that no progress is possible unless the land tenure system is changed and peasant proprietorship introduced. Some pin their faith to consolidation of cultivation under the guidance of the village panchayat. Some believe in co-operative farming; though what type of co-operation is visualised is not always clear; there are so many different stages of co-operation. There may be co-operation only for watch and ward, or for cleaning, grading or bulking the produce or for the joint hiring out of implements or for the joint construction of wells and so on. Some attach importance to joint management where each one retains his right in the land but not the land itself. Some would resort to collective or communal farming in which the rights in the land would be extinguished. Some would simply have State farms. Some believe in farms run by joint stock companies.

In this variety of suggestions, every one is in a position to dogmatise as he pleases. But there are no data of any kind on which to base conclusions. On the other hand it is essential that we should know what is the best system that should be adopted in a given set of conditions. Otherwise there can be no planning. It may be useful to start experiments in the nature of pilot schemes in selected villages or even in a group of villages. These units may be organised in the way approved under the guidance of trained economists so that we may have some data on the basis of which we can come to definite conclusions instead of the usual endless noting and discussion which leads nowhere.

Then again there is the urgent need of an organisation of agriculturists on the lines of Farmers' Unions in other countries. At present we have nobody who can speak with authority on agriculture, as it affects the actual tillers of the soil. There are some associations of landlords. But the actual tillers of soil are unorganised and voiceless while the condition of agricultural labourers is even worse. Unless they organise themselves for their own advancement they cannot make themselves felt among those who shape the destinies of the people and their claims are invariably overlooked.

There is a tendency with all our forward thinking men to take Western countries as a model and in all matters consider it advisable to advocate adoption of ideas which may be



A village farmer.

still on their trial in the land of their origin without examining conditions in India itself. Western countries have improved their living standards and organised social services by creating an effective demand for consumer goods and providing full time employment for their manpower. In none of the advanced countries the bulk of its population depends on land as in India. The production per capita in Europe has increased largely because the productive power of man has been increased by the use of mechanical power. A single person sometimes handles from 100 to 1,000 H.P. and, therefore, his power of production increases in proportion to the horse power he handles.

Wealth depends on production and production on the mechanical horse power that the nations employ. India in relation to its size and resources is at the lowest scale of production. We are not even making full use of the manpower that is available. If village conditions are to improve, there is the urgent need to provide industrial employment for 50 per cent of our population. Industrialisation on this scale will take time. We have plants for developing hydro-electric power but it may take some years to make this power available. In the meanwhile there is room for organising cottage industries. For instance, hand spinning of short staple cotton, as was done 50 years ago, will provide paying work for men by the hundred and women in their thousands. Each village can have an attractively placed spinning shed where women can come and spin and spend their leisure in useful employment. The Punjabi poets sang of the spinning matches in old days in the Punjab and the enjoyment they afforded to young and old.

I thought, before concluding, I may stress the point that without industrial development, agriculture cannot improve, as it cannot provide full time and paying employment for our population that remains idle half the time and without increasing the main source of wealth we cannot enjoy social services which other countries enjoy.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

The Government of India have decided to expand the facilities for post-graduate training, and to admit 50 students a year from April, 1945, onward at the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute, to meet the growing demand for the training of higher agricultural staff at the Centre and in the Provinces and States.

So far the Institute admitted on the average 16 students per year for training in five sections. There will be now two more sections, i.e., Agricultural Engineering and Agricultural Economics and Statistics added to the Institute.

The total cost of the scheme for the first year will amount to Rs. 1,75,100 and will fit into the full Five-Year Plan of the expansion of the Institute as a post-war measure.

SCIENTISTS TO ADVISE FOOD DEPARTMENT

To tender advice on the scientific, nutritional, hygienic and agricultural aspects of the processed food industry in India, the Central Food Department has established a committee of scientists with Sir S. S. Bhatnagar as Chairman and Dr. B. C. Guha as Secretary. It is hoped that the panel will also help in the switch over of the industry from war to peace time conditions and aid in its development in the interests both of better nutrition and agriculture.

Other members of the panel are: Dr. W. R. Aykroyd, H. S. Pruthi, D. N. Bahl, V. Damodaran, Bashir Ahmad, V. Subrahmanya, G. Sankaran, K. A. Hamid, Major Fisher (Q.M.G.'s Branch), Lt.-Col. C. V. Ramchandani, Sardar Bahadur Lal Singh, Fruit Development Adviser and Mr. D. R. Sethi, Agricultural Production Adviser, Government of India.

GOVERNMENT PLANS FOR IMPROVED STORAGE

Lt.-Gen. Sir Clarence Bird's Talk

PLEADING for a wider and more definite sense of civic responsibility on the part of those handling foodgrains in India, Lieut.-General Sir Clarence Bird, Regional Food Commissioner, N. W. Region, referred to the colossal quantities lost in India annually through pests, rodents, disease etc., which were sufficient for instance, to keep Lahore supplied in wheat and rice for nerly 9 years, in a broadcast from the Lahore Station of All India Radio on April 16.

Here is the full text of the talk:

Part of my job as Regional Food Commissioner and representative of the Food Department of the Government of India in the North West Region is to smooth out practical difficulties that arise in present day conditions in the handling and distribution of foodgrains, and to make sure that all available supplies are fully utilized and distributed to the best advantage. Some problem you say—yes it is, and why?

Mainly I think, because India has not even yet fully realised that the feeding of the population is a matter of vital urgency demanding positive action, sustained effort and unremitting and unselfish work, and because the profit-making motive plays an unduly large part in the transaction of business.

Losses Due to Pests

Now the quantity of foodgrains lost annually due to pests, rodents, disease, damage by weather and so forth would keep, say Lahore supplied in wheat and rice alone for nearly 9 years. Think of it, 9 years! India cannot afford this loss. Every single grain is needed, and there is not much hope for improvement in the present position until a wider and more definite sense of civic responsibility has been aroused, and every individual, or executive authority responsible at any stage for handling foodgrains realises that he is failing in his duty to India and to his fellow citizens if he neglects to do everything in his power to preserve their quality. The agriculturist cleans his grain by winnowing, but what is liable to happen to it after it leaves his hands? You know, or can guess.

Storage is involved at three distinct stages, firstly by the producer, secondly at the *mandi* or market town and thirdly at the distribution or consumption point.



Lt.-Gen. Sir Clarence Bird.

In the case of the producer, ideas exist for improvement in storage conditions and are being further developed, but here a difficulty lies in persuading the agriculturist who is by nature conservative, to adopt new ideas. Enthusiasm and practical demonstration on a wide scale are needed to get these ideas across.

But it is at the *mandi* and consumption point, that real drive seems to be most needed. Conditions are often far from satisfactory in regard to the type of storage, cleanliness, protection against pests, and prevention of loss by contamination. It should be a matter for pride and competition for a *mandi* to be renowned for the high quality of its grain, and competitive interest should be aroused by rewards for individual excellence in connection with the local agricultural show or fair. The same remarks apply generally to storage at consumption points, which should be subject to frequent inspection and supervision.

At railway station exposure to weather may cause serious loss by deterioration. You will ask what is being done about it all? Well, to improve the situation at *mandis*, bulk storage for foodgrains is being built in the Punjab under Government arrangements at various points. Designs are ready, some of the sites have been

selected and construction should soon be beginning. Each site will have storage for some 25,000 to 55,000 maunds, according to local circumstances, in units of 1,000 maunds each. It is hoped that these will serve as a model and encourage further effort by private enterprise, either individual or collective. Information and particulars can be obtained from the Director of Food Purchase, Punjab Government, or corresponding officials in Provincial or State Administrations.

Proposals to build or improve storage accommodation should be sent to the District Magistrate for submission to the Provincial Government for consideration and approval, with full details of the project, type of storage to be built, whether for bag or bulk, and a statement of quantities of materials needed. It will be readily understood that such projects must be considered in relation to the scheme of storage requirements as a whole. Assistance will be given to obtain materials for approved projects, provided that they conform with the specification laid down.

The North Western Railway authorities are improving covered accommodation on goods platforms at a number of stations as and when materials allow, and temporary accommodation is also being provided by the Government and States concerned, at a number of stations in the Punjab, Sind, and Bahawalpur and Khairpur States, in the form of one or two sheds of the hangar type known as Lahore Sheds, each taking 500 tons of bagged grain. These are being built as close to the goods platform as possible and are intended mainly to store and protect consignments waiting to move in wet weather. The actual conditions under which these will be available for storage are now being worked out.

These arrangements should help the situation, but the enthusiastic co-operation of all concerned is needed at all stages, if real progress and improvement are to be made.

Movement of Foodgrains

And what about the movement of foodgrains to where they are needed?

The quantity of goods of all kinds to be carried by the railways is still very great, and all non-essential unnecessary movement of goods must be avoided. This applies to foodgrains just as much as to any other commodity. Foodgrains have to be moved within a Province or State to meet the local needs of the inhabitants, and the knowledge of how much is needed for any particular area must be used to regulate that movement; otherwise transport will be wasted. Foodgrains also have to be moved from Provinces and States which have an available surplus, to those areas which are deficit. This involves many lakhs of tons during the year, the movement of which requires to be carefully planned. It follows, therefore, that constant vigilance and intelligent co-operation are required from all those concerned in any way with this movement, in order to help the railway administration to carry out their prodigious task.

This is no time for complacency. Only by energetic and sustained effort, will the object be achieved. Can we not adopt as a slogan—Clean storage and clean grain give maximum confidence and maximum return?

UTILISATION OF INDIA'S WATER RESOURCES

The Government of India have decided to set up a Central Waterways, Irrigation, and Navigation Commission, a central fact-finding planning and co-ordinating organisation which will examine the potentialities of India's rivers from all relevant aspects, and will assist in the co-ordinated and multi-purpose development of rivers passing through more than one Province or State, said a Press Note issued by the Labour Department, Government of India, on April 6.

It added: The Commission will be available to advise the Central, Provincial and State Governments on waterways, irrigation and navigation problems throughout the country. It will conduct surveys and investigations with a view to securing planned utilisation of India's water resources and press forward schemes for the conservation, control and regulation of water and waterways, in consultation with Provincial and State Governments. The Commission will advise the Centre in respect of principles governing water rights, inter-Provincial disputes and on the appropriate basis of agreement between the parties in dispute. It will also advise the Central Government in regard to the settlement of priorities as between various projects.

The Commission will have, as its first Chairman, Rai Bahadur A. N. Khosla, the present Consulting Engineer for Waterways and Irrigation. In addition, there will be two full time members, with experience in waterways irrigation and navigation matters, and part-time members such as the Hydro-Electric expert of the Central Technical Power Board and Erosion and Land Conservation Expert selected by Education, Health and Lands Department. Where required, the Commission will co-opt experts on such subjects as malariology, afforestation etc. and the Chief Engineers of Provinces and States

PRESERVATION OF FRUIT IN U.K. AND U.S.A.

Dr. Guha on Problems of Dehydration and Refrigeration

THAT the establishment of a food technological institute in India was a necessity, that a fish industry should be started at one of the Indian ports, that fruit dehydration and canning could be successfully worked in N.W.F.P., that the production of shark liver oil could be increased and improved in India, and that a more scientific food and nutrition policy should be followed were some of the points stressed by Dr. B. C Guha, Chief Technical Adviser, Department of Food, Government of India, in the course of a talk on April 6.

Dr. Guha relating his experiences in U.K. and U.S.A. during his recent tour of the two countries, felt that because of its size and enormous food production, America was the most advanced country in food technology. There were many different types of dehydrating plants in use in America and the largest factory was manufacturing 17 tons of dehydrated cabbage per day as against an average of 1 to 2 tons of potatoes in an Indian factory.

As regards fruits, Dr. Guha was optimistic that this industry had a great future in India provided it was established on scientific and economic lines during the war. The question whether it was necessary at all to dehydrate once again sun-dried fruit, after washing and 'sulphurisation' as was being done at present, would have to be re-examined in the light of his experience in America.

Development of Fish Industry

A proper development of the fish industry would substantially increase the protein consumption in the country. It would also lead to the developments of a fish by-products industry. India has much to learn from America in this respect where no part of the fish was wasted. Even the offal was utilised for cattle and poultry feeds after drying and scales were used for making glue.

During the last 20 years great advances had taken place in refrigeration, particularly in America. Dr. Guha was convinced that this was the ideal for India where many conditions were very similar to those in America. Refrigeration was undoubtedly a better method of preservation than canning or dehydration with regard to the retention of the original quality of the foodstuff but it required a large organisation from the factory right down to suitable warehouses, to store the refrigerated products.

England, Dr. Guha felt, had succeeded in establishing a scientific system of imports and production of foodstuffs based on the nutritional needs of her people. He instanced the case of a bunch of bananas costing about £5 in England to-day as against the easy availability of cheap orange juice. Dr. Guha paid a tribute to England's distribution of milk to "priority" consumers and pleaded for the introduction of a similar scheme in India, where he felt that under the present emergent conditions healthy adults should be entitled to milk only after the needs of children and expectant and nursing mothers had been satisfied.

Mr. M. L. Khanna, Technical Adviser (Engineering), who had accompanied Dr. Guha, described the factories in U.K. and U.S.A. and stated that U.S.A. was more mechanised in this regard than U.K. because of America's greater needs. He described briefly vacuum drying of fruit and roller drying of tomato puree. He also stressed the importance of refrigeration in the future development of food industries in India.

TRAINING IN DAIRYING

To meet the growing demand from the Provinces and States for trained personnel required for implementing post-war development plans, and for filling up higher posts in Dairy Departments, the Government of India have decided to increase the number of students to be admitted for training at the Imperial Dairy Research Institute, Bangalore, from 30 to 85 with effect from July 1945.

The Institute provided three courses of training, viz.:

(1) A two-year course for the Indian Dairy Diploma,

(2) A Post-Graduate course for 15 months, and

(3) A short course for three months.

It is now proposed to increase the number of students for the Indian Dairy Diploma Course from 20 every alternate year to 25 a year, i.e., (50 students, 25 in the first year and 25 in the second year); for the Post-Graduate Course, from 10 students to 25; and for the short-term course to 20 students a year (i.e., 10 students per course). The total number of students in residence will thus be 85 a year.

For this purpose Government have sanctioned in all Rs. 1,40,500 (Rs. 88,000 non-recurring and Rs. 52,500 recurring).

NEW PLAN FOR CONTROL OF PULSES

SEVEN months' experience of the working of the Basic Plan for pulses has revealed the necessity for a modification in the rigid control of procurement, movement and distribution through an exclusive Government machinery. It is suggested that planned distribution with some elasticity to the trade would be the most suitable form of control under wartime conditions.

The new plan which is expected to come into force from May 1, 1945, lays down the following procedure:

(a) At the beginning of each crop year all surplus and deficit administrations will declare their estimated surpluses or deficits to the Central Food Department after consulting the local trade. On the basis of these figures the Central Food Department will allocate quotas to deficit areas, the movement of which will receive the same transport assistance as other foodgrains under the Basic Plan.

(b) Supplying administrations will issue permits to *bona fide* licensed traders in the province for exporting pulses to the deficit areas and up to the quantities specified in the allocation plan subject to a maximum price ceiling for each kind of pulse. To induce traders to move quotas quickly the permits may be valid for a period of 3 months.

(c) Surplus administrations will intimate to recipient areas the maximum price ceilings prescribed for each kind of pulse and also furnish them periodically with current market prices of principal pulses.

(d) Recipient areas will nominate as widely as possible licensed *bona fide* local dealers in pulses to receive quotas given to the province, in direct negotiations with nominated export dealers, and to act as principals for distribution within the deficit province or state. This does not, however, preclude a deficit administration procuring its allotted quota through an official agency.

(e) A deficit administration will prescribe the maximum price for each kind of pulse on the basis of ceiling prices in exporting areas plus transport and incidental charges and reasonable remuneration to licensed importers.

To enable suitable action to be taken when necessary, all administration will have to furnish fortnightly reports to the Central Food Department indicating the progress made in procurement and despatches of pulses.

ADVANCED TRAINING IN TECHNOLOGY

A Press Note issued by the Education, Health and Lands Department, Government of India, on April 10 stated:

The Government of India have appointed the following gentlemen to form a Committee to consider the establishment of a high grade technological institute in India, possibly on the lines of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, to provide advanced instruction and training in technology:—

Mr. N. R. Sarker, Calcutta (Business interests), Chairman; Mr. A. D. Shroff, Bombay (Industrialist); Mr. W. W. Wood, Principal, Delhi Polytechnic (Technical expert); Sir J. C. Ghosh, Director, Indian Institute of Science (Scientist); Dr. Nazir Ahmad, Director, Technological Institute, Bombay (Scientist); Sir S. S. Bhatnagar, Director, Board of Scientific and Industrial Research, Delhi (Scientist); Mr. C. E. Preston, Hyderabad (Technical expert); Sir Frederic Tymms, Director, Civil Aviation (Technical expert); Mr. S. Lal, Additional Secretary, Labour Department (Labour interests); Mr. W. W. Ladden, Madras (Businessman); Dr. A. H. Pandya, Supply Department (Technical expert); Dr. M. D. Parikh, Delhi Cotton Mills (Technical expert); Mr. J. K. Srivastava, New Victoria Mills, Cawnpore (Industrialist); Dr. John Sargent, Educational Adviser to the Government of India; Mr. H. K. Kripalani, Industrial Adviser to the Government of India; Major-General D. R. Duguid, M.G.O.'s Branch (Technical interests); Brigadier R. D. T. Woolfe, Controller-General of Inspection, M.G.O.'s Branch (Technical expert); Mr. W. G. W. Reid, Railway Board, Director of Mechanical Engineering (Technical expert); Mr. P. J. Edmunds, Chief Engineer, P. & T. (Technical expert); Mr. Dharma Vira, Deputy Secretary, Industries and Civil Supplies Department; Sardar Bahadur Sir Sobha Singh, New Delhi (Businessman); Mr. G. L. Mehta, 7 Wellesley Place, Calcutta (of Scindia Steam Navigation Co.) (Business interests); Dr. K. Venkataraman, Head of the Department, and Prof. of Chemical Technology, Bombay University, (Technical expert).

The Government of India issued a notification on April 3 revising the minimum prices of 3 per cent. and 3½ per cent. Paper to Rs. 85 and Rs. 96 respectively. They have also fixed the minimum price of the 3 per cent. Victory Loan, 1957, at Rs. 97-8-0.

IMPROVING COLOUR OF SUGAR: NEW EXPERIMENTS

Manufacture of Candy

EXPERIMENTS conducted at the Imperial Institute of Sugar Technology indicate that a definite improvement in the colour of sugar can be effected by the use of the method of dust seeding in place of actual graining. It is also important that dust seed used should be obtained from high quality sugar, and be absolutely free from contamination. Such seed will be capable of counter-acting to a large extent the detrimental effect of deep colour of the syrup. The application of this method should be particularly beneficial where sugar cannot be bleached to a high degree as, for instance, in *gur* refineries in India. The use of dust seed from high grade sugar in combination with well bleached syrups will appreciably enhance the colour and appearance of sugar, and thus improve its market value.

The advantages of the use of activated carbons in the sugar and *gur* industries are of definite importance. While their use in raw sugar refining contributes to good granulated sugars their application at a suitable stage in the existing processes of white sugar manufacture may not only help to produce better direct consumption sugars, but may also secure other advantages, such as diminished scale formation and lower viscosity in the pans.

Sugarcane Wax

After conducting a number of experiments in this connection, the Imperial Institute of Sugar Technology has evolved two methods, namely, the Zinc Chloride Method and the Sulphuric Acid Method. The first is suitable for centralised production of carbon for distribution to consumers. Carbon produced by this method has been found to give satisfactory results in the purification of *gurs* and for manufacturing superior quality 'neutral' *gurs* direct from cane juice. Further experiments have shown that efficient carbons can be made not only from bagasse but also from paddy husk, groundnut husk and a number of other raw materials. The second, the Sulphuric Acid Method, is suitable for manufacturing carbons at the place of consumption.

Before the war about 20,000 cwts. of waxes, other than paraffins, were being imported annually into India, mainly from U.S.A., Japan and Germany. These waxes, namely, carnauba, montan, Japan and bees-wax, were employed generally in the manufacture of leather and furniture polishes.

With the closing of the main import sources, the possibility of extracting cane-wax from filter press-mud of sugar factories and of utilising this as a substitute for the above waxes has been the subject of experiments at the Imperial Institute of Sugar Technology. As a result two types of waxes were obtained, one crude and the other refined. Samples of these were sent to Messrs. Tata Oil Company, Ltd., Tatapuram, for examination as to their suitability for use in leather polishes. Their report says: "The refined cane wax gives a softer product, although its melting point is only slightly lower than that of carnauba wax; the former has somewhat less tendency to crack than the latter. On the whole, it can very well be used to replace carnauba wax up to about 50 to 60 per cent of the latter in boot polishes. The polishing and binding properties are, however, slightly inferior to those of carnauba wax. The crude wax has a much lower melting point than carnauba wax and, therefore, cannot replace the latter."

Sugar-Candy by Steam

As a result of experiments carried out at the Ravalgaon Sugar Farm, Ltd., Ravalgaon, District Nasik, under the Sugar Candy Research Scheme a large scale plant for manufacturing candy by the use of steam has been evolved. This plant has the following advantages over the old open type crude equipment used for candy manufacture:

(1) lower fuel consumption, (2) economy in labour and time, (3) higher recovery, (4) superior quality of candy, (5) less losses, (6) increased productive capacity and (7) easy and continuous working. Further work on improving the plant is in progress.

As a result of the experiments conducted at the Imperial Institute of Sugar Technology a new process has been evolved by which large quantities of molasses and filter-press can be converted into manure within a comparatively short time. The yield of manure, by the new method, is about 40 to 50 per cent on the total weight of molasses and filter-press cane and the manufacturing cost per maund of manure is approximately annas twelve.

INDUSTRIAL UTILISATION OF BAGASSE

THE possibilities of economic utilisation of the principal by-products of the sugar industry are discussed in a series of six articles appearing in a recent issue of the *Journal of Scientific and Industrial Research.*

The principal by-products of sugar industry are molasses and bagasse. Bagasse is primarily employed as fuel for raising steam in the sugar factory. Bagasse can also be used for the production of activated carbons, plastic compositions, insulating and pressed boards and cattle feeds. It is pointed out that its use as fuel in factories need not absorb the entire output of bagasse. The installation of improved furnaces should lead to a surplus which can be utilised in a number of profitable ways.

Systematic investigations on the behaviour of shellac, when incorporated with rubber compositions, have revealed a number of interesting possibilities. The most promising results relate to very hard vulcanizates by utilising small amounts of shellac in the presence of increased loading of filters or reinforcing agents, a procedure with important advantages as regards the processing of stock, and applicable to many types of manufactured rubber articles. The results of these investigations are published in the Journal.

Sintered Glass Filters

The sintered glass septum has assumed great importance in filtration, gas distribution and extraction, but only in the analytical laboratory but also in chemical industry. It is now used in making the all-glass bacteriological filter required for preparing sterile blood sera for transfusion purposes. The possibility of making them in India on a commercial scale has been examined by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and it has been possible, using a process which has since been patented, to prepare a variety of septa of graded porosity. The applications of these filters are discussed in an article.

In an editorial in the Journal, Prof. A. V. Hill's scheme for the organisation of scientific and industrial research in India is discussed.

It has been decided to revalidate all import licences which are valid for shipment during the period January-June, 1945, to cover shipments up to December 31, 1945, said a Press Note issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on April 20.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH ROUMANIA AND FINLAND

In accordance with the action taken by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, the Government of India have authorised persons and concerns in British India to have correspondence with persons and concerns in Roumania and Finland, subject to the condition that business and financial correspondence is confined to ascertaining facts and exchanging information only, said a Press Communique issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on April 6.

It added: In respect of Roumania, such correspondence from British India should be conducted in accordance with the postal notices issued on the subject from time to time by the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs. In respect of Finland, they should be conducted through letters (including printed and commercial papers) or post cards, in accordance with the postal notices to be issued by him on the subject; only air mail service will be available for the time being.

Business Information

Banks and other financial institutions may now reply to requests for information from their depositors in Roumania or Finland; but remittances from British India to those countries, unless specifically authorised, are not permissible. Documents such as birth, death and marriage certificates and wills may be transmitted. Indian and Roumanian or Finnish firms may exchange business information with a view to the future resumption of business relationships; but the resumption of private trade is not yet allowed. The despatch of powers of attorney and proxies to those countries will be permissible; but prior approval of Government should be obtained in each case.

Roumanian and Finnish owned property in India will continue to be governed by the Defence of India Rules and to remain under the general control of the Custodian of Enemy Property, Bombay.

Applications and inquiries regarding British-owned property in Roumania and Finland should be addressed by persons in India to the Government of India in the Department of Commerce, Simla.

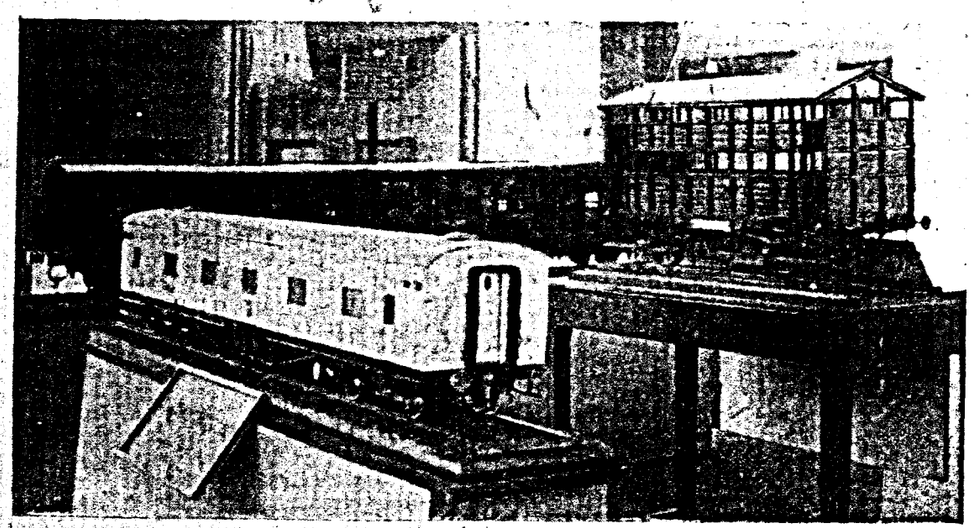
INDIA'S LIFELINE : OUR RAILWAYS

Carrying more than 1,162,000 tons of essential stores and over 550,000 military passengers every month in order to meet the demands of the Defence Services in India, the Indian railways have set up a record in wartime transport.

This effort has been well illustrated by the "Defence Services" section of the Indian Railways Exhibition at the New Delhi Railway Station, writes an Indian Army Observer. The exhibition was seen by more than 60,000 people.

Apart from their transportation services India's railways have enabled the production of war equipment to be considerably speeded up. Many tools and instruments essential for aircraft repair and other war priority work which were imported into India before the war are now being manufactured by the railways; specimens of the tools and instruments used were shown at the exhibition.

Other equipment made by the railways, which was shown at the exhibition, included secret telephones, making possible the conversation of two people without the danger of being



Contrasts in passenger rolling stock—a model of the third class double decker in use on the E.I.R. 80 years ago and a modern B.B. and C.I. Railway air-conditioned coach.

GOVERNMENT RAILWAY INSPECTORS' CONFERENCE

Sir Mahomed Usman's Opening Address



Sir Mahomed Usman.

"APART from the question of safe operation, the Inspector is also expected to see to the facilities afforded to passengers, their convenience and comfort during their travels," said the Hon'ble Sir Mahomed Usman, Member for Posts and Air, Government of India, in his opening address at the Government Railway Inspectors' Conference on April 10.

The Hon'ble Sir Edward Benthall, Member for Railways and War Transport, Government of India, the Chief Commissioner for Railways and Members of the Railway Board were present at the opening of the Conference. The Members attending the Conference were the Chairman, Mr. Dev Datt, Chief Government Inspector of Railways, and K. B. Nizam-ud-Din, and Messrs. F. J. deSouza, Ganguly, K. B. Lal, and Scriven, Government Inspectors of Railways.

Post-War Planning

Here is the full text of Sir Mahomed Usman's speech:

Gentlemen, I have great pleasure in welcoming here today the Government Inspectors of Railways who have come to attend this Conference. This is the first Conference that has been called since the Government Inspectorate came under the Posts and Air Department. Though it has been my intention to call such a conference, it has not been possible to do so before, on account of the preoccupation due to war. Though the war is still with us, happily it is rapidly drawing to a victorious conclusion. I felt in the circumstances that I could not postpone the calling of such a conference any longer. There are many questions particularly connected with post-war planning for the Inspectorate which, I think, can best be considered at a conference. I am glad that at last it has been possible to hold this Conference. I would like to extend a special welcome to Lt.-Col. Martin Goerl who has now, due to the circumstances created by the War, become a member of our Railway Inspectorate and from whose knowledge and experience we hope to benefit very greatly.

Inspectors of Railways are appointed by Government in virtue of the powers vested in them under Section 4 (1) of the Indian Railway Act, 1890. Prior to May, 1941, these Inspectors were under the administrative control of the Railway Board and the posts were filled from the members of the Indian Railway Service of Engineers. All the Inspectors were independent of each other and communicated directly with the Railway Board. They looked for promotion both in the Railway Board and in the individual Railway administrations and were liable to be reverted at any time to the particular Railway from which they were drawn. The Government of India Act, 1935, contemplates that Inspectors should be independent of the authority administering Railways and of any Railway administration. This is only right because it would certainly be embarrassing to the Government Inspector to have to criticise the administration of a Railway to which he may have to revert later on.

The fact that the Railway administrations as well as the Inspectors of Railways were subordinate to the same authority, viz. Railway Board, created the impression among the public that the Inspectorate was not independent of and would not have the courage to criticise the Board and the Railway administrations. The Pacific Locomotive Enquiry Committee recommended the acceptance of the principle defined in the Government of India Act and the Legislature supported the separation of the Inspectorate from the Railway Board. As a result, a separate Railway Inspectorate was constituted with a Chief Government Inspector at its head and the Inspectorate was placed first under the late Communications Department and is now under the Posts and Air Department. The Chief Inspector is the Head of the Inspectorate Branch and is also the Principal Technical Adviser to the Government on matters with which the Inspectorate is concerned.

I think it will be admitted by all that it is both necessary and politic to maintain the independent character of the Inspectorate in order to create and maintain public confidence in its work and in its findings.

Gentlemen, your responsibilities are indeed very great. India has a total railway route mileage of over 40,500 and a total track mileage of about 56,300.

The total number of passengers carried in 1943-44 was 789 millions and the total of passenger miles was 32,483 millions. There were over 7,200 Railway stations. I mention these figures just to indicate the magnitude of our Railway system spread over the whole of this sub-continent of India. The duties of the Inspectors of Railways are prescribed by Section 4 (2) of the Indian Railways Act. It is your function to inspect railways to determine whether they are fit to be opened for the public carriage of passengers, to make periodical or other inspections of railways and to inquire into the cause of any accident, and to perform such other duties as may be imposed by that Act or by other enactments relating to Railways.

Responsible Duties

Undoubtedly, for these heavy and responsible duties, it may be asked whether the existing organisation of five Government Inspectors temporarily increased to six is adequate. This is one of the matters for the careful examination of the Conference. Formerly there were 8 Inspectors but during the retrenchment campaign of 1931 and succeeding years, they were reduced to five. Your inspections and your inquiries must be frequent and thorough and in order that your findings and your opinions may carry weight you will have to establish a high reputation as impartial and painstaking experts, fair and just, but fearless in criticism.

You have fortunately available to you the assistance and advice of the whole of the wonderful organisation maintained by the Railway Board and Railway Administrations and it is a matter for congratulation that the co-operation between the Inspectorate and the Railway Administrations has been of the most intimate and friendly character. I myself am sure that the Railway Board and Railway Administrations themselves are just as anxious to prevent accidents, to promote the safe operation of railways, to discover the real causes of any accident and to adopt preventive measures, as you yourself will be. In fact, they would, I am sure, welcome a strong, efficient and fearless Inspectorate; for, otherwise, the Inspectorate would be worse than useless. I look forward to continued friendly co-operation between the Inspectorate and the Railway Administrations.

Public Interests

Apart from the question of safe operation, the Inspector is also expected to see to the facilities afforded to passengers, their convenience and comfort during their travels. This is a very big task indeed and one in which the public is naturally much interested. You are in fact the custodians of the public interests and unless your organisation is very greatly strengthened, it is difficult to see how it can discharge its responsibilities satisfactorily. In the matter of inspections—periodical and otherwise—also, it would appear that the manpower available in the Inspectorate is not fully adequate. In the post-war period, the Railway Department is contemplating a considerable amount of expansion and new construction which would necessarily throw a much greater burden on the Inspectorate. It is with a view to all these considerations that you will have to examine the most suitable post-war organisation.

There are other questions on the agenda which are of considerable interest and to which, I have no doubt, you will devote due attention. One of the questions in which Government is particularly interested is the speedy conclusion of inquiries into accidents. No doubt, we need a careful, thorough and expert inquiry, but an investigation which is unduly delayed in arriving at a conclusion creates anxiety and suspicion in the public mind. The inquiries must also be so conducted as to inspire confidence of the public. The public now-a-days takes great interest in the accidents that occur and are anxious to know the real causes which led to them. We do not want the public's confidence in the safety of railway travelling to be affected in any way and we want them to have full faith in the findings of the Inspectors. I have no doubt that the Railway Administrations themselves are fully alive to this consideration.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 584)

development of self-help agencies from the Village Health Committees up to the Union Health Committees. In this connection 115 volunters have been trained in addition to 50 teachers taken from 32 schools.

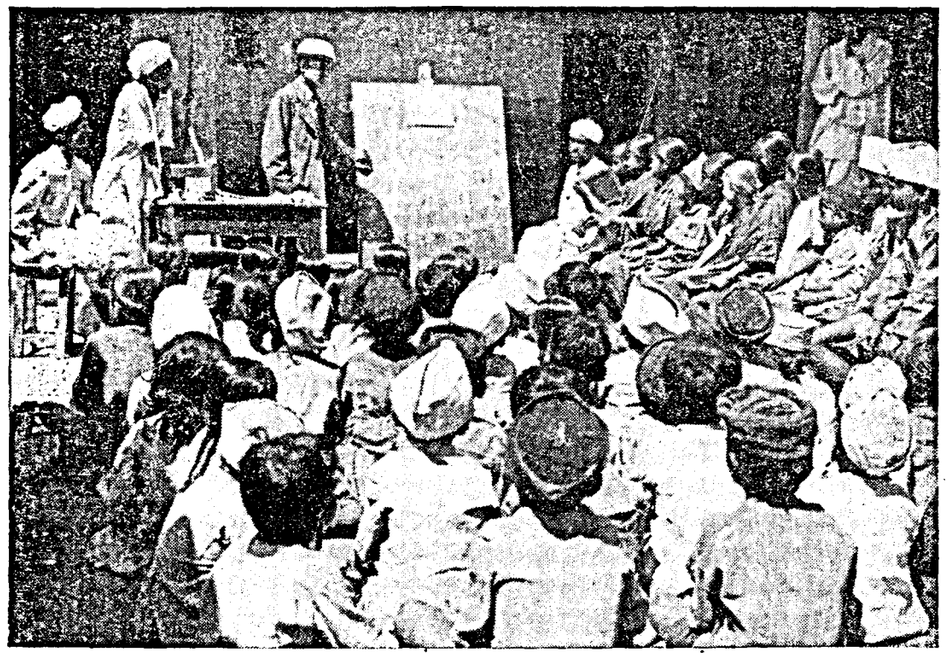
Health Survey

The Institute has also evolved and experimented a new method of imparting training in special epidemiology. In this method the lectures in general epidemiology are followed by introductory lectures on the methods of describing an individual disease along with discussions of a few important diseases to serve as illustrations. Having thus been acquainted with the method of systematic treatment of individual diseases, the student is assigned a few diseases for writing down a full epidemiolocal account.

A system of carrying out general health survey in rural areas has been introduced with the objects of (a) bringing students in intimate contact with the village life, (b) training them in the methods of investigation in the field, and (c) giving them an opportunity to acquire a detailed quantitative knowledge of the state of health of a rural population and of some of the factors influencing health and disease.

The activities of the Statistical Section have been expanded in three directions, namely, (1) research in statistical methods, (2) application of statistical techniques to various problems of health and disease and (3) teaching of vital statistics and statistical techniques. Besides, a number of other research problems were attended to.

In addition to conducting courses of instructions to D.P.H. students and important research publications, the section had undertaken a number of other emergency works, for instance, blood bank and famine relief work. Sample surveys were conducted among destitutes to find incidence of infectious diseases, such as malaria and dysentery. To help doctors in the work of resuscitation of advanced cases of inanition, the Section prepared a mixture of protein hydrolysates, glucose and vitamins suitable for



Children in a village school listen to a lecture on health given by a touring Health Unit.



A health lecture at an Adult Night School in the Moradabad District.

intravenous administration. Over 7,500 bottles were supplied and over 3,000 inanition cases were treated.

Facilities are now being provided to inaugurate additional courses leading to a Master of Science in Public Health Engineering and a Certificate in Industrial Hygiene.

The Institute also provided teaching in connection with maternity and child welfare and trained women doctors for the Diploma in Maternity and Child Welfare.

POST-GRADUATE COURSES IN TUBERCULOSIS

To secure the co-operation of general medical practitioners in the fight against tuberculosis in the country, the Tuberculosis Association of India has drawn up a programme of post-graduate refresher courses in tuberculosis in different parts of the country. A course of one month's duration will be held in June next consisting of lectures and demonstrations at Madras and Arogyavaram and a visit to Perundurai Sanatorium. Registered medical practitioners—both men and women—will be eligible for admission to these courses.

FIRST DEVELOPMENT LOAN

In connection with their loan programme for 1945-46, the Government of India have published a notification dated April 9, 1945, announcing the issue of a new loan styled the 3 per cent First Development Loan, 1970-75, said a Press Communique issued by the Finance Department, Government of India, on April 8.

It added: The loan will be open for subscription from April 16 and it will close on April 18, 1945. The issue is limited to Rs. 40 crores. The issue price is Rs. 97 per cent and 5 per cent Incometax-free Loan, 1945-55, will be accepted for conversion into the new loan at Rs. 102-8-0 for Rs. 100 (nominal) of the loan tendered. The loan will be repayable at par not earlier than October 15, 1970, and not later than October 15, 1975.

Interest will be paid half-yearly on October 15, and April 15 and will be liable to incometax and surcharge. Applications will be received at the offices of the Reserve Bank of India at Bombay, Calcutta, Cawnpore, Delhi and Madras, at branches of the Imperial Bank of India at other places and at all Government Treasuries.

The Government of India have also issued a notification giving notice of the discharge of the 5 per cent Incometax-free Loan, 1945-55, on October 15, 1945.

MAXIMUM RUBBER PRODUCTION BONUS

A bonus of Rs. 33-5-3 per 100 lbs. is declared on Hevea Rubber delivered to Government during the period, April 1 to June 30, 1945, under the Rubber Production Bonus Scheme introduced in July, 1944, said a Press Note issued by the Supply Department, Government of India, on April 7.

It added: This is the maximum bonus under the Scheme and it has been possible for producers to secure the maximum bonus because deliveries of rubber to Government during the period. January 1 to March 31, 1945, reached the required tonnage.

The Scheme which was devised to secure the maximum possible deliveries of rubber over a given period has been very successful and deliveries have been considerably increased.

The present Scheme expires at the end of June, 1945, and the question of its continuation or some variation is under the consideration of the Government.

Tuberculosis clinic and 1 Hospital are under construction. Proposals for the construction of 2 Clinics and 3 Hospitals are under consideration.

Referring to the Lady Linlithgow Sanatorium, Lieut.-General Hance remarked that there were 190 beds in the Sanatorium of which 160 were in general wards and the remaining 30 in private wards or cottages. The number of beds reserved up till the end of 1944 by Government, affiliated Associations and others was 108. One hundred and sixty-seven patients were accommodated in the Sanatorium at the end of 1943 and 199 new admissions were made during 1944. Thus the total number of patients that received treatment during 1944 was 366 as against 314 in the previous year. The number of patients discharged in 1944 was 188 leaving 178 on roll at the end of the year. The average daily number of patients for the whole year was 174.6 as against 139.5 in 1943.

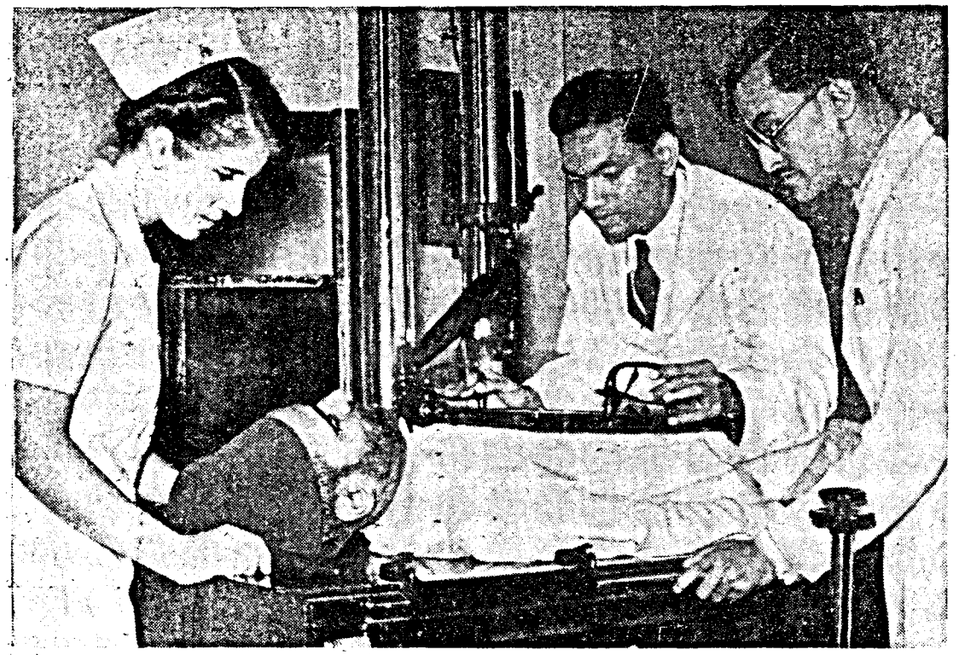
New Delhi Tuberculosis Clinic

The number of patients treated at the New Delhi Tuberculosis Clinic has increased; home visits and contact examinations were made, post-graduate health visitors and nurses have been trained; co-operation with the local medical practitioners and institutes has been maintained, and the scheme of organised home treatment has been continued. A total of 3,634 patients were treated at the Clinic during 1944. The Clinic continued to enjoy the confidence of the patients and general medical practitioners as a model institution.

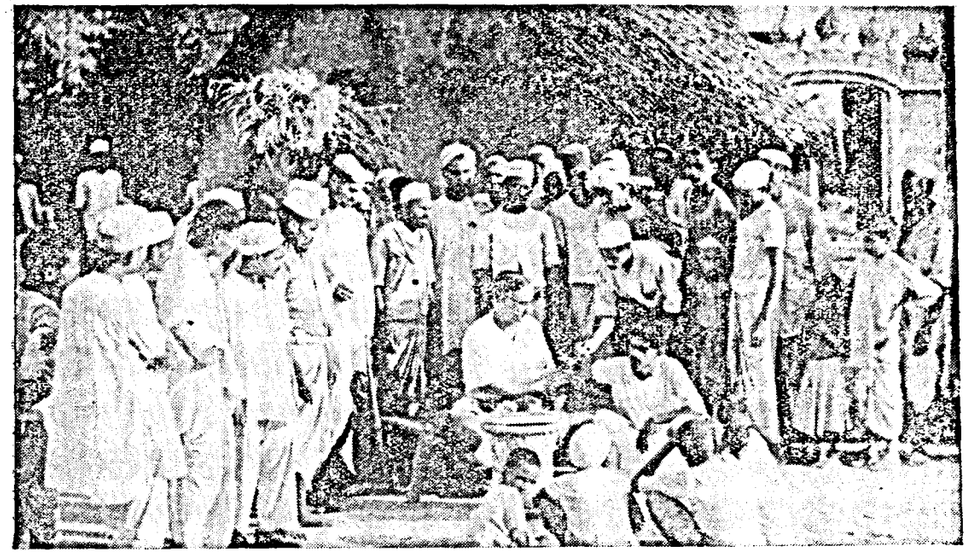
While presenting the accounts of the Association for the year under review, Sir Cameron Badenoch, the retiring Treasurer of the Association, characterised the financial position of the Association as quite satisfactory.

SIR BERTIE STAIG

H. E. the Viceroy, Patron of the Tuberculosis Association of India, is pleased to approve the appointment of Sir Bertie Staig, C.S.I., to be Honorary Treasurer of the Association with effect from the forenoon of April 7, 1945, in succession to Sir Cameron Badenoch, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., who has resigned that appointment on retiring from the public service, said a Communique issued from the Viceroy's House on April 7.



The Medical Officer in charge examines a patient at the Lady Linlithgow Sanatorium.



The Health Unit at work in a village—the Medical Officer in charge of the Unit gives an injection to a villager.

HYGIENE AND PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEMS

All-India Institute's Contribution to War Effort

"OF all its war activities, the most important one is the collection of blood and the administration of the processing of blood serum through the establishment of the Calcutta Blood Bank," states the Report of the All-India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health for the years 1940-44.

The Calcutta Blood Bank was organised in January, 1942, to collect blood from 750 voluntary donors a week, at the start, but this number actually went up above 1,000 for a length of time. The bank employed mobile collecting teams operating throughout Bengal. During 1943-44, blood was collected from 36,328 donors and processed into 1,866 litres of liquid and 1,435 litres of dried serum.

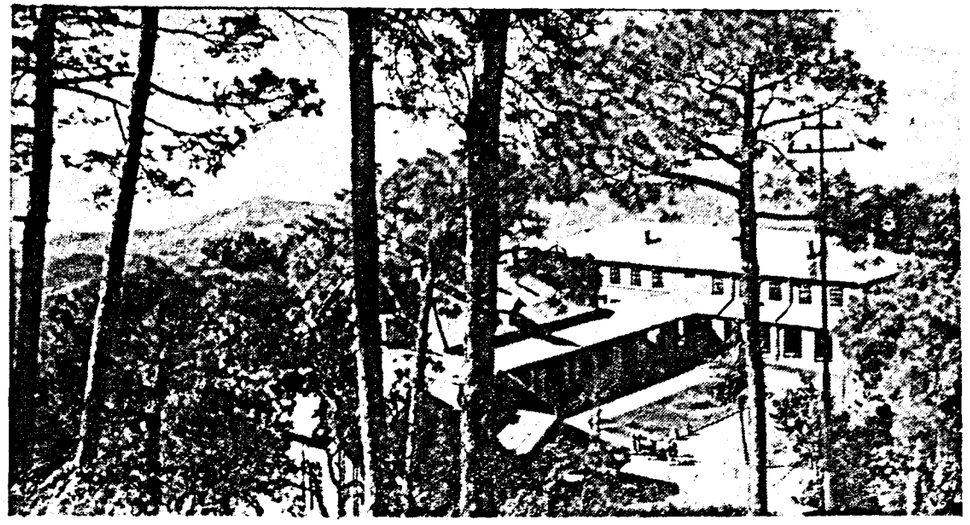
The responsibility for training several categories of military personnel in anti-malarial work and arrangements for supplying foodstuffs were some of its other emergent activities, while a considerable demand was made on the Institute for expert advice in matters connected with the war.

The Tuberculosis Inquiry under Dr. A. C. Ukil has been in progress for 15 years and the report is now being written.

Of other events the training for the Diploma in Public Health of five Chinese students deputed by the Chinese Government on the invitation of the Government of India and students in malaria needs a special mention.

Singur Health Unit

To apply the results of pure research to the requirements of large units of population, both urban and rural, the Singur Health Unit was started in January, 1944. It aims at an all round improvement in regard to public health of the area by concentrating its attention on (1) general sanitation and malaria control, (2) control of communicable disease including tuberculosis and venereal diseases, (3) maternity and child welfare, (4) school health and (5) collection of vital statistics. The area also provides a training centre, where self-participation work by the students can be carried out under the direction of the teachers in a manner similar to hospital clerkships. The most essential principle in the experiment is the



A view of the Lady Linlithgow Sanatorium, Kasauli (Simla Hills).

COMBATING TUBERCULOSIS: NEW INSTITUTIONS OPENED

GLOWING tributes were paid to Sir Cameron Badenoch, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., I.C.S., Hon. Treasurer of T. B. Association, by Lieut.-General J. B. Hance, C.I.E., O.B.E., K.H.S., I.M.S., Director-General, Indian Medical Service and Chairman of the Tuberculosis Association of India, while presenting the Annual Report of the Tuberculosis Association for 1944 at its Annual General Meeting held on April 6, 1945.

Sir Cameron Badenoch had been associated with the tuberculosis movement in this country for the past ten years. He was Honorary Treasurer of the King George Thanksgiving (Anti-Tuberculosis) Fund from April 1, 1926 to February 23, 1939. When the Tuberculosis Association was formed in 1939 he became its first Honorary Treasurer. In 1941, he undertook the added duties of Honorary Treasurer of the Kasauli Sanatorium scheme.

Training in Tuberculosis

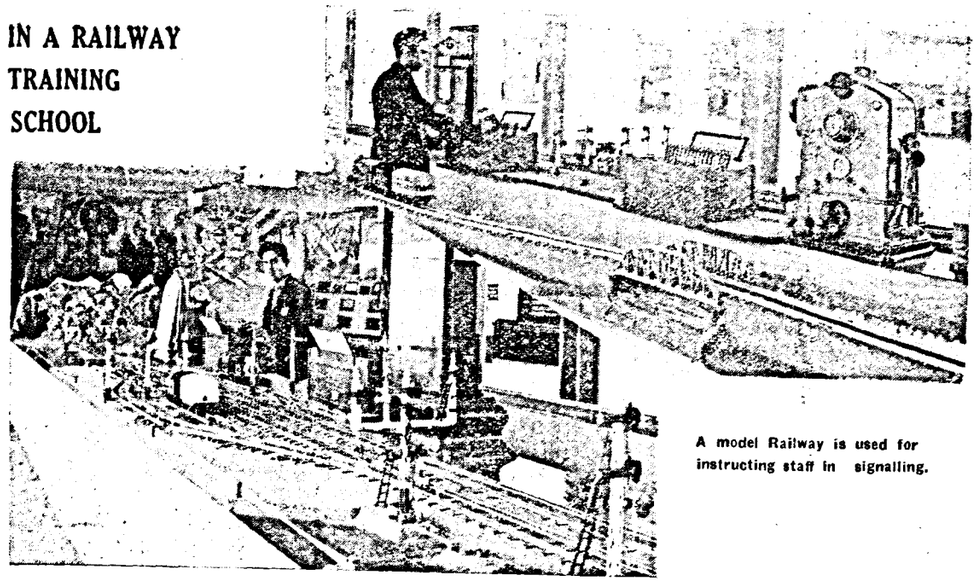
"In him," said Lieut.-General Hance, "the Association will be losing one of its main supporters. His long experience, sound and quick judgment and wide knowledge of men and affairs have been unreservedly at the dispcsal of the Association throughout its existence, and his wise counsel will be sadly missed both at our future deliberations and in the day to day administration of the Association."

Post-graduate and refresher courses were held in consonance with Her Excellency the President's recommendation, under the auspices of the Association in Delhi in the early part of 1944 and another has just been completed at Lahore. Post-graduate instruction in tuberculosis has thus been afforded to 46 doctors. The Health Visitors' course started in October last is now in progress. The popularity and the utility of these courses are evinced by the fact that several inquiries from various parts of India and also from Ceylon are being received in respect of the second course, which, it is hoped, will be held in the next Autumn.

Referring to the need of giving Diploma in tuberculosis, Lieut.-General Hance congratulated the authorities of the Mysore University for having introduced a course of instruction for this Diploma and hoped that other Universities will not lag behind in this direction. He also pointed out that the Association, which has at its disposal all the available information, was the most appropriate agency to bring about co-ordination in the work of various institutes in tuberculosis and academic bodies and hoped that the fullest use of the Association's assistance will be made by them.

Eight Tuberculosis clinics, 4 Sanitoria and 2 Hospitals were opened during 1944 while 1

IN A RAILWAY TRAINING SCHOOL



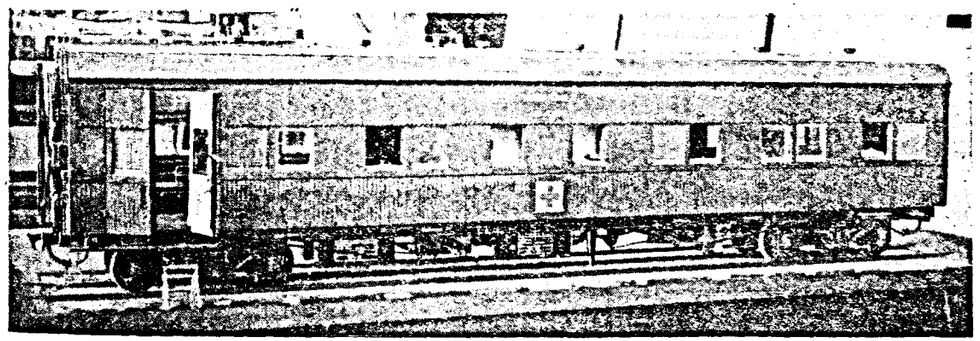
A model Railway is used for instructing staff in signalling.

overheard, butt welding machines, curry combs and bayonets.

Among the exhibits were models of ward cars and ambulance coaches specially built for carrying wounded to hospital. Also displayed were models of ferry steamers and small craft dockyards built by the Indian railways.

On a siding at the station visitors walked through ambulance coaches made ready for imaginary patients. They also saw how broad gauge vans were converted for narrow gauge working on Middle East lines to which they were shipped during the critical days of 1940 and 1941.

Some of the demonstrators at the exhibition were from the railways' own military force. Officers and railwaymen at stations where military traffic is most heavy have been mobilised and wear the familiar khaki of the military.



A metre-gauge ward car.

ORGANISATION BEHIND THE RAILWAY TICKET

Sir Lakshmipati Misra's Talk

"EVERY minute Indian railways are carrying 64,000 passengers and 1,404,000 maunds of goods over one mile,'" said Sir Lakshmipati Misra, Member of the Railway Board, in a broadcast talk from the Delhi station of All India Radio on April 8.

Before the war, on an average, 30 military trains were run each month; to-day more than 850 such trains are run. The distance travelled by military specials in pre-war days was 8,000 miles per month; today it is 330,000 miles. Two hundred and seventy million maunds of materials have been carried for the construction of airfields.

In 1938-39, the number of passengers was 45 million per month; in 1944-45, the corresponding average will be about 80 million. Total miles travelled by passengers in 1938-39 amounted to 1,520 million; it has since gone up to 3,000 million.

As regards goods traffic, 270 million maunds of freight used to be transported every month, against 300 million at present. The average distance travelled per month in pre-war years was 1,800 million miles; it is now 2,500 millions. Indian railways have supplied 1,700 miles of sidings to the army, have built 200 crossing stations and remodelled 200 station yards, and carried out a large number of major works of other categories.

Other Outstanding Facts

Other outstanding facts mentioned by Sir Lakshmipati were that 80 million tickets are printed each month in special security presses maintained by the railways; that, roughly, one out of every 80 people in India is dependent on the railways for his livelihood; that every inch of the railway track (about 42,000 miles) over which passengers are carried is inspected twice a day.

Giving a picture of the organisation behind the railway ticket, Sir Lakshmipati said that the public come into contact with but five per cent of the railway staff and do not know of the work of the 95 per cent working in yards, cabins, sheds and sick sidings, or on the track between stations. The ticket which a passenger has bought, the compartment in which he is seated, the engine which hauls his train, the signals which direct the train safely to the correct platform at each halt, his arrival and departure from stations according to schedule, the track and bridges over which his train runs so safely—these represent an enormous organisation.

INDIAN RAILWAY'S RECORD

Indian railway wagons are moving faster and ever faster in support of the economic life and in furtherance of the war effort of the country.

This fact is reflected in a recent achievement of the B.B. and C.I. Railway, which registered an average of 95.4 wagon miles per wagon day on its metre-gauge section in February last.

This is believed to be a record for a railway system of comparable size anywhere in the world.

INCREASED RAILWAY EARNINGS

The total approximate gross earnings of the Budget lines (Class I Railways) for the month of February, 1945, amounted to Rs. 17.43 crores, i.e., Rs. 111 lakhs more than the actuals for the corresponding month of the previous year and Rs. 392 lakhs more than the actuals for the corresponding month of 1942-43. Compared with the last year, coaching earnings increased by about Rs. 36 lakhs and goods earnings by about Rs. 83 lakhs during the month.

Coaching Earnings

The increase under coaching earnings is mainly due to more military, coolie, and passengers traffic. Earnings from goods showed a general increase in all commodities except in the case of wheat and coal. Military stores, other foodgrains, cotton, and general goods showed increases of about Rs. 4, 6, 3 and 100 lakhs respectively.

The total approximate gross earnings from April 1, 1944, to February 2, 1945, amounted to Rs. 191.10 crores, and were more by Rs. 27.24 crores when compared with the actuals for the same period of last year and more by Rs. 51.64 crores in comparison with the corresponding period of 1942-43.

HYDARI MISSION: AGREEMENT WITH U.K.

A Press Communique issued by the Industries and Civil Supplies Department, Government of India, on April 7 stated:

Since September, 1939, India has progressively given more and more from her civil economy to meet Defence requirements. In addition, during 1941-44 imports have shrunk and there has been a shortage of consumer goods. The increase in the purchasing power of the people and in population and the paucity of civil supplies has aggravated the hardship which has been progressive in intensity; the brunt of it has fallen on the poorer elements of the population. The Government of India Mission on Supplies was sent to the U.K. with the object of effecting an improvement of the position during 1945 and a substantial improvement in 1946.

The Mission accordingly sought relief under the following heads:

(1) Reduction in the demands of the Defence Services on Indian production, thus making the production so released available for the civil consumer in India;

(2) Imports of such consumer goods as are at present either not produced at all in India or are produced in insufficient quantities;

(3) Procurement of raw materials and working stores required for the manufacture of consumer goods in India; and

(4) Expediting the procurement and despatch of equipment and stores ordered by the several Departments of the Government of India in aid of the war effort or the maintenance of civil economy.

Consumer Goods

Considerable headway has been made in regard to the last mentioned item, viz., the procurement and despatch of stores, equipment and machinery already ordered or about to be ordered, such as coal mining machinery, transportation stores, road rollers, cranes, telephone equipment, agricultural machinery, fertilisers, etc.

As regards requirements of finished consumer goods and raw materials and working stores required for the manufacture of consumer goods in India the results obtained are satisfactory. Increases under these heads from all sources over the 1944 figures should reach about Rs. 26 crores in 1945 rising to Rs. 48 crores in 1946. Here a word of explanation is necessary. About half of the amounts mentioned represent the cost of raw materials and working stores required for the manufacture in India of consumer goods, viz., mill stores, dyestuffs, knitting wool, woollen yarn, tin plate, umbrella and bicycle components, industrial chemicals, etc. The finished consumer goods include such items as baby foods, vegetable seeds, bicycles, drugs and medicines, paper and stationery items, cotton sewing thread, sewing machines, toilet requisites of all kinds, hardware, glassware, electric household goods, etc. etc.

Defence Requirements

The reliefs under these heads are important but of even greater importance were the reliefs sought for and obtained under the first heading, viz., a reduction in the demands of the Defence Services, making available the capacity and the material so released for civil population. Here a word of explanation is necessary. Production programmes for the current year towards Defence Service requirements are already in operation; moreover, while both the European and the Japanese wars have to be carried on simultaneously, it is not possible to effect a substantial reduction in current programmes of Defence requirements or to procure these requirements from the U.K.; but it was also realised that unless something was done, the close of the war in Europe sometime in 1945 would not relieve Indian civil economy, because India would continue to be in 1946 the base of operations against Japan to an even greater degree than in 1945.

The Mission was therefore directed to concentrate particularly on ottaining as large a measure of relief as possible for 1946. Of the several heads under which relief was sought, the more important were steel, leather, timber, woollens, cement and cotton textiles. The net result of the relief obtained under all these heads in 1945 is about Rs. 4 crores and in 1946 about Rs. 70 crores; and of these the most important single item under which relief has been obtained is cotton textiles.

In 1945, India is liable to supply up to 800 million yards of cotton textiles towards the requirements of the Defence Services and to export 600 million yards, making a total deduction from what is available out of the mill-made cloth to the Indian consumer of 1,400 million yards.

As a result of the Mission's discussions in London, the following agreement with His Majesty's Government was arrived at:

1. "The Mission put forward a strong request that India be enabled, mainly by reduction of her commitments to supply cotton textiles for military use (800 million yards in 1945)

and for export (600 million yards in 1945) to increase the supply available to the Indian public in 1946 by 600 to 800 million yards; H.M.G. view the request sympathetically and they will endeavour by all means in their power to make this relief possible, subject to their obligation to meet the essential needs of cotton textiles of the United Kingdom and of other countries dependent on the United Kingdom for their supplies.

2. "It is hoped that at least 200 million yards of the increased supplies for the Indian consumer will be provided from increased production in India, which the Government of India will use its best endeavours to secure, while H.M.G. for their part will likewise make every effort to supply the mill stores and other requirements for such increased production.

3. "As to the remainder, for purposes of present planning the Government of India will accordingly proceed on the basis of military orders of 600 million yards and exports of 400 million yards in 1946.

4. "Provision has been made for a periodic review of the position by the two Governments, to record progress and to make any necessary adjustments in the light of the military situation and the supply position in the two countries, including any increased availabilities which might render possible further relief to the Indian consumer beyond that now planned."

Mutual Understanding

In this most important item of consumer goods the Mission has followed the same principles as in other items, viz., securing substantial reductions in the Defence Service demands coupled with assistance for Indian Industry to produce more for the civil consumer.

The negotiations in London were carried out in an atmosphere of friendliness and mutual understanding. H.M.G. admitted the validity of India's claim for relief while the Mission, on their side, had to recognise that the additional burden of making up the resultant deficit in supplies to the Armed forces and those of the United Nations who depend upon the U.K. and India for supplies of cotton textiles entailed by affording relief to the Indian consumer in the matter of cotton textiles would for the greater part have to be borne by the U.K. With the acute labour shortage which will continue in the U.K. even after the close of the German war thus preventing any rapid expansion of her production, with the cloth ration to the U.K. consumer recently still further cut, there were obviously limits beyond which the Mission could not go. The net result however is that the civil consumer in India will receive a substantial addition in 1946 to supplies of all kinds. If certain not unreasonable hopes are fulfilled, he will obtain, especially in cotton textiles, an additional measure of relief even above the 600 million yards now secured.

In conclusion it only remains to pay a warm tribute to the patience and courtesy of the several Ministers and Departments of His Majesty's Government with whom the Mission dealt. In spite of their other pre-occupations they gave freely of their time to the Mission's work and their sympathetic understanding of India's economic difficulties and desire to assist in their solution contributed in no small measure to the happy issue of the negotiations.

PARCEL SERVICE TO GERMANY SUSPENDED

The "next-of-kin" and "permit" parcels system from India to prisoners of war in Germany has been suspended. A postal notice issued by the Posts and Telegraphs Department states that such parcels will not be accepted for transmission until further notice.

This follows upon a similar suspension of the service by the British Post Office and is due to transport difficulties arising from the current phase of operations in Europe.

SIR MAHOMED USMAN'S SPEECH

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 579)

Gentlemen, I am indeed glad to meet you and I wish all success to your deliberations. Before concluding, I would like to express my appreciation of the presence here to-day of my Hon'ble colleague, the Railway Member, the Chief Commissioner of Railways and the Members of the Railway Board. I have no doubt you will receive from the Chief Commissioner of Railways and the Members of the Railway Board and from the Board's officers all the assistance or advice that you may need during your deliberations. I now declare the Conference formally open and leave you, Gentlemen, to your deliberations, which will proceed under the Chairmanship of the Chief Government Inspector, Mr. Dev Datt.

INCREASE IN PERMISSIBLE PAPER CONSUMPTION

Paper Control (Economy) Order

AN increase by 10 per cent in the percentage permitted to different types of consumers of paper under the Paper Control (Economy) Order, 1944, was announced in a Press Note dated January 24, 1945. The Government of India in the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies have now decided to give a further increase of 20 per cent to different types of consumers affected by that Order, said a Press Note issued by the Industries and Civil Supplies Department, Government of India, on April 10.

It added: All presses and stationers can, with effect from the current quarter, use paper to the extent of 60 per cent of their consumption in 1943. Publishers of text-books can consume paper to the extent of 80 per cent of their consumption in 1939 and publishers of other books to the extent of 60 per cent of their consumption in 1943. Periodicals and newspapers can likewise print now 60 per cent of the number of pages printed by them in the basic period applicable to them in accordance with the provisions of the Order.

In addition to the general concession referred to above which has been notified in the *Gazette of India Extraordinary* dated April 10, 1945, the Government of India have also decided to increase by 20 per cent all concessions granted before that date to individual consumers. This concession applicable to individual cases already decided by the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies is, however, subject to the condition that the additional 20 per cent does not raise the concession now admissible to a figure above 90 per cent of the basic consumption.

Other Important Concessions

The other important concessions which have been granted are:

(i) the exclusion of Panchangs or Almanacs of religious character from the prohibition contained in Clause 11 (a) of the Paper Control (Economy) Order;

(ii) permission to distribute advertising circulars relating to the sale of any goods or to any profession, trade or business up to a total weight of 25 lbs. per month;

(iii) the fixation of a minimum quota of printing presses at 750 lbs. per quarter;

(iv) the removal of restrictions on the margins of books and spaces between consecutive chapters; and

(v) exclusion of strawboard from the restrictions on the use of paper for wrapping and packing purposes.

PRICES TO BE MARKED ON BALES OF IMPORTED PAPER

With effect from April 15, 1945, every person is required by the Government of India to indicate conspicuously on the outside of every bale, case or package in which paper is imported, the name of the importer, size, weight, name of variety, ceiling price permitted and year and month of importation of paper, before sale, said a Press Note issued by the Industries and Civil Supplies Department, Government of India, on March 3.

It added: With effect from March 3, 1945, every dealer in paper is required to display prominently in his place of business, and allow any purchaser to examine, a sample book, which will contain samples of each variety of imported paper in which he deals, indicating thereon all the above-mentioned particulars.

Until May 15, 1945, however, dealers are not required to indicate in the sample book the names of importers and month and year of importation.

CONCESSIONS TO MANUFACTURERS OF ACCOUNT BOOKS

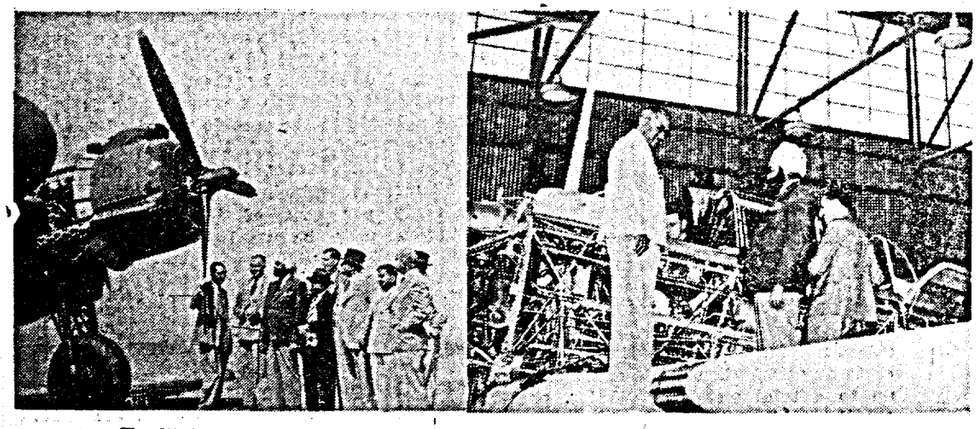
The concession already granted by the Government of India to manufacturers of Indian account books to use 90 per cent by weight of the paper consumed by them in 1943 for the manufacture of Indian account books is applicable not only to the specific period of one year beginning with June 12, 1944, as presumed by certain manufacturers, but also to any period of 12 months beginning with July 1.

Sixty per cent of this permitted consumption may be used during the period ending September 30 and the balance should be consumed in three equal quarterly instalments over the period, October 1 to June 30. Manufacturers of Indian account books who are not able to use during the period, July to September, the quantity they are permitted to use during that period are also permitted to utilise during the period, October to June, the unused portion of their permitted consumption for the period, July to September.

—INDIAN INDUSTRIALISTS



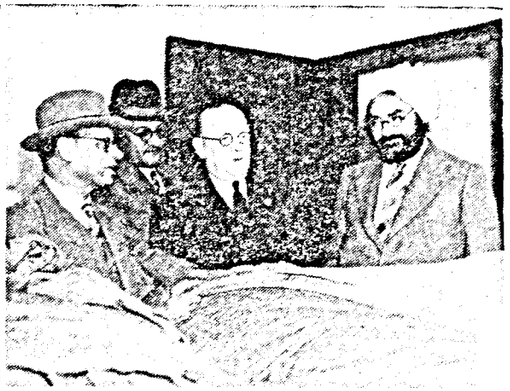
H.R.H. the Duke of Gloucester, Governor-General of Australia, with the members of the Indian Industrial Mission at Admiralty House, Sydney. Picture shows (L. to R.) Mr. R. Gupta, H.R.H. the Duke of Gloucester, Mr. B. Viswanath, Mr. A. W. Adamjee, Sir Datar Singh (Leader of the Mission) and Mr. S. P. Jain.

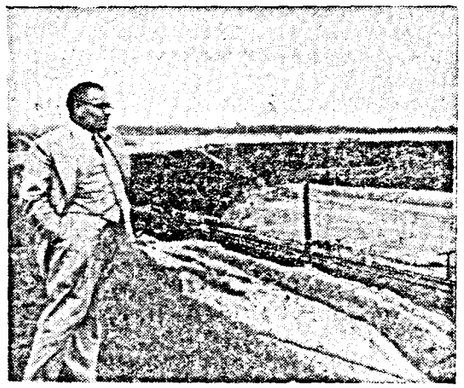


The Mission has visited Engineering, Industrial and Textile centres in the Commonwealth. Here, the members view a Beaufighter just emerged from the assembly line of the Beaufort Division of the Australian Department of Aircraft Production at Fisherman's Bend, Victoria. (Right) Indian Industrialists inspect the assembly of a Wirraway in the factory of the Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation at Fisherman's Bend.

IN AUSTRALIA—



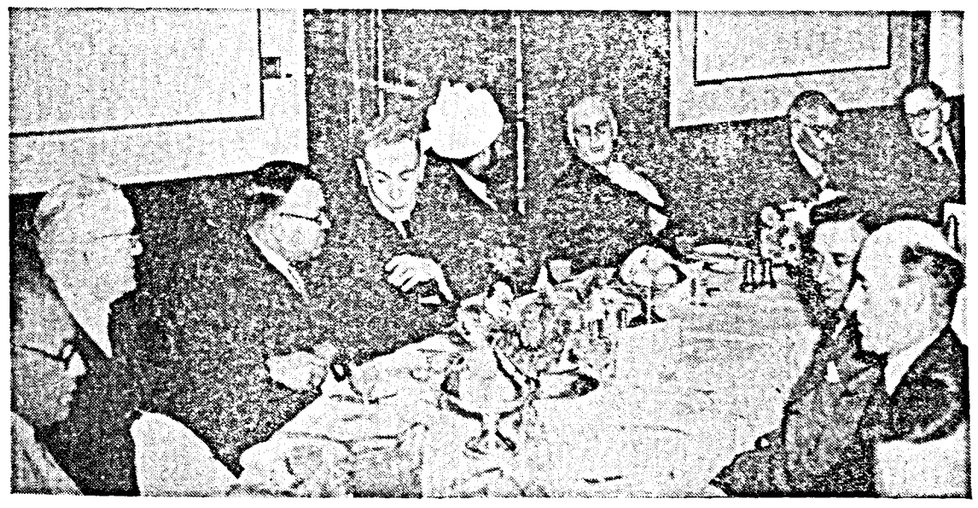




(Above) Members of the Indian Industrial Mission examine precision tools (left) made in a Western Australian Factory and woollen material (right) woven at the Geelong Returned Sailors and Soldiers Mills.

(Left) Mr. A. W. Adamjee looks at the working of the Yallourn Open Cut brown coal undertaking in Victoria.

(Below) The Australian Government entertained the Mission at a luncheon party. Picture shows (L. to R.) Mr. A. W. Adamjee, Mr. J. H. Scullin (former Prime Minister of Australia) Mr. R. Gupta, Mr. J. B. Chifley (Treasurer of the Commonwealth), Sir Datar Singh, Mr. J. Curtin (Prime Minister), Sir R. P. Paranjpye (Indian High Commissioner) and Mr. A. S. Drakeford (Minister for Air).



RELIEF FOR POSTAL EMPLOYEES

THE Report of the Bombay Postal Inquiry Committee has now been received by Government in the Posts and Air Department. This Committee was a fact-finding Committee and was called upon to report, after inquiry and investigation, into certain claims made by the Bombay and Poona Postmen's Unions, in view of the present hard conditions of living. The recommendations made by the Committee are being examined in consultation with the various Government Departments concerned and it is understood that early orders are likely to be passed.

It is interesting to recall in this connection that Sir Gurunath Bewoor, Secretary, Posts and Air Department, speaking on the question of dearness allowance gave an assurance in the Central Assembly that Government would be in a position to issue orders after examining the Report, and, further, that even if there was some delay in issuing them, Government would see that the staff did not suffer because of any such delay. The measures contemplated by the Government are expected to take retrospective effect, and an official announcement is likely to be made soon.

Relief Figures

So far as the Posts and Telegraphs Department is concerned, relief to the non-gazetted staff has been given since 1940 and has been raised from time to time until it has reached a very large proportion to the total pay.

The position for 1943-44 and 1945-46 is as below:—

	1943-44 Rs. crores	1945-46 Rs. crores
Pay of non-gazetted establishment	7.76	8.31
Concessions to staff	1.99	4.17
Percentage of concessions to pay charges	26.3%	51.2%

These relief figures include good conduct pay of Rs. 18 lakhs even without which the percentage of concession to pay charges amounts to 50.2 per cent of the total pay bill of the non-gazetted establishment. The figures for 1945-46, which are budget figures, do not include the amounts which will become liable for payment on account of increased dearness allowance, an announcement about which is expected in the near future.

HOW TO POST AIR MAIL ARTICLES

A Press Note issued by the Posts and Air Department, Government of India, on April 9 stated:

Most air mail articles pass through a number of hands—sepoys, peons and minor officials. Members of the public are, therefore, once again strongly advised to utilize embossed air mail stationery (envelopes, airgraphs or air mail postcards, as available). When articles with high-value stamps or the air-letter with the six-anna stamp are used, it is essential that the public should, in their own interest, have the stamps defaced by a postal official at the counter. Government will be grateful if all concerned will co-operate with the Post Office in this matter.

It is also strongly urged that only trustworthy servants be entrusted with the posting of such mail, when the sender is unable to post it personally.

Embossed air-letters will be available to civilians shortly, issue of which was taken up before the present air-letter forms were made available to the public, but has been unavoidably delayed due to certain machinery having to be imported from abroad for the purpose.

NON-FERROUS METALS CONTROL ORDER, 1945

Non-ferrous metals imported from abroad or produced in India now come under the non-ferrous Metal Control Odrer, 1945, which exercises control over the distribution of such metals as well as on releases from importers, to ensure that they are used for the purpose for which they are intended, said a Press Note issued by the Supply Department, Government of India, on March 28.

It added: Under this order importers are required to take out a licence, and they cannot dispose of any non-ferrous metal to any person who is not in possession of a permit. No person can acquire from a producer more than 10 cwts. of any non-ferrous metal in one calendar month without obtaining a permit from the controller. The producer's total sales, not covered by valid permits, "shall not in any one month exceed 5 tons in the case of any individual non-ferrous metal."

The Order further provides that any non-ferrous metal acquired under a permit should be used for the purpose specified in the permit.

INDIAN COMMANDOS' ARAKAN SWOOP

Story of Letpan Landings

THE Letpan landings, completed recently by units of the 13th Frontier Force Rifles, the 7th Rajput Regiment, the 18th Royal Garhwal Rifles, the Green Howards and tanks of the Royal Armoured Corps, constitute one of the most remarkable amphibious operations on the Burma coast.

The village of Letpan is of extreme strategic value, lying on the main north-south Arakan road running through Allied held Ri-Yua to Taungup, Prome and Rangoon. This road is the enemy's main line of communication and artery over which has been passing its lifeblood of supplies to its troops fighting on this sector. Letpan is 100 miles south-east of Akyab and 220 miles north-west of Rangoon.

Here is the full story of the Letpan landings.

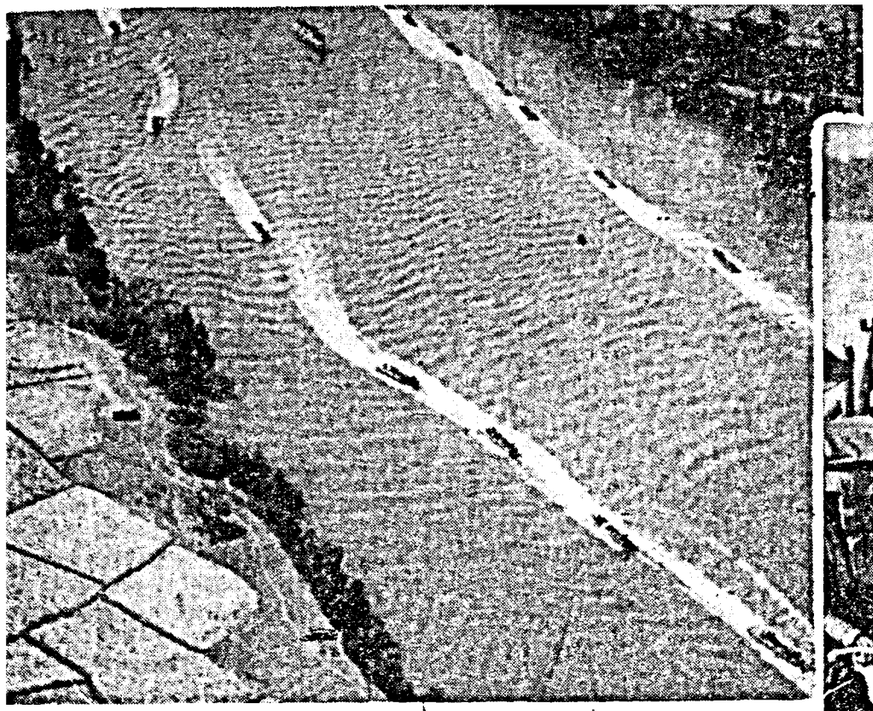
Indian infantry making "commando" landings overnight to outflank enemy strongpoints played a notable part in this swoop down the Arakan Yomas, on the mainland of Burma, most ambitious of all the Arakan swoops.

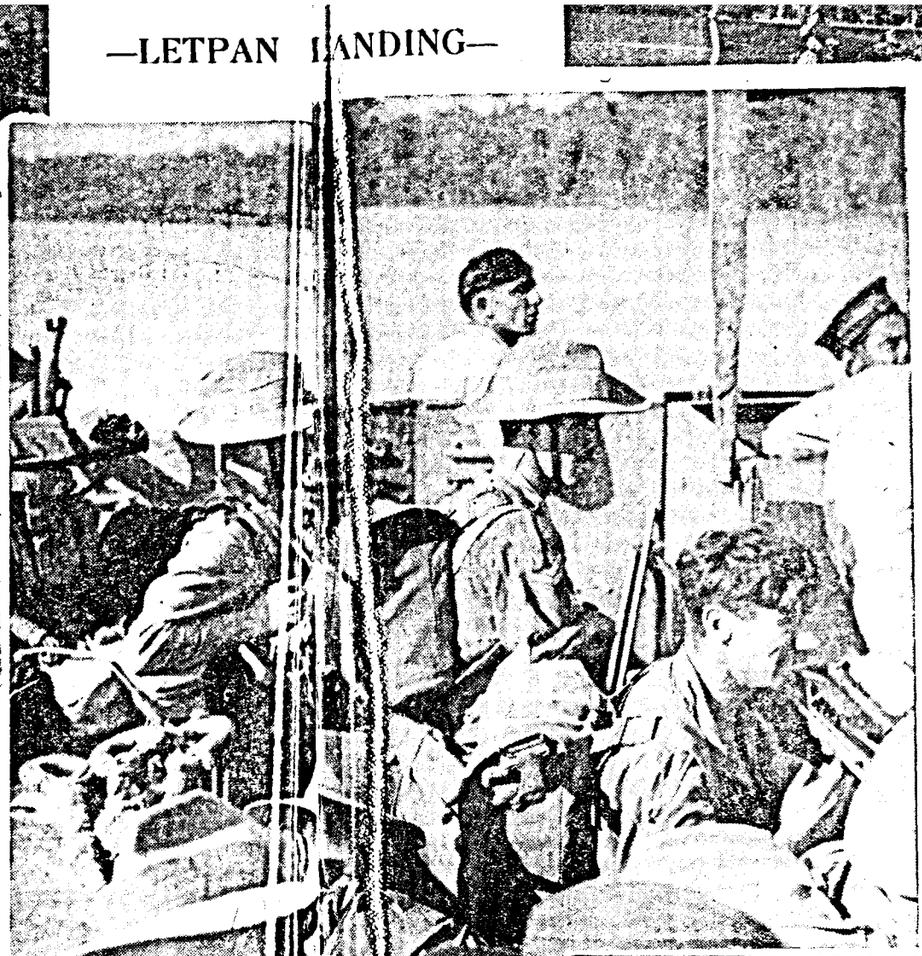
Several separate "beaches" had to be stormed. Like previous combined assaults the attack was made on the banks of creek after a journey among winding rivers and mangrove swamps.



The assault on Letpan, the biggest "chaung" landing yet made in Burma, was planned on Ramree Island. Picture shows Maj.-Gen. C.E.N.Lomax, Commander of the 26th Indian Division, in conference with senior officers.

—LETPAN LANDING—







This line of Japanese 'Punjis' failed to hinder Allied troops going ashore.

Waves of troops in R.I.N. landing craft move to join those already in the beach-head area. (Right) British troops on their way to force Letpan landing.

Once again the Jap had his main supply route in this theatre infested miles in his rear by assault forces of the Royal Navy, Royal Indian Navy, Allied air forces and 15 Corps troops.

For the first time infantry saw their commander's pennant fluttering from the mast of a headquarters ship as they streamed by in their landing craft on their way to battle, writes an Indian Army Observer. Craft of all kinds were engaged in the operation amid eerie waterways infested with alligators and hundreds of square miles of thick mangrove.

Torrent of Fire

As we glided past the mangrove and palm-lined banks where a solitary pagoda peeped through the foliage glimpses of yellow paddy told us that we were nearing our particular beach-head. Odd native huts came into view and we closed up on the tiny assault craft as rifle shots came from some bashas on our port-side.

"Train guns on village bearing red-nine-zero—FIRE," comes the order through the loud hailer on the bridge and a torrent of automatic fire was directed ashore.

By this time the first landing craft had nuzzled their way ashore through the tangled undergrowth and infantry were tumbling off and racing inland.

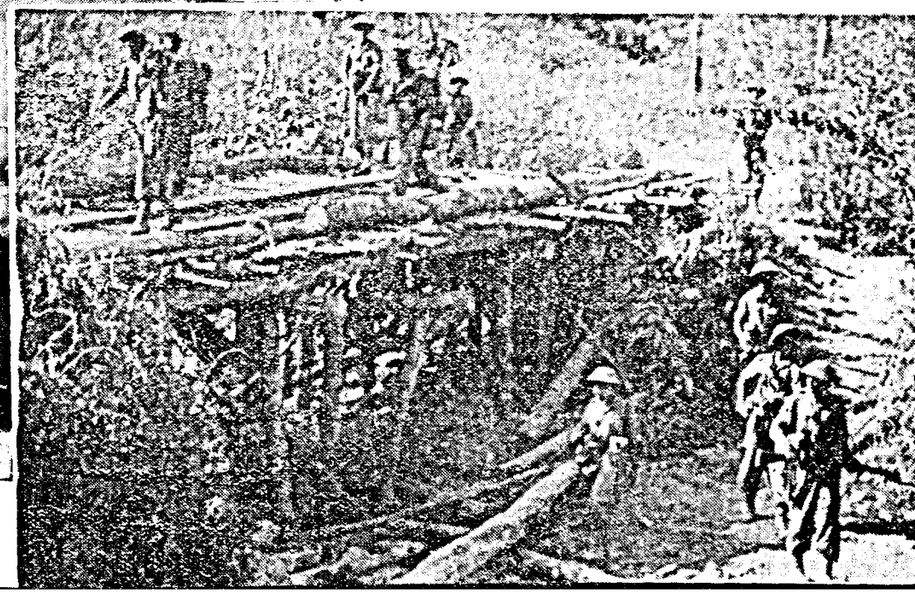
A few minutes later fighter-bombers which had been flying overhead on "cab rank" duties were called down to strafe huts which had been the centre of sniping. Plane after plane peeled off from the formation and dived onto the target, some only 300 yards away.

By noon an endless stream of landing craft was surging up and down the chaung bringing reinforcements, motor vehicles and supplies.

IMPRESSIVE AIR COVER FOR 26TH DIVISION

Royal Indian Air Force Fighter-Bomber squadrons together with R.A.F. and U.S.A.A.F. Squadrons of Eastern Air Command provided impressive air cover for the troops of Major-General Lomax's 26th Division, when they landed near the village of Letpan on the Ma-I Chaung in March.

From first light R.I.A.F. Hurribombers and R.A.F. Spitfires were over the area in a continuous "Cab Rank" patrol and pilots report that the landing went according to plan.



Indian troops push through jungle scrub.



A 500-lb. bomb being loaded on to a R.A.F. Thunderbolt at a forward airstrip on the Arakan Front.

The landing was unusual, in that it was carried out in a narrow winding chaung at least five miles from open water, and through a maze of mangrove swamps. In the words of General Lomax: "This is the biggest single chaung landing we have undertaken in the Arakan."

Throughout the day almost continuously R.I.A.F. fighter bombers dive-bombed and strafed enemy objectives, troop concentrations, gun positions and Japanese-occupied villages in and around the Letpan area. Some of the Hurricanes swept in from a height of only fifty feet to strafe the enemy positions. Other R.I.A.F. aircraft laid smokescreens along the landing beaches under cover of which British and Indian troops landed unopposed.

Flying Officer Balwant Rai, a pilot of an R.I.A.F. fighter reconnaissance squadron, who was over the target when the landing occurred described the scene:

"I took off from base a hundred miles away from the objective with long range petrol tanks on my Hurricane. At 08.05 hours I approached Letpan from the northwest at 2,000 feet. As I came over the target I saw a formation of R.A.F. Thunderbolts and R.I.A.F. Hurricanes bombing enemy gun positions and troop concentrations a mile north of Letpan.

"At 09.10 hours the Navy started shelling the village and the barrage which they put up till 09.45 hours was heavy and well concentrated. As the shelling stopped I saw a R.I.A.F. Hurricane Squadron divebombing the village with thousands of pounds of high explosive.

First Landing

"At 09.50 hours I saw Indian troops make their first landing a thousand yards away to the northwest from Letpan. On a chaung east of Letpan could be seen landing craft full of Allied soldiers making for the beach-head. In the background of the battle could be seen destroyers.

"Three miles west of Letpan Indian and British troops had landed and established forward positions. No enemy air opposition was met with. Before I set course for base I saw Indian troops advancing on the road towards the village of Rwyien which only a few minutes before the landings had taken place had been bombed by one of the R.I.A.F. Hurri-bomber Squadrons.

This is the fourth major sea land and air combined operation on this front during this campaign that the Royal Indian Air Force has taken an extensive part. The other three were at Akyab, Myebon, and Ramree landings.

R.I.N.'S PART IN OPERATIONS

Ships of the Royal Navy and Royal Indian Navy, ranging from destroyers to minor landing craft, filled the maze of chaungs leading to Letpan when we landed, writes an R.I.N. Observer.

Sloops, motor launches and the majority of the landing craft were the Royal Indian Navy's contribution to this, the sixth major amphibious assault in Arakan and the largest creek-landing yet made.

There was no opposition to the first assault, which was carried out dead on time and with as little excitement as a peace-time manoeuvre.

The landing, deep in the enemy's rear, involved a passage of many miles through twisting rivers and chaungs that grew narrower as we penetrated inland.

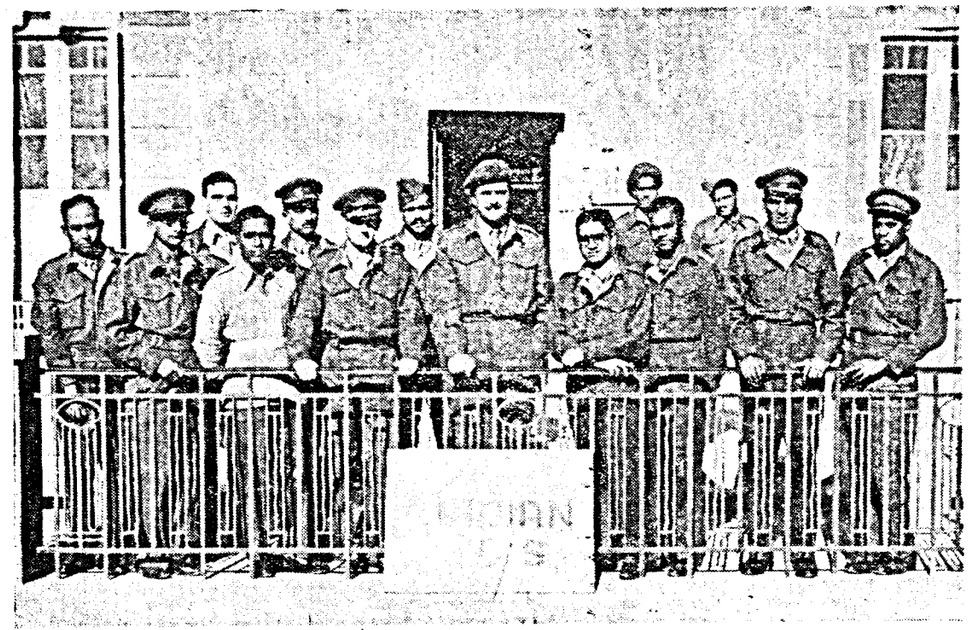
I sailed in an R.I.N. motor launch of Arakan Coastal Forces which led the first assault wave. Throughout the moonless night we crept along waterways of which, until recently, we knew no more than was contained in a 112-year-old survey. Dawn silhouetted the 1,100 ft. hill of Ziyan-Taung, which dominates the assault beach.

At 9-15 a.m., fifteen minutes before H-hour, a crash of gunfire marked the opening of the bombardment by H. M. destroyers and H.M.I. sloops lying further down the chaungs. Columns of smoke rose from the trees ahead of us, while fighters and fighter-bombers of the R.A.F., R.I.A.F. and U.S.A.A.F. gave additional cover with an air-strike.

The assault beach was a clearing on the wooded north bank of the Ma-I Chaung, near the village of Pyinwan. A signal from the leading M.L. gave the cue for the first wave of landing craft to make a simultaneous right-angled turn. In a few seconds they had beached on firm mud.



Men of the Royal Indian Navy examine captured Jap equipment (flag and Jap officer's sword).



The 2nd Indian Casualty Clearing Station, which was formed in October, 1939, has seen service in North Africa and Italy. Picture shows Col. Reed (centre) with the Indian doctors of the Casualty Clearing Station.

INDIAN DOCTORS' FINE WORK IN ITALY

TREATING more than 11,000 casualties from a dozen different nations in nine months of battle in Italy, the 2nd Indian Casualty Clearing Station has the distinction of having served with three of India's greatest divisions, writes an Indian Army Observer.

This unit left Lahore in October, 1939, and shortly after sailed overseas to the African theatre where it went into action beside the Fourth Indian Division in the Western Desert, in Eritrea and back again in Libya. The unit was then transferred to Italy where it served on the Adriatic sector and took part in the Fourth Indian Division's nightmare drive across the Italian mountains in the middle of winter to the Cassino Front.

In the Cassino battles the Casualty Clearing Station served first with the Fourth and later with the Eighth Indian Division. During the last battle for the monastery and the ruined town, 440 casualties passed through the unit in one day. Over a four-day period three surgical teams worked 16 hours a day, the officer in charge of the Section himself being on duty three days without rest and under continual shelling.

In the hard chase north the Unit worked with the Eighth Indian Division and then switched over to help the Tenth with which it served until after the capture of Arezzo. Here the Unit was given rest, its first since landing in Italy.

Unit's Specialist Anaesthetist

Eighty per cent of the Casualty Clearing Station's doctors are Indians. Capt. S. Subramanian of 198, Mint-street, George Town, Madras, is the Unit's specialist anaesthetist. He received his specialised training at a combined general hospital in Italy. He was formerly a student of the Government Rai Pettan Hospital, was appointed a divisional superintendent of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, George Town Division and served as medical officer with a Gurkha battalion of the Eighth Indian Division.

Student of King George Hospital, Vizagapatam, and winner of the Rangachari Prize for operative surgery, Capt. B. R. Murthy, is another of the medical officers. His father lives at Parvathipuram, Vizagapatam district. Capt. Murthy joined the unit in Italy and has been overseas for two years.

Also serving with the Casualty Clearing Station for over two years, Capt. S. R. Sarma, of East Third Street, Pudukkottai, Pudukkottai State, has been in all its toughest battles.

L/Naik Dhannu Lal of Peshawar Cantonment, and Sweeper Banwari, of Karrehti village, Rohtak district, Punjab, are the only two remaining of the original Unit that left India more than five years ago.

I.A.M.C. BIRTHDAY PARADE

Celebrating the second anniversary of the formation of the Indian Army Medical Corps the headquarters of the corps held a special birthday parade at Poona.

After inspecting the parade and chatting with several men in the ranks the Deputy Director of Medical Services, Southern Army, Major-General H. C. D. Rankin, read out to all ranks a message of congratulation from the Director of Medical Services, India, Lieut.-General Gordon Wilson.

In his message General Wilson said that the I.A.M.C. had still further enhanced its reputation in every sphere in which it had been engaged.

"During the heavy fighting in Burma and in Italy the corps has been put to a great test

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 597)



INDIAN WOMEN DOCTORS FOR ITALIAN FRONT—

For the first time in the history of the Indian Army Indian women doctors are to serve on the Italian front. Capt. A. Rocha, Capt. T. Dominic and Lt. A. Albuquerque, women doctors of the I.A.M.C., passed through Cairo in April on their way to the Italian front. Each of them volunteered to serve overseas. The three women are looking forward to visiting Rome, Florence and other Italian cities. But most of all they want to participate in life near the front-line.

REGULAR COMMISSIONS SELECTION BOARD

FOR several months the opportunity has been open for Indian emergency commissioned officers and officers of the Indian Wing of the Army in India Reserve of Officers who fulfill the conditions laid down to send in their names to be registered for regular commissions in the Indian Army. Many hundreds have already applied and applications continue to flow in.

All applicants will now be interviewed by a board, known as No. 71 Indian Army Regular Commission Selection Board, which has opened at Rawalpindi. The board is to visit S.E.A.C. and the other Commands in India and later it may visit overseas theatres of war.

Candidates will be placed by the board in one of seven grades for inclusion in the register according to ability.

The decision as to which grades will be granted regular commissions will be made when the requirements of the post-war Indian Army are known. Some regular commissions may be granted before the end of the war.

At the end of the interview candidates will be told their grading confidentially by the president of the board. Their commanding officers will be told only that they have been placed on the register for regular commissions.

Unit Commanders' Reports

Back at their units the candidates will be the subjects of special half-yearly reports from their unit commanders to G.H.Q. When the time comes for them to be considered for a commission these reports will be studied along with the board's grading.

In the case of an immature candidate the board may have difficulty in placing him in a suitable grade. In such cases they will send him back to his unit with orders to appear before them again after he has gained more experience.

The same applies to candidates the board think have not had a fair chance of showing what they can do in the army. These will be sent back with instructions that they are to be transferred to more suitable work, after which they will be interviewed again for final grading.

OFFICER SHORTAGE IN INDIAN ARMY

Education System Blamed

"WEAKNESSES in the education system are the main reason for the difficulty which the army has been experiencing in securing enough officers of the right type," said Lieut.-Gen. Sir Henry Willcox, Chairman of the C.-in-C.'s Reorganisation Committee, in a talk to members of the Central Legislature.

Sir Henry Willcox added: "I have no doubt that the C.-in-C.'s policy of complete Indianization can be and will be attained in the peacetime army within a reasonable number of years. But if one regards the peacetime army as the required nucleus for expansion in war then difficulties begin to appear.

"Take for example the army as it is today: about 41,000 officers are required to officer it. Of these only one in six are Indians and this despite every effort to obtain more suitable Indian candidates for commissions.

Tribute to Indian Soldier

"The Indian soldier is such a magnificent fighting man that only the very best officers are worthy to be his leaders. If the standard is lowered the army would very soon deteriorate to a third rate one, a result which neither you nor anyone would wish to see happen.

"My Committee has had this question under very close examination and we have come to the conclusion that it is one of the bottlenecks of expansion. The blame can be laid at the door of the education system.

"There is no doubt that there is plenty of potential officer material available in India. But the system of education fails to develop strength of character, initiative, sense of responsibility, power of leadership and unselfishness, all of which qualities are indispensable in the young officer.

"This is a question which the army cannot put right for itself. The education in army schools does produce a good officer but the numbers can only be a fraction of the total required, especially in wartime.

"If the Indian Army is to be officered entirely by Indians, as it certainly should be, then the sooner drastic educational reform is achieved, the sooner will that goal be attained.

"This problem does not concern the army alone. Leaders are wanted for all three services and for the Civil Service, industry and in all departments of national life. It is my personal opinion that the provision of suitable education for young potential leaders is one of the most urgent and important things in India today."

ROYAL INDIAN AIR FORCE

Allied Air C.-in-C.'s Message

On the occasion of the granting of the title "Royal" to the I.A.F., Air Marshal Sir Keith Park, Allied Air C.-in-C., South East Asia, sent the following message of congratulation to the Commander-in-Chief in India, General Sir Claude Auchinleck:

"Delighted to hear of the honour awarded to the Indian Air Force by His Majesty the King as a result of their splendid operational performances. I am proud to be able to call them the Royal Indian Air Force and feel that they will add more laurels to their present excellent record."

Gen. Auchinleck, replying to Air Marshal Sir Keith Park, said:

"Thank you very much for your kind message of congratulation to the R.I.A.F., which is very greatly appreciated by all ranks of the Force."

I.A.M.C. BIRTHDAY PARADE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 595)

...has achieved particular distinction," he wrote. "Our task has been hard but I am proud of the courage and endurance of all ranks which has enabled us to fulfil our duty to the army and to add to the confidence placed in us."

Col. D. R. Thapar, Commandant of the administrative headquarters, I.A.M.C., read out the reply to the Director of Medical Services, after which the whole parade marched past the saluting base. Led by Lt.-Col. G. S. N. Hughes, commanding the Army Medical Training Centre, Poona, to the strains of pipe music provided by the I.A.M.C. pipe band, the various companies of officers, medically trained V.C.O.s and stretcher-bearers swung past General Rankin as he took the salute.

TASK OF INDIA'S ARMY TRAINING INSTITUTIONS

THE great expansion in the work of the training institutions of the Indian Army, which deal at one time with as many as 300,000 men, was touched on by Major-Gen. D. R. E. R. Bateman, Director of Military Training, in a talk to members of the Indian Legislative Assembly.

These institutions now did ten times the work they did in peacetime, he said.

"You will realise the grave responsibility of this training," he went on. "It produces the individual soldier, who goes into battle and in whose hands are not only his own life but may be his country's cause."

Gen. Bateman dealt with details of the soldier's training, from recruit to specialist stages. In his pre-basic training of half a month the recruit became acclimatized and introduced to more strenuous training to follow and it was only after a further seven and a half months of basic training that he was considered a fit individual soldier. It was then, if he was satisfactory, that he was attested.

The Four Essesntials

During all this work at the regimental training centre the four essentials which formed the basis of instruction were discipline, pride of regiment, drill and smartness, a high standard of weapon training, fieldcraft and general physical fitness.

At this period some men went on to be trained as specialists. The remainder passed from the training centre to a training unit in a training division.

Here they stayed for two months carrying out post-basic training designed to fit them for jungle warfare and fighting in field conditions. At the end of this time they went to their battalion as fit reinforcements.

In all it took 11 months to fit a recruit to take his place in battle. During all this time, apart from military training, he was receiving educational instruction.

NAWAB OF TONK'S GIFT

His Highness the Nawab of Tonk and the public of the State have generously contributed a sum of Rs. 16,370 to H. E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund for the purchase of a Mobile Canteen.

INDIAN COMMISSIONED OFFICERS' PAY

THE Government of India have been considering the question of equalising the pay of Indian Commissioned Officers and equivalent British officers of the Indian Army. The Government's object is to bring about uniformity in the conditions of service of the two classes of officers who make up the Indian Army and who live and fight side by side.

The Government have now decided to grant the Indian Commissioned Officer a special war pay which will equate his basic pay with that of the British officer of the Indian Army. This decision will be given retrospective effect from November 1, 1944.

The effect of this decision will be that Indian Commissioned Officers will receive:

(a) Basic pay of rank and lodging allowance at the same rates as are admissible to single British officers.

(b) Family allowance under the new code applicable to married British officers.

A Wartime Measure

Thus the pay of Indian Commissioned Officers when serving in India will be the same as that of British officers of the Indian Army less Indian Army allowance. When Indian Commissioned Officers serve overseas, they will receive expatriation allowance at the rates of Indian Army allowance admissible to British Officers of the Indian Army serving overseas: in other words, Indian Commissioned Officers when serving overseas will be in exactly the same position as regards pay as British officers of the Indian Army.

The Government of India wish to make it clear that this adjustment is a wartime measure. It is intended that rates of pay of the Indian Commissioned Officer, as well as of the British Officer both of the Indian and British Armies will be reviewed in the light of such recasting of the existing Indian pay system as will prove desirable or necessary on the conclusion of hostilities.

The question of giving a special war pay to the Indian Commissioned Officer in the I.A.M.C. and the I.A.V.C. does not arise, since in the former corps the basic pay of the Indian Officer is the same as that of the British Officer and in the latter corps there are no British officers.

The question of extending the Family Allowance Code to officers, British and Indian, of these Corps also does not arise as no distinction is made between single and married officers in the matter of pay. The question of the rates of expatriation allowance for the licentiates commissioned with these corps is under consideration.

The question of assimilating the pay and allowances of Indian Commissioned Officers of the R.I.N. and the R.I.A.F. with that of British officers employed in those Services is also under consideration and such increases as may be decided upon will be given retrospective effect from November 1, 1944.

JAPANESE CAMPAIGN PAY

Japanese Campaign Pay has now been authorised for all personnel of the Indian Army of the rank of Captain and below who are serving in Burma and eastwards. This special pay will be given retrospectively with effect from November 1, 1944.

The change will mean an additional Rs. 69 a month for both British and Indian Officers of, or below, the rank of Captain and Rs. 52 a month for V.C.O.s holding the honorary rank of Captain or Lieutenant. Other V.C.O s and Indian warrant officers of Class I or II will get Rs. 8 a month. Rates for Indian other ranks are Rs. 6 a month for havildars, Rs. 5 for naiks and Rs. 4 for sepoys when they have completed six months' service. Enrolled non-combatants will get a monthly rate of Rs. 2-8.

Compensatory Allowance

In the case of British other ranks, the rates will be as follows: 2s. a day for warrant officers class I; 1s. 9d. a day for staff sergeants and 1s. 6d. a day for sergeants.

The above personnel serving in India or Ceylon will not receive Japanese Campaign Pay under the new scheme, but British officers of the Indian Army serving in India or Ceylon and drawing Indian Army allowance at rates lower than Japanese Campaign Pay will receive a compensatory allowance to make up the difference. Similar allowances will be granted to British other ranks of the India Unattached List.

Analogous concessions will be granted to corresponding ranks of the R.I.N., R.I.A.F. and R.A.F. serving with R.I.A.F.

C.-IN-C. SEES ARMY TRANSPORT DEPOT

TWO aspects of the vast system by which the army's motor transport vehicles are maintained and, when necessary, completely reconditioned were seen by the Commander-in-Chief in India, General Sir Claude Auchinleck, when he visited the Central Ordnance Depot and an I.E.M.E. workshop at Delhi Cantonment recently.

The Central Ordnance Depot is one of the three main stores in India for supplying the innumerable spare parts necessary to keep army vehicles in serviceable condition. The complex issuing system, which has been scientifically arranged in new, well-lit sheds, was explained to the C.-in-C. by Lieut.-Col. E. J. L. Clarke, Commandant of the Depot.

At I.E.M.E. Workshop

At the I.E.M.E. workshop, where he was accompanied by the Commandant, Col. H. Sleeman, Gen. Auchinleck saw many types of army vehicles being overhauled or reconditioned. Here again the layout of the sheds has been carefully planned and the C.-in-C. was able to follow the progressive stages of the work which leads to an output of four completely overhauled vehicles a day and 400 reconditioned engines a month. Among the men at work were a company of Italian pioneers, formerly prisoners of war.

Earlier in the morning His Excellency visited the 1st battalion of the Rampur Infantry, who recently returned to India after nearly four years' service in Egypt, Cyprus, Syria and Aden. After inspecting the men Gen. Auchinleck presented the O.d.I. to Subedar-Major Amir Ahmed Khan and took the salute at a march past.

SIR ARCHIBALD ROWLANDS

H. E. the Viceroy has been pleased to appoint the Hon'ble Sir Archibald Rowlands, K.C.B., M.B.E., to be a Member of the Indian Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Board *vice* Sir Jeremy Raisman, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., vacated, said a Press Communique issued by the Defence Department, Government of India, on April 24.

A further grant of Rs. 1,00,000 has been made from H. E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund to the Y.W.C.A., India, Burma and Ceylon, for its amenities service for Uniformed Women.

INDIAN WAR MUSEUM PLAN

INDIA is to have its own war museum. An Indian Army Order announces that a board has been set up for the collection and selection of suitable exhibits for a war museum to be established in India after the war, and also for the Imperial War Museum in London.

The board will collect exhibits that will illustrate every phase of India's military war effort, from supply to operations.

The Commander-in-Chief in India, General Sir Claude Auchinleck, has directed that everything possible should be done by the Defence Services to help the board in assembling their collection and that the widest possible publicity should be given within the services to the objects and requirements of the board. He particularly hopes that units and formations will not withhold trophies, etc., with a view to keeping them as their own exclusive property.

"It must also be remembered that many units and formations will inevitably disappear on the ultimate demobilization of the army, when trophies so withheld may well be lost sight of altogether," the Order continues. "Even if they can be entrusted to a depot, or to a regular unit of a corps, this will not perpetuate the name of the unit which first held them to the same extent as would their exhibition in a war museum, where every effort is made to identify exhibits with the actual units from which they were originally received.

"In the museums of the war of 1914-18, many exhibits are today reminding visitors of units and formations, once well known to many, but of whose existence and deeds no other public evidence could now readily be found."

Units and formations will forward exhibits direct to the O.C., War Museum, I. and B. Department, New Delhi.

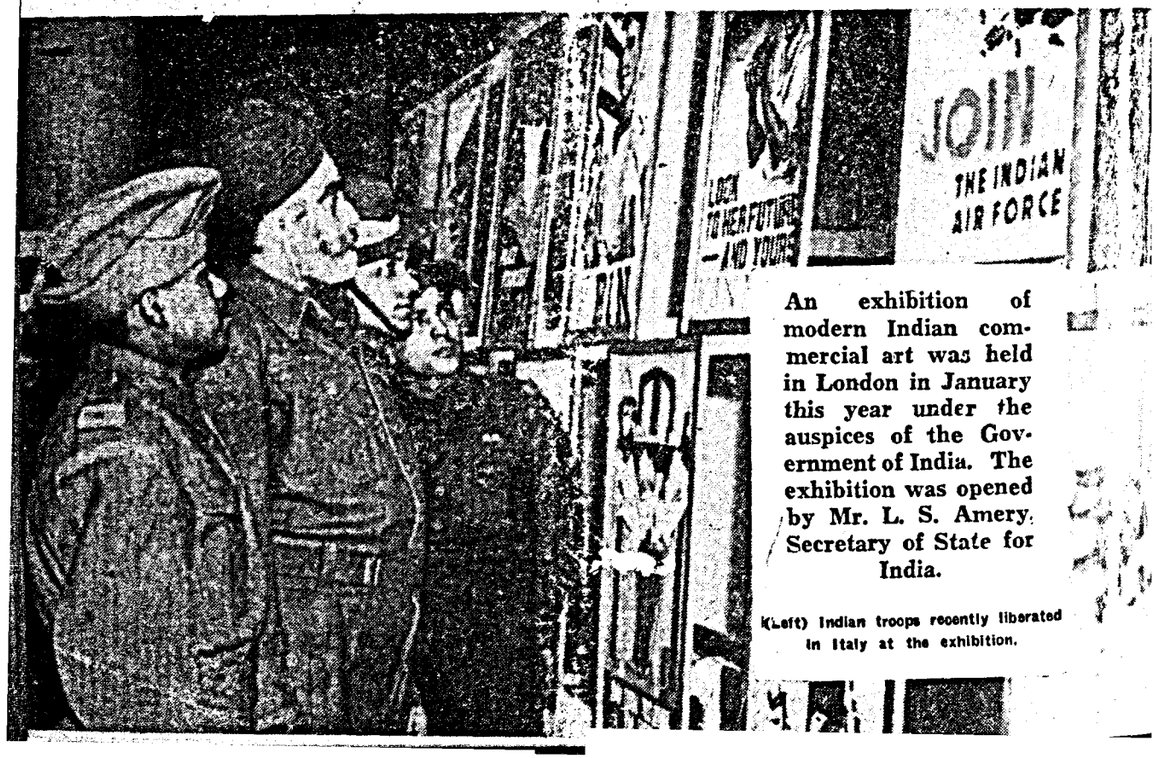
"AMENITY PACKS" FOR BRITISH TROOPS

A grant of Rs. 37,000 has been made from H. E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund for "Amenity Packs" containing toilet articles, stationery, tobacco, games, etc. for British troops in India and ALFSEA. A similar grant was made in December last for Indian troops in Italy.

Issued fortnightly by J. Natarajan, Principal Information Officer, Government of India. Printed in India by E. G. Tilt (General Manager) at The Civil & Military Gazette, Ltd., Lahore. Communications for the Editor should be addressed to the Bureau of Public Information, Government of India, Lahore, and not to the Printers.



Mr. L. S. Amery (second from right) and Mrs. Amery with Mr. R. C. Rootes (left) and Sir William Rootes at the exhibition.



An exhibition of modern Indian commercial art was held in London in January this year under the auspices of the Government of India. The exhibition was opened by Mr. L. S. Amery, Secretary of State for India.

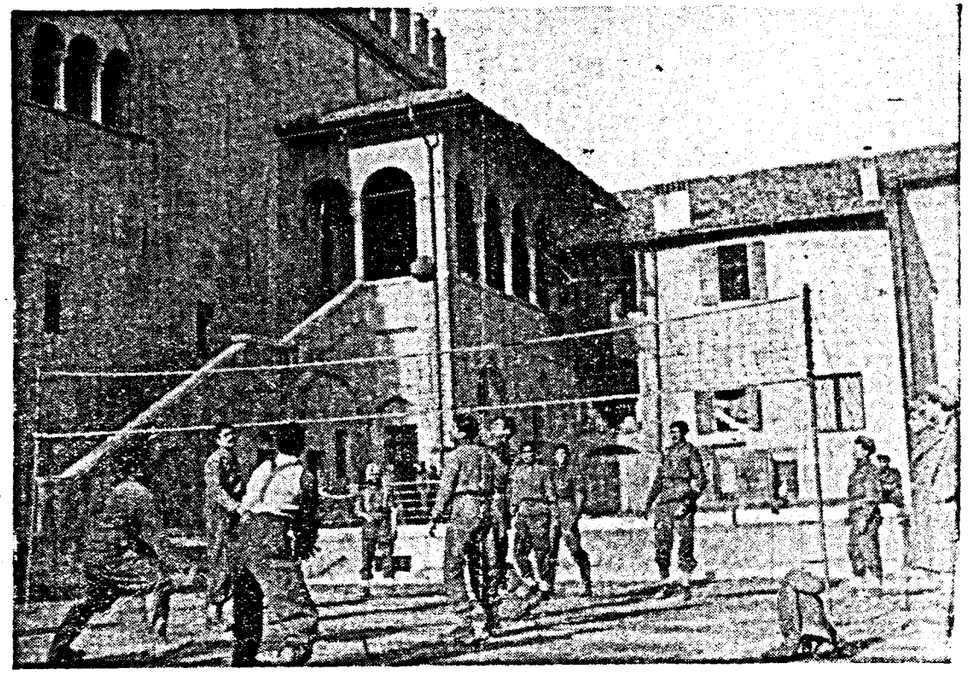
(Left) Indian troops recently liberated in Italy at the exhibition.

INDIAN INFORMATION



No. 160: May 15, 1945
Fortnightly by the Information Officer, Government of India

● FOOD TECHNOLOGY: SIR J. P. SRIVASTAVA'S ADDRESS TO SCIENTISTS



I.O.R.s playing Volley Ball in the courtyard of their own club in Italy.

Vol. 16 No. 160. INDIAN INFORMATION May 15, 1945

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

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

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

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

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

MAIN CONTENTS

	Page
Second Meeting of Policy Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	623
Preservation and Processing of Food	628
Expansion of Central Command's Poultry Farms	630
Social and Economic Trends in Inter-war Period	631
Ten Flats a Day!—Delhi's New Colony	634
War Work of National Service Labour Tribunals	639
Tennessee Valley Authority—Dr. B. G. Ghate's Broadcast	641
Sir A. R. Dalal's Visit to the United Kingdom	643
Work of the Indian Red Cross and St. John War Organization	644
Lt.-Gen. Sir N. Beresford-Peirse, new "Welfare General"	648
Indians Overseas during 1943-44	656

COVER PICTURE: Lt.-Gen. Sir Oliver Leese, C.-in-C., A.L.F.S.E.A., with officers of the 14th Punjab Regiment.

the Jap set-up as the steamerhead of the Mayu-Kalapanzin river.

On December 1, the 32nd West African Division based on Goppe Bazar the campaign by driving down the Kalapanzin valley and the Kaladan range. The corps plan was to bring them opposite the 25 Indian Division on a north-east to south-west line.

Victorious Advance

At the same time the 81st West African Division, operating to the north and east through some of the most difficult Arakan mountain country, drove forward on the flank with two batteries of Indian mountain artillery.

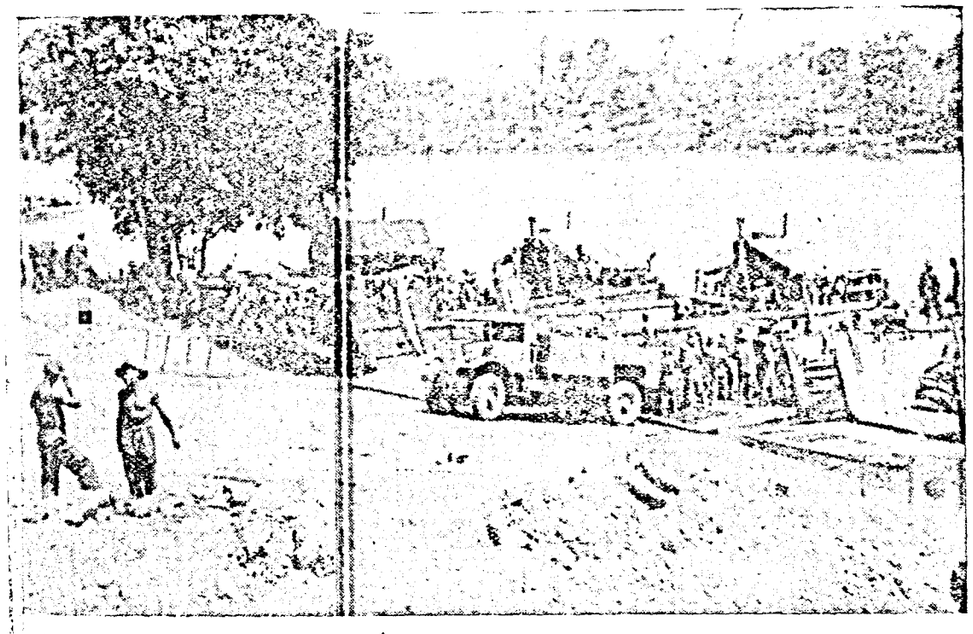
The advance went well and the 25th Indian Division with elements of the 82nd West African Division captured Buthidaung on December 16. Men of the Oxfs. and Bucks. Light Infantry, the 10th Baluch Regiment and the 2nd Gurkha Rifles took part in this operation.

With Buthidaung in our hands the 25th Indian Division began their advance down the Mayu Peninsula and 11 days later these units had reached Foul Point at the tip of the Peninsula. Men of the York and Lancaster Regiment, the 5th Mahratta Light Infantry and the 18th Garhwal Rifles, advanced down the west bank of the Mayu river with the 82nd West African Division on the east bank.

Throughout, there was very close co-operation between the West Africans and the 25th Indian Division. By the time the former had captured Tinwa, north of Kyauktaw on the Kaladan river, it was becoming obvious that the Japs were pulling out faster than had been expected.

The rate of our advance seems to have surprised the enemy and it was decided at this stage to press home the attack as expeditiously as possible.

Akyab Island was the next objective and in order not to lose time, the 25th Indian Division were embarked across the Mayu estuary. Information and reconnaissance indicated that the Japs had pulled out from the island and instead of putting into effect the original invasion plans the division was ferried across in a completely unrehearsed landing. On January 3 Akyab was in our hands.



Supplies and reinforcements coming ashore at the Taniwe Chaung beach-head on the road to Tsungup.



An Indian soldier on the road to Prome—the Jap supply artery running east from Taungup.

Five days after the occupation of the island units of the 25th Indian Division were making another landing, this time on the Myebon Peninsula. The Japs were holding Myebon in considerable strength but very heavy air and tactical surprise carried the day. So great was the surprise, in fact, that several Jap shore guns were captured before the crews had time to man them.

In support of this landing were the 19th Lancers of the 50th Indian Tank Brigade who operated with their best effect of the whole Arakan campaign.

Battle of Kangaw

Pressing inland, the Division was soon launching its attack on Kangaw—the bloodiest battle fought since the operations began. The 10th Baluch Regiment, the 19th Hyderabad Regiment and the 2nd Punjab Regiment were employed in this battle and for four weeks, from January 22 to February 16, the fighting continued with furious intensity.

Kangaw being on the direct supply line and line of retreat of the Jap forces operating to the north against the 81st West African Division, the Japs knew that it must be held at all cost if their forces were not to be cut off and surrounded. In the four weeks' fighting they put in repeated attacks to try and throw the 25th Indian Division back and on two successive nights poured 600 and 800 shells into our positions.

The battle for Kangaw was, in many ways not unlike that for the Kyaukmyaung bridgehead north of Mandalay, both from the threat it offered to the Jap position in the Arakan and the intensity of the Jap resistance. When the village was finally captured and the road cut the Japs had lost 2,500 men killed and wounded.

Ramree Island Operations

As the Kangaw battle came to its close the 26th Indian Division which had been held in reserve, was launched into the attack on Ramree Island on January 21. The Japs once again put up stiff resistance.

It was a difficult island in which to operate, surrounded as it is by mangrove swamps and with little room to deploy. Troops of the Lincolnshire Regiment, the 1st Punjab Regiment, and the 18th Royal Garhwal Rifles landed on the northern tip of the island and drove southwards towards the town.

Men of the 9th Jat Regiment, the 13th Frontier Force Rifles and the 8th Gurkha Rifles



Lt. I. Ahmed, R.I.A.S.C., of Aligarh (U. P.) pays Burmese villagers in silver rupees in contrast to the worthless paper poured into the country by the Japanese.

speeded up the operations by landing at the southern end of the island and worked in towards the centre. The trapped Japs fought hard for the town and for some time after the island was officially captured small bodies of the enemy were being hunted in their desperate efforts to find some way of escape.

Vital Operations

On February 16, a formation of the 25th Indian Division landed across the bay at Ru Ywa and four weeks later, on March 13, the 26th Indian Division landed at Letpan to cut the Taungup road and began their drive south which lead to the capture of Taungup itself by the Green Howards, the 7th Rajput Regiment and the 13th Frontier Force Rifles.

With the completion of these operations the coastal belt of the Arakan has been cleared of the enemy and the 15th Indian Corps now hold those bases from which the Japs had operated so long against our Arakan forces. The part played by Indian troops in conjunction with the West African forces has been the equal of their brothers in the 19th and the 20th Indian Division on the Mandalay front.

While the fight was on for Mandalay and Meiktila, interest was concentrated on that front but the 15th Indian Corps has carried out, during that period, operations which are no less vital in the battle to chase the Japs from Burma and their advance has been no less spectacular. Taungup is not a place which is marked on any but large-scale maps.

INDIAN RED CROSS TOILET BAGS FOR BURMA WOUNDED

"Battle bags" containing such items as soap, comb, hand towel and other toilet requisites are being issued by the Indian Red Cross to sick and wounded soldiers in Burma who, on coming out of the line, have lost all their possessions.

Praise for this service of the Indian Red Cross was expressed by Lady Louis Mountbatten after her tour of the forward areas in Burma.

"Could the Red Cross see the joy on the faces of wounded men who open one of these bags and discover a handkerchief, tooth-brush, a mirror and other little things, they would be rewarded," she said.



At an advanced R.A.F. Headquarters in Burma—grouped round a relief model of Mandalay showing details of the damage inflicted by the R.A.F. on the town are senior officers with the Air Officer Commanding the Group, Air Vice Marshal S.F. Vincent, C.B., D.F.C., A.F.C. He is pointing out a target in Mandalay which was bombed by aircraft from his Group. Picture shows (L. to R.) Wing Commander R. N. H. Courtney, D.F.C., Col. H. A. Schmid of the U.S.A.A.F., Wing Commander J. A. Robinson, Air Vice Marshal S. F. Vincent Air Commodore C. H. Vasse and Wing Commander Penny, D.F.C.

THE DRIVE SOUTH FROM MANDALAY

British and Indian troops of the 14th Army hurling the Jap back in an all-out drive towards Rangoon, capital of Burma which fell to Allied arms recently, shattered an enemy stand at Pyawbwe, 22 miles south east of Meiktila. More than 1,100 Japs were killed and a number of tanks, guns and ammunition dumps destroyed in this headquarters and concentration point of the enemy escaping from the North. These pictures, among the first to be received from the battle front, show 14th Army troops in action.



Capt. K. P. Kaley (right) of Lahore outlines the plan of attack on Pyawbwe to Subedar Baonan Singh of Ludhiana.

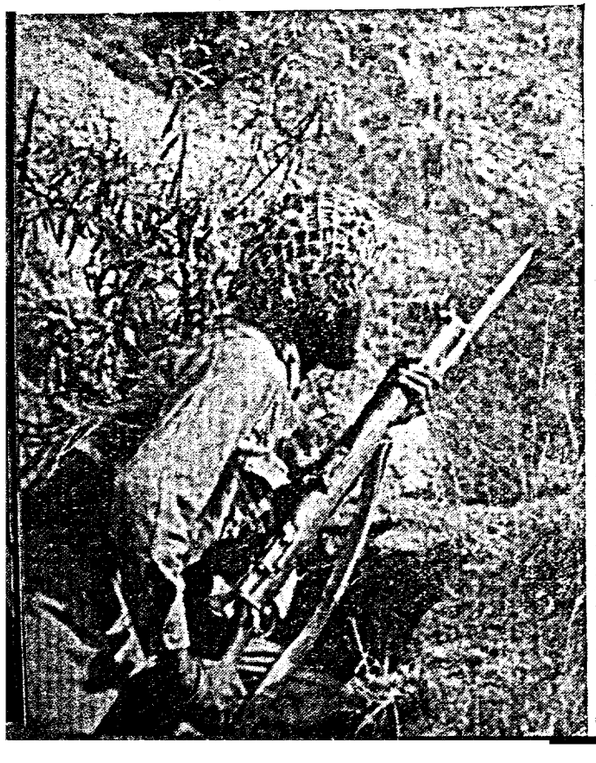


37 mm. guns of an Indian Mountain Regiment pound the Jap night and day. (Right) Sepoy Amar Singh, Indian Infantry, pauses during the advance on Pyawbwe.



Bayonet charge by Indian infantrymen on a village, three miles east of Pyawbwe.

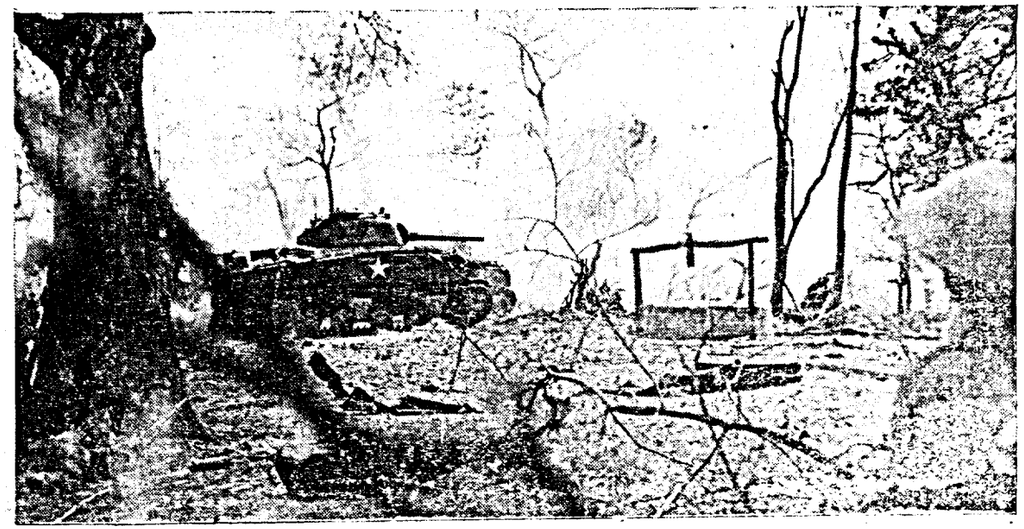
A Sikh soldier crawls up a nullah before bayoneting the Japs from a hill position, 4 miles south of Pyawbwe.



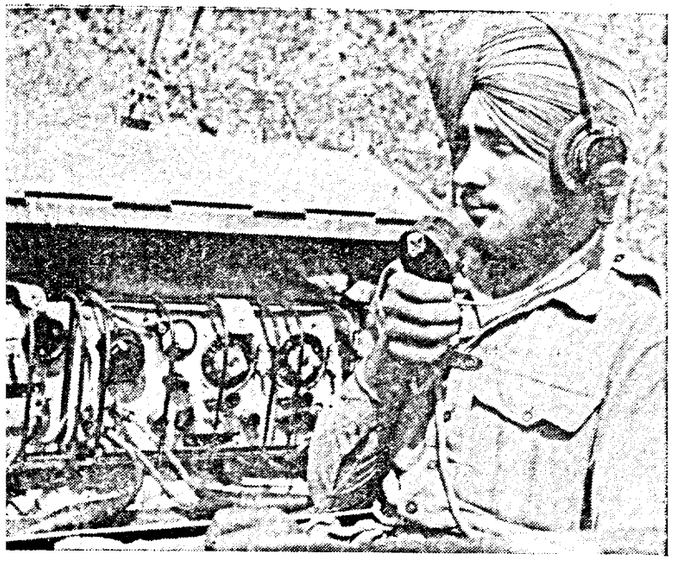


Indian soldier dashes across bullet-swept ground during the destruction of the enemy in a village nearby



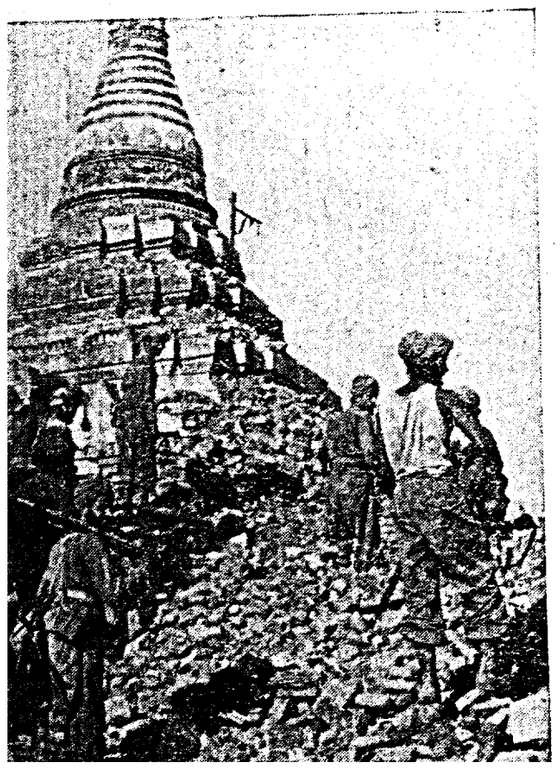


Allied tanks blast at point blank range Jap dug-out defences covering a village. (Below left) Sikhs examine the remains of a hill-top position after the enemy had been driven from it at the point of the bayonet.





A Sikh signaller who kept communications open du ing the drive on Pyawbwe. (Right) Capt. Roody Carr Gomm, Green Howards, of Malver (England) on a Jap bicycle—one of many abandoned by the enemy. (Below) Some of the Jap defenders at Pyawbwe who were killed in their foxholes.

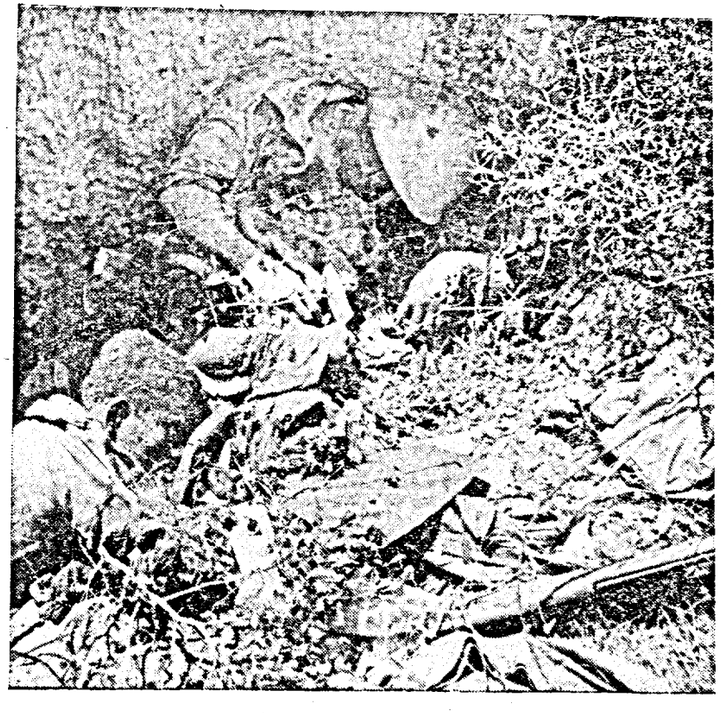


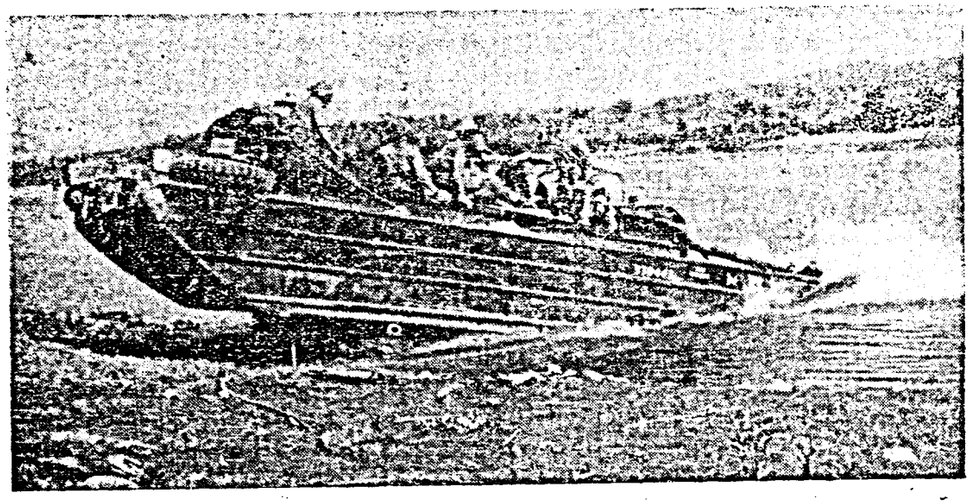


The water tank at Pyawbwe was ca tured after supplying ; lied troops



ting. It was immediately put to use, ia.





'Ducks,' special amphibious craft, are being used to ferry supplies across the Irrawaddy for troops in forward areas.

INDIAN-MANNED "DUCKS" TO THE FORE

WITH the advance on Taungup by the 26th Indian Division the spotlight has turned on Indian-manned "ducks"—giant 32-foot amphibious vehicles—which have played a vital part in maintaining the 15th Indian Corps' supply line since the first landing at Akyab.

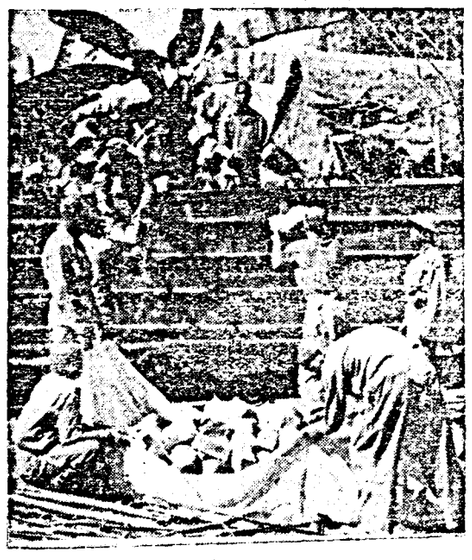
In this short time the Punjabis and Bengalis who work these American-made six-wheeled boats have transported thousands of tons of supplies from big ships anchored at sea to inland dumps and frontline units. Ducks are also used in evacuating sick and wounded from casualty clearing stations to hospital ships.

First "Battle Inoculation"

The crews who man the ducks belong to the first duck company of the R.I.A.S.C. to be staffed by Indian drivers, writes an Indian Army Observer. All of them were raw recruits only a few months ago.

Landing at Akyab early in January this year they had their first "battle inoculation" when Jap planes bombed and strafed the island. Shortly afterwards these ducks accompanied the British commandos during the raids on Myebon and Kangaw.

Later they supplied the 15th Indian Corps



Bread being unloaded from a 'duck'.

troops at Ru-Ywa and Ramree before taking part in the landing at Letpan, from where Indian and British troops struck at Taungup.

During the amphibious attack on Ramree, they followed the forward troops on D-Day, their ducks full of ammunition. They made the last spurts through mine-infested waters and under Jap artillery fire.

The detachment, comprising ten ducks, was led by Jemadar Hussain Khan, of Jodhpur.

Sailors and Drivers

Trained both as sailors and drivers the men have already won an enviable reputation for their courage and skill. Many a compliment on their seamanship has been paid them by naval officers.

Apart from overcoming the difficulties of handling such enormous vehicles on bad roads these men of the R.I.A.S.C. have constantly to fight strong currents and tidal changes when driving their ducks in water.

JAPS LOSING FAITH IN "DIVINE MISSION"

The number of Jap prisoners in our hands is increasing daily. No longer do they seem to believe in "Hara kiri". Disillusionment is dawning on them and they are beginning to lose their faith in the "divine mission" for which they left their homes and security.

After a cup of tea and a cigarette, a Jap prisoner settles down. There is a look of satisfaction on his face and he seems to have no fears, no regrets. He is happy to be out of the war, writes an Indian Army Observer.

Trying to Escape

One Jap deserter, who had hidden himself for months, expressed a desire when captured to become a Burmese citizen.

Stragglers are scattered everywhere, trying hard to find their way out of the 14th Army's ring. Some of them are trying to escape through the Shan Hills, others to break through to the south.

They often hide themselves in pagodas and in haystacks during the day. The local inhabitants are now getting their own back—for three years of ill-treatment. If a straggler happens to walk into a village, he is not given the little rice for which he begs or the "chae"—plain tea to slake his thirst.



Lt. Bahadur Singh.

NEW BUNDI RULER SERVING ON BURMA FRONT

THE young Maharajkumar of Bundi State, who has succeeded to the *gadi* on the death of his father, Sir Ishwari Singhji Bahadur, is a Lieutenant in an Indian cavalry regiment serving with Sherman tanks on the Burma Front.

Lieut. Bahadur Singh, as he is known in the regiment and as he modestly introduces himself, is slight in stature, soft-spoken and an extremely good soldier, writes an Indian Army Observer.

His first action as a tank troop commander was during the Meiktila drive, at a village called Oyin, where there was fierce fighting in the woods against deeply-entrenched Japanese. His tank bore over 40 bullet marks when he came out of that engagement.

In the attack on Meiktila and the mopping-up, his troop, and especially his tank, played a notable part.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 655)



villagers freed from Jap rule by the Allied drive through Burma gather round Indian officers in a jeep.

BURMESE WELCOME LIBERATING TROOPS

THAT the Burmese are welcoming the liberating Indian and British troops to their country is evident from the many entertainments they are providing for them. In the Pagan area, for instance, our troops recently saw a performance by a Burmese concert party, specially arranged for entertainment.

Burmese Dances

The party was composed of young Burmese boys and girls from Pagan. The opening song reminded the audience of the popular English song "Clementine", and a number of British troops joined in the refrain.

There followed various Burmese "Pwe" dances. In their quaint blouses with winged backs and wearing decorated, close-fitting skirts the girls looked charming. The boys were gaily dressed in multi-coloured *lungyis* and white turbans.

Unlike Indian dancing the "Pwe" has very little movement of fingers and eyes but the arm and leg movements are important. I noticed some influence of the Kathakali school in the snake-like movements of the head, writes an Indian Army Observer.

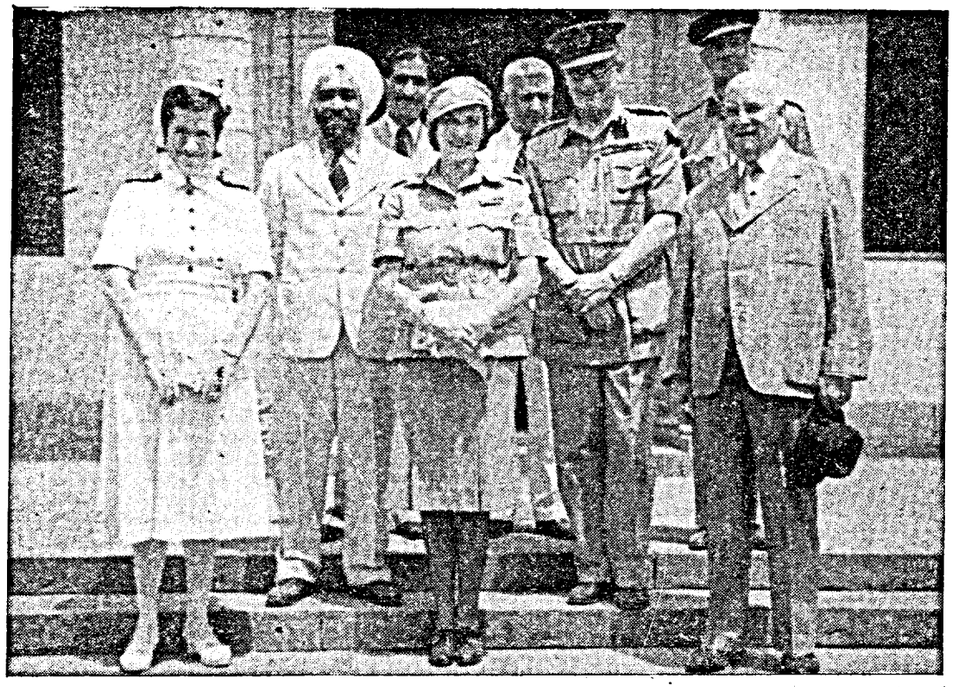
The dances were short but vigorous. Best of all was a sword dance, gracefully executed by one of the girls.

The gay dances in which the whole troup took part reminded one of the simple but charming folk dances of India. The orchestrations were melodious and familiar to Indian ears.

The undermentioned generous contribution have been received in H. E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund:—

Majmu Talukdars of Bantwa, Rs. 1,500.

Rajkot State, Rs. 114-3-0.



Lady Louis Mountbatten inspected the St. John Nursing Divisions at Red Cross Headquarters, New Delhi, recently. Picture shows (L. to R.) Mrs. Duguid, Sardar Bahadur Balwant Singh Puri, Lady Louis Mountbatten, Lt.-Gen. J. B. Hance and the Hon'ble Sir Patrick Spens, Chief Commissioner, St. John Ambulance Brigade in India.

RED CROSS AND ST. JOHN

Work of the Indian Organisation

EVERY week, each one of our prisoners of war in Europe receives a parcel of food—Indian-grown food—supplied and paid for by the Indian Red Cross and St. John.

This was revealed in the course of a talk on the work of the Indian Red Cross and St. John, broadcast from the Delhi Station of All India Radio on April 29.

"In London", the speaker explained, "we have what is known as the Indian Comforts Fund. This body, staffed partly by Indians, wraps and packs food parcels for our men, and these parcels are despatched from London to Lisbon. From there Red Cross ships carry them to Marseilles and from Marseilles they are sent by rail to Geneva. The International Red Cross in Geneva, then sends these parcels to our men in the prison camps in Germany, France and



Sir Patrick Spens greeting A.N.S. nurses during the inspection.

the flexibility and initiatvie of a private enterprise. The administration, known as the Tennessee Valley Authority, now comprises a Board of Directors appointed by the President and personally responsible to him. Under the T.V.A. Act, the Tennessee Valley Authority has the widest powers of undertaking new public works, making contracts with individual States and private companies, fixing rate schedules, and determining the costs, depreciation and other accountancy matters. For all purposes, the T.V.A. is independent of Congress and therefore independent of political upheavals and party struggle.

Annual Fixed Appropriation

"But in one respect the T.V.A. is fully subject to democratic control. From the very beginning, Congress has reserved to itself the power to make annual appropriations to the T.V.A. and the annual debate on appropriation throws every year a powerful searchlight of democratic investigation on to its affairs. The Act gives an annual fixed appropriation of a million dollars; and any additional appropriation required is subject to debate each year. The fixed appropriation of a million dollars has been kept intentionally low and during the last 12 years, Congress has made appropriations amounting to seven hundred million dollars or, about 250 crores of rupees. At the time of each appropriation, Congress examines the activities of the T.V.A. and makes recommendations on particular issues. The T.V.A. has to accept these, as it is almost entirely dependent on the fund sanctioned by Congress. The T.V.A. has been most anxious to acquire independent bond-issuing powers, but Congress has so far refused to grant them on any large scale. The T.V.A. has assumed a national significance and it is felt that the only control which Congress can now exercise over its activities will be relaxed by the grant of bond-issuing powers.

"The T.V.A. is a multi-purpose system and its main activities have been the development of river navigation, flood control, power development and promotion of agricultural and industrial enterprises in the Valley. The work has taken enormous labour and material. The T.V.A. has, for example, established several dams covering a surface area of 175,000 acres, national highways running into 1,200 miles, railways running into 140 miles, etc. Mr. Lilienthal shows how 30,000,000 cubic yards of rock had to be excavated for the dams and how 113 million cubic yards of concrete were needed to build them. This figure of 113 million cubic yards represents more than 12 times the bulk of the seven great pyramids of Egypt. The lakes created by the dams offer a total coastline for pleasure seekers and fishermen which exceeds the total maritime coastline of the whole of the United States. And, as Mr. Lilienthal points out, the work on the T.V.A. is yet far from complete.

Economic Results

"One might well question the economic results of all this activity. Was it justified, will it give permanent results, has the marginal financial return been, at least, equal to that obtained on other works? These and other questions are amply answered by both the authors. Prof. Finer tells us how the supply of electricity increased fifteen-fold during 1934-42, the number of retail consumers a thousand-fold, and the value of property in the Valley over six-fold. Apart from these indices, a great mining and mineral industry has sprung up in the Valley; and the availability of cheap power has made the Valley a principal producer and supplier of the world's artificial manures, aluminium, electric appliances, heavy chemicals and specialised explosives and armaments. Considering the special concessional rates which are charged for industrial and agricultural development, the T.V.A. is earning financial dividends comparable to those earned by private concerns. It has been estimated that its surplus revenue alone would suffice to liquidate the entire cost within 60 years at an interest rate of two per cent. per annum.

"It is not in financial terms, however, that a project like this should be judged; but in terms of social well-being and human happiness. There is no doubt that the T.V.A. has brought a new life and optimism to the people; that it has materially advanced the condition of the people; and that it has achieved all this in a remarkably short period and within the framework of a democratic system. For example, the total supply of food products has increased two-fold in 12 years, the population by about ten per cent., and the *per capita* income by about 80 per cent. There has also been a remarkable decrease in death and infantile mortality rates."

SIND-GUJERAT RAILWAY

The Railway Board has decided to give priority to the investigation into the possibilities of a direct line between Sind and Gujerat as part of the post-war development of Railways in India. It is obviously impossible at this stage to decide priority of actual construction, said a Press Note issued by the Railway Department (Railway Board) on April 18.

SYNTHETIC RUBBER FOR INDIAN INDUSTRIES

INDIA will shortly receive synthetic rubber from the United States under Lend-Lease terms and will in turn release crude rubber to the United States under Reciprocal Aid Terms. This is a sequel to the decision recently taken that Indian rubber manufacturing industry should be converted to the use of synthetic rubber to the maximum possible extent without serious loss to production. The decision was taken in view of the acute shortage of crude rubber confronting the United Nations. It is hoped to commence production with synthetic rubber about the middle of this year.

The substitution of synthetic for natural rubber gives rise to many production and processing problems. A mission from the Rubber Control is at present studying these problems in the United Kingdom and, on its return, will be able to advise and assist Indian manufacturers in dealing with them. In addition, representatives of some of the larger Indian manufacturers have also gone to the United Kingdom and the United States of America for the same purpose. All manufacturers have agreed to pool technical information and panels, covering the various branches of the industry, are being set up for this purpose.

Throughout the war India has helped the United Nations in solving the problem of rubber shortage. Side by side with rigid economy in the consumption of rubber by Indian manufacturers special efforts have been made to increase production of natural rubber. These measures enabled India to export, in 1944, 8,000 tons of crude rubber, vitally needed by the United Nations, after meeting her own demands. The bulk of this rubber went to the United States and was supplied on reciprocal terms.

KHAN BAHADUR YAHYA ALI

In consequence of the grant of leave to the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Horwill, I.C.S., a Judge of the Madras High Court, for the period from July 9 to August 4, 1945, the Governor-General has been pleased to appoint Khan Bahadur Yahya Ali, President of the Income-tax Appellate Tribunal, to act as a Judge of the Madras High Court during Mr. Justice Horwill's absence on leave.

SIR A. R. DALAL'S VISIT TO UNITED KINGDOM

A Communique issued from the Viceroy's House on April 20 stated:

Sir Ardeshir Dalal, Member for Planning and Development, Government of India, is proceeding to the United Kingdom towards the end of this month, accompanied by Mr. H. V. R. Iengar, I.C.S. Sir Ardeshir Dalal's visit is not connnected with the visit of the industrialists to the United Kingdom. He will discuss with His Majesty's Government some problems connected with the post-war economic development of India particularly in the industrial field, and make himself acquainted at first-hand with the situation regarding the availability of capital goods and expert advice as well as the training of Indian students and technicians.

Sir Jeremy Raisman will be associated with Sir Ardeshir Dalal in his conversations with His Majesty's Government. These will not, at this stage, relate to the general problem of the sterling balances. As explained by the Finance Member in paragraph 33 of his last Budget speech, this question will be discussed at a later stage.

TRAINING IN MAINTENANCE OF COAL MINING MACHINERY

The Central Government are sending ten persons to Sheffield for training at the Centre of Mechanisation in coal mines, inaugurated by the Ministry of Labour. The batch will consist of one colliery manager and 9 persons who have obtained the mining diploma from the Indian School of Mines and have had some subsequent experience.

The training, which will last six months, is designed to give instruction in all forms of maintenance and repair work for all types of machinery and mechanical appliances underground.

It will also enable the trainees to acquire sufficient electrical and mechanical knowledge to diagnose faults or break-downs, and to render advice in general in connection with the operations etc. of the machines. The colliery manager will in addition be trained in instructional duties so that he can take over such duties on return from the United Kingdom.

THE STORY OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

Dr. B. G. Ghate's Broadcast

"THE T. V. A. is a great lesson for us in India. We want to increase our food supplies, we require cheap electric power for our urban and rural industries; and we want to develop our natural resources to the greatest extent possible. The American T.V.A. has shown that all this can be done and done within a very short period," said Dr. B. G. Ghate, Under-Secretary, Planning and Development Department, Government of India, in a broadcast on "The Story of the T.V.A." from All India Radio on April 22.

"India," he added, "has excellent rivers and they must be fully utilised for the development of the country. To take only one example, the Sone River has been fully explored and promises a number of hydro-electric schemes which would supply cheap power to the U.P., Bihar and the adjoining territories.

"There are similar possibilities on other rivers, such as the Sutlej in the Punjab; the Brahmaputra in Assam; the Tungabhadra in Madras. These could perhaps best be developed by establishing independent regional authorities working in close collaboration with the Province concerned.

Pace of Progress

"A hydro-electric project gives the best results if it is undertaken on a large scale and it serves a number of other purposes. A good hydro-electric scheme should therefore not only increase the supply of cheap power but also increase the facilities for irrigation, forest development, systematic agriculture and cottage industries. The T.V.A. has shown us the way and we must learn all we can from it."

Continuing Dr. Ghate said:

"The story of the Tennessee Valley Authority is the story of a technological revolution achieved in less than 12 years. Judged even by American standards, the conception behind the T.A.V. was stupendous and the pace of progress unparalleled in the economic history of any democratic State. In less than 12 years, the T.V.A. has transformed large derelict areas into a busy centre of industrial and agricultural activity and raised the people from poverty and defeatism into a community of prosperous citizens.

"The Tennessee Valley was originally a vast tract of impoverished land, covering an area of nearly 41,000 square miles, in the Southern States of America. This is about equal to the size of our Province of Bihar or to the size of the Central Provinces and Berar. The signs of human welfare in the valley were far from encouraging and all the indices of economic and social well-being showed that the valley was extremely backward as compared to other parts of America. The main occupation of the people was agriculture, but owing to floods and erosion, cultivation was extremely irregular and spasmodic. The Tennessee River, which is fed by a number of tributaries, rose in flood every few months and washed away good land over thousands of square miles. Running as it did through seven States, there was no effective system of flood control, and no individual State could undertake any big project on account of the financial, constitutional, technical and administrative difficulties involved. Under the constitution, Congress could, of course, take action, but in fact Congress had taken little interest in the Tennessee River before 1933.

Flood Control

"During the depression, it became clear that the waste of the Tennessee Valley could no longer be tolerated. It was also appreciated that the rehabilitation of the Valley was no mere question of flood control. Flood control could do a great deal, but by itself it could not rehabilitate the whole region. Fortunately there was much water-power available in the Valley, and at certain sites the river fell from heights varying from 300 to 3,000 feet. It was therefore decided that hydro-electric projects should be combined with those of flood control. Once the technicians promised an unlimited scope for electric development, it was felt that the mineral resources of the Valley should also be developed. The technical conceptions thus kept on growing and gave rise to the morale conception embodied in the message of President Roosevelt to Congress in April, 1933. It stated that the Tennessee Valley Authority would be charged with the broadest duty of planning for the proper use, conservation, and development of the natural resources of the Valley and its adjoining territory for the general, economic and social welfare of the nation.

"The first task was to establish a suitable administrative auhority. The question of State versus private ownership was discussed at great length and the President announced the decision to establish a corporation clothed with the power of Government but possessed of

voyages to the United Kingdom stand to the credit of P.O. Faiz Mohammed, of Rawalpindi, who has served as cook in many of H.M.I. Ships, but finds cooking in Arakan a very different proposition. Here you have to build your stove before you can eat. R.P.O. M. Abbas, also of Rawalpindi, has been in the Navy since October, 1939, and P.O. Ismail Ibrahim, of Makhjan, Ratnagiri, is now, after five years' service, Auxiliary Vessels Gunnery Instructor.

TWICE-TORPEDOED, FIVE YEARS IN PRISON, NOW BACK IN INDIA

What must be a record length of time spent in captivity in this war is now a thing of the past for Moti Rahman, seaman, of Chittagong. Moti was a stoker on the merchantman "Kemmendine," plying between Calcutta and Europe, when she was sunk by a German cruiser off Colombo in November, 1939.

Along with the rest of the crew, Moti was taken abroad the German warship, and later was transferred to an enemy transport which was to take him to Germany. But somewhere in the Atlantic the prison-ship was sunk by a British submarine, and once again Moti had to take to the water.

Escape from Prison Camp

For hours he swam around with the help of a log, until at last he was picked up by a German patrol boat. Later, he found himself in Germany, writes an Indian Army Observer.

That was five years ago. Since then Moti Rahman has seen the inside of so many German prison camps that he cannot remember them all. But the one he will never forget is the last—Epinal in France—for it was from there that he made his escape last year, when the camp was bombed.

After wandering for days in the woods, Moti joined the Maquis, and he cooked for a detachment of that force until the Allied invasion of South France.

Then he was taken to an American Army invasion unit which had made contact with the Maquis, and that was the end of his troubles.

Now, Moti is back in India and will soon be on his way to Chittagong for a well-earned leave.



Midshipman Kirpal Singh.

INDIAN MIDSHIPMAN SERVES WITH BRITISH PACIFIC FLEET

KIRPAL Singh is probably the first Indian midshipman to be seen in Australia, where he recently arrived to serve with the British Pacific Fleet. His white turban attracted the attention of thousands of people.

Kirpal Singh, aged 19, belongs to the Royal Indian Navy, but is training with the Royal Navy. He first studied in a training ship in India, and later at the R. N. College at Edenhall, England.

Hailing from Rawalpindi, in the Punjab, Midshipman Singh says that both his elder brothers had joined the Army following his father's example, so he decided to try something different, and went to sea. Kirpal Singh's father, who died just before the present war, served with the 52nd Indian Cavalry in the 1914-18 war.

DEPUTY C.-IN-C. IN INDIA

Lieut.-Gen. Swayne

THE King has approved the appointment of the Chief of the General Staff, India, Lieut.-General Sir John G. des R. Swayne, K.C.B., C.B.E., as Deputy Commander-in-Chief in India during the absence in England of the Commander-in-Chief, General Sir Claude Auchinleck.

General Swayne came to India as Chief of the General Staff last year after being G.O.C.-in-C., South Eastern Command, which includes much of the Kent coast, where for so long a constant watch against invasion was kept. He was Deputy C.G.S., Home Forces, in 1940 and C.G.S., Home Forces, in 1942.

He was commissioned in 1911 in the Somerset Light Infantry and served in France and Belgium in the last war.

U. S. GENERAL'S TRIBUTE TO INDIAN TROOPS

Striking tributes to the gallant part played by an Indian division in Italy were paid by the Commanding General of the United States Fifth Army to which the division was attached. Men of this division were suddenly moved to a threatened sector of the Fifth Army front to meet an impending enemy attack on its vital supply installations and communication lines.

In a letter to the divisional commander, the U.S. Commanding General says: "Unfamiliar with the terrain, officers and men under your command assumed control of a rapidly deteriorating situation with such noteworthy effect that the advancing enemy not only stopped but began a precipitate withdrawal."

"Smooth and Calm"

The division then pushed forward its patrols and in a short time all the ground lost before its arrival on the scene was regained.

"Smooth and calm operation of your command in this emergency was a source of great satisfaction to me and my staff and we feel fortunate in having this well-oiled military machine available at the most opportune time," concludes the letter.

C.-IN-C.'S VISIT TO LAHORE

VETERANS of the first Burma campaign, the two Wingate expeditions drawn up on parade, the boys' company of the 8th Punjab Regiment marching past with the bearing and discipline of seasoned soldiers, and Sikh infantrymen undergoing a rigorous assault course were the highlights of a flying visit by the Commander-in-Chief in India, General Sir Claude Auchinleck, to Hoshiarpur and Lahore recently.

At Hoshiarpur, the C.-in-C., who was accompanied by Lt.-Gen. Sir John G. des R. Swayne, Chief of the General Staff (India Command), and Maj-Gen. D. J. Wilson-Haffenden, Deputy Quartermaster General (India Command), was met by Brig. A. E. Farwell, the Area Commander. Gen. Auchinleck inspected men of the Burma Rifles, tough campaigners who had borne the brunt of the Jap onslaught in Burma in 1942.

Among those whom His Excellency decorated were Mrs. J. S. French, matron of No. 1 Burma General Hospitals, and Sister Fairey Hinyan, of the Burma Military Nursing Service, both of whom received the Royal Red Cross (2nd class) for outstanding devotion to duty.

With Col. E. D. McCarthy, Commandant of the Burma Regimental Centre and Station Commander, Hoshiarpur, Gen. Auchinleck inspected the Burma Regimental Centre's training and reinforcement battalions and presented many men with medals.

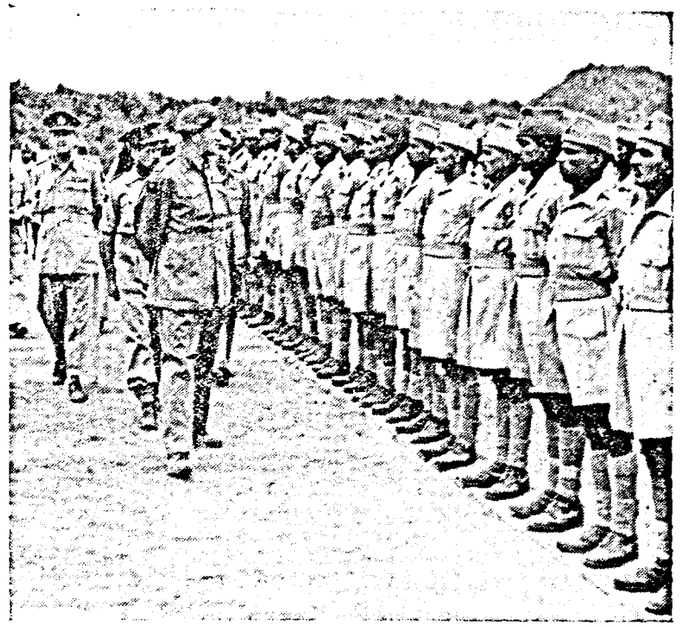
At Lahore, the C.-in-C. was met by Maj.-Gen. A. B. Blaxland, District Commander and Brig. W. St. J. Carpendale, Area Commander. Accompanied by Col. S. A. Jennison commanding the 8th Punjab Regimental Centre, Gen. Auchinleck reviewed the regiment's boys' company.

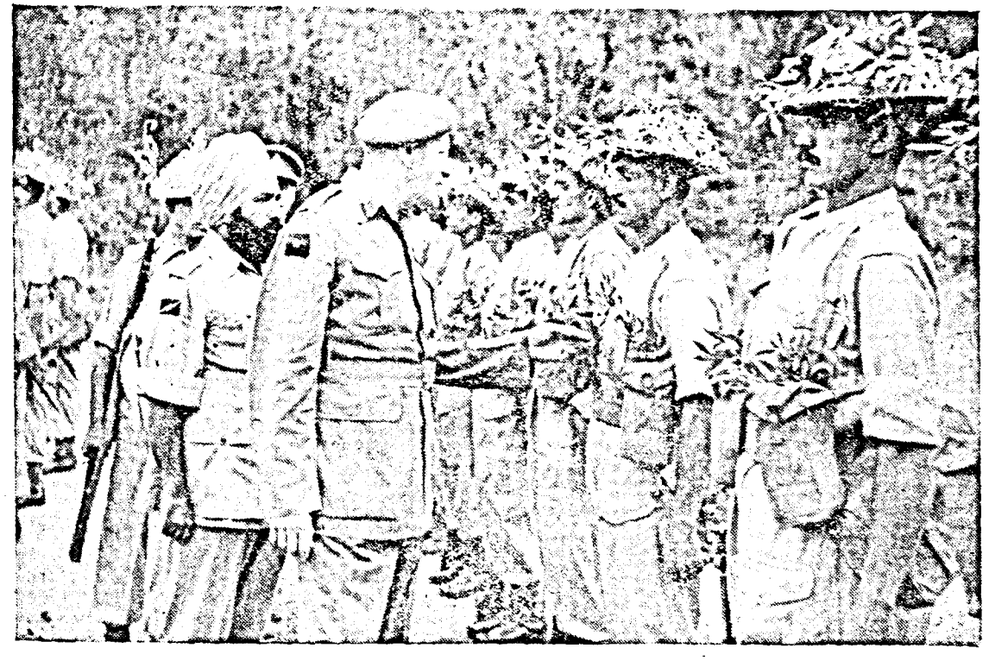
After the inspection His Excellency in an impressive ceremony, presented the company with a flag which was received by the boys' colour party and carried to their rank to the skirl of bagpipes. Reminding the boys of the great part played by their regiment in this war the C.-in-C. said: "I am sure that all of you will serve your King and country faithfully and loyally. Keep this flag carefully and see that it is never shamed in any way."

Gen. Auchinleck then decorated several men of the 8th Punjab Regiment. In the afternoon he watched two rifle sections and a machine-gun section—all Sikhs—attacking a Jap "strong-point" as part of an assault course.

C.-IN-C. AT RAWALPINDI

General Sir Claude Auchinleck, Commander-in-Chief in India, inspected military establishments in Rawalpindi recently. These pictures show (right) the C.-in-C. inspecting men of the 6th Rajputana Rifles and (below) the 1st Punjab Regiment.





FIRST INDIAN TO LEAD A BRIGADE IN ACTION

Brig. K. S. Thimayya

THIRTY-NINE-YEAR-OLD Brigadier Kodandrea Subayya Thimayya, whose appointment as brigadier has recently been announced, is the first Indian to lead a brigade in action. He lately acquitted himself well in the Kangaw battle in the Arakan in an acting capacity, and has now been given a brigade.

Born in 1906 at Coorg, Brig. Thimayya was educated at Bishop Cotton School, Bangalore, and then entered the Prince of Wales Royal Military College, Dehra Dun, where he had a distinguished career.

He was one of the first 32 Indian boys to enter the R.I.M.C. when it was opened by the Prince of Wales in 1922. While at the college he was selected cadet-captain of his batch and captained the tennis, cricket and hockey teams.

From Dehra Dun he went to Sandhurst and was commissioned in 1926. He was attached for one year to the Highland Light Infantry and was then posted to the 19th Hyderabad Regiment, with which he served in Iraq and on the North-West Frontier.



Brig. K. S. Thimayya.

For four years he was adjutant of his battalion and in 1936, he was given the same appointment with the 5th (Madras) University Training Corps. Back with his battalion in 1939 he sailed to Malaya but was brought back before the Jap invasion.

"All Indian Brigade"

After serving two years at the 19th Hyderabad Regimental Centre at Agra he went to the Staff College, Quetta, and was then posted as a General Staff Officer, Grade II, with the 25th Indian Division. In March, 1944, he accompanied the Division to the Arakan.

Brig. Thimayya quickly distinguished himself. After only eight weeks in action he was promoted to command a battalion of the 19th Hyderabads and later acted as brigade commander in the same Division.

The formation of which he was acting commander was unique in that for the first time in the history of the Indian Army all battalions of the brigade were commanded by Indian officers under an officiating Indian brigade commander. The Japs, particularly at Kangaw, have good reason for remembering the exploits of the "All Indian Brigade", as it came to be called.

Well-built and tall for a South Indian, Brig. Thimayya is one of the three brothers who have fought against Jap oppression. His younger brother was severely wounded in the fighting around Ukhrul in 1944.

Another distinguished member of this family is Brig. Thimayya's cousin, Brig. K. M Cariappa, a member of the Army Re-organisation Committee.

GRANT FOR WOMEN'S SERVICES

H. E. the Viceroy has made a grant Rs. 3,00,000 from the War Purposes Fund the Welfare General Branch, G.H.Q., for providing leave facilities in India for auxiliar and officers of the women's services.

NEW G.O.C.-IN-C. OF SOUTHERN ARMY



Lt.-Gen. R. M. M. Lockhart

SOUTHERN Army's new G.O.C.-in-C. is 51-year-old Lieut.-General Roo MacGregor Macdonald Lockhart, C.B., C.I.E., M.C.

General Lockhart's association with the Indian Army dates back to 1913 when, after Marlborough and Sandhurst, he was commissioned and placed on the Unattached List. On the outbreak of war he was posted to the 51st Sikhs F.F., thus beginning a long association with the 12th Frontier Force Regiment With them he fought in Egypt and Mesopotamia, winning the M.C. and being mentioned in despatches.

Graduating from the Staff College at Camberley in 1927 he was brigade major at Kohat and G.S.O. II (Intelligence) at G.H.Q. before being appointed Military Attache in Afghanistan in 1934. Back in India he officiated as commander of the Jubbulpore Brigade in 1937 and was commander of the Wana Brigade in 1938-39.

He returned to G.H.Q. early in 1939 on his appointment as Deputy Director of Staff Duties and later became Director. His work during this time of rapid expansion was of the utmost importance. He was promoted acting Major General in April, 1941, and eight months afterwards was appointed Secretary of the Military Department at the India Office in London, a post he held for two years.

On his return to India at the end of 1943 he commanded the L. of C. area at Ranchi, and from there was appointed Deputy Chief of the General Staff in May last year. He became a lieut.-general this month (April).

General Lockhart is one of three sons of R. Bruce Lockhart, for many years head master of Eagle House, Sandhurst, one of the oldest preparatory schools in Britain. Now aged 88, the father will be remembered by thousands of boys who passed through his hands.

The three sons have achieved distinction in three different spheres. If you ask General Lockhart if he is a brother of Bruce Lockhart he will smile his quizzical smile and reply, "Now which Bruce Lockhart do you mean? You see, it depends on your interests."

If you say that you had in mind Sir Robert Hamilton Bruce Lockhart, author of "Memoirs of a British Agent", Gen. Lockhart will reply "Oh yes, he is my brother. But if he had been interested in sport you might have been referring to my other brother, John Harold Bruce Lockhart."

The "other brother" will be remembered by all rugger and cricket enthusiasts, for he won a double blue at Cambridge and played rugby for Scotland. He is now head master of Sedberg School, where he was a boy.

The Indian Army is Gen. Lockhart's main interest. He has always been keen on games (he played rugby for Sandhurst and cricket and hockey for the Staff College). He will take to Southern Army experience, zest and friendliness. That he will be popular goes without saying.

The Korea Darbar have generously contributed a further sum of Rs. 30,000 to H. E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund.

COMMANDER OF FOURTH INDIAN DIVISION

NOW commanding the famous Fourth Indian Division in the Mediterranean theatre is Major-General Charles H. Boucher, C.B.E., D.S.O. and bar, who was once an Italian prisoner of war. He succeeds Major-General A. W. W. Holworthy.

Forty-seven-year old General Boucher is a stocky, wiry Gurkha officer with keen blue eyes, cheery smile and engaging personality. He entered the 2nd Gurkha Rifles in 1916 and transferred to the 3rd Gurkha Rifles in 1918. Serving in several campaigns on the North-West Frontier, he was mentioned in despatches twice and awarded the D.S.O. in 1936.

During this war General Boucher has seen much action in Iraq, Iran, the Western Desert and Italy. At its outbreak he was an instructor at the Staff College, Quetta, but soon went overseas and was Brigadier General Staff with the Tenth Army which put paid to the Rashid Ali revolt in Iraq and conducted the successful "four-day blitz" against the Persian fifth-columnists in 1941.

Taken Prisoner in 1942

Early in 1942, Brigadier Boucher (as he then was) was transferred to command the 10th Indian Brigade of the Fifth Indian Division, then fighting in the Western Desert. During Rommel's great thrust to El Alamein his brigade was overrun by German panzers in the Battle of Knightbridge and he was taken prisoner in June, 1942.

Imprisoned at Rieti in Italy, General Boucher made his escape at the time of the Italian armistice and returned to England for a short spell before once again going to Italy in command of an Indian Infantry Brigade. Since then he has seen much hard fighting in Italy.

When the Eighth Indian Division went to Cassino it was his brigade that took San Angelo, the pivot of the Gustav Line, and made the bridgehead through which the armour poured. Uuruffled and undaunted he went through the battle for the breaking of the Hitler Line, Arce, Florence and the Gothic Line, earning a bar to his D.S.O.

A great sportsman, General Boucher is a forceful leader who inspires his officers and men with his own spirit of drive and determination.

DEATH OF PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT

National Defence Council's Message

THE 18th session of the National Defence Council opened at the Viceroy's House, New Delhi, on April 16. The session lasted three days and H.E. the Viceroy presided.

The Council desired H. E. the Viceroy to convey a message of sympathy on their behalf to the United States, in the bereavement sustained by the Allies in the death of President Roosevelt.

The following is the text of the message sent on behalf of the Council:

"The National Defence Council at the opening of its 18th session to-day (April 16) resolved that a message of sympathy on the death of President Roosevelt be sent to Mrs. Roosevelt and to the Government of the U.S.A.

"India is deeply conscious of the debt that she, and all the world, owes to his far-sighted and courageous leadership.

"After years of relentless effort he died with the strain unrelaxed, but with victory in sight. The Council pays a grateful tribute to his inspiring memory".

His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief briefly reviewed the war situation. The Council then discussed the Hon'ble the Labour Member's memoranda on the Civil Pioneer Force, the Technical Training Scheme and the organization for dealing with re-settlement of ex-service personnel. There was also a discussion on the replacement of the National War Front.

The Council reassembled the following day and discussed memoranda presented by the Hon'ble the Commerce Member on paper control and the position in regard to cotton textiles and consumers' goods.

The work of the Port Directorate in Calcutta and the Road Transport position were the two other subjects discussed. An account on Civil Defence activities was also placed before the Council.

On April 18 the Council met the Army Re-organisation Committee and discussed various problems connected with the reorganisation of the Indian Army.

The session then concluded.

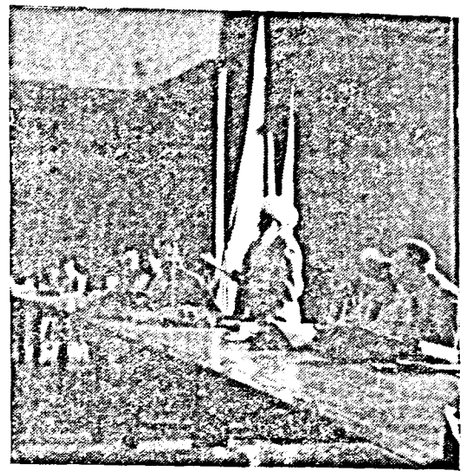
IMPROVED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

Policy Committee's Recommendations

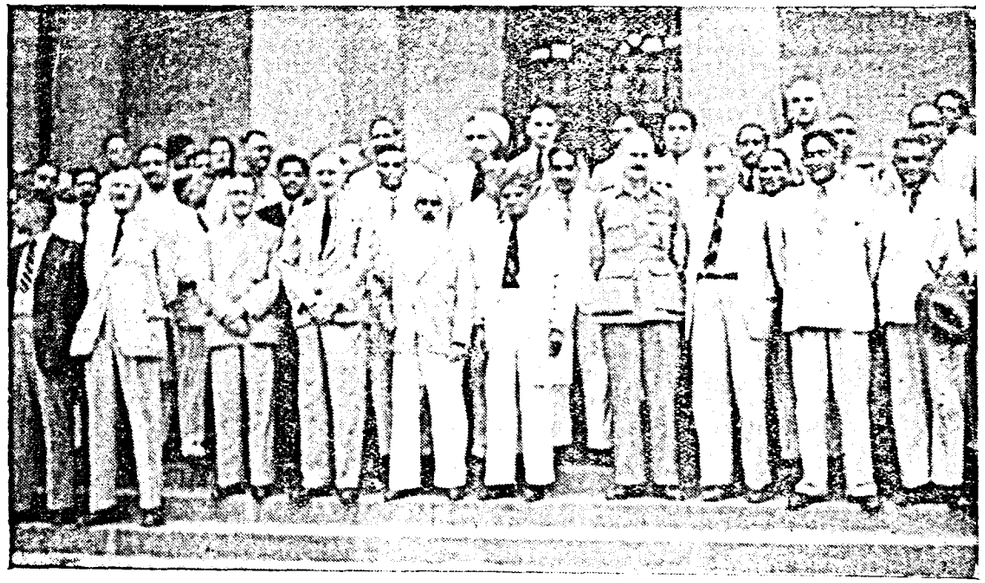
THE adoption of an improved technique and the provision of increased facilities for agricultural production and increasing the production of milk and fish in the country were among the questions discussed at the Second Meeting of the Policy Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, which concluded its three-day session in New Delhi on April 14. The Hon'ble Sir Jogendra Singh, Member for Education, Health and Lands, Government of India, presided.

The Committee recommended the undertaking of pilot schemes on a large scale which should work out within 3—5 years the relative merits, potentialities and economics of the various systems of farm organisation, *i.e.*, on the comparative merits of the peasant system of farming; peasant holdings being consolidated; peasant farming with co-operation introduced in various directions such as crop planning, joint ploughing, harvesting and threshing; joint village management, collective and State farms.

It was agreed that the different systems should be tried in distinct set of conditions of



Sir Jogendra Singh addressing the second meeting of the Policy Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries held in New Delhi on April 12, 13 and 14.



The members of the Committee with Sir Jogendra Singh (5th from left).



South Indian village scene. Buffaloes enjoy a bath in the river.

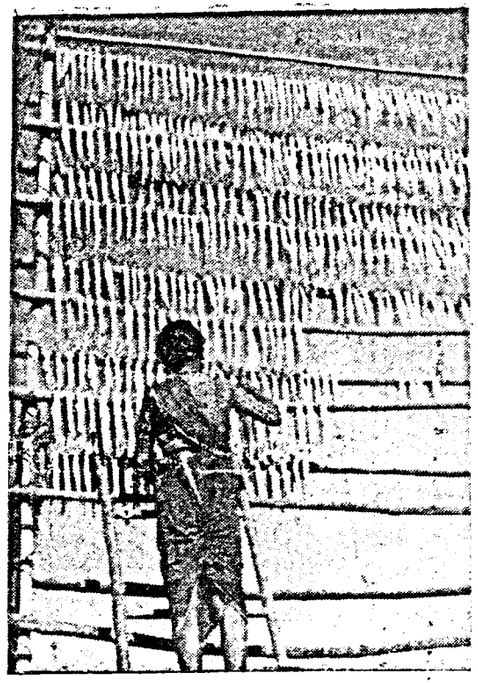
soil, climate, tenure etc. Collective farms, it was suggested, might be possible in new areas which belong to the State or waste land which may be brought under cultivation. It was left to the discretion of Provinces and States to try any experiments that they chose, the Central Government providing such assistance as might be necessary.

Development of Cattle Breeding

The Committee adopted a resolution recommending that the Central Government should take steps to encourage the development of cattle breeding and dairying on proper lines to increase the production of milk in the country. The Committee has suggested that the existing Imperial Dairy Research Institute should be reorganised and expanded and a number of sub-stations should be established. An Indian Central Milk Committee should be set up to co-ordinate and guide the work of cattle breeding and dairying and helping in the provision of the necessary facilities.

It was also agreed that Provincial and State Governments should maintain an adequate staff for developing the dairy industry and helping to increase milk production by setting up district cattle breeding and dairy farms which would breed pedigree bulls and high-yielding cows and buffaloes. They should also arrange for the production and supply of green fodder and concentrates.

For increasing the production of fish, the Committee recommended the establishment of an Indian Central Fish Committee and the setting up of a Central Fishery Research Institute with the necessary number of sub-stations, research vessels and development units. It was further recommended that the Waterways Board should give due consideration to the need for fish conservation and the prevention of river pollution. The Central Government, the Committee further suggested, should also arrange for the training of technical staff and survey of marine fisheries. The survey of estuarine, and fresh water fishery resources, it was recommended, should be undertaken by Provincial and State Governments who should also establish research stations for dealing with local problems and wherever necessary establish fish curing yards, arrange supply of pure salt, fishing boats, nets, ice, power launches etc., arrange for credit and marketing facilities, establish hatcheries, nursery and demonstration



This is how Bombay ducks—edible fish—are dried to be stored for future use.

tanks and improve the methods of extraction of shark liver oil and the manufacture of fish meals, manures, etc.

Earlier, the Committee considered the progress made in giving effect to the recommendations made by the Committee at its last meeting and the views of the provincial Governments in respect of the various recommendations.

The Hon'ble Sir Ardeshir Dalal, Member for Planning and Development, who also attended the meeting pointed out that agriculture was the very foundation on which any plan of post-war development had to be based. The Report of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research on post-war development of agriculture, he said, had laid down targets for food production in the country. It was for the Provinces and States to consider how far the recommendations in the report were acceptable to them, and what steps they contemplated to accomplish them. They must have a co-ordinated plan for a specified period. It was necessary that there should be some kind of general agreement and there should be the closest co-operation between Provinces, States and the Centre.

DISTRIBUTION OF RABI CROPS

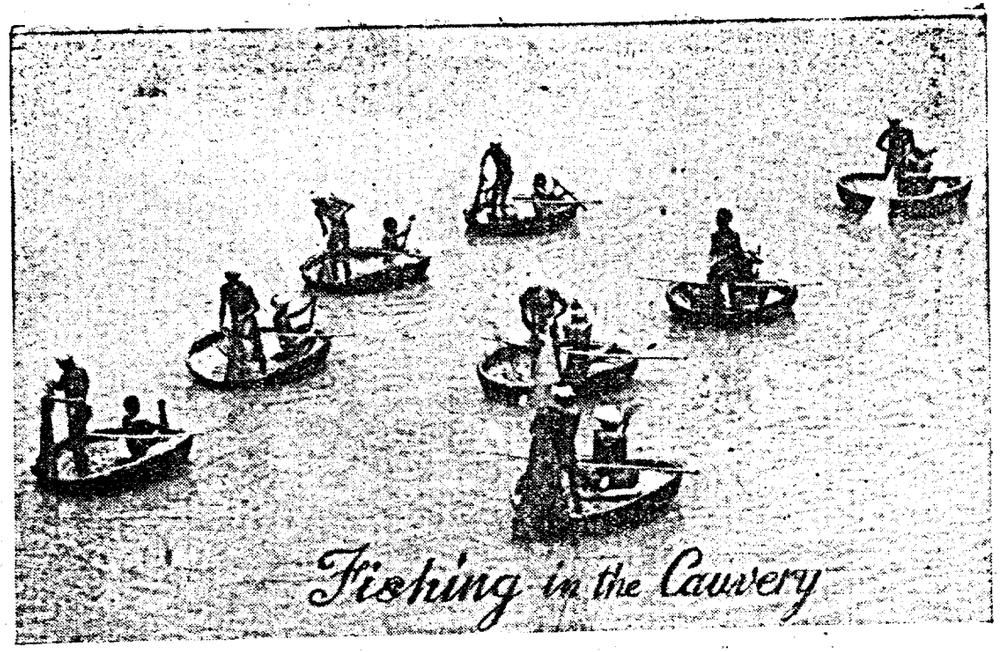
A meeting of food officials from certain important Provinces and States took place in the Food Department, New Delhi, on April 23. Interviewed before the meeting, Mr. R. H. Hutchings, Secretary, Food Department, Government of India, explained that in accordance with the decisions announced at the Fourth Food Conference, the Basic Plan for the distribution of the rabi crops was prepared in two stages.

The first stage of the plan was based on preliminary forecasts, and the second stage on the final forecasts. Now that this year's good crop had been safely harvested, the Government of India with the Provinces and States were in a position to discuss allotments and movements for the first stage of the Plan, so that the crop could begin moving in the required directions as early as possible. Subsequent revisions of the Plan would take place after threshing had been completed and the final forecast had been compiled and published.

INDIAN CENTRAL TOBACCO COMMITTEE

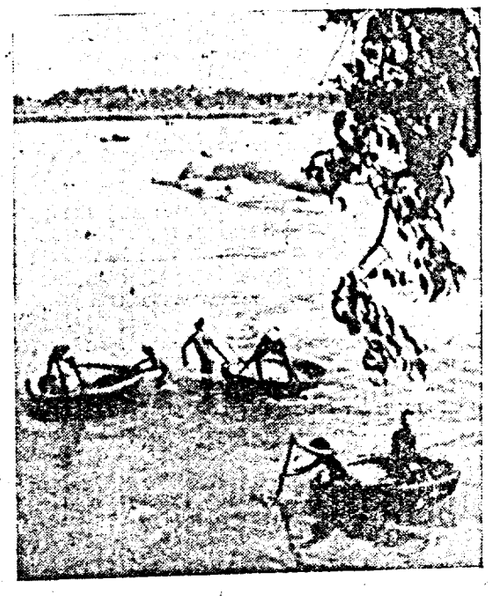
In view of the importance of tobacco as a valuable commercial crop and the variety and complexity of problems relating to its production, processing and marketing, the Government of India have decided to set up an Indian Central Tobacco Committee on the lines of similar other commodity committees for Jute, Cotton, etc., said a Press Note issued by the Education, Health and Lands Department, Government of India, on April 25. It added: The functions of the Committee will be to assist in the improvement and development of the production and marketing of tobacco and all matters incidental thereto. The Committee will devote its special attention to the improvement of the flavour and aroma of Indian tobacco and research on these problems will be taken up shortly. The Government of India will finance the Committee by placing an annual grant of Rs. 10 lakhs at its disposal.

The restrictions imposed on the entry of foreigners into Kashmir have now been removed and permission in writing from the Kashmir Government is no longer required, said a Press Communique issued by the Government of India on May 2.

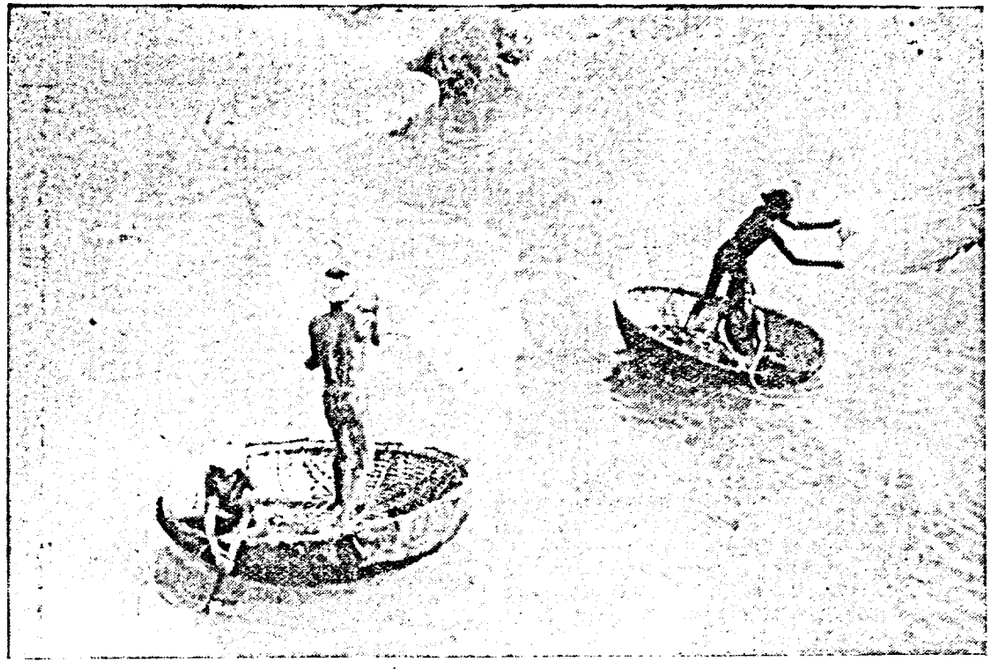


The coracle, the flimsy-looking wicker boat, is not peculiar to the Welsh and Irish lakes and rivers. It has been plying on the upper reaches of a number of Indian rivers from time immemorial. During the rainy season these streams flowing over rocky beds are apt to bring disaster to any less elastic craft.

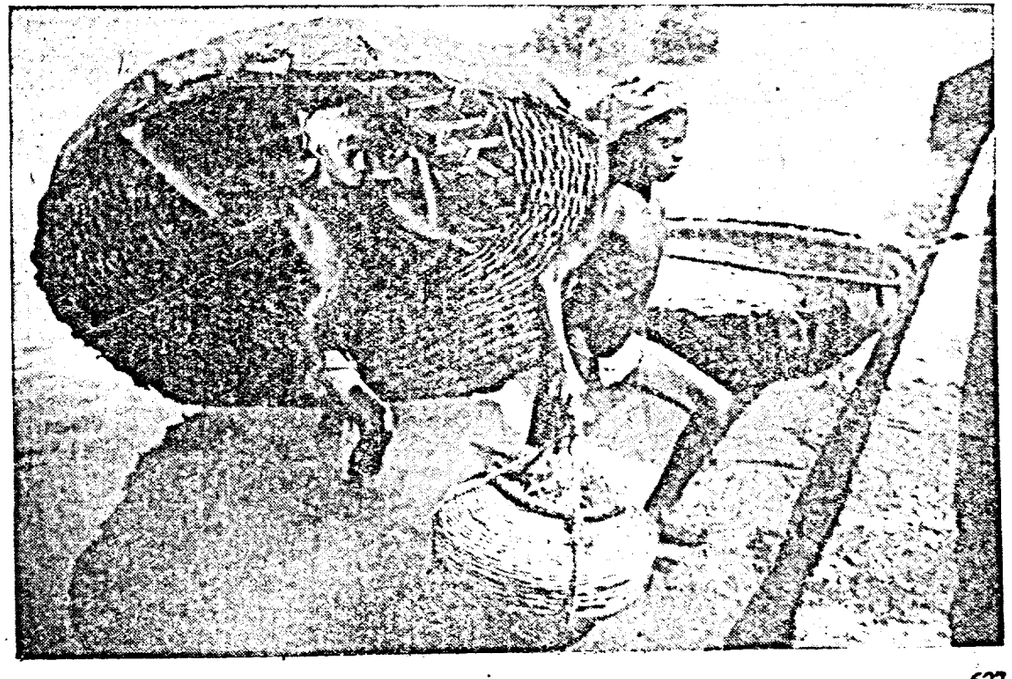
The picture above shows a group of South Indian fishermen co-operating in a blitz on the fish. All fling and withdraw their nets at the same instant and move further on to repeat the manoeuvre. The fish are taken by surprise and each coracle owner stands an equal chance of a good catch.



Where the river flows faster over shallow rocks it is easier to pull the coracle upstream over a small rapid rather than to paddle it.



The coracle is usually manned by a man and a boy. The boy attends to the craft while the man gets busy with the net. (Below) Returning home with the day's haul—the coracle, which is light and portable, is also taken home.



PRESERVATION AND PROCESSING OF FOOD

Sir J. P. Srivastava's Address to Panel of Scientists

"INDIA is pre-eminently a country where food technology should have reached a high water mark of development", declared Sir J. P. Srivastava, Food Member, Government of India, addressing the first meeting of the Panel of Scientists on May 1.

The Panel has been formed to advise the Food Department on food technology.

Here is the text of the Food Member's speech:

The problem of food has during recent years engaged the increasing attention of almost all Governments in the world. And it is right that it should be so. Food is the very bedrock of a nation's life and well-being. It is the foundation of which practically all else is built. This is a truth which has long failed to receive the amount of recognition it deserves. Researches in the field of food and nutrition during the last two or three decades have shown how urgent and important this problem is.

The Food Problem

There is an increasing realisation that between optimum health and flank ill-health there is a considerable no man's land in which people may not be suffering from any obvious disease and yet may not be enjoying that standard of health and vigour which an optimum diet could have afforded them. Even in countries like Britain and the U.S.A. where the general nutritional level is considerably higher than in this country, practically half the population has been considered to be receiving a sub-optimum diet by this standard. In his message to the Hot Springs Conference the late President Roosevelt directed attention to this vital problem and stressed the fact that agriculture and food industries of the world still employed the vast bulk of the population of the world and required far greater consideration than they had so far received. The organisation of the United Nations' Interim Commission on Food and Agriculture is a development in this direction. It is fitting that this problem should also receive organized attention in this country.



Sir J. P. Srivastava.

The problem of food rests principally on three pillars:

(1) the production of raw foodstuffs.

(2) the food-technological industries including the preservation, processing and fortification of foodstuffs, vitamin technology and all related problems.

(3) the distribution of food to the population according to physiological needs.

Food Preservation

It is with the second set of problems that you will be more specially concerned. Ours is mainly a tropical country, considerable parts of which have in addition a humid climate. These are ideal conditions for foodstuffs to undergo spoilage by insects, micro-organizms and also by normal biochemical processes. While exact figures are not available our economic loss per year owing to the spoilage of foodstuffs of all kinds must be running into tens of crores of rupees. Ours is pre-eminently a country where food technology should have reached a high water mark of development. In Britain and in America, food industries are highly developed. In Britain there are institutions investigating food-technological problems, covering cereals, meat, fruits, fish etc.;

so also in America. These are in constant touch with food industries, which are getting a higher and higher goal for their standard of production as researches go on.

It is clear that if countries enjoying a temperate climate, where the rate or spoilage is much less than in ours, take so much care in the preservation of their foodstuffs, our responsibility in this matter is much greater. Beginnings have been made in this country. The jolt of a war knocks off slumber. The question of prevention of spoilage of cereals is receiving much greater attention now than ever before. Canning of fruits has been started on a large scale in the North-West Frontier Province and we hope with increasing standardisation of fruits and further improvement of processing our standard will at least be equal to that of the best canned fruits of other countries.

The development of the hydrogenated oil industry has received a great spurt during the war and we are at present engaged with the question of its further development on sound lines. The biscuit industry has been considerably expanded. Industries like those of pepper, mustard, golden syrup, sugar cubes, limejuice cordial, refined salt, *chutney*, etc., have been sought to be developed. It will be our earnest endeavour to see that these industries outlast the war. The problem of the production of vitamins and the fortification of various foodstuffs with vitamins and minerals, as has been done in the U.K. and the U.S.A. is before us. The question of food yeast production from molasses is also receiving consideration.

Dehydration and Refrigeration

The new industry of dehydration has been greatly developed as a result of the war. A considerable body of knowledge has been gathered in course of this development. It is for you and us to consider what part of this industry can be switched on to peace-time production. It is my earnest hope that the fruit dehydration industry which has started on a large scale in the N.W.F.P. may be established on sound lines and become a permanent feature of the food industry in this country. Dehydration of vegetables and fish has been carried out indigenously in village homes in various parts of the country for a long time and it is for you to consider whether, with the help of the knowledge now available about more scientific methods of dehydration, the old indigenous methods may not be improved or transferred to new lines. The food-packing industry is also an important one, to which I would like to invite your attention.

Refrigeration is now considered to be the best method of preservation of perishable materials like fish, meat, vegetables, etc., and I would request you to consider this question also with reference to this country.

The implications of a well-organised food industry are colossal. It is meant to (1) prevent or diminish spoilage, (2) remove foodstuffs from seasonal gluts thus preventing waste and making them available in other seasons, (3) increase or retain the nutritional value of foodstuffs, and (4) produce new foods like yeast, synthetic vitamins, vitamin concentrates etc. Great things can and will be achieved by the application of science and technology to food. Food has even been produced from wood and during the present war fats have been made from coal. I do hope by your joint endeavours with our technical experts, you will be able to help us in the development of a full-fledged food industry in this country on scientific lines.

TECHNICAL PANEL OF SCIENTISTS

"Once science is harnessed to our aid, India will again be that land of milk and honey which attracted visitors to this country in the past" declared Sir S. S. Bhatnagar at the first meeting of the Technical Panel of Scientists.

The Hon'ble Sir J. P. Srivastava earlier inaugurated the meeting which was also addressed by Mr. R. H. Hutchings, Secretary, Food Department, Government of India.

Dr. B. C. Guha, Secretary of the Panel, initiated a discussion on problems relating to dehydration, canning and packing, refrigeration, vitamin technology, yeast, *ghee* and hydrogenated oils and spirits. The Panel subdivided into sub-committees dealing with several aspects of the problems discussed.

JUTE PURCHASING PANEL

The following have been appointed members of the Jute Purchasing Panel recently set up in Calcutta:

Mr. I. G. Kennedy, Mr. Graham-Smith, the Collector of Customs, Calcutta, Mr. Mohammed Ispahani, Mr. K. D. Jalan and Mr. F. H. Kidd.

Mr. Kennedy will act as Chairman of the Panel.



A poultry farm.

EXPANSION OF CENTRAL COMMAND'S POULTRY FARMS

BIG expansions in the Central Command's livestock and poultry farms are planned for the six months ending next October. When in full production the total yearly output will amount to 1,200,000 table birds and 1,040,000 dozen eggs, which represent 100 per cent. of the Command's hospital chicken requirements and 22 per cent. of its egg requirements.

In addition, British troops will receive 60 per cent. of their pork from direct military production and after October only 20 per cent. of the Command's fresh vegetables will be drawn from contractors.

Mass Production Units

Farms are scattered all over this vast provisioning and training area of the Central Command. There are egg farms and mass production units of table birds at Izatnagar, Agra, Delhi, Nagpur, Lahore, Meerut, Ambala, Jubbulpore, Lucknow, Allahabad, Clement Town, Jullundur and Ferozepore; more are to be established at Mhow, Jhansi and Cawnpore.

By October there will be seven egg farms in Delhi, eight in Lahore, seven in Dehra Dun, seven in Jubbulpore and others in Chhindwara, Jhansi and elsewhere. Expansion of the five existing duck farms has started and rabbit production is to be extended by two more farms, making a total of five.

Two more pig farms are to be added to the existing 16, together with large expansions planned at each, will raise pig production by well over 100 per cent.

Ambitious Undertaking

The idea behind this ambitious undertaking is to enable the Central Command to find the immediate necessities for its own forces with the least disturbance of India's economic structure, writes an Indian Army Observer.

The scheme forms part of a large plan which has its counterpart in other armies and commands in India, each controlled by separate economic co-ordination committees whose tasks are to check price inflation, determine sources of supply and regulate consumption so as to protect breeding stock and seed, and to make good deficits in supply. These committees meet at regular intervals and report to the Government of India and to the Provincial governments and States concerned.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC TRENDS IN INTER-WAR PERIOD

Progress of Industrialization

WHAT were the principal experiences of India in the social and economic field in the inter-war period? This question is answered by Mr. S. Subramanian, Statistician to the Economic Adviser to the Government of India, in his introduction to the book "Statistical Survey of the Social and Economic Trends in India in the Inter-War Period" which has been published recently. After analysing the trends he says: "India has still considerable gaps to fill in her industrial structure. Her agriculture is capable of further improvement. Her social services have room for development. But all in all, there has been not inconsiderable progress in the last 25 years and what India has achieved in this difficult period in the affairs of the world does provide a measure of what she can—with a long-term programme of development before her—attain in the years to come."

Future Planning

In his preface to the book, Dr. Sir Theodore Gregory, Economic Adviser to the Government of India, speaking of the value of the book under reference, says that, to control the future, knowledge of the recent past was indispensable, and that, therefore, it was considered useful to attempt a factual survey of the whole position, as had been done in the book.

He says: "The end of the last Great War saw the emergence of great social and economic changes in almost all parts of the world. In India the franchise was greatly widened and the administration of the entire field of developmental activities was transferred to responsible ministries in the Provinces. An era of protection was inaugurated shortly afterwards as a result of the recommendations of the Fiscal Commission. A decade of readjustment, in India as elsewhere, was followed by the great depression which affected India adversely in common with the rest of the world.

"The outbreak of the second World War has brought new and incalculable elements of disturbance with it. A new era of readjustment will have to follow the suspension of hostilities and it is clear that the planning necessary to meet the exigencies of the time will have to cover a very wide ground. To control the future, knowledge of the recent past is indispensable, and it was considered useful, therefore, to attempt a factual survey of the whole position. With this end in view the available statistical material has been brought together in this handbook.

"The colour diagrams furnished in the book illustrate in a clear manner the numerous changes that have taken place in the various fields during the inter-war period. Wherever possible, figures for the period following the outbreak of the present war are also included."

Statistical Tables

The book has 21 statistical tables, relating to area and population, literacy, educational progress, public health, labour, agricultural production, irrigation, mineral production, industrial production, trade, transport and communications, banking and currency, joint stock companies, public finance, prices and wages, consumption and Government help to industry and trade. These statistics, though relating to inter-war period in the main, have been brought up to date, as far as possible, in many instances. Statistics relating to British India and the Indian States are present side by side and Burma figures have been separated. Every table has been illustrated by multi-coloured diagrams which show at a glance the progress achieved. The introduction gives a brief review of the social and economic progress of India during the inter-war period which serves as a guide to a proper interpretation of the statistical tables.

Increasing Pressure of Population

Speaking of the increasing pressure of population, it observes that none of the multitudinous events of the twenties and thirties of this century could lay claim to a greater measure of social significance in the case of India than the rapid growth of her population during the period. The immediate problem in India, it is observed, is rather one of combating the heavy pressure on the nation's resources caused by the net addition of 80 million souls in 20 years. The high rate of natural increase has throughout been sustained largely by a significant fall in the infantile mortality as well as the general mortality rates.

The extension of medical and public health facilities has undoubtedly been one of the important factors that were responsible for this downward trend in mortality rates. The number of hospitals and dispensaries nearly doubled during the period and State expenditure on medical and public health services showed an

increase of more than 45 per cent. The birth rate has at the same time remained stabilised at a high level. Available statistics of *per capita* consumption of commodities like cloth, sugar, kerosene, etc., indicate that the increase in population has not necessarily resulted in a fall in the standard of living. "But it should not be forgotten", observes the hand-book, "that the will to have a higher standard obviously implies, under the present conditions, some restrictions of numbers".

There has been during the period a silent but steady process of urbanisation, its pace being rapid particularly during the thirties during which period the number of cities increased from 35 to 58 and the aggregate population of these cities from 9 millions to 16.5 millions.

Spread of Literacy

A comparatively rapid spread of literacy among the masses, particularly during the thirties, was an important feature of the period. In 1921, the total number of literates in British India was less than 15 millions. There was a small increase of 3 millions in the decade 1921—31 but it was in the next decade that the real improvement took place. By 1941, the number of literates had exceeded 37 millions. The proportion of literates to the total population thus increased from 6 per cent. to 13 per cent. in 20 years. The annual expenditure on recognised educational institutions was less than 16 crores in 1920-21; but in 1940-41 this figure had increased to Rs. 30 crores and about half of this expenditure has throughout been met from Government funds.

Rapid industrialisation was another important feature of the period. Although the basic raw materials of the industry were present in great abundance in the country, it was not generally realised until the early twenties of this century, that, with the development of necessary manufacturing processes, it would be possible to effect a gradual displacement of various categories of imports by home-made articles.

The pace of industrial development since that period has been greatly accelerated by the policy of active assistance pursued by the State both by granting tariff protection in deserving cases and by giving preference to the products of Indian industry in purchasing Government requirements. The prospects of continued Government help and the anticipation of handsome profits encouraged a rapid flow of private capital into industry. New capital invested in joint stock enterprises alone in the inter-war period was something like Rs. 150 crores.

An important outcome of the policy of industrialisation was a significant change in the composition of India's foreign trade. Imports of finished goods accounted for 84 per cent. of the total value of the imports of India including Burma in 1920-21. By 1936-37, the corresponding percentages declined to 75 per cent. The striking fall in the physical volume of imports of cotton piecegoods, as well as of iron and steel manufactures and cement and the almost complete disappearance of sugar, soap and matches taken together with the remarkable increase in the volume of inland trade in these manufactured articles, provide a significant measure of the extent to which imports of finished goods had been displaced by indigenous production.

An even more striking development on the import side was the steady increase in the share of industrial raw materials from 5 per cent. to 16 per cent. But this increased demand for foreign raw materials was not accompanied by a decline in her own raw material exports. On the other hand, between 1920-21 and 1936-37, the proportion of raw materials to total exports increased from 45 per cent. to 53 per cent During the same period, the share of manufactured goods to the total exports declined from 36 per cent. to 26 per cent., owing simply to a steep fall in the value of exports of cotton and jute manufactures. It would appear that, before the outbreak of the present war, the progress of industrialisation was reflected mainly in the development of the then exising industries catering mostly to the internal demand for finished goods, rather than the establishment of new industries merely for the purpose of processing raw materials that were being exported as such.

Changes in Composition of Trade

These changes in the composition of trade were accompanied by even more remarkable changes in its direction. In 1920-21, 61 per cent. of the imports were derived from the United Kingdom but in 1936-37 only 38 per cent. came from that country. Foreign countries, particularly Japan, Germany and the United States, improved their position from 34 per cent. to 51 per cent. The main changes noticeable in the direction of the export trade were an increase in the share of the United Kingdom from 22 per cent. to 32 per cent. between 1920-21 and 1936-37, a decrease in the share of the rest of the Empire from 21 per cent. to 14 per cent. and a relative stability in regard to foreign countries.

As regards balance of trade, only on rare occasions did India's imports exceed her exports. Generally speaking the merchandise balance of trade remained in favour of India to such a large extent till 1930 that the balance was large enough to permit of a considerable importation of gold and silver even after meeting the country's external obligations. But after 1930-31, when trade depression started, there was a steeper fall in the prices of India's exports than in the prices of her imports and as a consequence the merchandise balance of trade dwindled to almost nothing. This would have led to difficulties in regard to external payments, but, following the steep rise in the rupee price of gold resulting from the monetary events of the period, India had become a net exporter of this metal. The balance of transactions in treasure, which had thus turned in India's favour, largely made up for the decline in India's favourable balance of trade.

Public Finance

In respect of public finance, the structural changes, above mentioned, in India's foreign trade had their adverse effect on Railway revenues. Another factor working in the same direction was road-rail competition.

The gradual displacement of exports of indigenous production did not apparently have any adverse effect on customs revenues. Further, as more and more industries were firmly established, it was found possible to levy small excise duties on the products of such industries.

An equally important development in Central Government's revenues was the shift from direct to indirect taxation. A noteworthy feature of the Provincial budgets was the increase in total incomes of the Provincial Governments, notwithstanding a significant decline in their receipts from land revenue, liquor excise and stamp duties.

Mining Industry

While in many fields the inter-war period has seen remarkable changes, it will be found that agriculture has been maintaining a surprising degree of stability on the whole. There was an improvement in the quality of agricultural raw materials like cotton, sugarcane, and groundnuts. But foodgrains, generally speaking, did not develop in the same manner as the cash crops mentioned above. Particularly, the output of rice obstinately refused to improve. Although 4½ million acres of rice were brought under improved varieties, this did not have any appreciable effect on the total production, which actually declined by about 10 per cent. between 1920-21 and 1940-41.

A general tone of stability was also noticeable in the mining industry, considered as a whole. While some minerals showed an increase, others showed a decrease. Among the minerals whose production was on the increase were coal, iron ore, manganese, petroleum and mica.

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT'S INDUSTRIAL POLICY

In a statement on industrial policy issued by the Government of India on April 23, it was announced that Government would be prepared to consider claims from wartime industries which are established on sound lines to assistance or protection during the transition period. It is now published for general information that claims to assistance or protection in terms of this announcement should be addressed to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Commerce, said a Press Communique issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on April 23.

WARNING AGAINST ACCEPTANCE OF JAPANESE CURRENCY

A Press Communiqque issued by the Finance Department, Government of India, on April 30 stated:

During the occupation of Burma by the enemy the Japanese Government issued rupee currency notes of various denominations and, with the re-occupation of that country, it is possible that some of these notes may find their way into India. Apart from the utter worthlessness of such notes, the import into India of and dealings in enemy currency are prohibited by law and the public are therefore warned against their acceptance.

The Government of India's recognition has been gazetted today of the appointment of the Hon'ble George R. Merrell by the United States Government as Commissioner of the U.S.A. to India. He previously held the appointment of Secretary-in-Charge of the U.S. Mission, and has now been promoted to the personal rank of Minister, said a Press Note issued by the External Affairs Department, Government of India, on April 20.



A view of the Lodi Road flats nearing completion.

TEN FLATS A DAY! —DELHI'S NEW COLONY

BUILT at the rate of 10 flats a day or a flat in every 48 minutes, Delhi's new colony, south of Lodi Road and near Aligunj village, stands unrivalled in the history of building construction in India.

The colony has been built to provide accommodation for 2,468 Government servants—mostly clerks—and will be ready for occupation this summer. It will be a self-contained colony with a dispensary, health welfare and maternity centre, a boys' school, a girls' school, shopping centres, *dhobi ghats* and tonga stands. The layout also provides for a cinema hall, library, park and playground.

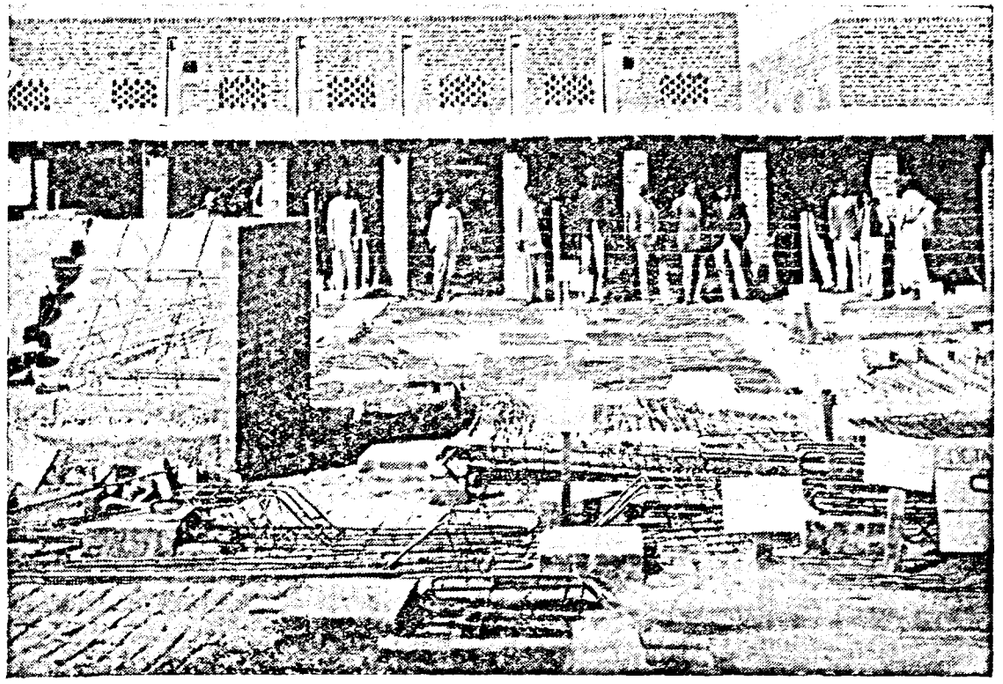
The colony has been built at a cost of Rs. 30 crores—more than that of the Viceroy's House or the Council Chamber or the Imperial Secretariat. The Central Public Works Department, who have undertaken this project, have broken their own past records in construction work. They built the Pusa Research Institute, costing Rs. 25 lakhs, in two years. The temporary bungalows on Lodi Road, also costing Rs. 25 lakhs, were completed in 4 months, giving an average of a bungalow a day. As against this the C.P.W.D. will have taken only 8 months to convert a barren tract of land into a permanent colony of more than 2,000 flats equipped with the necessary amenities of life.

It is estimated that the total quantity of building material used on the project is just over a million tons. If only the bricks used for the project were laid in a straight line they would completely cover the Equator. In addition, large quantities of cement, steel, timber, ballast and sand have been consumed.

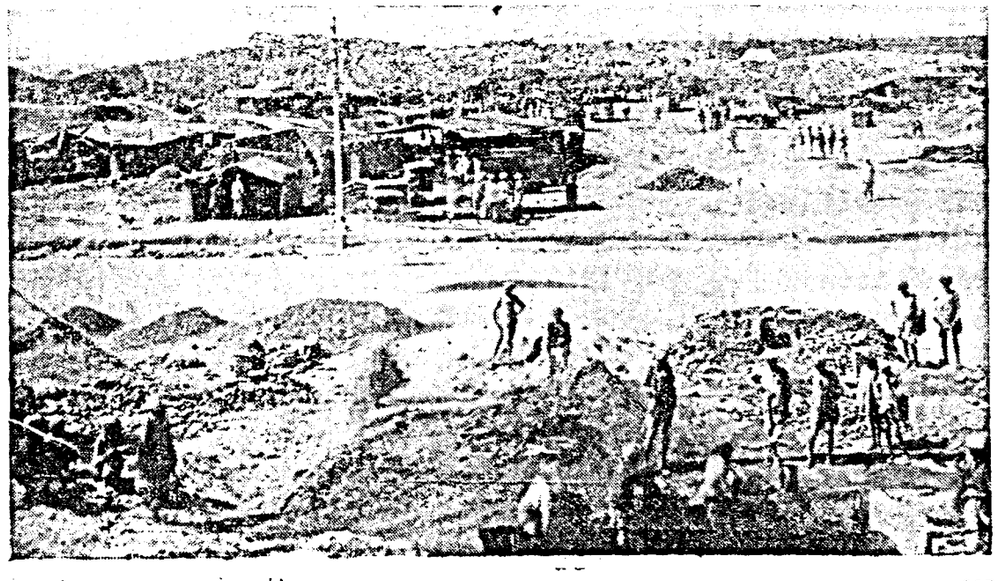
Day to Day Progress

Day to day progress on construction is watched from a special control room where there are charts indicating, at a glance, the progress made in various aspects of construction. Various models have been prepared and laid out on the ground, showing the various types of roofs with full details of reinforcements required. These models guide the inexperienced staff, and ensure that there is no mistake in the execution of the work. A special laboratory has also been opened at the spot to check the specification and to test the mortars used on constructions.

Including work on quarries, transport and other allied items the project has offered employment to about 47,000 labourers per day on a daily wage of Rs. 1|4|-, in the case of unskilled labour, and Rs. 2|8|- to Rs. 4|- in the case of skilled workers. Labour was imported



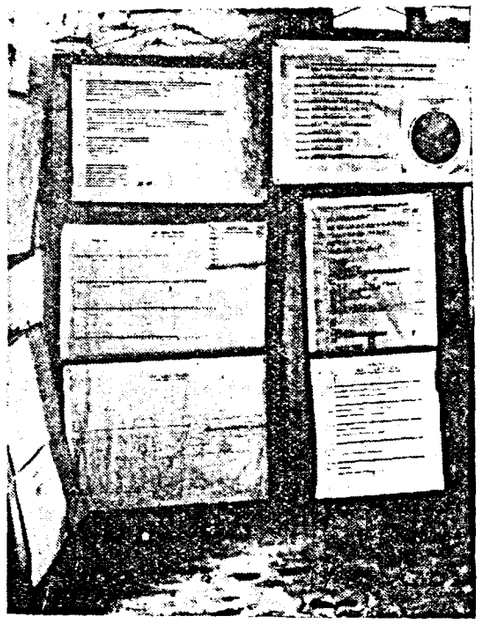
Models laid on the ground for guiding the raw staff. These models show the various types of roofs with details of reinforcements required and ensure that no mistake is made in the execution of the work. (Below) A view of the original site of the Lodi Road project. The mound of earth in the background indicates the amount of earthwork involved in converting a barren and undulating tract into a colony of 2,468 flats.



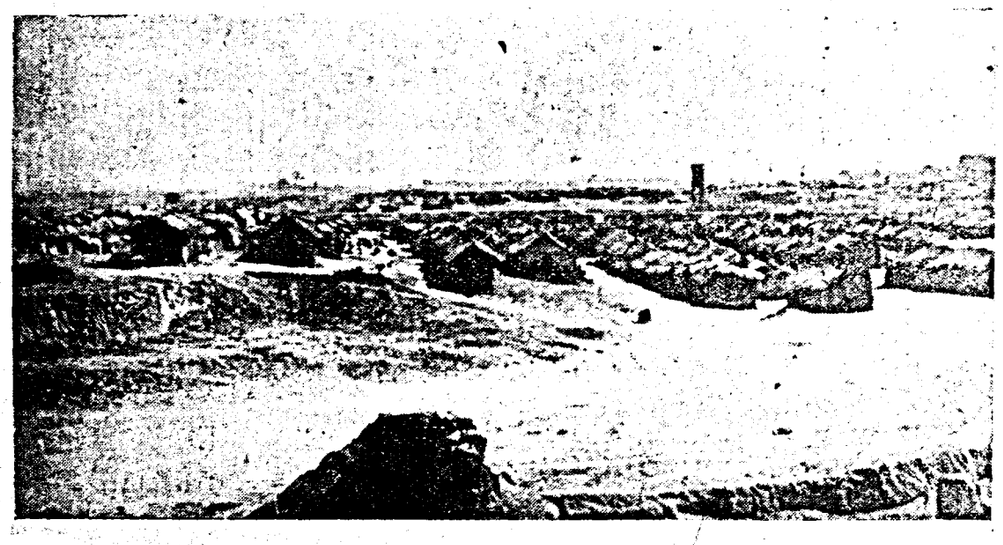
mostly from Rajputana and Central India States. The artisans—masons, carpenters and blacksmiths—came from the Eastern Punjab and U. P., and Pathans from N.-W.F.P., were employed on earth work.

In the vicinity of the works is a simple hutted colony accommodating a population of about 30,000 labourers. This is the Labour Camp which has been planned to overcome the formidable problem of housing large numbers of labourers imported from outside. The hutting material has been provided by contractors free of cost to labourers.

The colony does not merely provide living space. Arrangements have been made for obtaining drinking water from the filtered water mains of New Delhi Municipal Committee and from wells nearby. Each block of the labour camp has its own water stand posts and hydrants. Special sanitary inspectors have been appointed to look after conservancy arrangements. The colony has several shops for supplying rationed and unrationed articles. A cafeteria supplies mid-day meals to workers at cheap rates. The workers' health is looked after by a qualified doctor incharge of a temporary dispensary. Last year when Delhi was threatened by cholera the Doctor incharge gave 7,000 inoculations. In addition, 20,000 persons were recently vaccinated at the dispensary for small pox.



In the Control Room from where the day-to-day progress of the Lodi Road project is watched by engineers in charge of the construction. The charts indicate the labour position and the work done by individual contractors.



The Labour Camp, accommodating about 30,000 labourers, mostly imported from Rajputana and Central India States, near the new Colony.

HOUSING SCHEMES FOR COAL MINERS

The Mines Welfare Fund Advisory Committee at its meeting held on April 19, under the chairmanship of Mr. H. C. Prior, Secretary, Labour Department, Government of India, recommended that a sum of Rs. 27 lakhs should be spent immediately to build for coal miners, a township of two-roomed tenements on the outskirts of coal areas in the Raniganj coalfields. The colony should be provided with educational, medical, and recreational facilities. The committee recommended an expenditure of 1/5th of its present income, on housing for coal miners. An exhaustive survey of housing should be carried out and considered at the next meeting.

The Lady Welfare Inspector made a statement on the progress of labour welfare work among women miners. The representatives of Mine Owner's Associations accepted the responsibility of developing creches and bathing arrangements.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres

Explaining the activities of the Anti-Malaria Units, Major Beprai said that their campaign had protected an area of 88 square miles in the Ranigunj fields, covering a Labour Force of 1,22,000, and an area of 70 square miles in the Jharia fields, covering a labour force of of 87,000. Some progress was shown in the incidence of malaria during the past few months.

The Committee recommended that provincial Governments should be asked to carry out welfare activities in Orissa and Baluchistan, on behalf of the Fund. Experimental farms should be developed on big lines for supplying cheap vegetables to mining population. Grants were sanctioned for hospitals and ambulance facilities, and for construction of maternity and child welfare centres in the Central Provinces. A scheme for a travelling cinema was also adopted and steps necessary for developing water supply in the Bengal coalfields were discussed.

Subscriptions to the 3 per cent. First Development Loan 1970—75 amounted to Rs. 27 crores. The balance of Rs. 13 crores has been taken up by Government in their investment account and will be available for sale through the Reserve Bank of India as usual at prices to be ascertained from the Bank, said a Press Note issued by the Finance Department, Government of India, on April 19.

RECREATION FOR MASSES

Development of Indigenous Games

IN a broadcast on "Recreation for the Masses" from All India Radio, Delhi, on April 14, Mr. B. F. H. B. Tyabji, Deputy Secretary, Planning and Development Department, said that for out-door recreation a development of the indigenous games of this country which required the simplest of equipment and conditions of play was necessary.

"My talk to-night," Mr. Tyabji said, "is an attempt to stimulate discussion, and to stir up latent ideas on the subject, in governmental and municipal circles, in employers and above all in the workers themselves. We must definitely ensure that side by side with our attempts to improve the economic life of the people, we take concrete steps to provide facilities for them to utilize their greater wealth and leisure in the best manner possible.

"At present, the poor have hardly any facilities for spending their hard earned wages and their brief moments of leisure, in a manner worthy of civilized human beings, let alone in a manner which may contribute something to the advancement of civilization.

In Towns and Villages

"In towns, the worker has normally no means of amusing himself, except perhaps by going to the cinema once in a while, taking part in religious festivals, gambling on the race course or drinking country liquor surreptitiously in liquor shops, which have none of the social amenities provided in most English pubs. Amusement for the urban worker nowadays, is therefore usually bought at some sacrifice of his health, and certainly of his purse, without any compensating advantages to him or to his family, and certainly to none of the community.

"In villages, except rarely, the peasants' amusements are strictly confined to participation in religious fairs, and in occasionally listening to the music of some itinerant musician, or watching a wrestling match. The limited nature of these amusements in rural areas inevitably results in developing factions and feuds and in attendance in law courts, which to the litigant or at least to his friends, almost serve the purpose of a National Theatre. To such depths have ennui and the lack of facilities for civilised recreation lowered the rural masses."

With an increase in the standard of living, Mr. Tyabji said it was vitally important that steps should be taken to ensure that the worker was provided with facilities for amusing himself. The initiative must come from organised bodies composed of workers, employers, and Government or Municipal representatives. The cinema and the radio, he suggested, were the easiest mediums through which entertainments and enlightenment could be provided on a mass scale. He suggested the building up of people's theatres in which films could be shown as well as plays acted, musical concerts given and dances performed for the benefit of workers at nominal rates. These recreation centres should receive State support but should not be run by the State. The workers should be encouraged not only to participate in the management but to contribute directly by taking a part in the actual performances.

Referring to out-door recreation, Mr. Tyabji pointed out that hitherto almost all the attention had been devoted to the furtherance of western sports. What was the use of teaching students to play tennis or cricket in schools and colleges, if later on they were not able to play these games due to lack of equipment or fields? He suggested the development of indigenous games. To take an example of what could be done in the matter of providing popular sports, he said: "I may mention *Pirkaudi* —a game which is played in the western districts in the Punjab."

Open Air Amphitheatre

The Shahpur District Board a few years ago prepared a ground for this purpose with an open air amphitheatre for spectators, and holds an annual tournament. The result has been that the popularity of the game has increased by leaps and bounds and the District Board now makes a handsome profit out of the tournament. This game like others, such as *Gulli-danda, Kabadi, Ata-Pata, Bhi-ru-Kho* and wrestling, some of which are played in the Punjab, and others in Bombay, requires less than no equipment, and can be played by large numbers of players almost anywhere where there is a level stretch of ground. They have also a good entertainment value. These are the games which should be encouraged in schools and colleges in India, where the standard of living is low, and where it is known that most of the students will go back to areas in which the elaborate equipment and conditions which are required for playing western games will not be available.

Concluding Mr. Tyabji said: "An investigation into the various indigenous games of India, their prevalance in different parts of the country and the possibility of their development, is a crying necessity. If these games are encouraged, standard rules for playing them published by authoritative organisations, regular tournaments held, and publicity given to the results of tournaments and to the best players, I am sure they would soon become popular, and more and more people would begin to play and watch them. The cost of this would be negligible in comparison with what it would cost to encourage Western games on a comparable scale."

CENTRAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RAILWAYS

A meeting of the Central Advisory Council for Railways was held in New Delhi on April 14. The Council approved the policy of providing three classes of railway compartments in designing passenger coaches for the post-war period and the principle that the fares to be charged for the three classes should correspond to the present third class, inter class, and second class fares, though the actual rates would have to be based on prevailing price levels and other factors. Air-conditioned travel, where it is considered necessary, would be in addition to these three standard classes. The Council also approved in principle of the amalgamation of the M. and S.M. and S.I. Railways.

The catering policy on Railways was reviewed and the Council recommended that those catering arrangements which were satisfactory should not be disturbed during the war but after the war each catering contractor should be limited to an area not exceeding the equivalent of two railway divisions and preference should be given to professional local caterers, where these were available.

After the election of the Members from the Central Advisory Council to serve on Local Advisory Committees on Railways, the Council approved of the daily fees paid to Members serving on Sub-Committees of Local Advisory Committees being raised from Rs. 16 to Rs. 32. Consideration was also given to amenities for third class passengers in the post-war period and the steps taken by railways in connection with cleaning and disinfecting passenger coaches were reviewed and generally met with the Council's approval

WAR WORK OF NATIONAL SERVICE LABOUR TRIBUNALS

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's Tribute

"AT a time when the war was going none too well, when India herself was threatened with invasion, we were confronted with a serious bottleneck in the supply of technical personnel urgently required for the fighting Services and our war industries. The National Service Labour Tribunals were set up under the stress of urgency. Technical manpower had to be mobilised with the utmost speed and because of our lack of exxperience our plans had necessarily to be somewhat hazy. The task was frought with difficulties but its accomplishment is a great tribute to your efforts."

Thus observed the Hon'ble Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Labour Member, Government of India, in his address to the Chairmen of National Service Labour Tribunals, who assembled in Simla on April 19 to discuss questions relating to technical training scheme, the Naional Service (Technical Personnel) Ordinance, and Employment Exchanges.

Continuing the Labour Member said:

The Tribunals have directed nearly 15,000 technicians into national service. They have also exercised effective control over the movement of technical personnel. It was necessary to ask workmen to take up employment away from their homes or to prevent them from bettering their prospects by seeking employment elsewhere. In the United Kingdom such action is comparatively easy because conditions of employment are more or less standardised and the Ministry of Labour and National Service have a vast welfare organisation to watch the interests of a conscripted worker especially when he is required to go away from his home. The Tribunals in India were, however, placed in different circumstances, and on the whole it may be said that they have exercised their powers with commendable tact and restraint to the great advantage of the war effort but without undue disregard to the interests of the workers.

There have been employers who have complained that the Tribunals have been unduly soft to the workers. On the other hand, there have been complaints that the Tribunals have been unduly harsh towards the workers. I have never tried to discourage these complaints either from employers or workers because I have always believed that the careful consideration of complaints will enable Government to prescribe the right course of action. You will find therefore that on the one hand we are suggesting the tightening of control over the drift of labour regarding which there are still serious complaints in Calcutta. On the other hand, we are also requiring Tribunals to give closer attention to the conditions of employment of workers who are directed into national service or prevented from bettering their employment.

Control with Justice

I do not propose to enter into any of the details of the suggestions which will come for consideration in the subsequent meeting but I should like to impress upon you the fact that the war has imposed a very heavy strain upon the workers and that if we have on account of the war to impose a further sacrifice upon them, we should ensure that this is not done arbitrarily. Whatever the pressure from employers, the war emergency should not be the occasion for deteriorating labour conditions or lowering the dignity of labour.

In the United Kingdom vast powers are vested in the Minister of Labour and National Service but they are powers which can be exercised to an equal extent in both directions *i.e.*, against the employer as much as against the worker. These powers have been used to bring employers and workers together so that there may be greater collaboration between them. It is this spirit of co-operation which I should like to see inculcated in India and I am sure that it can be done if we exercise control with firmness but with full justice.

There is one other aspect of the work of the National Service Labour Tribunals that deserves notice. The recruitment for our training schemes in India and the United Kingdom has been entrusted to them and I should like to express my sincere appreciation of the care with which this task has been undertaken. But for this our training schemes could not have been a success.

In the case of the Bevin Training Scheme I know that the Ministry of Labour and National Service were particularly impressed by the excellent selection of the trainees who were sent to the United Kingdom. No doubt there were some black sheep among the Bevin trainees but considering the numbers that have been sent, we may congratulate ourselves that they were so very few in regard to whom it can be said that the time and money spent on their training was wasted. On the other hand, most of the

returned Bevin trainees will undoubtedly be of great help in raising the standard of our skilled workers. They have also brought back with them the unique experience of a nation fully mobilised for total war. What can a country not achieve when it is thus organised and why should these achievements be confined to war alone? Can we not extend them to the peace that we hope will follow shortly.

Resettlement Machinery

This brings me to the post-war issues which will confront us in no less bewildering a manner than the issues of war. The first and most important problem will be the resettlement of demobilised personnel and here I am thinking not only of the fighting Services but also of the large body of industrial workers engaged in war factories. No Government can leave the demobilised ex-service personnel and workers in war industries to their own fate during the transition from war to peace. Resettlement is a civil responsibility and Government have decided that it will fall on the Labour Department. Our resettlement proposals will be discussed with you. In the machinery that we hope to set up, the Chairmen of the National Service Labour Tribunals will be called upon to play a very important part.

The problem of resettlement is one which has to be tackled by the Centre and the Provinces in the closest co-operation. In the Provinces the Chairman will be the head of the regional organisation. It will be his duty to maintain the closest contact with the organisation at the Centre and with the Departments of the Provincial Governments. Your duties will call for the highest degree of tact, energy and enterprise. I hope that in the discharge of these duties your contribution will be no less than in wartime.

Efficient Employment Service

I need not enter into the details of our resettlement organisation but I should like to emphasise that in addition to a very necessary service for ex-service demobilised personnel, the main purpose of the organisation that we propose to set up is to lay the foundation of an efficient employment service in this country. The important feature of such a service is a co-ordinated system of Employment Exchanges. We have already set up a few of these Exchanges some of which have shown good results but it is clear that we must organise this machinery on a sounder basis. We require above all trained staff to run the Exchanges and suitable buildings to which workers and employers can come. In both respects our existing Exchanges have started with a very considerable handicap. So far as staff is concerned, we are proposing to inaugurate very shortly a training scheme for Managers and Assistant Managers. We hope that this training will enable newer Exchanges to be built up on the right lines.

The resettlement organisation will also have to concern itself with the training and re-conditioning of demobilised personnel and their welfare (follow-up) and will have to watch their interests in the new employment. Provision has also been made for publicity and canvassing. The details of the organisation will come before you for consideration and we shall also await suggestions from Provincial Governments.

Task of Great Magnitude

What is very important is that you, Gentlemen, should on your return to the Provinces discuss these proposals with the representatives of Provincial Governments and interest them in our scheme. We would like to avoid any misunderstanding as to its scope. If there are difficulties which you cannot resolve, we hope you will bring them to our notice and give us your own suggestions as to how they can be overcome. We have undertaken a task of great complexity and magnitude. We must therefore work together bearing in mind the higher interests that we have to serve.

I have taken much of your time and now, Gentlemen, before leaving you to your labours, I should like to wish you God speed and good luck.

PERSIAN STUDENTS FOR TRAINING IN INDIA

A Press Note issued by the External Affairs Department, Government of India, on April 19 stated:

The following Persian students are now on their way to India for technical training under the Government of India's Scholarship scheme:

Messrs. Yusuf Nemazi, Mahmud Taghavay, Yahya Fuyuzat, Syed Mohammad Imam Juneh, Bijan Yassemi and Muhammad Abidi.

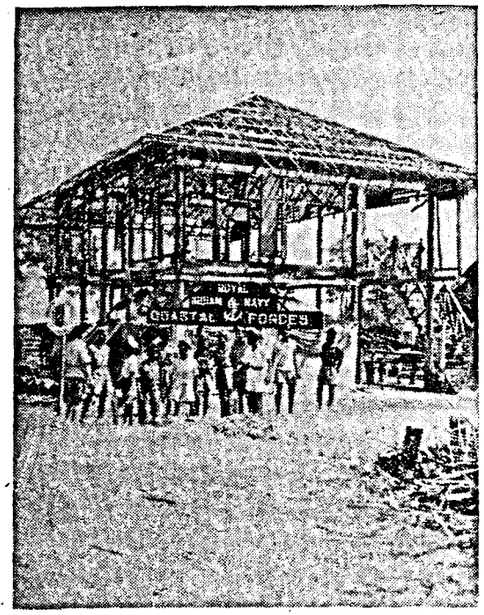
The first four will join the Agricultural College, Lyallpur and the others the Forest Research Institute and College, Dehra Dun.

R.I.N.'S MOST ADVANCED BASE IN BURMA

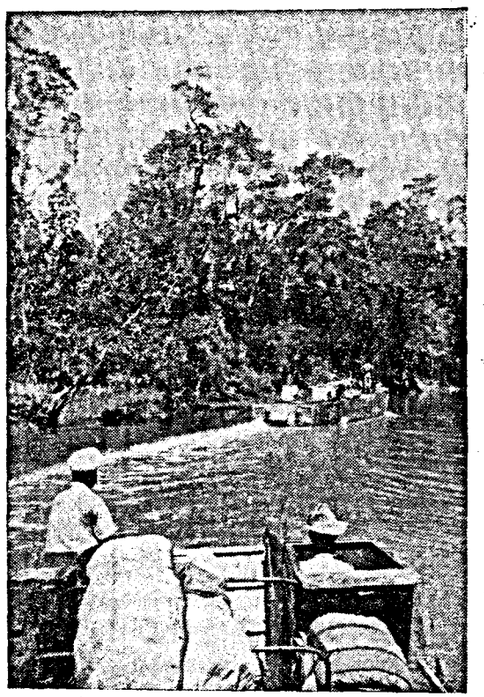
IN his tent on a battle-scarred beach, the Commanding Officer of the Royal Indian Navy's most advanced base told me how the base had kept pace with the naval pursuit of the Japs, writes an R.I.N. Observer.

Three months ago the base was located on the Naaf River, where India meets Burma. As landing followed landing, it moved further south and east and now, down the Burma coast, the coastal forces advanced base is working at top pressure to keep the "little ships with a big punch" fighting fit.

At one time only three miles separated it from Japanese forward positions. "But wild animals have been a bigger menace than the Japs," said the C.O., recalling the night when an uninvited elephant removed the bathroom of the Senior Officer, Arakan Coastal Forces.



R.I.N. Artificers, who help to keep the motor launches of Arakan Coastal Forces operationally fit, at an advanced base on the west coast of Burma.



The L.C.A.'s on reconnaissance move up a narrow chaung in the Ru-Ywa beach-head area.

Setting up a naval repair base in the jungle is not easy. First the site has to be cleared, then workshops and living quarters prepared and jetties built, perhaps under most difficult conditions on a soft, muddy shore. Many jobs which would normally fall to the Army have been carried out by R.I.N. ratings, sometimes working day and night to get the work completed.

With its own sea and land transport, the base has to be ready to strike camp and move forward at short notice. It had "set up shop" on Ramree Island within a week of the first assault.

Last year the C.O., Lieut.-Comdr. Peter Munro, R.I.N.V.R., of Glasgow, had two other Scots on his staff—Lieut. Hugh Stewart, R.I.N.V.R., of Dunon, and Lieut George Stewart, R.I.N.V.R., of Lossiemouth. They were known as the "Highland Division". Lieut. Hugh Stewart has left now but, of the original staff, the Engineer Officer, Lieut (E) L. R. Gillespie, R.I.N.V.R., of Bombay, remains.

I talked with some of the Indian ratings who have been helping with the good work. Sixteen years' service in the R.I.N. and two





Subaltern E. M. Rawes of Moulton England (left) and Subaltern P. Parry of Holyhead, (N. Wales) with a Burmese baby patient at the Casualty Clearing Station in Shwebo (Burma). (Right) Sister Margaret Mayor of Preston (England) examines a Burmese baby patient.

BURMA FIELD AMBULANCE UNIT'S RECORD

BEHIND the story of advances in Burma is one of magnificent devotion and often amazing improvisation, of wounded brought in by pony, boat and gunny bag stretcher over some of the worst country in the world, of basha hospitals and operations under a tarpaulin roof—the story of the medical services.

Part of that service, a Field Ambulance (Burma) serving with a brigade operating in the Lushai Hills, the Chin Hills and later the Myittha Valley, has met and overcome its full share of hardship.

When it could not evacuate severely wounded it operated in an operating theatre built of bamboo and lined with white parachute cloth, with tarpaulin on the floor to keep down the dust, and a light shade made from a biscuit tin.

At first, with the brigade in a semi-static state within and close to the eastern boundaries of the Lushai Hills, with headquarters at Aijal, the Medical Dressing Station was provided with medical supplies by land; the forward units and medical detachments with three of the four zones into which the operational area had been split received them by air with the normal ration drops.

Medical Supplies by Air

Later, when the brigade began to move forward, all medical supplies came by air and scarcely any were damaged. Even on the one occasion when a parachute failed to open the container fell on soft earth and much of the contents was salvaged.

The Field Ambulance has used practically every conceivable method of moving wounded—pony, improvised stretcher, jeep, motor ambulance, bullock cart, truck and country boat.

At Falam, where the Medical Dressing Station moved from Aijal, covering 174 miles to keep up with the forward advance into the Chin Hills, the only evacuation from the hills by air was made—13 cases were flown off from the air strip. After three weeks, when the retreat of the Japs from the Chin Hills down the valley further east took the M.D.S. to a place named Bombay Camp and later further forward towards Gangaw to Zahaw Camp, lines of communication improved and it began to function in a more orthodox fashion.

Civilians as well as troops have reason to be grateful to the Field Ambulance. As it moved on it treated many, most of them suffering from malarial fever or children with chronic ulcers on legs and feet. Locally the inhabitants called them Japanese sores.

Of all illnesses that came to the Ambulance's home-built "hospitals" malaria headed the list. To combat it strict anti-malarial precautions were enforced throughout the operation and suppressive mepacrine was taken.

Towards the end of the campaign a dental surgeon flew in and treated cases but normally the only dental treatment was extraction.

THE LAST TRAIN FROM KYAUKSE

Just before we took Kyaukse the Japs prepared an evacuation train, scheduled to be the last to leave Kyaukse station, and loaded it with 23 wagons of sewing machines, medical stores, electrical goods, clothing, photographic material, litters of pictorial journals, large quantities of paper—enough to last a year for an entire school—and mess furniture, including settees.

But the train did not leave. Our troops found its passengers lying with their bones scattered all over the station yard.

"Shabash," said a Jawan from the Punjab, paying a tribute to the R.A.F.

A Sikh company of a famous Indian regiment were the first to enter Kyaukse, says an Indian Army Observer writing from Kyaukse on April 3. In the town were only four Japs, who were dragging a 37 mm. anti-tank gun. They never got it away.

Dogras were the first to enter the railway station. They made an inventory of the stock in a register provided for the purpose by the Japs.

Gurkhas and Punjabis are pushing north towards Kyaukse, supported by tanks, while other Gurkhas, also with tanks, are pushing south. Principal opposition is at the moment mostly from mines and booby traps.

TRIUMPH OVER MALARIA IN BURMA

INDIAN and British troops in Burma are winning a war within a war. For the first time in this theatre casualties from malaria are to-day fewer in number than battle casualties.

In March this year the incidence of malaria in the 14th Army was 25 per 1,000 per day—less than a fifth of the total for the previous March. The contributing factors to this very real victory are that we are now in a comparatively healthy area in Central Burma and we have made remarkable progress in the medical fight against the disease.

The Japs had everything in their favour at the start of operations. They were the world's main producers of pyrethrum extract—once the most effective base for insecticides. They captured extensive quinine-producing areas and they also controlled large quantities of citronella oil, a powerful insect repellent. Allied scientists then came to the rescue. They invented D.D.T., the insecticide one hundred times more powerful than pyrethrum and produced atabrin and mepacrine—as the British product is called. Skat, an insect repellent which proved more powerful and lasting than citronella oil, also came to our aid, writes an Indian Army Observer.

Field Laboratory

Mepacrine's effectiveness was proved by an Indian Division during the monsoon months in the Arakan last year when the divisional commander listed the disease as Enemy No. 1. Men took the medicine every day and the malaria rate dropped from over 300 cases per week to less than 50 per week in a matter of six weeks. It has been kept at a low level eversince.

Research has produced the answer to the malaria menace. To-day it is a question of training, discipline and publicity.

Much of the research has been carried out in India and Burma. The Deputy Director of Medical Service, 14th Army, Brigadier G. E. Macalevey, who headed the medical section of the Lethbridge Mission which made a study of health conditions in all the Jap theatres of war, has made full use of the lessons learnt by American and Australian troops in the Pacific. A malaria field laboratory in Burma has taught us still more about the carrier *anothellines* and its strategemes.

BURMA OIL TOWN GREETS INDIAN LIBERATORS

WHEN Jats and Gurkhas of a famous Indian brigade entered the oil town of Chauk the civilian population came streaming from their houses to greet them. Men and women, young and old, lined the streets and showered flowers on their liberators.

The oil wells and all the machinery are intact. But the Japs dumped most of their own stores into the river and burnt 200 bags of rice to prevent them from falling into the hands of the starving Burmese.

River Patrols

Chauk was captured without the firing of a single shot. But the Japs fought desperately to keep the Gurkhas at bay at Singu, north of the oil town. While they were shelling our positions there Jats and Gurkhas rushed forward from Kyaukpadaung with characteristic speed and reached the southern tip of Chauk.

As the battle of Singu raged the Japs quietly evacuated Chauk. Some fled across the river to Siekpyu while others made their way downstream where our river patrols shot up their boats. Under cover of darkness the enemy rearguard at Singu also cleared out.

In the meantime Gurkhas from the south were already advancing towards Chauk and at first light the Jats moved up the main road with British tanks. Large pylons pulled down on the road obstructed the advance but not a single Jap was seen, writes an Indian Army Observer.

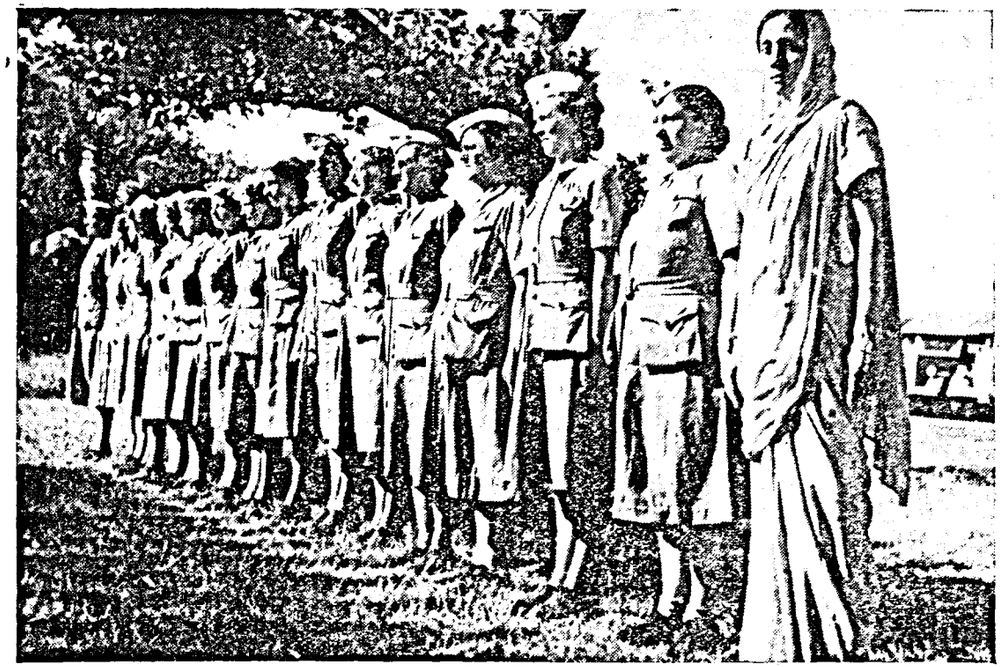
The Gurkhas in the north were now busy combing Singu. They found the streets heavily mined and every inch of ground had to be carefully searched. The city itself was a mass of stones and iron girders. It was late in the day when they finally linked up with the troops coming from the south.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO GOVERNMENT LOANS

During the three months ending April 28, 1945, Rs. 83 crores were subscribed to the Central Government loans. This comprised Rs. 18¼ crores invested in the 3 per cent. Victory Loan, 1957, before that loan was closed on February 17, Rs. 11½ crores in the 3 per cent. Second Victory Loan, 1959—61, Rs. 27 crores in the 3 per cent. First Development Loan, 1970—75, and Rs. 26¼ crores in the other loans on sale through the Reserve Bank.



Liberated Burmese villagers return to their homes.



Volunteers of the Transport Division, St. John Ambulance Brigade, Bombay, at squad drill.

Italy, or wherever an Indian soldier is found. The Indian Comforts Fund is financed by the Indian Red Cross and St. John.

"In the Far East, food is sent to the Indian prisoners of war by the Indian Red Cross in bulk shipments, as and when the Japanese Government allows it to do so. The Japanese do not generally give the Red Cross the consideration it gets from other nations. Notwithstanding this the Organisation has been able to send several thousand tons of Indian food. In addition, medical supplies and cash grants are made to the Swiss Protecting Power, and the International Red Cross delegate in the Far East.

Parcels of Warm Clothing

"Besides all this the Indian Red Cross regularly sends parcels of warm clothing to Indian prisoners of war—woollens of all kinds. Not only this, it sends them gramophones, gramophone records, books, razors, towels, soaps, etc.; in fact, everything a man can want."

The speaker explained the work of the Organisation for the care of the sick and the wounded, which stretched from the most eastern point of India, and now part of Burma, to Iran, Iraq, Egypt, the Middle East and N. Africa, and indicated some of over 400 items of supplies made to hundreds of hospitals. "Wounded men on their way from the front to hospitals and rest homes are met by the Red Cross representatives and given comforts. The Red Cross never rests; wherever there is a wounded soldier, the Red Cross is also there."

Diversional Therapy

Referring to the Red Cross Welfare Service, the speaker pointed out: "Here work is performed in hospitals, both by voluntary workers and by a paid staff. This work has nothing to do with nursing, but is devoted to the welfare of patients, the most striking activity being Diversional Therapy, which teaches patients handicrafts of various kinds and helps to take their minds off their illness, and away from the normal hospital atmosphere. This work also includes store-keeping, library work, writing letters to the relatives of the sick and wounded, handling inquiries from relatives, tracing missing soldiers, and a postal and shopping service".



An Indian Military Hospital in the Middle East. The Indian Red Cross and St. John Ambulance have over 400 items on their list of supplies which are sent regularly to all military hospitals.

WAR WOUNDED NEED WOMEN HELPERS

"IF INDIAN women only realised the joy it gives to a wounded sepoy when he is brought to hospital to be greeted by a woman welfare worker of his own race they would come forward not in hundreds but in thousands" states Maj.-Gen. Sir Gordon Jolly, Chief Commissioner of the Indian Red Cross and St. John War Organisation, in his annual report.

General Jolly has just returned from a tour of Italy, the Middle East and Iraq where, he says, he found Indian sick and wounded in good heart and thankful for the comforts the people of India had sent them.

A small party of Indian Red Cross welfare workers has reached the Middle East and Italy and another has arrived in Iraq. Both parties are under Indian ladies as officers.

"The arrival of these parties", says Gen. Jolly," has been greeted enthusiastically by our wounded, who beg for more of their countrywomen to go to their help.

"At an Indian casualty clearing station in Italy near the front, I found a British Red Cross worker helping the wounded. She was doing magnificent work.

"One of our wounded said to me, 'She met me with a smile when I was carried in and gave me Red Cross comforts. It made all the difference'. He added wistfully, 'Have our own women forgotten us that they do not come?'

"I told him I would pass his message on and I am appealing, on behalf of all our gallant sepoys, to Indian women to serve Indian wounded and sick.

"We want about a dozen now for the Mediterranean Theatre and many more for the Eastern Front and India. We want the best women to volunteer in the true Red Cross spirit. Our sick and wounded deserve the best that India can give".

APPEAL FOR RED CROSS FUNDS

The Indian Red Cross and St. John War Organisation is preparing to meet the heaviest demands yet made upon its funds.

The annual report estimates that as the Eastern war front develops rapidly increasing demands of the forces for Red Cross supplies and services will involve expenditure of three and threequarters crores of rupees.

"This estimate," states the report, "does not include the cost of sending supplementary food and clothing to prisoners of war in Japanese hands on the scale which we have found necessary in Europe. That would add another three and a half crores in a complete year if the Japanese agreed to admit shipments.

"If an appeal for funds is launched this autumn it cannot prudently be for less than three crores and more may well be needed".



Wounded soldiers in a Middle East hospital dictate letters to two Red Cross welfare workers for transmission to their families.

NEW "WELFARE GENERAL"

Lt.-Gen. Sir N. Beresford-Peirse

IN order to strengthen the arrangements for welfare in the three Services, and to relieve the Adjutant General of some of his duties, the Government of India have formed a new branch at G.H.Q. This branch will include the existing Directorates of Welfare, Education, Resettlement and Services Kinematography.

Head of this new branch as "Welfare General" is "B.P."—Lieut.-General Sir Noel Beresford-Peirse, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., till recently General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Army.

"B.P.", as he is affectionately known to thousands of servicemen throughout India, has, among other qualities, warmth of human sympathy, capacity for trenchant criticism, and above all, drive. In the hands of this burly, robust and incisive general, it is certain that new impetus will be given to implementing the recommendations of the Munster Report.

"B.P." is a character. With his eternal cigar which, it is said, he smokes in bed as well as in bath, he combines a genial yet aggressive personality which gets results.

He cannot be ruffled. The tougher the spot he finds himself in, the better tempered and sweeter he becomes, but the more dogged.

Commissioned as a gunner in 1907, he was a battery major in Mesopotamia and Egypt during the last war and earned the D.S.O. after the capture of Baghdad. In 1918, he fought in France and became a brigade-major.

Outstanding Victory

He was in the war office in 1929 and Southern Command in 1934. "B.P." was next given command of the Royal Artillery of the Fourth Indian Division and in August of 1939 he became divisional commander.

In December 1940, he led his men to victory at Siddi Barrani in the Western Desert. Then the division moved to the Sudan and invaded Eritrea, where he won an outstanding victory at Agordat in January, 1941. There followed an even tougher struggle at Keren where he defeated the Italians, who outnumbered us six to one.

After a spell as Commander, Western Desert Force, "B.P." returned to the Sudan as



Lt.-Gen. Sir Noel Beresford-Peirse—a cartoon by War Artist Dugdale.

G.O.C. and later to India as Commander of the 15th Corps. He became G.O. C.-in-C. Southern Army, in 1942.

In this capacity, "B.P." has done much for the welfare of troops under his command. He has been responsible for setting up a number of leave centres and by a personal interest has arranged for private hospitality to be given to British and Indian soldiers in every large town of Southern India.

The Welfare General will have the same status as the Adjutant General, the Quarter Master General and the Master General of the Ordnance. The staffs of the Resettlement and Services Kinematography Directores will continue on an integrated inter-services basis.

An Inter-Services Welfare and Education Committee will be set up to ensure co-ordination and best use of resources. Its members will be the Welfare General, the Flag Officer Commanding the Royal Indian Navy, and the Air Officer Commanding, India.

Among the duties of the Welfare General will be:—

To advise the Commander-in-Chief, whenever required, on all matters concerning resettlement, services kinematography and the

army aspects of welfare and education, and to advise the Principal Administrative Officer on the army aspects of these four subjects.

To maintain close touch with the Headquarters of the Supreme Allied Commander, South East Asia; East Indies Fleet; Allied Land Forces, South East Asia; and Base Air Forces, South East Asia, and to give the greatest possible assistance to them whenever required.

To control the work of the four Directorates under him and to represent their requirements and problems to the appropriate heads of the Services and to Departments of the Government of India through the Defence or War Departments.

N.-W. ARMY'S BIG LEAVE SCHEME

Arrangements for the opening of large leave camps for personnel from the Central Command and the North-West Army are now almost complete. The principal centre, in the Murree Hills, will accommodate about 6,000 troops who will be housed in new buildings sited in pine forests.

Special catering arrangements are being made at the leave centres. Troops will have plenty of sport, ranging from tennis and cricket to football and badminton and there are famous beauty spots within easy walking distance.

Arrangements in Kashmir

In Kashmir special arrangements have been made for the accommodation of British soldiers in private houses and hotels under the direction of the W.V.S. The Maharaja of Kashmir has lent the W.V.S. a house which is run as an allied forces club. Here refreshments are served, books and indoor games are provided and there are dances and whist drives.

As nights are chilly in both Murree and Kashmir visitors are advised to bring warm bedding and clothing as well as sports gear. Transport from Rawalpindi will be provided free by the new fleet of the North-West Army buses.

Arrangements for accommodation and transport to the centres should be made through unit welfare officers.

INDIAN HOCKEY STARS ENTERTAIN TROOPS

TRAVELLING by air, road and rail, some of India's leading hockey players have been giving Indian troops in the India and S.E.A. Commands the sporting thrill of their lives.

The players have been taking part in the Sports Circus sent out by the Director of Welfare and run by the Inter-Services Sports Exhibition Control Committee. They have entertained thousands of Indian and British troops.

As well as hockey players the Circus includes English and Scottish footballers, several of them internationals. Indian troops were as keen to watch them as were their British comrades, some of whom marched 25 miles to see a game.

Outstanding Players

Outstanding among the hockey players was Lieut. Dhyan Chand, who has played for India in New Zealand, Australia, Holland, America and Germany, and who is acknowledged as one of the world's greatest players.

Flying Officer (now Fl.-Lt.) Asghar Hussain, another member of the team, should also have represented India abroad but the war put an end to the World Hockey Championship in which he was to have played in Amsterdam. He was a member of the Lahore Y.M.C.A. team which won the famous Aga Khan tournament in 1937.

Another player, better known in sports circles as Shamim, is Capt. S. Shamim Yazdani, who played for the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun, and the Mohammedan Sporting Club, Calcutta. Chief Petty Officer Malik, a former captain of Islamia College and a member of the R.I.N. team in Bombay since 1944, has also been playing and there are two members of the Jullundur area eleven in Havildar Shub Dev Singh Gill and Ram Parkash, a civilian schoolmaster and a member of the Sansarpur Club, famous for the players it has produced.

Others who made the tour were Havildar Raja Safdar Ali (formerly of the Tiger Club, Dalwal), Daffadar-Major Mirza Yaqub Beg, Havildar Hari Singh, Naik Thawar Singh, Havildar Guzara Singh (formerly of the Cosmopolitan Club) and Havildar-clerk Gurdarshan Singh.

POST-WAR POSSIBILITIES OF W.V.S.

THE Punjab was one of the first Provinces to respond to Lady Linlithgow's suggestion to start a W.V.S. in India. In the autumn of 1940, Delhi and the Punjab opened a joint office in Simla. Soon afterwards we opened our own branch in Lahore, a shy and diffident child to rear, for though we were all eager to help in the war, it was not easy at first to think out and organise suitable types of employment, and to convince the peace-loving women in the Province, that there was a real need for them to control and train themselves to face any eventualities. How far we have travelled since then and what new interests and joys and sorrows we have all been privileged to share since those early days!

The War at home couldn't fail to bring women in closer touch with each other through the ghastly horrors of bombing, of shelter-life, of the dreary ration queues, and the common tragedy of personal loss. But in India the picture was different. There was little of this kind to create a common bond and there was nothing spectacular or heroic to be done. Yet we all

By Lady Glancy (wife of the Punjab Governor).

A Broadcast from A.I.R., Lahore, on April 29

knew that there were countless ways in which we could help those in authority if only we could turn ourselves into an organised and reliable body of women voluntary helpers.

This is the goal we set ourselves, and the W.V.S. today has come to be recognised as a most valuable help to all branches of the services, both civil and military and our work has spread over fields that we had never contemplated. I have said that there was nothing spectacular or heroic to be done. But I personally think that we have every reason to feel proud of those women who have endured the worst days of the hot weather in order to carry on the various welfare jobs—organising entertainments for troops on leave, working in Red Cross Depots, and in our National Savings Bureau, giving assistance to bewildered evacuees, and above all showing patience and sympathy to all comers (none too easy with the thermometer at 120 degree and with a telephone never ceasing to ring). They have met and served troop trains at the railway canteens on the coldest winter mornings or through stifling hot-weather days.

Heaven knows all this may seem trifling enough to those who have endured much greater hardships at home, but at least we can honestly say that all that has been done, has been carried out with our whole-hearted and earnest desire to be of real help.

1,300 Members in Punjab

We have 1,300 members in the Punjab, not as many as we should like, but numbers do not always throw a true light on the value and quality of the work. The Punjab has tried to specialise as a holiday home for men far away from the Regimental surroundings, and our members have come forward with invitations to the men, delighting to welcome them to their own houses or helping in organising entertainment for their amusement. Our W.V.S. leave homes and convalescent homes are always full.

In 1943 and 1944 some of our members felt that they would like to help further afield and volunteered for canteen work in Forward Areas. To these women I would like to pay a special tribute, as their lot—at least in the beginning—was none too easy. But all returned full of enthusiasm and assured us of the need for further volunteers to this field of service.

Our W.V.S. members in the Punjab States have also played their part by their regular subscriptions that have enabled our Provincial Office to finance many new schemes for the benefit of the troops. They have also contributed children's clothes to the Jack and Jill fund for bombed out families in England.

The Future

And now our thoughts are turned to the great day of Victory, or shall we say peace and the maintaining of peace, which surely will be the great object before us women. It has been said that there can be no complete victory without the assistance of the home-front. This has been Humanity's battle and women all over the world have taken their share and must continue to do so long after the European war ceases. Even when peace is firmly established, should the W.V.S. be content to disband itself? Surely there are many ways in which a women's organisation can always be of help—such as by visiting the sick—helping to recruit nurses—keeping alive the Fauji Sevadarni Movement which aims at the benefit of soldiers' families.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 653)

REHABILITATION OF EX-SERVICE MEN

Nawab M. A. Gurmani's Broadcast

"THE foundation stone of the new structure upon which we have to build a new and happier India is creative demobilisation," said Nawab M. A. Gurmani, M.L.A. (Punjab) in the course of a talk on the "Resettlement and Re-employment of demobilised Soldiers," broadcast on April 21 from the Delhi Station of All India Radio, in the series "Building a New India." On this stone are engraved, he added, the words "To generations to come."

Continuing, the speaker said that ex-services men and women would be a national asset of great value. Their resettlement should not, therefore, be treated merely in the spirit either of rewards for their meritorious services or of unemployment relief. It should be considered from the broader viewpoint of making the maximum use of this very fine human material.

Avenues of Employment

The main branches of employment in which, according to the speaker, the demobilised persons could be placed would be: higher grades of supervisory and executive employment, clerical and commercial occupations, engineering, building and other technical trades, professional and semi-professional occupations, domestic and social services, agricultural and allied occupations, unskilled occupations, and women's services.

"On demobilisation the qualifications and skills of demobilised persons will have to be properly assessed and advice and information given to them in regard to available opportunities for employment best suited to their capacity," said the speaker. "Facilities for refresher courses, technical and vocational training or re-training or trades apprenticeship will have to be provided to those who need them. A network of employment exchanges will have to be set up to ensure their prompt placement in employment most suited to their skill or qualifications. A follow-up service will have to be established to watch their interests in their new jobs and to assist them to adapt themselves to their new surroundings and to bring about mutual understanding and cordial relations between them and their new employers."

Referring to the rehabilitation and resettlement of disabled persons the speaker pointed out that the problem would need special attention. "It is on them that the war has inflicted its cruellest ravages. Disablement represents double loss to the nation, in as much as it involves a loss in the productive capacity of the country as also an increase in the burden of those earning members of the community on whom the disabled have to lean for their maintenance. It is, therefore, of the utmost importance that we should provide for their rehabilitation by all the means which modern medical research has placed at our disposal."

The success of resettlement, according to Nawab Gurmani, would depend largely in the volume and scope of employment available in the post-war period. "It is to be hoped," the speaker said, "that the post-war development schemes of the Central and Provincial Governments would provide ample scope for useful employment for the demobilised members of the Defence Services and would open up new avenues of employment through the economic development of the country, which would lead to the raising of general standards of living of the population."

To achieve the speedy execution of development scheme and the orderly return to civil life of a large number of demobilised persons a well-organised employment service would be needed. The first task of this service, Nawab Gurmani, pointed out, would be to find out in advance so far as possible the scope and character of employment in the transition period.

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT'S MONTHLY ACCOUNTS

The Central Government's monthly accounts for January, 1945, show that, excluding periodical adjustments and the transactions of Railways and Posts and Telegraphs, expenditure in the first 10 months of the financial year, 1944-45, exceeded revenue by Rs. 156¼ crores against Rs. 135¼ crores in the corresponding period of the previous year. Revenue was actually better by about Rs. 91½ crores but Defence expenditure increased by about Rs. 106 crores to Rs. 330¼ crores and Civil expenditure by Rs. 6¼ crores. Net receipts from Railways and Posts and Telegraphs were better by Rs. 9¼ crores and Rs. 1 2|3 crores respectively.

There has been an increase of Rs. 179¼ crores under Permanent Debt during this period.

WAR EFFORT OF EUROPEAN WOMEN IN INDIA

A Press Communique issued by the Defence Department, Government of India, on April 20 stated:

An Ordinance was issued in October, 1944, requiring all European British women in India between the ages of 18 and 50, who were not permanent Government employees, military or civil, to register themselves. As stated in the Press Note issued at the time, the main object of the Ordinance was to obtain a clean picture of the war work women in each district were in a position to do, so as to help the local authorities to offer an opportunity for such work for all women residing in their district and to find the most suitable work for each woman to do.

Voluntary War Work

Returns have now been received from all Provinces which show that the total number of women registered under the Ordinance was 14,300. Of these, 9,224 were found to be doing voluntary war work, 3,245 of them for more than 20 hours a week; 2,049 were unable to undertake war work for reasons deemed sufficient by local authorities, 772 were not engaged in war work owing to lack of opportunity, being in remote districts, etc., and 2,255 were doing no work for reasons appearing to the local authorities to be insufficient, though many of them had expressed willingness to undertake work when offered. It should be noted that women in Government service were not required to register and that at the time of registration, 2,200 European British women were employed in the W.A.C.(I) besides those otherwise employed under Government.

Substantial Contribution

Thus, out of 14,300 European British women registered under the Ordinance only 2,255 or about 16 per cent., who could take up war work had not done so. This shows that European British women as a class have already made a substantial contribution to the war effort and the welfare of the fighting forces.

The Government of India, and H. E. the Commander-in-Chief on behalf of the forces, wish to place on record their appreciation of the excellent work done by the large numbers of women who are devoting their time and energy to voluntary service. At the same time they hope that those who are not doing any work at present and those who are putting in only a few hours a week will approach the local authorities and voluntary organisations with an offer of their services for whatever war work they are in a position to undertake. In this way every woman will be able to play her part in the war effort, and the organisation of voluntary work in each locality will be greatly assisted.

FOUR W.A.C.(I) SISTERS

Pioneers in a pioneer service, four sisters of a Sindhi family are now members of the W.A.C.(I).

They are Pte. Ramchandani and Pte. Waswani, wireless operators; Pte. Killian Vaswani, an equipment assistant with the R.A.F.; and Pte. Durga Vaswani, a general duties clerk with the R.A.F.

Especially significant is the fact that the girls, of whom the eldest is aged 24, come of a community well-known for its conservatism.

The two younger sisters have joined the Corps on general service terms, which means that they are prepared to serve in any part of India.

The sisters are strikingly alike, look smart in their khaki uniforms and are efficient workers.

NEW SUMMER UNIFORM FOR W.A.C.(I)

W.A.C.(I)s are now wearing a new summer uniform. It is simple and smart, light and cool.

In place of the khaki drill skirt and the bush shirt that have served for summer wear in the past is a short-sleeved dress of shirting cotton cellular khaki.

It has a front yoke with a centre panel opening to the waist and brown wooden or leather buttons, a straight back yoke with an inverted pleat, a six-gored skirt and rows of stitching on belt and cuffs of sleeves.

Two breast pockets with a centre box pleat add a touch of "utility" to the new uniform.

INCREASED ALLOWANCES FOR GALLANTRY AWARDS

WINNERS of various gallantry decorations before February 15 last year are to receive an increase in the monetary allowances which go with the awards, says an Army Instruction (India) published on April 20.

Generally the revised rates are based on the standard of gallantry required for various awards before that date and on the revised allowances granted to persons winning the awards since then and announced in September.

This does not apply to the I.O.M. and I.D.S.M., since the degree of gallantry required for these awards was raised on February 15 last year, and subsequent winners therefore receive a different monetary allowance.

Revised Allowances

The revised allowances are tenable for two lives, those of the person to whom they are awarded and his widow, and are effective from February 15, 1944.

Among the decorations and allowances concerned are:—

	Previous monthly allowances for awards granted before 15-2-44.	Revised monthly allowances for awards granted before 15-2-44.
Victoria Cross	Rs.	Rs.
V.C.O.	43 12 0	70 0 0
Indian other rank	12 8 0	35 0 0
I.O.M. 2nd Class.		
Subedar-Major and		
Subedar	25 0 0	40 0 0
Jemadar	14 0 0	40 0 0
Havildar	5 0 0	10 0 0
Naik	4 0 0	10 0 0
Sepoy	3 0 0	10 0 0
I.O.M. 1st Class.		
Subedar-Major and		
Subedar	37 0 0	55 0 0
Jemadar	21 0 0	55 0 0
Havildar	7 8 0	15 0 0
Naik	6 0 0	15 0 0
Sepoy	4 0 0	15 0 0

Revised allowances for I.D.S.M. and I.D.S.M. and bar are subject to the adjustment of gratuity already drawn. Subject to this the I.D.S.M. won before February 15, 1944, carries with it an allowance of Rs. 5 a month, and the I.D.S.M. and bar won between September 3, 1939, and February 15, 1944, Rs. 7. If the medal is won before September 3, 1939, and the bar between then and February 15, 1944, the allowance is Rs. 5 a month.

Petty officers and ratings of the R.I.N. who were awarded the D.S.M. before February 15, 1944, now receive a monetary allowance of Rs. 5 a month where previously there was none.

"AMENITIES PACKS" FOR INDIAN TROOPS IN ITALY

Indian troops fighting far from their homeland now have "amenities packs," which are being sent out to them in large numbers.

A grant of Rs. 20,000 has been made from the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund to the Director-General of Welfare and Amenities for the provision of these packs to troops fighting in Italy.

The packs are supplied by the Indian Comforts Fund in England. Their contents are varied and may include a selection from among 150 articles, such as soap, towels, razor blades, tobacco, cigarettes, stationery, mending materials, books, playing cards and games.

Packs for British troops in S.E.A.C. are sent out from the Army Comforts Depot at Reading.

LADY GLANCY'S BROADCAST

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 650)

I should like to think that the W.V.S. will be transformed into a permanent welfare organisation. So much is crying out to be done in the fields of labour—and the labourers are few.

The W.V.S. (how proud we are of the V in that set of initials) has been a tremendous stimulant to us all and many friendships have been made and the East and West have worked together in a number of activities to our mutual advantage. A great deal is expected of the W.V.S. and our numbers are fewer for the moment because of the exodus of women returning to England, but we still have a big job ahead, and with the heart and will to serve, we cannot fail in the honoured work of voluntary service.

MILITARY ACADEMY AS INDIAN WAR MEMORIAL

THE Government of India have had under examination for some time past the form that an Indian National War Memorial should take.

After full consideration of all the proposals placed before them they have decided that the establishment of a military academy, on the lines of the United States Military Academy at West Point, for the education and basic training together of future officers of the Royal Indian Navy, the Indian Army and the Royal Indian Air Force, would be the most suitable form for the Indian National War Memorial.

Education up to the university standard will be imparted at the academy and will embrace a comprehensive course in such general subjects as history, modern languages, sciences and engineering as well as in purely military subjects.

Stress will be laid on the development of character, self-reliance, leadership and self-discipline, which are essential qualities not only for officers in the armed forces but also for leaders in other spheres of national activity.

Appointment of Committee

In pursuance of this decision, the Government of India have decided to appoint a committee with the following terms of reference:

(*a*) To prepare a scheme for the establishment of the proposed military academy, with special reference to such matters as the title of the academy, its location and size, the strength of its establishments, the age and methods of entry, the duration of the course and the syllabus, the degrees or other qualifications attainable by the graduates of the academy, and the methods by which it should be financed;

(*b*) To examine whether any special educational institutions should be established to serve as feeders to the academy.

The Committee will consist of Chairman: The Commander-in-Chief; Members: Chief of the General Staff; Flag Officer Commanding, Royal Indian Navy; Air Officer Commanding, India Command; Secretary to the Government of India, War Department; Educational Adviser to the Government of India, Sir Mirza Mohamed Ismail, Prime Minister, Jaipur State; Rao Bahadur Rao Raja Narpat Singh, Jodhpur; Pandit Amarnath Jha, Vice-Chancellor, Allahabad University; Khan Bahadur Mian Afzal Hussain, Ex-Vice-Chancellor, Punjab University; Mr. William Xavier Mascarenhas, Principal and Professor of Engineering, College of Engineering, Poona; Mr. A. E. Foot, Principal, Doon School, Dehra Dun.

NEW FASHIONS AT G.H.Q.

Two thousand peons, dafadars and jamedars working at G.H.Q. and the War Department are enjoying a new clothes fashion.

For the first time in their service they have gone into official summer kit.

Previously there was no official difference between summer and winter wear. Now from April 16 to October 15 peons will change into khaki shirts and shorts, with light khaki caps. Dafadars and jamedars will wear bush shirts and long trousers but will retain their pugrees.

Official reason for the change in fashion is that it gives a smart appearance and is much cooler and more comfortable in the hot weather.

Each peon gets two shirts, two pairs of shorts, two caps, two pairs of hose tops, a khaki cloth belt and a pair of sandals. It costs roughly Rs. 23 to provide him with his new summer outfit.

He is liable to disciplinary action if he is not correctly dressed according to regulations but the War Department office dealing with the summer outfit is not expecting trouble in this direction. It is very popular, they say.

IMAM'S VISIT TO MUSLIM TROOPS

Shams-ul-Ulma Maulvi Syed Ahmed, the Imam of the Jama Masjid, Delhi, left India recently by air to visit Muslim troops in the Middle East, Italy and Paiforce at the invitation of the Government of India.

He was accompanied by two companions, one of whom is his son, Saiyed Bashir Ahmed Bokhari, and the other his grandson, Khwaja Amimullah.

The Imam is travelling by air throughout his tour, which will last about six weeks. A special plane has been placed at his disposal by the Government of India.

TRANSFER OF OFFICERS TO BRITISH SERVICE

CERTAIN categories of British Emergency Commissioned Officers in the Indian Army are to be allowed to transfer to the British Service, says an announcement by the Adjutant General's Branch at G.H.Q., India. An Indian Army Order containing all the details was published on April 16.

Officers eligible are: (a) Those who came to India as cadets and were commissioned into the Indian Army without being offered an opportunity to go into the British Service; (*b*) Former British other ranks stationed in India who were commissioned into the Indian Army without an opportunity to enter British Service; and (*c*) British Service officers who were compulsorily transferred to the Indian Army.

The New Scheme

Repatriation rules for officers transferred under the new scheme will be exactly the same as they are for British Service officers.

As the availability of reliefs cannot be assessed until the number of transfers is known it cannot be guaranteed that initially officers who are transferred from the Indian Army will be repatriated after the same period as those already in the British Service. It is intended, however, that as soon as possible the period of entitlement to repatriation will be the same for all officers.

Officers transferred will be available for service with the Indian Army for as long as they are required. They will receive the same rates of pay as British Service officers but will be entitled to Indian Army rates while serving with Indian Army units. They will transfer in their substantive or war substantive rank, retaining existing seniority provided they have qualified for their rank as laid down for promotion under British Service rules.

Officers not Eligible

Officers who cannot elect to transfer under the new scheme include those who were civilians living in India before entering the Indian Army; those who were cadets in O.C.T.Us. in the United Kingdom or the Middle East and who volunteered for commissions in the Indian Army; British Service officers who volunteered for transfer to the Indian Army; officers commissioned in the Special List of Quartermasters (Indian Army); former British other ranks of the India Unattached List; former British other ranks in India who volunteered for Indian Army commissions; and former cadets who came from the United Kingdom to Officers' Training Schools in India and volunteered for Indian Army commissions.

DONATION FOR AUCHINLECK ARAMGAH

Among the latest donations to the Auchinleck Aramgah at Delhi Junction station is Rs. 2,000 from Major the Raja of Faridkot.

The Auchinleck Aramgah, which was opened more than six months ago, was sponsored by the Commander-in-Chief in India, General Sir Claude Auchinleck. It has all the amenities of a fully equipped soldiers' rest room and provides a common meeting ground and canteen for Indian troops passing through Delhi.

Its latest addition is an Information Room, where the visiting *jawan* sees a well-arranged collection of war pictures and reads the latest news concerning the various campaigns.

NEW BUNDI RULER

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 611)

In one of the sweeps around Meiktila he was hit in the back of the neck by a Japanese sniper's bullet. He fainted from loss of blood and the colonel of the regiment ordered him to be sent back to a dressing station in an ambulance.

Lieut. Bahadur Singh suddenly came to and ordered the ambulance driver to turn round and drive back to his squadron. He reported to the colonel, assured him that he was none the worse for the wound and requested permission to rejoin his troop. He stayed and fought throughout that operation.

While resting in a harbour area Lieut. Bahadur Singh lived with his tank crew and often slept in the same whole in the ground. He ate *chapattics* and *dal* with them.

In America he would be known as a "regular fellow" or "one of the gang."

The Maharaja of Sonepur State has generously offered to contribute from his own income, for the duration of the war, a sum of Rs. 1,000 per month to H. E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund.

INDIANS OVERSEAS DURING 1943-44

Financial Aid for Evacuees

NEARLY 50,000 evacuees and "dependents" of British subjects detained in enemy-occupied territories were in receipt of relief and the amount disbursed was approximately Rs. 990 lakhs, according to the Commonwealth Relations Department's review of important events relating to or affecting Indians in different parts of the British Empire during 1943-44.

The scheme of financial assistance included allowances for the education of children in addition to maintenance allowances. Arrangements were also made for evacuee University students to resume their interrupted courses of studies in Indian Universities. Grants amounting to Rs. 73,000 and Rs. 1,63,000 were sanctioned to 273 and 430 evacuee students for academic years, 1942-43 and 1943-44.

Allowances to cover expenditure on special and genuine needs of evacuees, such as the purchase of clothing and provision of medical treatment, were sanctioned. A scheme of capital advances was also sponsored to assist evacuees to start some business or trade. The Central Employment Bureau secured employment for a larger number of evacuees.

To obtain accurate statistical information relating to evacuees in India, the lack of which caused considerable difficulty in the administration of financial and other relief and in making plans for absorbing them into the economic life of the country, a census was held at the end of 1943. Against the estimated 4½ to 5 lakhs of evacuees 393,735 were enumerated.

In South Africa

A lump sum contribution of £1,500 was made to the International Red Cross Committee for services to Indians in Japanese-occupied territories, whether prisoners of war, internees or free. The Department received 9,000 applications for information about British civilian subjects in Japanese-occupied territories. Information about 1,529 persons was secured and communicated to their relations.

Regarding South Africa, the report records the appointment of a third Broome Commission, negotiations for the repeal of the Pegging Act and the Pretoria Agreement. The question of franchise for Indians in Natal, it adds, was overshadowed by the discussions over the Pretoria Agreement.

Cases of discrimination against Indian officers in South African ports, according to the report, were less frequent. The improvement resulted from the appointment of two representatives of the Union Government at Cape Town and Durban to look after the comforts of Indian visitors and the vigilance of the High Commissioner. A club for Indian Seamen was opened in Cape Town which provides recreation facilities. The Government of India also made grants towards the construction of a club for Indian Seamen at Durban and for the running of the Indian Seamen's Club at Cape Town.

The three Governments of British East Africa imposed immigration restrictions during the year under review. This caused hardship to many East African Indians who could not return to their homes within the prescribed period of two years, owing to the acute shipping position. The matter was taken up by the Government of India and recently considerable relaxation of the rules was secured.

Labour Conditions

Labour conditions on tea and rubber estates in Ceylon continued to be prosperous during the year under review. The modified system of dearness allowance to estate labourers which came into force in April, 1943, affected labour adversely. The representative of the Government of India in Ceylon, who was appointed in August, 1943, discussed the matter with the Minister for Labour and it is understood, the question received the attention of the Ceylon authorities.

Repeated complaints were received from the Indian merchants in Ceylon against the wholesale requisitioning by the Ceylon Government of almost all important consumer goods exported from India to Ceylon and the inadequacy of the compensation paid. The Civil Defence Commissioner revised the procedure towards the end of 1943. Complaints were also made that Indian retail dealers had been kept out of the internal distribution of requisitioned goods. This has been the subject of correspondence between the two Governments.

The Government of India recorded their objections to the piece rate wages regulations for labour employed on plantations. This violated the principle of minimum wage and

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 657)



Maj.Gen. D. F. W. Warren.

DEATH OF MAJ.-GEN. D. F. W. WARREN

AFFECTIONATELY known throughout his command of the Fifth Indian Division as "Dad", Maj-Gen. Dermot Frederick William Warren, D.S.O., O.B.E., has been killed in an aircraft accident. His death was officially announced on April 28.

Born in 1898 at Osaka, Japan, Maj.-Gen. Warren went to Ireland five years later and subsequently entered St. Columbia's College, Dublin, where he remained until he was 17. He was then commissioned into the Royal Munster Fusiliers but, being underage for overseas service, served on the Home establishment for the next two years. He was then transferred to the Indian Army and posted to the 34 Royal Sikh Pioneers.

In 1918, Lt. Warren was sent to Palestine, where his Pioneers were the only foot-soldiers to march with the mounted corps in Allenby's great drive from the Jordan Valley. He later returned to the North-West Frontier, where he helped in the construction of the famous Bannu-Razmak road.

Staff Appointment

On the disbanding of the Sikh Pioneers in 1925 he returned to England and entered the Staff College, Camberley. In 1935, he served with the 8th Punjab Regiment at Hongkong, where he remained until 1936, being recalled to G.H.Q., India, to take up a staff appointment.

More troops being urgently required in 1941 Major Warren was instrumental in raising the 6/8 Punjab Regiment and later served as a first grade staff officer in Deccan district.

In the following year he was appointed G.S.O. 1 in the 14th Indian Division and served in the Arakan until 1943, when he took over command of the 161 Indian Infantry Brigade. This formation fought in the Arakan, at Kohima and over the Manipur plain.

Assuming command of the Fifth Indian Division in September last year, Maj.-Gen. Warren directed its attacks on Tiddim, Kennedy Peak and Fort White in the Chin Hills.

Beloved of all who knew him, General Warren was always to be found in the most forward positions. On one occasion an officer suggested that the general should not go beyond a certain point as he "might draw fire".

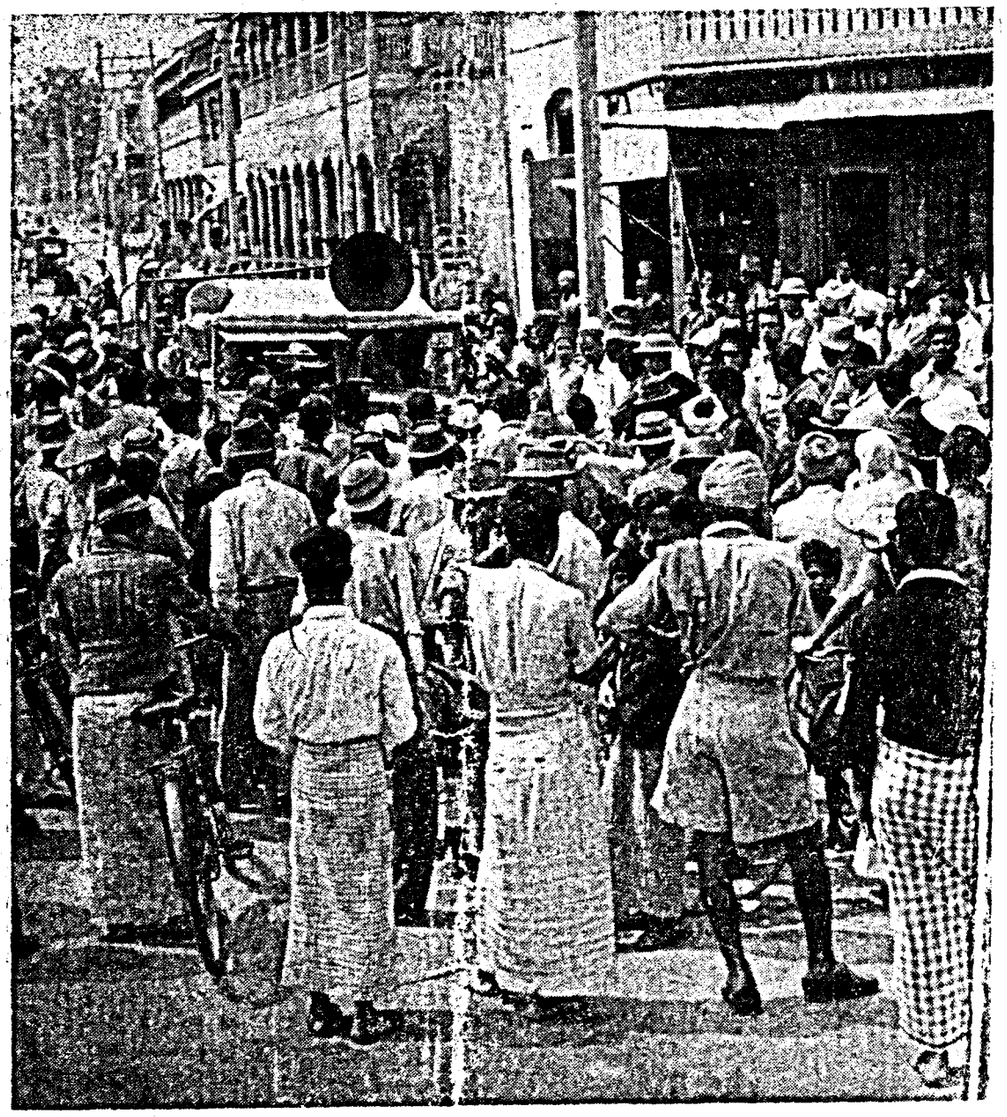
His reply was characteristic. "Very well, we will go ahead and see what fire we do draw." The general completed his reconnaissance without a single shot being fired.

INDIANS OVERSEAS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 656)

also the conditions on which the emigration of labour to Ceylon was permitted. After three months' trial it was rescinded in November 1943.

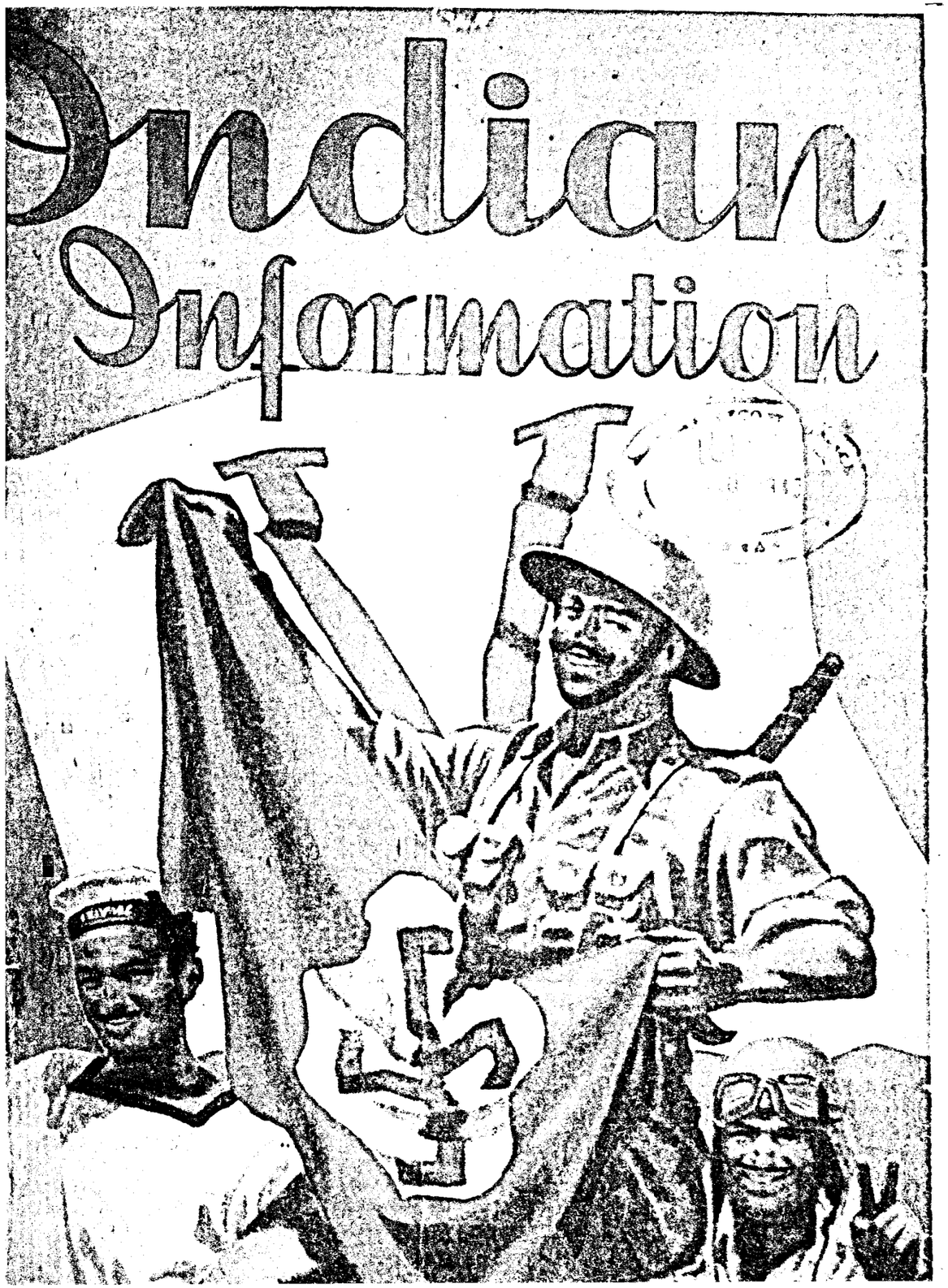
The Government of India took up, through His Majesty's Government, the question of enfranchisement of the Indians in British Columbia. About 1,300 out of the 1,500 Indians resident in Canada live in British Columbia, which is the only province of the dominion where Indians have not so far been granted municipal, provincial and federal franchise.



FIELD SECURITY SERVICE IN BURMA—

The Field Security Service in Maymyo, Burma, is removing the effect on the local people of three years' Jap propaganda during the enemy's occupation of the town. The methods used include a daily broadcast of BBC news and local announcements. These are given in English and Burmese over a loudspeaker in the centre of the town. This picture shows Burmese crowding round the broadcasting van in a Maymyo street.

Issued fortnightly by J. Natarajan, Principal Information Officer, Government of India. Printed in India by E. G. Tilt (General Manager) at The Civil & Military Gazette, Ltd., Lahore. Communications for the Editor should be addressed to the Bureau of Public Information, Government of India, Lahore, and not to the Printers.





H.E. Sir John Colville, accompanied by Lady Colville, attended a united Thanksgiving Service at the Church of the Redemption, New Delhi, on May 13.

Vol. 16 No. 161. INDIAN INFORMATION June 1, 1945.

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

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

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

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

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

MAIN CONTENTS

	Page
Commander-in-Chief's Broadcast on Allied Victory in Europe	660
Sir Sultan Ahmed's Tribute to Indian Troops' Part in the War	662
India's Munitions Production	669
How Indian Railways Helped Country's War Effort	681
India's Share in Economic Warfare	690
War Supplies to Middle East and Russia	705
Vital Role of India's Communications	712
Armed Forces' Contribution to Allied War Effort	717
R.I.N.'s Part in the Defeat of Germany	744
H.E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund	756
Chronology of War	758

VICEROY'S V-DAY MESSAGE TO THE PEOPLE OF INDIA

Day of Gratitude, Rejoicing and Resolution

HIS Excellency the Viceroy, in a message broadcast to the people of India on V-Day, May 8, from A.I.R., Delhi, said:

It falls to me to speak to you tonight in the absence of Lord Wavell. I wish he could have been here on this memorable night. In the darkest days of the war, his victories, achieved largely with Indian troops in the face of far larger forces and without any of the material equipment that we have now in abundance were almost the only consolation we had.

We should not forget those days. There were many then in India, and prominent among them were the Princes, who showed their stoutness of heart and refused to contemplate the possibility of defeat. And just outside India there was our trusty ally, Nepal, who never faltered. Those were testing days, and it was not only the troops in the field who were tested. Then I think of another great figure, our Commander-in-Chief, General Auchinleck, and of the gallant stand he made at El Alamein which closed the gate to India. From those early days the power of India and the fame of her fighting forces have steadily grown and increased.



H.E. Sir John Colville.

Now Germany has surrendered unconditionally, and we thank God for this great deliverance. Today is a day of gratitude, rejoicing and resolution.

Tomorrow and Thursday will be holidays throughout British India.

At the wish of His Majesty the King-Emperor next Sunday will be observed as a Day of Thanksgiving, and Monday will be the official day of celebration when parades will be held and other public functions.

Today will be a memorable day in history. The Nazi menace which flowed like an evil tide over Europe and Africa, gathering with it the forces of aggression and hatred, and threatening all peace-loving nations, has been finally overcome. Hitler, the arch-enemy, is dead, and those that surrounded him are either dead or in captivity. From Crete to the North Cape the German armed forces have ceased to exist. The sea is purged of their submarines, and the sky of their aircraft.

But this victory has been achieved at great cost, and on this day of rejoicing let us remember with reverence those who have fallen; and in remembering them let us resolve to throw our whole hearts into the completion of the task of which the first great part has been fulfilled to-day.

What is the significance of to-day for India? India's war effort will not be questioned by any thoughtful man or woman; India's sons have fought valiantly in almost every theatre where British arms have been engaged. The significance of to-day for India is that by a great leap we are brought nearer to the post-war period for which there are so many hopes and so many aspirations.

But there is yet stern work to be done, and until the armed might of Japan is wholly crushed the tasks of peace must inevitably be delayed. Let us then devote all our energies to the complete overthrow of our remaining enemy and pray that speedy victory may be ours, and that afterwards we may be given grace and wisdom to build the new world aright.

MAGNIFICENT ACHIEVEMENT OF INDIA'S ARMED FORCES

Gen. Auchinleck's Tribute

"The war in the West has been won. Hitler's armies have been defeated and broken. Nazi arrogance has been ground into the dust. Millions of enslaved Europeans have been set free. I share your pride and happiness in this glorious victory, one of the most tremendous in the whole history of war," said H. E. General Sir Claude Auchinleck, Commander-in-Chief, India, in a recorded talk broadcast from All India Radio on May 13 to mark the Allies' Victory in the West.

His Excellency continued: To the Armed Forces of the India Command, the collapse of Germany means the end of a struggle in which India has been incessantly engaged for five long years. The story of her efforts in men, money and material have been told before and I will do no more now than remind you that it is a story of magnificent achievement in the face of great difficulties.

Army, R.I.N. and R.I.A.F.

As head of the Royal Indian Navy, the Indian Army and the Royal Indian Air Force, I am intensely proud of the part you have played.

The Royal Indian Navy played its part in the Atlantic and Mediterranean battles as well as in the Red Sea and Indian Ocean. It has won a great name nearer home in support of the Army. Recently landing craft, manned by R.I.N. ratings, have helped in many successful landings. For its fighting spirit and seaman-like qualities, the R.I.N. has been praised by the Admiralty, by Lord Louis Mountbatten, and by the officers and men of the Royal Navy. There are no better judges in the world.

As for the Army, we all know what Indian troops have done during these five years in Eritrea, in Abyssinia, in the Western Desert, in Tunisia, in Italy and in Burma. American as well as British generals have paid them tribute and have been proud and happy to have them under their command. They have gained glory and honour for themselves, their kinsmen and their country. They have established for all time the reputation of the Indian soldier as a great fighting man.

We can take special pride, too, in the part played by units of the British Army who formed a most important part of the divisions and brigades which went to war from India.



Gen. Sir Claude Auchinleck.

These British soldiers have fought beside their Indian comrades-in-arms on many a bloody field from the mountains of Italy and the deserts of Libya to the jungles of Burma. Many of them have given their lives in the cause of freedom.

The Royal Indian Air Force has a shorter history than the Royal Indian Navy and the Indian Army. But in its brief existence it has already achieved, under the stimulus of war, a truly remarkable standard of discipline and courage in battle. In the sky over Burma Indian airmen have taken their place with credit alongside the veterans of the Royal Air Force. The recent addition of Royal to its title is a distinction which the Air Force of India has well deserved.

Nor must we forget the men and women of the administrative services of the Army, Navy and Air Force. But for their efforts we could not have built up the wonderful fighting forces which India is proud to call her own.

today. Their work may be unspectacular but it is never-ceasing; it has been and is being well and truly done. Of all arms flooding in from overseas has been no easy task. Shortage of shipping, the size of the country, the comparative lack of means of rapid movement, the lack of building capacity and materials, the differences in habit and custom between East and West, all these have been great obstacles.

I do not say that they have all been completely overcome or that we have been able to do all that we would have wished in the way of providing comforts and amenities for our fighting men. But, constantly touring as I do all over the India Command, I can see that great progress has been and is being made.

The Work Ahead

In this great moment of victory, we cannot afford to look back, except to remember for a moment with pride mixed with sorrow all those gallant men who have fallen in battle at sea, on land, and in the air.

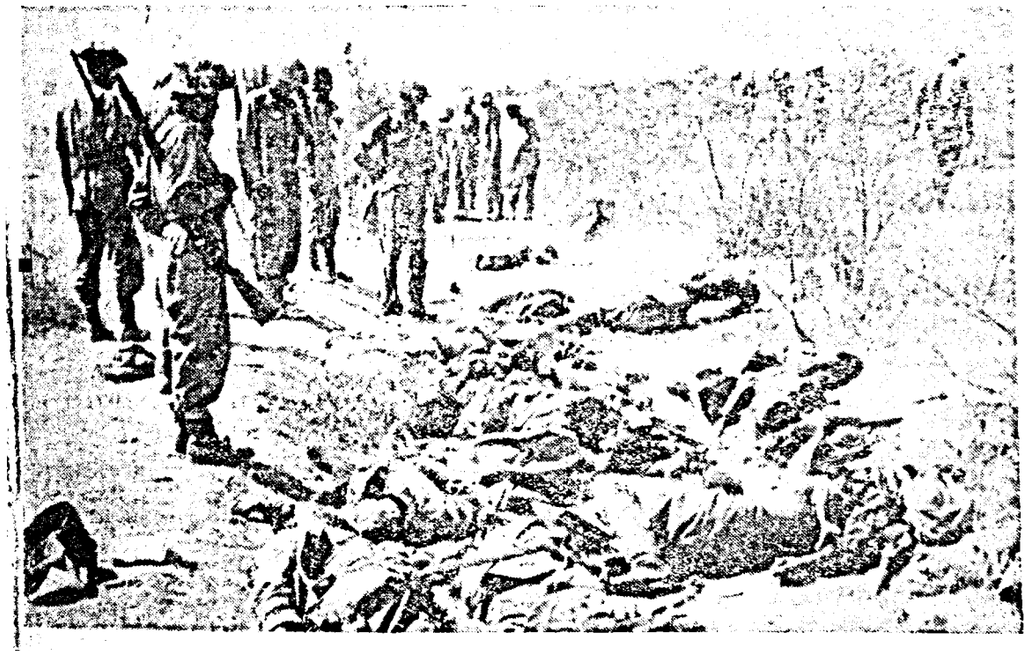
We cannot afford to look back because we still have work to do ahead. The task of cleansing the world of the enemies of peace and freedom is only half done. We have settled the score with Germany. But we are not yet even with our enemy in the East, India's most immediate and formidable enemy, Japan. The victory in the West has followed on great successes on the Burma front, successes which have made men all over the world speak of the 14th Army as they still speak of the Eighth. But the reckoning is not yet complete.

Some of you who may be listening to me have been a long time away from your homes. It is natural that your thoughts should turn to your own country and to your families and that sometimes the road home should seem never ending.

But this is the last lap. You stuck it out through days and months and years when all seemed lost, when the enemy had every material advantage, when he had overrun half the World.

Today the tables are turned. The initiative lies with us and our Allies and with it an overwhelming superiority in weapons. In the words of the Prime Minister, all that is needed is one big heave. Let us put all we have into it and let each work as if the result depended on his or her efforts alone.

Thus may we bring the hour of complete and final victory nearer even than it may seem today.



Some of the Japs killed in the Meiktila battle.



Sir Sultan Ahmed, Member for Information and Broadcasting, Government of India.

TRIBUTE TO INDIAN TROOPS' PART IN THE WAR

"Wonderful and Brilliant," Says Sir Sultan Ahmed

"INDIA'S contribution in achieving this end has been remarkable. Throughout the campaign in North Africa, Somaliland, East Africa, Iraq and Iran, the Indian soldiers have played a part which may be only described as wonderful and brilliant," said the Hon'ble Sir Sultan Ahmed, Member for Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, in a broadcast on Victory in the West from the Delhi Station of All India Radio on May 9.

Here is the full text of Sir Sultan Ahmed's talk:

"The whole German nation thanks the Fuehrer for having brought us such times", so said Dr. Goebbels on September 4, 1940. Neither Dr. Goebbels nor his Fuehrer is alive today to know whether the German nation thanks the Fuehrer or curses him for having brought them to the present times. We know today that the German armed forces and the German nation have unconditionally surrendered to the Allied Nations.

Hitler on April 26, 1943, broadcast that 'the new war can and will only have one end, a catastrophe for the British Empire.' To-day, Hitler has met his doom and he must have known that the war has reached the one end, a catastrophe 'for the German might and the Nazi's domination'. Today, the whole world of democracy feels relieved at the termination of this ghastly conflict which resulted in millions of casualties and untold sufferings and miseries to humanity.

India's contribution in achieving this end has been remarkable. Throughout the campaign in North Africa, Somaliland, East Africa, Iraq, and Iran, the Indian soldiers have played a part which may be only described as wonderful and brilliant. Human memory being short, it is just as well to remember that the history of the world would have been different if the Indian armed forces had not played the part they did in the beginning of 1942 on the west of Egypt. Their valour was only surpassed by their consistent loyalty to the ideals for which they were fighting.

I claim that what the Russians did in Stalingrad, the Indian Army did in El Alamein After the stiff resistance put up by the Russians in Stalingrad and the British and Indian forces in El Alamein the tide of the war, which had been so long against the Allied Nations, turned. The steam roller from Stalingrad moved with such rapidity that it never stopped until it reached Berlin. Similarly the British and Indian forces having started from El Alamein and after having been joined by General Eisenhower's forces which had landed at Casablanca, never stopped until the surrender of the German forces in Italy to Field Marshal Alexander about ten days ago.

Supply of Materials

Apart from the achievements of the Indian armed forces, India's contribution in the supply of materials has been colossal. The supply of Army tents, cotton and woollen articles, parachutes, clothing, Indian timber and thousands of other necessary articles, has been phenomenal. India's ordnance factories and civil workshops have risen to their full stature to line up with the arsenals of the United Nations in the battle of production.

The Ordnance factories manufactured rifles, mortars, guns, machine-guns, modern field-gun bombs, mines, depth charges, gun ammunition and explosives, shells, anti-tank mines, anti-personnel mines, two types of howitzers, gun carriages, and a large number of ancillary industries turned out thousands of tons of steel, brass and other metals required to make the projectiles their devastating punch. Indeed, without India's war efforts the Allied successes in the Middle East and in Burma would not in any case have been so striking and rapid as they have been.

Overthrow of Japan Urgent

But the greatest effort has yet to be made. The overthrow of Japan is imperative and urgent. The feeling that with the termination of the European War, life will become normal would be self-deception of the worst kind and I would appeal to my countrymen to remove this idea if it exists anywhere. Two Criminals have met their doom, the third has yet to meet it.

Indian mind to-day has been running in different channels. There is first of all the feeling of gratitude to Providence for His mercy in closing one big chapter in the history of devastation of mankind; his second thought is the certainty of Allied victory in the East; and finally his hope and prayer to Providence is for a satisfactory solution of India's political problems.

While India is happy that the freedom of the world is imminent, she naturally looks forward also to her own constitutional freedom. She feels that her soldiers who have shed their blood in the different theatres of war, have raised India's stature and brought glory and lustre to her. She further feels that while she has succeeded in helping the world to be free, she deserves to be formally recognised a free and equal partner in the 'British Commonwealth of Nations and that she is by reason of her culture and traditions and her highest services to mankind fully entitled to hold a high place in the comity of nations. These are legitimate and natural aspirations.

It is not that she does not appreciate the difficulties due to internal conditions but we all hope and pray to God that the glorious part played by India's soldiers on the battlefields will now be equalled by the sagacity and wisdom of her political leaders, so that the interval between now and the day of freedom may be shortened and the pledges which have been repeatedly given by England to India may be redeemed in the near future.

MESSAGE TO CIVIL SERVICES IN INDIA

The Secretary of State for India has sent the following message to the Civil employees of the Government in India:

I wish to express to all members of the civil administration in India the high appreciation of His Majesty's Government of their devotion and continuous work over the last five and a half years during which the war in Europe as well as in the East has made its insistent call on every servant of the State in India.

Although India has been spared the worst sufferings that have befallen many countries, victims of enemy aggression, the war, of which the first phase is now happily ended has imposed on all ranks of the civil administration in India a heavy strain and has involved denial of many amenities which are enjoyed in ordinary times. His Majesty's Government cannot allow the victorious conclusion of the German war to pass without this acknowledgment of the valuable contribution which the civil services in India have rendered to the success that has now been achieved by their sustained devotion to duty in difficult and exceptionally arduous conditions.

While the German war has been successfully fought to a finish the other task remains to be done and His Majesty's Government look with confidence to members of the civil administration in India to continue their efforts until peace is restored to the East. When that time comes their full energies can again be devoted to the fruitful task of furthering the prosperity and development of the country in all the varied fields of public service.

Victory Messages

"GREAT REJOICING OVER FINAL DEFEAT OF GERMANY"

H.E. the Viceroy has sent the following telegram to His Majesty the King-Emperor:—

"Members of the National Defence Council desire me to convey to your Majesty their humble congratulations and their great rejoicing over the final defeat of Germany. They are confident that Allied Arms will soon make Japan surrender unconditionally and pave the way for lasting world peace and prosperity."

Replying, His Majesty says:

"I thank you sincerely for the loyal terms in which you have conveyed to me the congratulations of the members of the National Defence Council on the victorious conclusion of the war against Germany."

—V—

BRITAIN THANKS INDIA

"After five and a half years of bitter conflict, complete victory over our enemies in Europe has been achieved. At this great moment in history I send to the Princes and the peoples of India the profound and grateful thanks of His Majesty's Government for all that India has done in this long struggle," says the Rt. Hon. L.S. Amery, Secretary of State for India, in a message to H. E. Sir John Colville, acting Viceroy of India. The message continues:

"The valour and deeds of the Indian Army have been beyond all praise. Names such as Sidi Barrani, Keren, Amba Alagi, El Alamein and Cassino will live as long as epics of bravery are told among men.

"An Amazing Effort"

"The Royal Indian Navy has taken its part in this victory, nor must we ever forget the work of Indian merchant seamen who, through dangers, have toiled to maintain the traffic of the seas.

"Although the Royal Indian Air Force has had no part in the European war, many an Indian has served with distinction in the Royal Air Force. The Royal Indian Air Force can point with pride to the laurels it has been winning in Burma.

"Behind her armed forces, India has stood as a base giving support both in the east and in the west. This base was created with the help of the Princes and of the labour and industry of the people of India. Theirs has indeed been an amazing effort. The unflagging maintenance of that effort will hasten the defeat of Japan.

"Already in a brilliant campaign in which so many of India's sons are serving, the Japanese have been driven from Rangoon. Great resources are now freed. With our Allies in the war against Japan, we shall go forward to final victory".

—V—

"INDIA IS VERY PROUD"

H. E. the Viceroy has sent the following message to Field Marshal Alexander:

"On behalf of the Government of India and myself I send you congratulations on your magnificent feat of arms culminating in the unconditional surrender of all the forces opposed to you. India is very proud that Indian troops have served under your Command and have played a part in your triumph."

Field Marshal Alexander, replying to H. E. the Viceroy's message, says:

"I am most grateful for your message. The Indian Divisions fought as valiantly as ever and India has indeed reason to be proud of her fighting sons."

"A GREAT FIGHTING MAN"

The Commander-in-Chief in India, General Sir Claude Auchinleck, has addressed a victory message of "congratulations and thanks" to the R.I.N., the Indian Army and the R.I.A.F.

"I am proud to think of the great part played in bringing about this victory by our Indian soldiers," he says. "As we all know, they have fought for five years with the greatest courage and endurance in the Middle East and Italy.

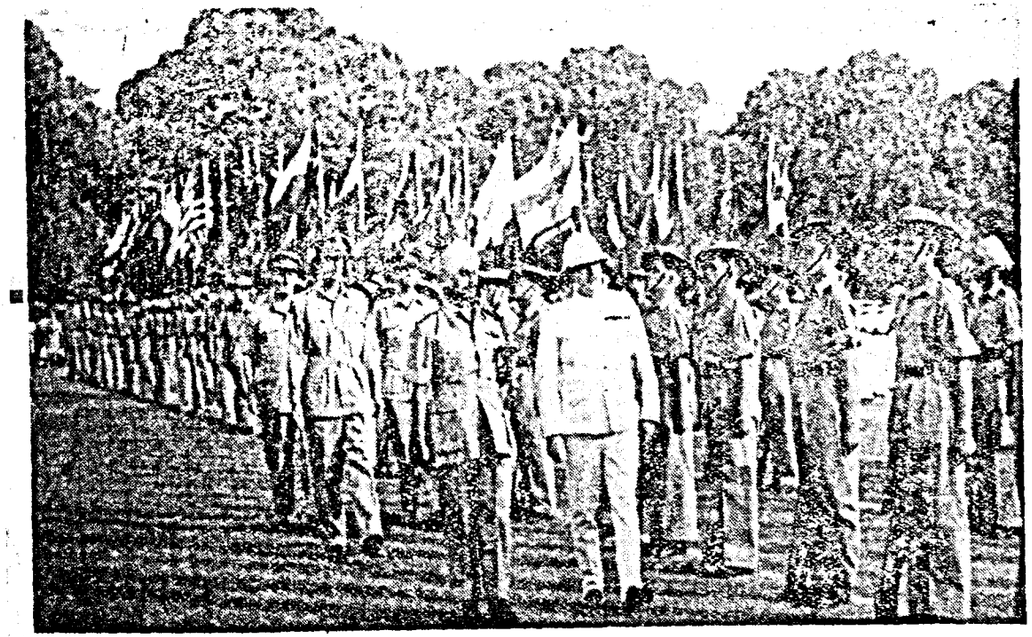
"British and American Generals have been proud and glad to have these fine soldiers under their command. They have gained glory and honour for themselves, their kinsmen and their country. They have established throughout the world for all time the reputation of the Indian soldier as a great fighting man.

"The Royal Indian Navy played its part in the Atlantic and the Mediterranean as well as in the Red Sea and Indian Ocean and won a great name in battles nearer home in support of the army. India's youngest service, the Royal Indian Air Force, has also played a splendid part in driving the Japanese out of Burma.

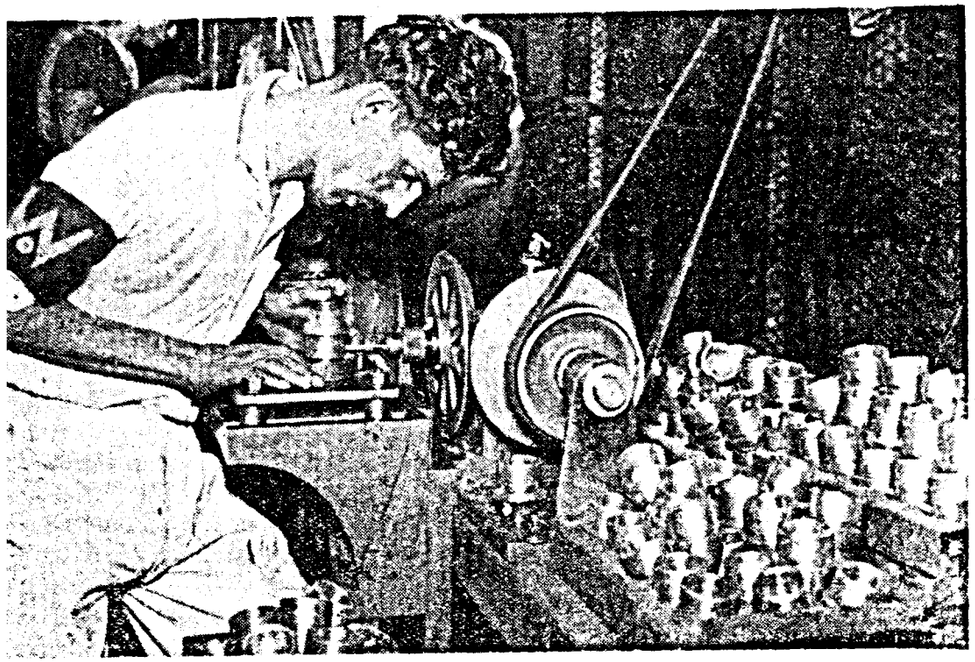
"Nor must we forget the tremendous part played by the administrative services of the army, the navy and air force; but for them we could not have built up the wonderful fighting forces which India is proud to call her own to-day.

"While we may well be proud of the share which India has taken in bringing about victory in the West we must not forget the battles that lie ahead of us in the East. They will be hard but in Burma our troops have proved themselves much more than a match for the Japanese.

"Let us now brace ourselves to even greater efforts so that this last enemy may be speedily and finally destroyed. Whether forward in battle or behind in the workshops, hospitals, bases, training camps and depots of India or guarding the North-West Frontier we will all do our utmost to help in removing once and for all the Japanese threat to the peace of Asia and the world.



H. E. Sir John Colville inspecting cadets of the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun, standard bearers in Delhi's Victory parade.



He is tapping a Grub Screw hole in a fuze with a friction drive tapping machine in an Indian railway workshop.

INDIA'S MUNITIONS PRODUCTION

THROUGH six long and arduous years, now culminating in final victory in Europe, India's ordnance factories and civil workshops have risen to their full stature to line up with the arsenals of the United Nations in the battle of production.

The ordnance factories manufactured everything hurled at the enemy, by hand, rifle, mortar, and gun; dropped on his head from the air; thrown at his submarines from the decks of ships; or left under a few inches of dirt to smash the tracks of his tanks. They produced machine-guns, modern field guns, bombs, mines and depth charges. They turned out various new types of small arms ammunition, gun ammunition and explosives, shells, anti-tank mines, anti-personnel mines and smoke generators, two types of howitzers, gun carriages and trailers, light machine-guns, shells and propellants. The civil workshops maintained a constant output of the many components which make up these projectiles. A number of ancillary industries which were mobilised and expanded turned out thousands of tons of steel, brass and other metals required to make the projectiles—the paints and lacquers to finish them, containers to pack them in, and explosives of various types which give the projectiles their devastating punch.

The story of armament production is a complex story of all round expansion and mobilisation of industries—a story of battle over deficiencies in the industrial systems, over raw materials, over men and machines.

Striking Increases

India's wartime output of ammunition has doubled, trebled and quadrupled and increased under certain items, 30 to 50 times. Some of the striking increases recently recorded were:

Rifles: 11 times pre-war output; bayonets: 20 times pre-war output; small arms ammunition: some 4 times pre-war output; guns and carriages: 20 times pre-war output; guns and mortar ammunition: 35 times pre-war output

grenades, mines, bombs, protechnics stores: most of these were not made in India before the war; and instruments: 50 times pre-war output.

Among the more important items of the armament stores produced in quantity were: six-pounder gun-carriages, tripods for light machine-guns, anti-aircraft gun sites, binoculars, stereoscopes, clino-meters and telescopes.

Before the War

Before the war there were only a few ordnance factories constituting the specialised munitions industry in India. They were producing a good many things essential for armies. But with the change in the technique of warfare it was necessary to bring about changes in the character of their production. The ammunition industry in India did not really begin its tremendous expansion until France fell and the Commonwealth countries found themselves standing alone to face a ruthless, well-armed enemy. India could no longer depend on Britain who herself, with her factories subjected to continuous bombing, was forced to look to other units for vitally needed supplies. Shipping difficulties experienced in the first few years of war and the Japanese advance to the border of India, were some of the other factors which goaded the planning and expansion of ammunition industry.

The implementation of the Chatfield Plan started just before the war broke out. Now in full swing, the Plan was evolved to expand all existing ordnance factories and to instal new types of machine-tools necessary for the production of all types of modern weapons and ammunition. It also provided for the erection of a new factory for the manufacture of high explosives including a plant for the production of toluene and the expansion of the cordite factory.

Roger Mission

Post-Chatfield measures comprised a number of projects introduced subsequently. Most important of these was a project for the expansion of India's production of small arms ammunition by 12 million rounds per month. Expansions at the cordite factory, metal and steel factory and ammunition factories were also planned under these measures.

Soon after the outbreak of war it was realised that India had to play a larger part in the production of armaments than had been anticipated under the Chatfield Plan. In 1940 the Ministry of Supply Mission led by Sir Alexander Roger came from U. K. to examine the possibility of further expansion of armament production in India. To meet H.M.G.'s requirements for expansion of armament production in India, the Mission accepted plans prepared by the authorities in India in consultation with the Mission's experts, for 21 new projects, *e.g.* of alloy steels for guns and small arms, gun forgings, bayonets, light machine-guns, gun carriages, shells, fuzes and primers, high explosives, cordite, toluene and motor benzol.

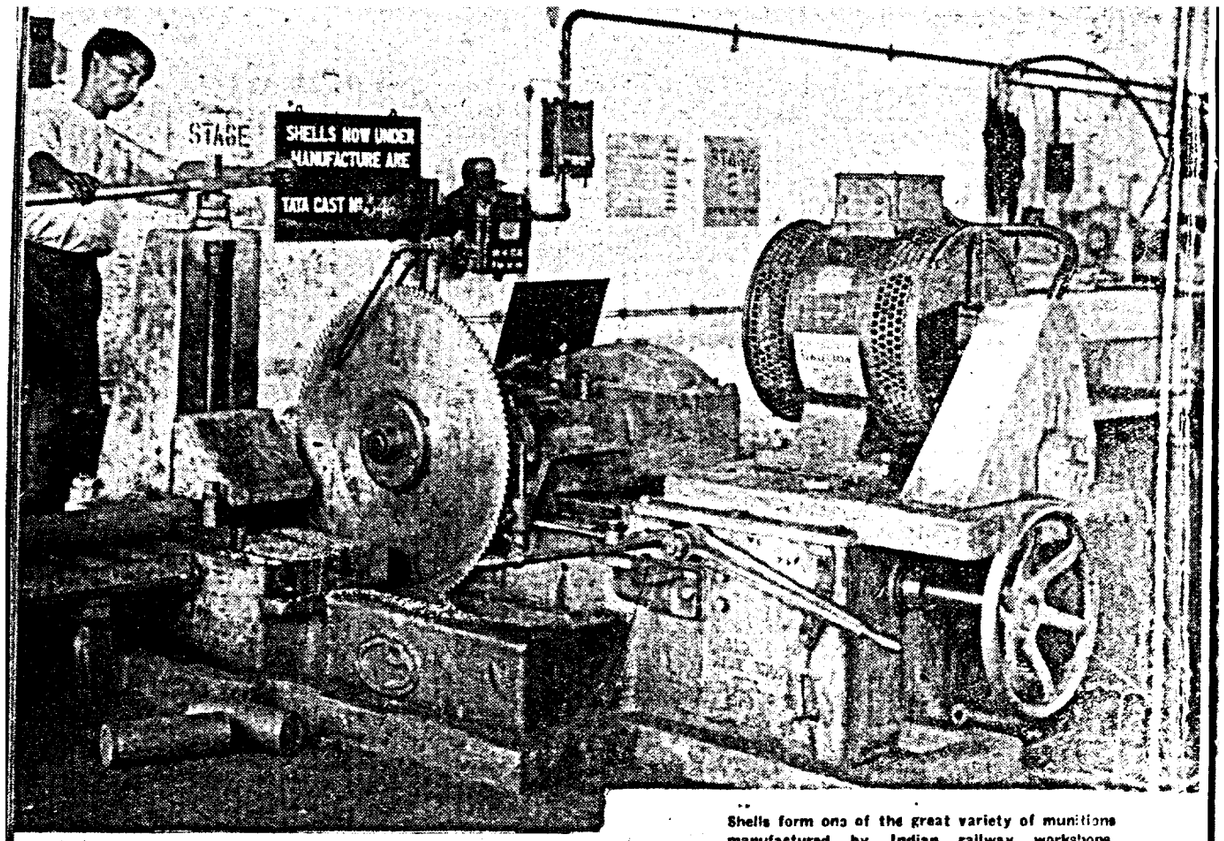
With the entry of Japan came the Transplantation Plan which involved the building of five new ordnance factories and the expansion of two of the factories under the Eastern Group Plan. It comprised a number of new projects for further expansion of India's capacity for the production and maintenance of armaments. Under the Ordnance Factory Expansion Plan a new series of projects was started. These included projects for the maintenance of imported artillery equipment, maintenance of aircraft instruments, production of packages, production of higher type respirators, etc.

Alloy Steels

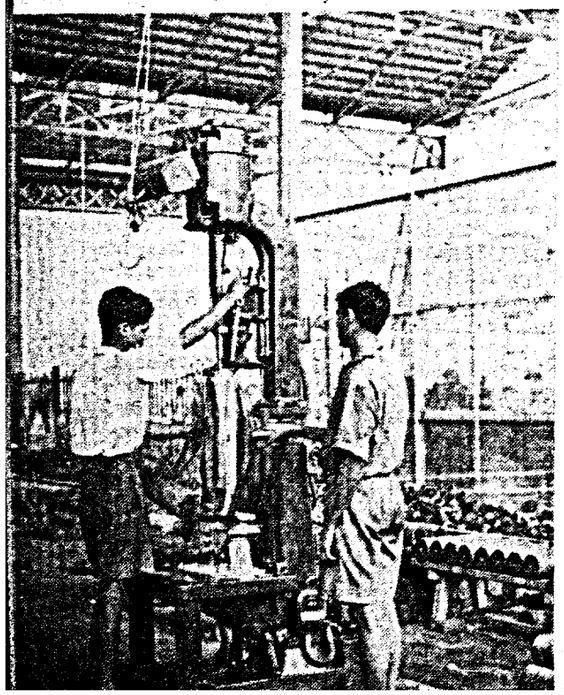
Today the number of ordnance factories in operation in India is three times the number of such factories at the commencement of the war. Factories have risen where there were just waste lands and a new army of technicians is working them. Large plants are operating for the manufacture of toluene, acetone and the various acids. Then there are plants for nitric acid, for concentration of sulphuric acid, and for cordite. Thus India has been well on the way of attaining self-sufficiency in the manufacture of high explosives. T.N.T. and the composition exploding, which is described as 50 per cent more sensitive than T.N.T., have been under manufacture.

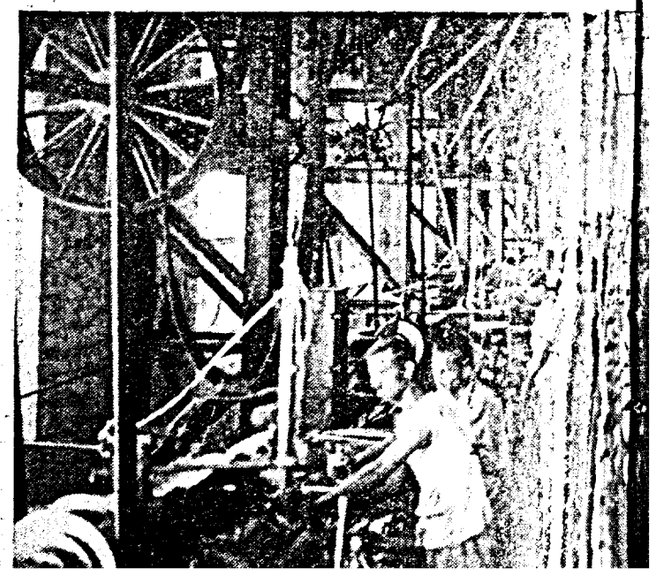
On the Engineering side a new steel works for the production of alloy steels was brought into production, and new rolling mills were installed. A 2,000-ton forging press for guns, including anti-aircraft guns, has been in operation. New types of shells, including various armour-piercing anti-tank types, have been produced. A plant has also been installed for the manufacture of light machine-guns. Steel factories, specially expanded for the purpose, have provided steel suitable for the latest type of field-guns and barrels, ammunition and bombs.

For this production drive thousands of tons of steel work for the new industrial buildings were fabricated. Machine-tools and plant



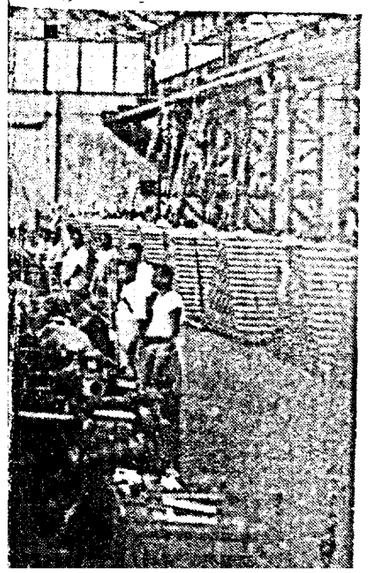
Shells form one of the great variety of munitions manufactured by Indian railway workshops. These pictures show the various stages in the making of a shell. (Above) Shell billets are being sawn to requisite lengths. (Left) Centre drilling of a high explosive shell. (Below) Fuze hole being bored after the shells have been bottled at the nose.

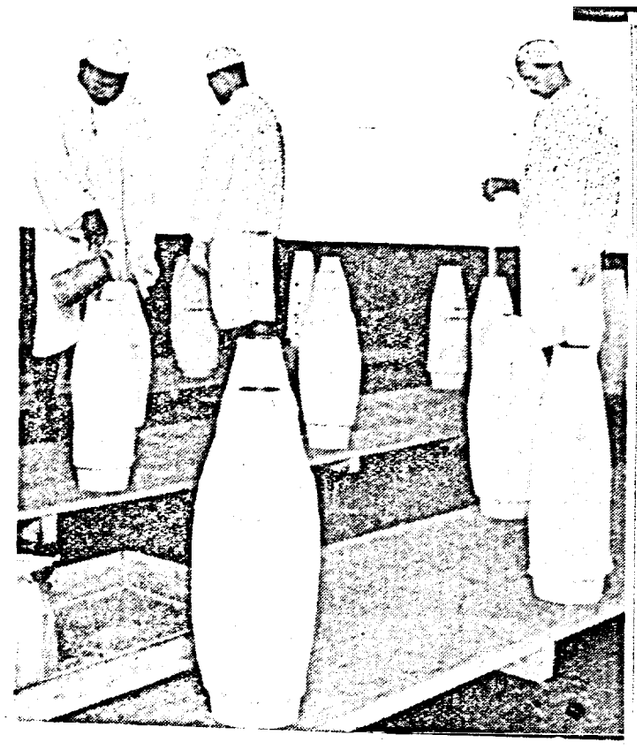




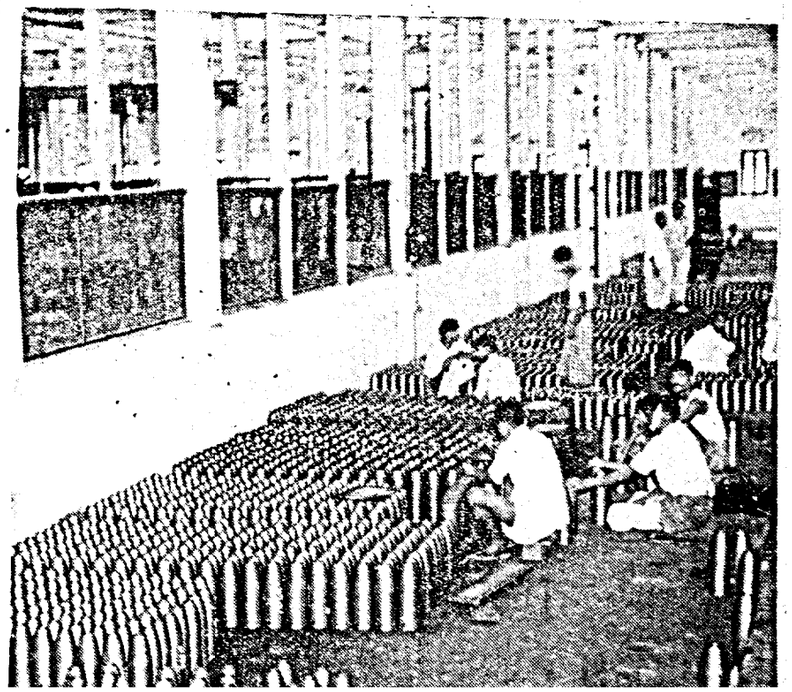
From Steel Billets To Shells

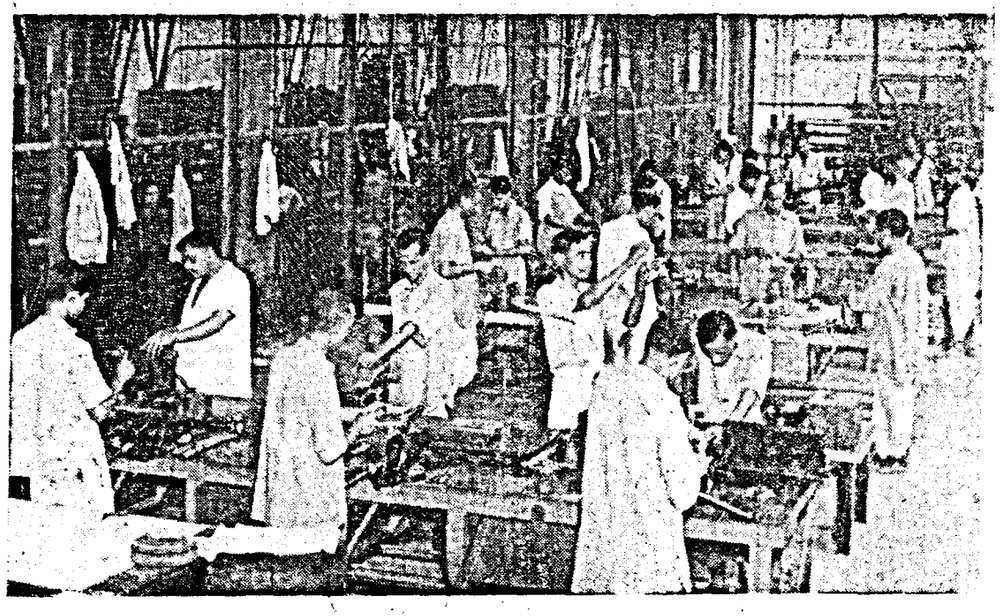






(Above, left) Bending copper strip into shape to form driving bands for high explosive shells. This machine was specially designed for this work by the workshop. (Above, right) In the shell filling room. High explosive being poured into 6-inch shells. (Below) Finished shells awaiting despatch.





Machine and tool room of a railway workshop manufacturing munitions.

together with the ancillary equipment were obtained to equip the factories.

To operate the newly constructed factories major schemes of water supply, electric supply, sewage disposal, etc., have been carried out. New roads and railway communications have been laid down. Arrangements have been made for housing the personnel necessary to operate the factories. At one of the larger projects the housing estate provides accommodation for 13,000 staff and 12,000 workmen and their families—the total strength of some 45,000 to 50,000 persons, equivalent to the population of a medium size provincial town in India.

Ordnance Factories

Some idea of the magnitude of the expansion can be had from the strength of labour force employed in ordnance factories. From 15,000 in 1939 the figure rose to 100,000 in 1944—a six-fold expansion, excluding the large numbers of staff and workmen employed on the production of components for armament stores in railway and trade workshops. Factory training schemes were launched to train workers for skilled jobs, and have turned out about 50,000 workers, managers, supervisors and tool setters, highly-skilled and semi-skilled artisans.

The ordnance factories were reinforced b railway and trade workshops in the manufa ture of components. The production of 4.5 in howitzer and 25-pounder shell forgin was established in railway workshops. Orde for no less than 437 items normally manufa tured in ordnance factories were placed trade and railway workshops—some of the ne items being empty shells, empty grenades, fus mines, A.P. shots, fused components, bayonet release boxes, pontoon ends and centres. the outset of the war there were about 6 workshops known to be available. The Dire tor-General of Munitions Production is no using 1,500 engineering workshops—840 f general engineering items, over 300 for sma items, and 345 plus 20 railway workshops f munition components. The attainment of hig figures of finished ammunition in ordnan factories has been greatly assisted by t development of capacity in trade and railwa workshops.

A number of railway engineering sho embarked on the production of shell gauges ar the manufacture of hand-grenade bodies. Fro the railway workshops came a stream vehicle bodies, including armoured vehicle firing platforms, trench mortars, gauges f munitions manufacture, machine, tools, S.A. tools, grenade bodies and components, etc.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 688)

HOW CIVIL INDUSTRIES ANSWERED WAR DEMANDS

All-Round Expansion to Keep Allied Armies Supplied

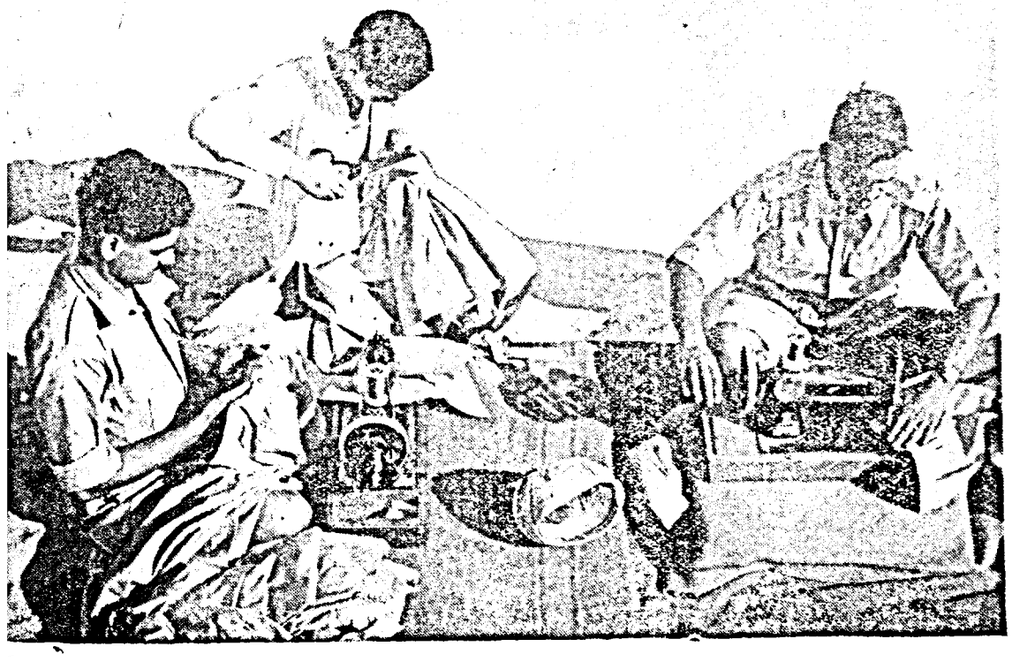
AFTER the fall of France a greater responsibility was thrown on Commonwealth countries east of Suez for supplies of men and war material not only for their internal defence but also for supporting the vital garrisons in Egypt. India was then called upon to play the role of the arsenal of Eastern countries in terms of her undertakings at the Eastern Group Conference.

While this factor gave a tremendous fillip to India's industries, it was also responsible for replacing imports—thus relieving other countries for war production. India began to manufacture a very large proportion of defence requirements, ranging from shirts to ships, from buttons to bridges, from goggles to guns —not only of her own but of all countries of the Eastern Group.

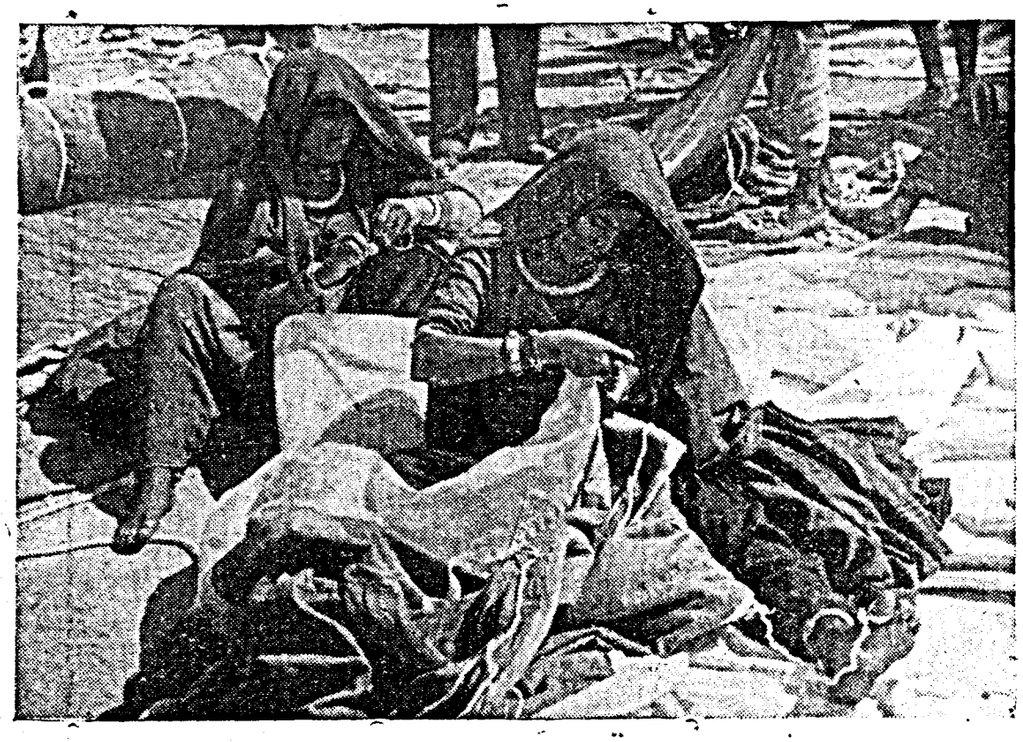
Huge armies had to be clothed, equipped and fitted for battle in every theatre of operations. In the tropical jungles they required cotton clothing and equipment woven from cotton yarn. Tarpaulins were required to cover their supplies, and tents not only for shelter but also for use as hospitals. Cotton was also required for large quantities of mosquito nets for the troops. It was used in the making of bomb-carrying tapes, rifle slings, aeroplanes and automobiles. Even fire-proof tanks had to be made from cotton duck.

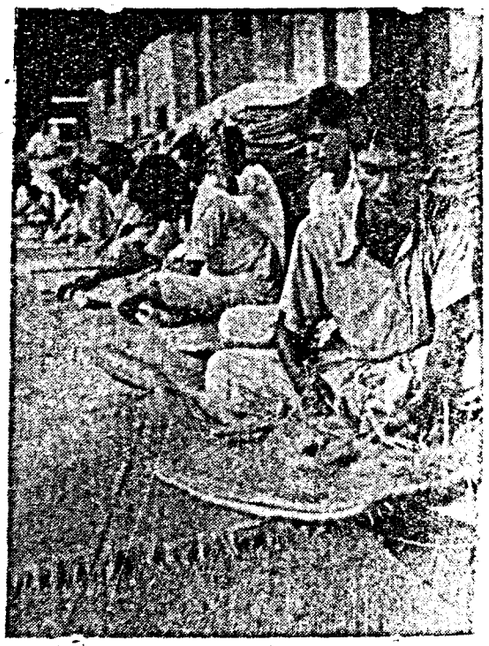
Textile Industry

No wonder that India's cotton textile industry was called upon to supply millions of yards of cloth for defence needs. Its outturn, both mill and handloom, ran to several thousands of millions of yards a year, which enabled her to send considerable supplies to all the other countries of the Eastern Group besides meeting her war supply requirements. No fewer than 138 items of cotton textiles were obtained from the mill and handloom industry. Up to the middle of 1942 Government's war demands



Tailors have a busy time mending old clothes and turning out new ones for defence services personnel.





(Above) Making of Army tents—Village women sew reinforcing patches where the tents must take strain at a factory engaged on large Army orders for tents. (Right) Fixing loops on tent carriers.

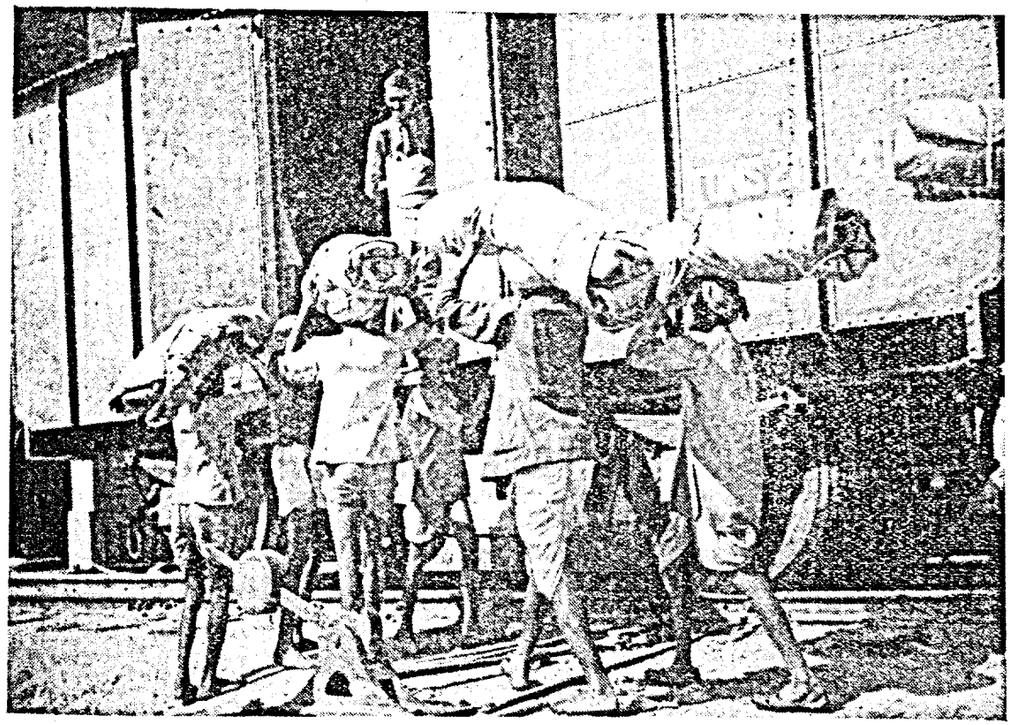
amounted to 20 per cent of the industry's output, but a year later they were 35 per cent of its manufacturing capacity.

An important item produced by the industry was anti-gas fabric. One of its major contributions to supply is tentage for which new centres of production were opened in 1940, resulting in the establishment of 53 new tent factories. India occupied a unique position among the Commonwealth countries for the supply of tentage. Although small quantities of canvas tents were made in Australia and South Africa, by far the largest number of tents for the Eastern Group Countries as well as for the Middle East and Far East centres of war have been supplied from India.

The total value of tentage contracts placed in 1939-40 was approximately Rs. 1 crore;



Each part of the tent is examined before it leaves the factory. Here, inner flies are pitched for examination. (Below) Finished tents being loaded into a railway wagon for despatch at the factory siding.



1940-41, approximately Rs. 8.3 crores, 1941-42, Rs. 13 crores; and purchases for 1942-43 were worth Rs. 16 crores. About 50,000 labourers of all classes—tailors, *mochis*, rope makers, supervisors etc. are employed in the job.

In woollen textiles the entire capacity of the industry, both mill and handloom, was taken over for the production of various war supplies, such as blankets, rugs, hosiery etc. By June, 1943, the handloom industry had supplied 2,000,000 blankets.

Large numbers of sola pith hats have been manufactured and supplied to troops in India and overseas. Another important item, the demand for which increased steadily, was camouflage nets made from strips and ribbons of jute cloth, dyed in various colours.

Manufacture of Parachutes

In 1944, the manufacture of parachutes generally and of Supply Dropping Parachutes particularly increased seven-fold. Rapid strides have been made in the production of cotton parachutes. Between January and August 1944, production stepped up to more than three times the figure for the number of parachutes manufactured from the commencement of production to December, 1943. Equipment Dropping Parachutes, for which Indian silk was used, have also been manufactured.

This important war job was done in two factories solely employed in the manufacture of cotton parachutes and one factory in the manufacture of Man Dropping and Equipment Dropping Parachutes and ancillary equipment.

Supply of Tailored Items

The year 1943 was the peak year with regard to the supply of tailored items of clothing. India was then the nearest supply base for armies in the Middle East and in March, 1943, over 12,000,000 items were fabricated. In the fifth year of war the ordnance clothing factories supplied just under 7,000,000 items a month.

Eight ordnance factories have been fully employed on fabrication of tailored items of clothing and necessaries. They employed a labour force of 90,000 excluding the indirect labour employed by tailoring contractors throughout India. In the fifth year of war they accounted for and converted some 215,000,000 yards of textiles, over 5,600,000,000 yards of sewing threads and over 500,000,000 buttons and



Timber being sawn in traditional style.

numerous minor components into 78,941,597 tailored items of clothing and necessaries.

Indian timber has been extensively used for the load-carrying bodies of Army vehicles and for shipbuilding and the construction of country craft.

It was also supplied for the construction of huts for the accommodation of troops both overseas and in India and for prisoners of war camps. Some of the other timber articles supplied were: telegraph and transmission poles, railway sleepers of various types, jetty piles, wharf timbers, bamboos, and a large variety of woodware such as tent poles, camp furniture and equipment ammunition boxes, battery boxes etc.

Timber Production

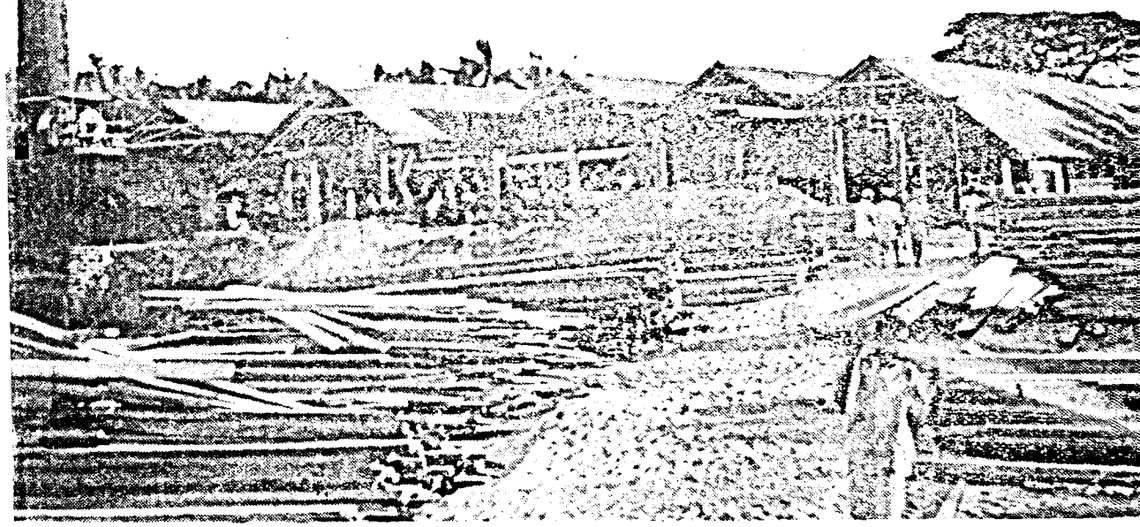
From 242,000 tons in 1940-41, 753,000 tons in 1941-42 and 863,000 tons in 1942-43, the figure for timber production rose to 1,274,000 tons in 1943-44. Several varieties of aircraft timber, notably fir and spruce, have been obtained from different parts of India.

Plywood has been in great demand for teachests, shipbuilding, aircraft and innumerable other industrial purposes. Many factories have been established and India is now producing over 60,000,000 sq. feet of plywood. Aircraft and marine types have also been developed.

Many thousands of composite wood and steel bodies including those of special armoured cars and carriers, field artillery tractors, etc., have been completely produced in India. The first Indian-built armoured vehicle was produced early in 1941, and in the fifth year of war actual deliveries to the Army and Air Force approximated to the total of four years' previous deliveries.

In 1944-45, the assembly of vehicles imported in knocked down condition from Canada and the United States of America continued at a rate exceeding 10 times the pre-war output and amounting to thousands monthly. Assembly arrangements were also undertaken for a large number of vehicles for the United States Army. Before the war there were only 5,000 armoured vehicles in service and by the end of 1943 there were over 100,000. Thousands of special chassis have been obtained from Canada and U.S.A. under lend-lease and assembled by Indian workmen. The bodies for these chassis have been completely manufactured in India.

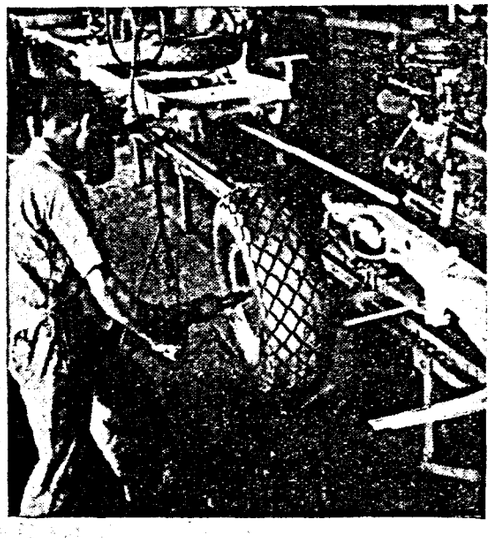
India now possesses her own factories for compressing hydrogen gas for the maintenance of Barrage Balloon Stations. In 1944-45 considerable expansion in plant for the production of Breathing Oxygen was in hand. Steps have also been taken to expand distillation capacity to meet the increasing Defence Services needs in methylated and rectified spirits and solidified fuel.



A sawmill on the West Coast of Madras. This is one of the many mills in the country working to full capacity on war supply orders.



A fleet of Army motor trucks which carry vital supplies.

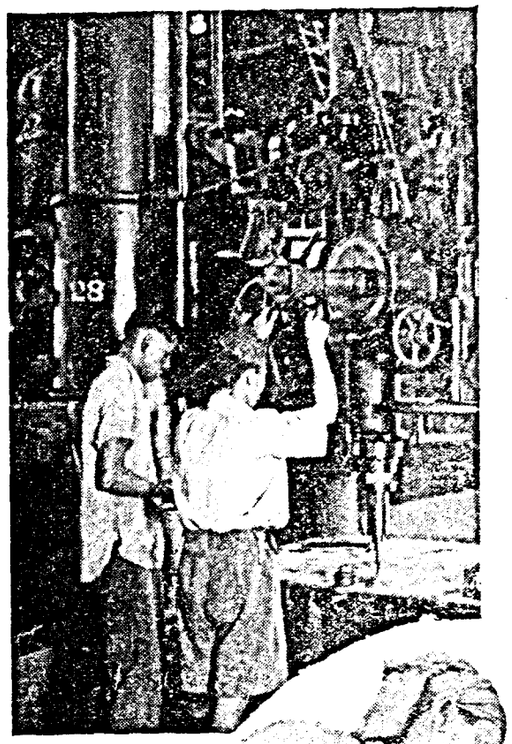


Assembly of motor trucks. Here, a wheel is being mounted to the chassis of a truck.

With over 100 per cent. increase in production since the beginning of the war, India's chemical industry has now come into its own. Soda ash, caustic soda, bleaching powder, chlorine, sodium and potassium bichromates, chromi cacid, sodium thiosulphate and calcium chloride are some of the more important chemicals now being produced in large quantities, which were not produced or were produced only on a very small scale before the war. A very large number of pharmaceutical and other chemicals which used to be imported in the past are also being manufactured.

There has been a heavy demand for many indigenous drugs and Government have taken various steps to encourage the expansion of the drug industry in India and to eliminate difficulties experienced by industrialists expanding their production. Drug-making equipment, comprising 18 items, has been secured from the U.S.A. under lease-lend and allocated to firms to enable them to step up production or to take up new items of manufacture. India has been producing the entire requirements of the Allies as regards Strychnine, Caffeine, Santonin, etc. Recently the production figure for Strychnine reached a high level of 15,000 lb. per annum. Steps have also been taken to produce Penicillin—the world's "Wonder Drug."

There has been an increasing demand for many crude drugs such as Belladonna, Ephedra Henbain, Calocynth, Gentain, Valerian, Kurchi Bark etc. Indian "Dhatura" has proved a important source of Hyoscine which had been in short supply in the Allied countries. The Indian Shark Liver Industry has also been established on a firm footing.



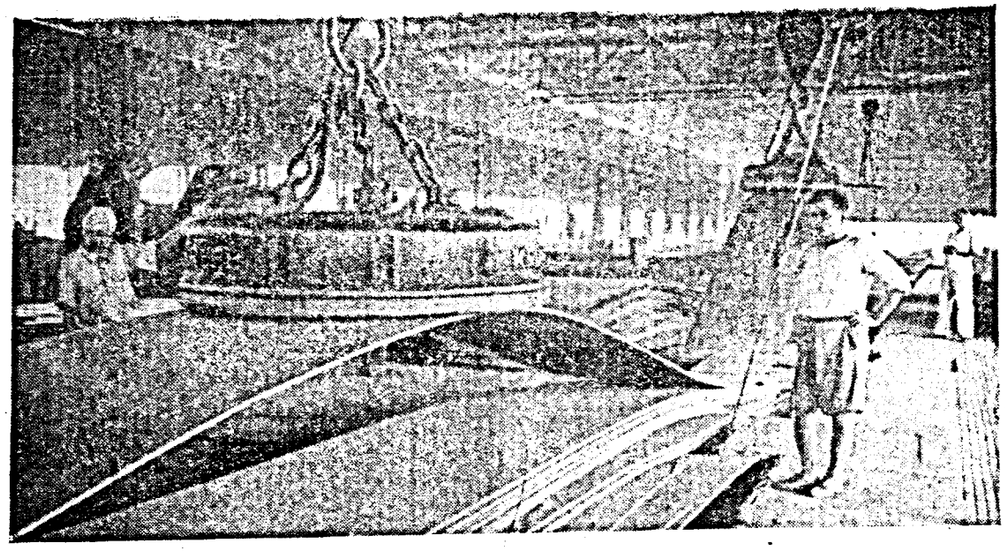
India's surgical dressings industry has been producing, from indigenous sources, nearly 90 per cent. of items.

Output of medical stores has gone up to nearly 60 per cent of India's total requirements from only 25 per cent. at the beginning of the war. Nearly 300 drugs and medicines which were previously imported are being produced locally, and most types of hospital and theatre equipment and standard and orthopaedic instruments are being manufactured in the country. By June, 1943, India had supplied Russia about 80,000 medical instruments. A monthly average of over 20,000 articles ranging from operating tables to surgical needles was produced in 1943.

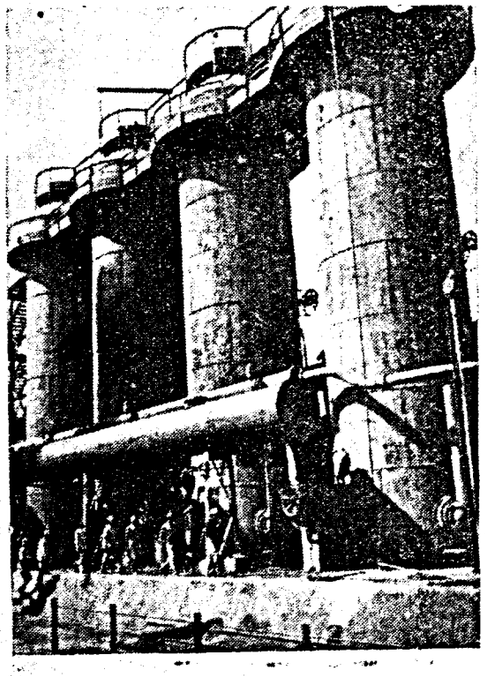
Several new firms have been developed to a satisfactory pitch for the production of high-grade surgical instruments. In the fifth year

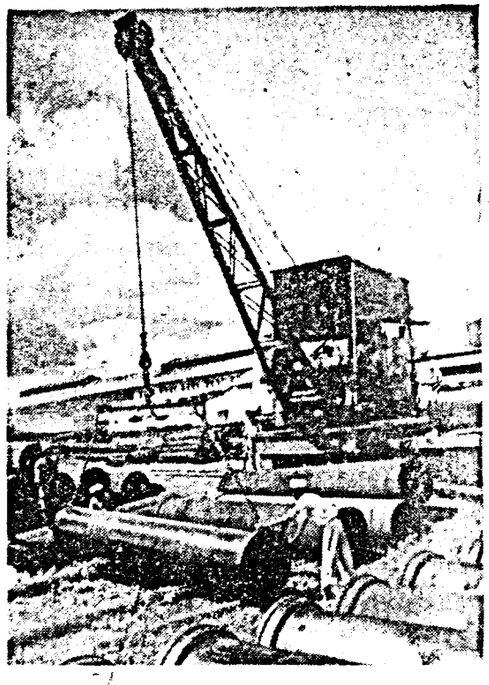
(Left) Jigs being drilled on a radial drilling machine for armour plates for armoured carriers. (Below) Riveting the plates of an armoured carrier.



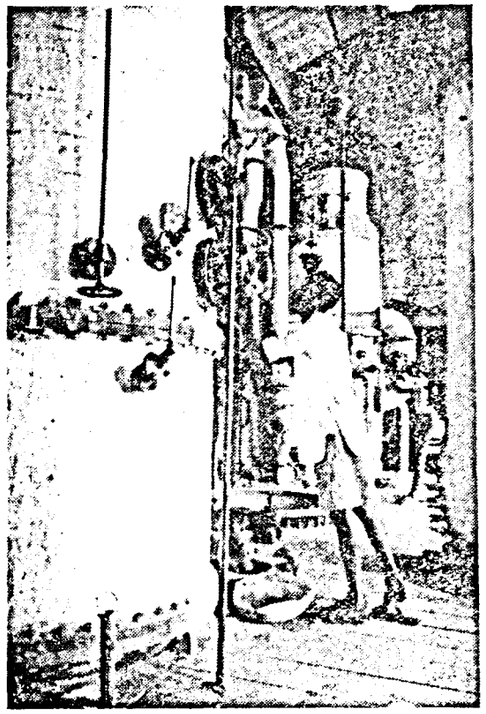


Steel plates for shipyards being transferred by an electric magnet, to a truck for despatch.





Blast furnaces of the Mysore Iron and Steel Works. (Right) Iron pipes for Mysore's hydro-electric scheme are cast at these Works.





This chemical plant in South India is producing large quantities of bleaching powder and caustic soda to meet the growing needs of India's war industries. These pictures show (left) caustic soda evaporators and (right) the rotary kiln for the manufacture of quick-lime. Sea-shells are fed through the hopper and, travelling slowly from one end of the rotating kiln, the shells meet the shooting oil flames at the opposite end. They are completely calcined, become quick-lime and are drawn off.

of war 285,000 instruments of satisfactory standard were produced.

India has greatly helped to solve the problem of rubber shortage by strictly conserving rubber and tyres, by stimulating the production of rubber plantations, and by starting factories for reclaiming rubber. India also undertook to supply rubber for the war effort. New plants for the manufacture of tyres, respirators, special types of hose, etc., have been established and several factories previously making footwear and similar items have been converted for the manufacture of war requirements. As a consequence of this, India has been able to make herself virtually self-dependent in regard to rubber manufacture.

The Government Harness and Saddlery Factory, which also produces web equipment, paulins and other canvas goods, has expanded its working staff from 2,000 to 18,000 men. Five branch Harness and Saddlery Factories supplement the main factories' production by making use of the manufacturing and fabricating capacity of some 700 contractors employing about 25,000 men.

In spite of recent reductions in demand for web equipment and other stores, the combined total output of the Harness and Saddlery Factory, the branch factories and their contractors is still valued at approximately Rs. 15—20 crores per annum, and practically the whole of this is derived from indigenous sources.

The production of all tanneries capable of making leather to Government standards has been organised and controlled. In 1941, 7.6 million pairs of footwear were produced but during 1942 this figure rose to 16.22 million pairs and fell in 1943 to 13.21 millions, and in 1944 to about 6 million pairs. Similarly production of components such as heel and toe tips, boot repairing components, etc. has been rising. Production of tanned leather and chrome upper leather from controlled tanneries has also risen considerably.

Numerous articles classed as "Miscellaneous Stores" have been supplied. These include many articles which were manufactured in India for the first time. In terms of value alone, an idea of the rapid expansion which took place may be had from the fact that whereas in 1940-41 the value of stores supplied amounted to Rs. 71 lakhs, the figure for the following year was Rs. 488 lakhs. New manufactures were: bicycles, sewing machines, spring balances, fire-fighting equipment, spirit lamps, tommy cookers, electric bulbs, boot polishes, mustard and cashew nut oil, razor safety holders, blades, etc. As part of their war effort, the various Provincial Governments have also established production on the cottage industry basis of a number of items such as ambulance stretchers, horn and bone buttons, hair combs, locks and padlocks, and brass studs.

The cottage industries, thriving in villages and rural areas, have not lagged behind. The centuries old traditions of ancient Indian craftsmanship sprang into new life. Millions of yards of camouflage nets—so valuable and yet so simple—were made by villagers in various parts of India. In 1941-42 these nets were worth Rs. 182 lakhs to them and their value increased considerably in subsequent years.

Dosuti for Tents

The villagers made pith hats, not by numbers but by miles. In 1941-42, pith hats worth Rs. 43 lakhs were supplied. On the textile side handloom weavers, accustomed to patterns of multi-coloured hues, plying their shuttles according to age-old customs, wore the utility dosuti or double yarn, used for making tents or tentage cloth, gauze cloth, muzri, buntings and various woollen fabrics.

In 1941-42, direct war orders to the value of Rs. 498 lakhs were laid with small-scale industry. In 1942-43, additional orders to the value of Rs. 610 lakhs were placed.



Travancore workers making camouflage nets for the Defence Services.



Indian railways have played an outstanding part in the transport of troops, ammunition, vehicles, etc. Here, camels of the Bikaner Camel Corps arrive by train at an Indian port of embarkation on their way for service overseas.

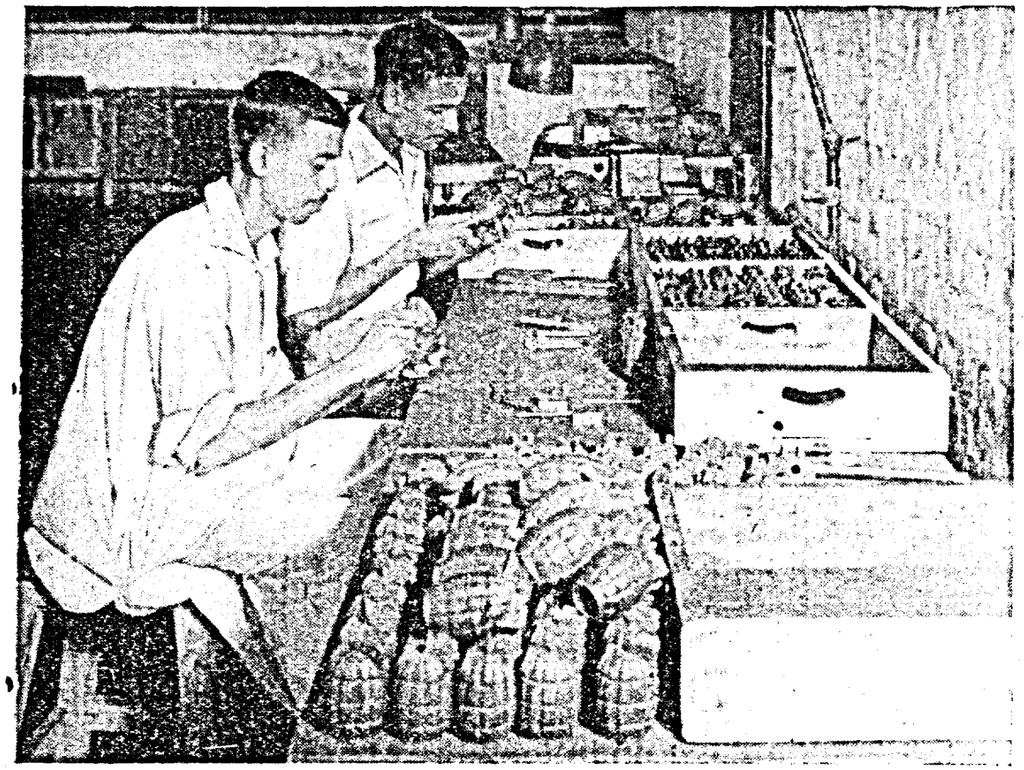
HOW INDIAN RAILWAYS HELPED COUNTRY'S WAR EFFORT

TO the victory that the United Nations are celebrating today, India's railways have made an important contribution. They have carried the troops, poured out the munitions, delivered the equipment, and tried to keep the life of the country at an even flow.

In record time the railway workshops switched over from peacetime to war production. Out of these workshops there began to pour out—quickly, methodically and in an increasing stream—armaments, munitions and other war material. Shells by the thousand, bayonets by the hundred thousand, fuse bodies, detonator plugs, components for gun carriages—all rolled out from our little arsenals right into the face of Hitler. Manufactures ranged from such minute items as small valves for blow lamp oil cookers to armoured cars, field artillery tractors, Frontier lorries, batteries of hydraulic shell bottling and forging presses.

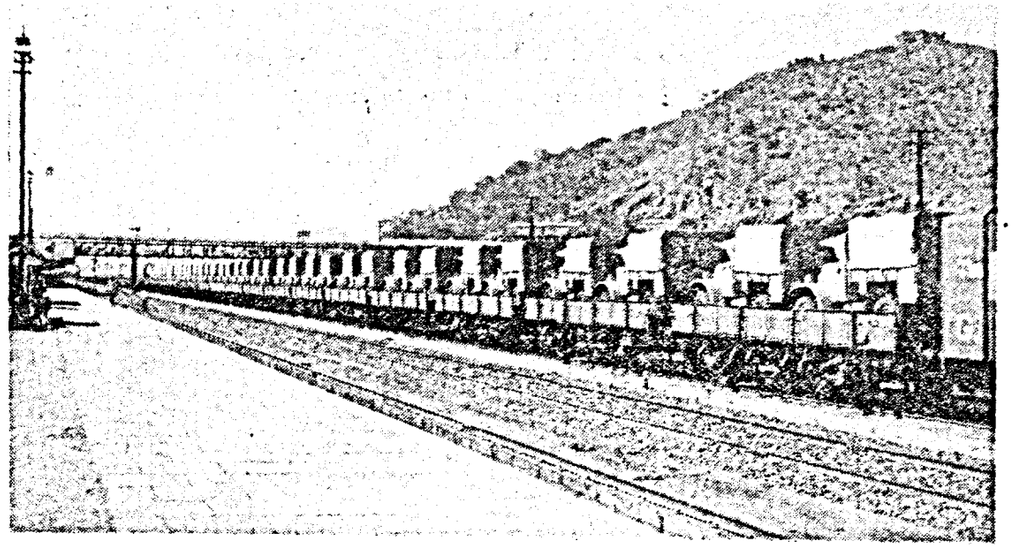
One particular workshop manufactured armour-piercing shot for the first time in India, and this has been tested in England and found equal to the best English shot. The methods and processes for this original work were evolved and designed in the workshop and the equipment was also manufactured there.

But war cannot be waged by production alone. The tools have got to reach those who have to do the job, and so railway engineers set about increasing the line capacity and supplying military depots and airfields. Since the war began, over 1,400 miles of military sidings have been constructed, 70 miles of permanent and 153 miles of temporary sidings for airfields, 21 miles of new single line and 400 miles of doubling or quadrupling have been completed. In addition, 198 crossing stations, additional loops at 174 stations, lengthening of loop at 145 stations and remodelling of 30 large station yards have been completed. In all some 3,500 miles of track material have been arranged.



Inspection of hand-grenades after machining in an Indian railway workshop producing munitions. (Below) Four stages in the production of a hand-grenade—drilling and counter-sinking filling hole; tapping of filling hole; milling slots for striker lever and drilling striker pin-hole.





A goods train carrying military trucks.

India's contribution in railway material for overseas amounts to crores of rupees. The supplies consisted of loocmotives, coaching stock and wagons, besides vast quantities of track, turnouts, crossings, turn-tables and miscellaneous railway stores. Large quantities of rails, sleepers and rolling stock were provided for the building up of vital lines of communication in the Midle East theatre—communications which later not only helped in defeating the Axis plans for an invasion of India through Egypt, Iraq and Persia, but played a large part in the final liberation of North Africa. The line to Persia was also busy with supplies of jute, tea and other goods which went to Russia, and trainloads of Polish refugees have come to India over that single line of railway stretching across the desert that links India with her western neighbour.

Manpower Contribution

Nor did the railways lose time in helping with manpower. They raised military units of different kinds. From the workshops and from all other branches of the service, they have supplied large numbers of men for military railway companies. Skilled workmen with technical training were wanted in very large numbers for ordnance manufacture.

The growing need for war technicians was clearly realised early in the war, and a scheme was drawn up for their proper and speedy training. The railway workshops have played an important role in this work and have trained fitters, copper and tin smiths, turners, machinists, blacksmiths, electricians and electroplaters.

RAILWAY EARNINGS

The total approximate gross earnings of the Budget lines (Class I Railways) for the month of March, 1945, amounted to Rs. 20.60 crores, i.e., Rs. 103 lakhs *less* than the actuals for the corresponding month of the previous year and Rs. 360 lakhs *more* than the actuals for the corresponding month of 1942-43. Compared with the last year, coaching earnings decreased by about Rs. 111 lakhs and goods earnings by about Rs. 16 lakhs during the month.

The decrease under coaching earnings was mainly due to less military, parcels , passengers and other coaching traffic. Earnings from goods showed decrease in all commodities except in the case of other foodgrains, groundnuts and oil seeds, rice and cotton. Coal, sugar—jagree and molasses, metals, wheat and general goods showed decreases of about 19,221 and 13 lakhs respectively.



INDIA'S FOREST SUPPLIES FOR ALLIES

THE enormous supplies of timber needed for the Middle East were organised by the Supply Department of the Government of India. The production of these supplies created numerous research problems for the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun.

The policy of the Institute was to remain as a research unit and not to undertake any actual supply except of models for the factories. Despite pressure, this policy has been continued and where necessary the Institute staff has been transferred to the Supply Department.

The Forest Research Institute consists of five branches of Botany, Silviculture, Entomology, Chemistry and Minor Forest Products and Utilisation with a skeleton Timber Development branch. The Utilisation branch consists of sections of Wood Technology, Timber Testing, Seasoning, Wood Preservation, Paper Pulp, Wood Workshops and Mechanical Engineering.

Military Needs

The stoppage of imports, together with the enormously increased military needs, created an immediate demand for Indian woods. These were not only demands for more or less unwrought timber for railway sleepers, hutting timber, bridge timber, piles for jetties, heavy building timber, lorry bodies and pontoon boats, but also for such things as shuttles, bobbins and other textile mill requirements, packing case woods, electric transmission poles and plywood articles.

The lack of seasoned timber in the country and the lack of seasoning kilns quickly raised seasoning problems, while the demands for the above articles raised many problems of wood preservatives and preservative treatment, plywood manufacture and formulæ for adhesives. Not only did the army need material, but its increasing supplies necessitated the training of military men, mostly in the Ordnance Department, who could themselves deal with timber and its identification.

But forestry does not only deal in timber and fuel, called Major Forest Products, it deals with all other produce derived from forests like grasses (for paper), bamboos (for tent poles), distillation and extraction products, grass oils, wood oils, leaf oils, cutch and *katha*, tars, tans (from bark, fruits or leaves), dyes (from wood, bark, fruit), gums (from fruit, wood), resins, drugs (from roots, barks, fruits, seeds, leaves), spices and insecticides, called Minor Forest Products though they may be far more valuable than timber.



The Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun. A unique picture taken during Dehra Dun's first snowfall in about 10 years.

The Middle East demands, apart from railway sleepers, amounted to 1,500,000 tons of timber a year. Contracts were issued for innumerable articles like helves, beams, hutting timber, building timber, ammunition boxes, rifle stock wood, lorry body wood, packing cases, and dozens of plywood articles. Great opportunities existed both for error and fraud. Doubtful cases were referred to the Forest Reseach Institute for identification.

Plywood Articles

The Forest Research Institute identified in this way some 7,400 specimens of the European war supplies. It also trained 190 officers and men of the Ordnance Department and Military Engineering Service in timber identification, prepared keys for the Ordnance Department to identify timbers by various territorial zones and for various uses like tool, handles, lorry bodies, boxes, packing cases, rifle stocks and furniture timbers.

Adhesives for plywood, laminated wood and compregnated wood are very necessary for war supplies. Plywood is used among many other articles for aircraft, naval construction and bridge pontoons, and a strong and completely waterproof bonding material is essential. If the glue adhesion of plywood is 200 lb. per square inch, it is usually considered sufficient. Some of the adhesives evolved at the Forest Research Institute have given plywood adhesive strengths of 500 lb. per square inch and over 200 lb. per square inch after boiling in water for eight hours.

Valuable adhesives were also developed from ground-nut cakes and maize proteins, the latter being a waste product of starch manufacture.

The shortage of metal created an enormous demand for containers and drums of plywood. Models were designed of all shapes and sizes from 50-lb. medical stores containers and drums for oils, paints, greases and dry goods down to small boxes for anti-gas grease, hypodermic injection phials and tabloids.

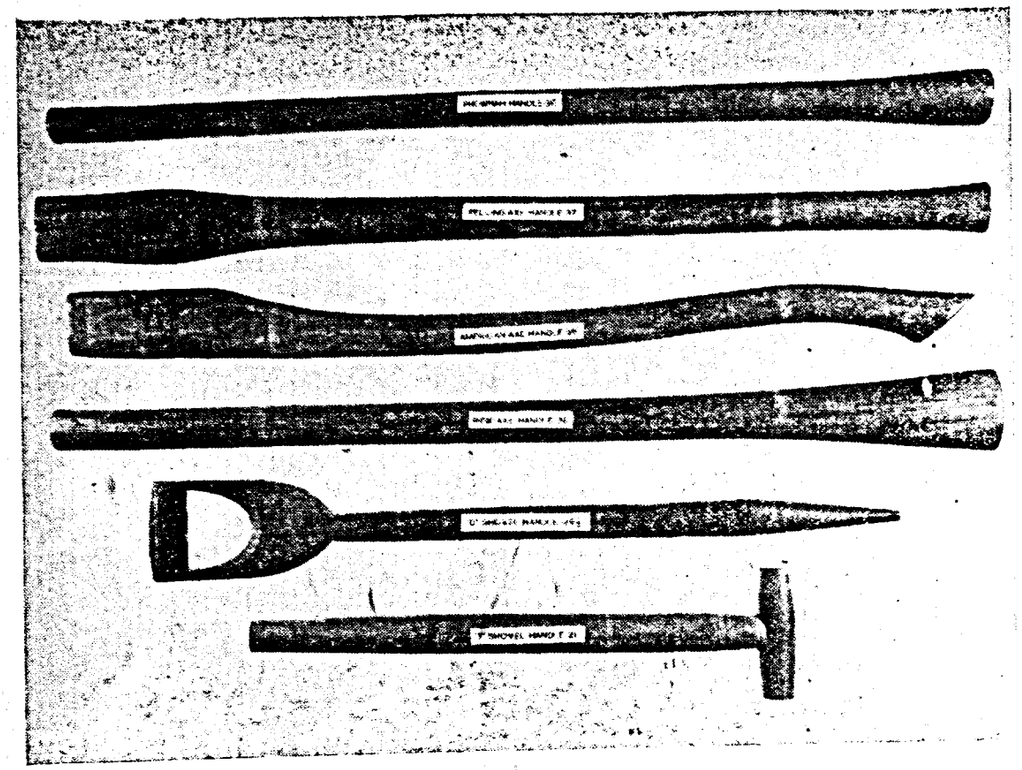
The two most interesting problems were the designing and making of a container to drop with paratroops to hold food, ammunition, tommy guns, etc., without which at that particular time the training of such troops would have been seriously hampered, and the making of a jettison petrol tank, cheaper and lighter than the original metal model sent to the Institute. Incidentally, for the paratroop containers, for the sake of secrecy, the Institute departed from its normal policy and actually supplied the comparatively few containers needed at that time.

Boot Lasts from Laminated Wood

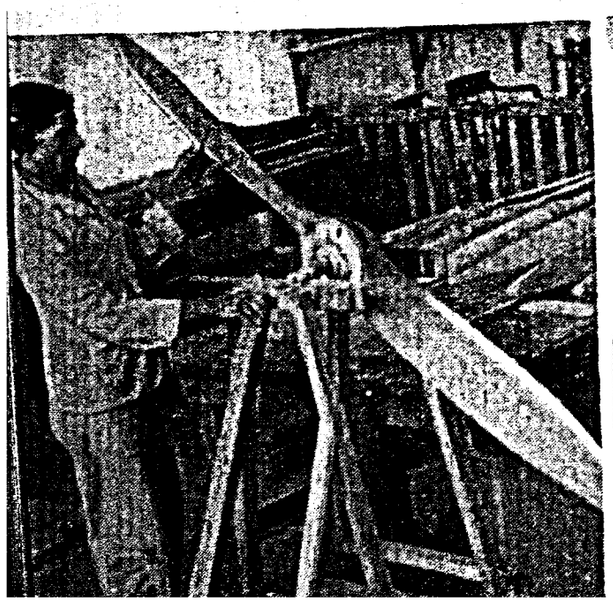
Laminated wood is simply boards stuck together to make a solid block which can then be used as a block of wood. Compregnated wood is made by impregnating thin veneers with synthetic resin, sticking them together and subjecting the whole to heat and pressure. This forms what is really a plastic and almost literally turns bad wood into good wood.

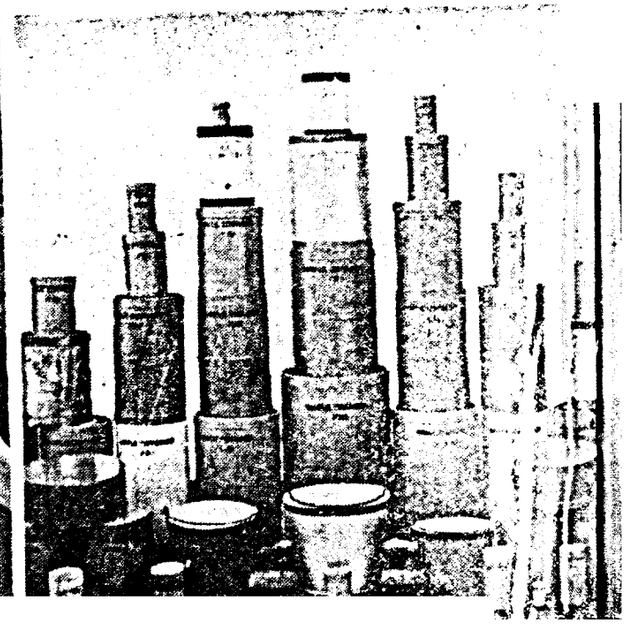
In 1940, laminated wood helped to supply the then demand of 1,500,000 army boots for the Middle East. It takes several weeks to season a boot last block of 12" X 4" X 4" and the seasoned timber did not exist. But by building the block of half-inch boards, which can be seasoned in 10 days, the lasts were produced in days instead of weeks.

A very interesting war use of compregnated wood at the Institute was the making of



Some of the tool handles made for the Army at the Forest Research Institute. Research work at the Institute has shown which of the Indian timbers is most suitable for each type of handle. (Below, left) A finished air screw is tested on the balancing machine. (Right) Plywood drums and containers made at the Institute.





Weybridge blades for Rotol propellors. The root ends were made of compregnated wood and the blades of laminated Sitka spruce spliced into the compregnated roots. This eventually developed into a complete R.A.F. unit working at the Institute to make aero-engine test fans from Indian timbers. One of these test fans has done over a thousand hours and is still in service.

The above examples do not attempt to cover the numerous problems set and solved at the Forest Research Institute. The far cheaper *semul (Bombax malabaricum)* was introduced instead of teak for ammunition boxes. Indian spruce has been proved suitable for aircraft, though the percentage suitable is very small. By a slightly different design *semul,* which grows near the Cawnpore factories, replaced *shir (Pinus longifolia)* for boot boxes and improved design increased the strength 15 times.

Fight Against Insect Pests

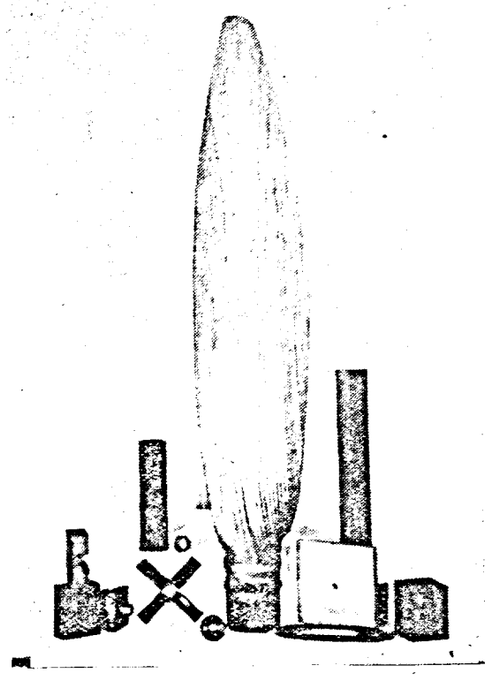
An extremely interesting development was the use of Indian timbers in making wooden dowel joints in timber structures. These dowels greatly increased the strength of roof trusses, for example, over trusses with steel plates, the dowel design saving both steel and money. In certain areas the Institute designs were adopted as standard for military works.

A major problem was to prevent the destruction by insects of the enormous quantities of wood and bamboo required for the Middle East armies. Two out of the many examples of successful work are given.

Salai (Boswellia serrata) is a valuable war timber, especially useful for army packing cases, provided it can be protected from insect attack to which it is extremely liable. As a result of investigations in the jungle, in timber depots and in the laboratory such attacks can now be reduced to negligible proportions and at a very low cost.

Bamboos, required in millions in the Middle East and in India, are liable to be reduced to powder by *ghoon* borers *(Dinoderus species).* Many aspects of the problem of protection were studied with interesting results, perhaps the most outstanding being the devising and very thorough testing of a new method of injecting hollow bamboos with preservatives. This method has been adopted by the Ordnance as the standard one and has been used on an immense scale.

Aircraft spruce arriving in India was sometimes attacked by the Canadian fungus



These articles are made of compregnated wood

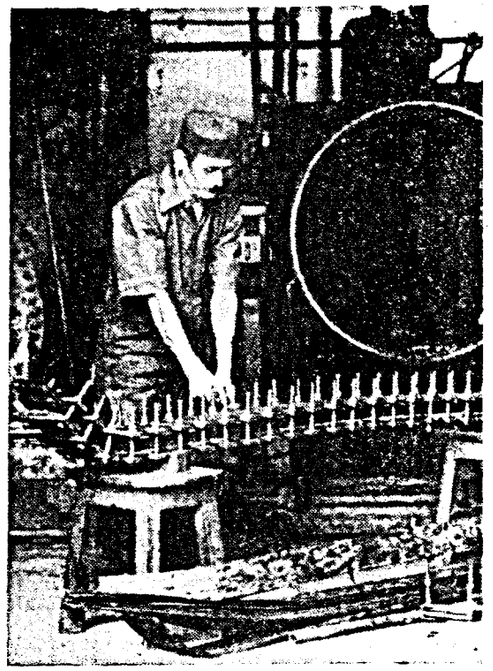
Trametes serialis and consignments had to be examined to reject unfit beams. A dry rot fungus, a species of *Poria,* was also damaging the mahogany timber in motor launches or steamships and this also had to be eliminated.

With the fall of Singapore and Malaya in 1941, rubber supplies became short. The Forest Research Institute, as long ago as June, 1942, published a leaflet on the "Possible wartime resources of vegetable rubber in India".

Medicinal Products

In December, 1942, it analysed the latex and reported the importance of wild *Cryptostegia grandiflora* and worked on the methods of growth and reproduction. The Institute analysed the latex of all the species likely to be sources of rubber and found 12 species worth consideration. Of these, three gave gutta percha rubber but the others unfortunately gave a resiny rubber.

Drugs, insecticides and disinfectants were all needed for the Middle East army. The



Making laminated skis which were among the amenities provided for troops on leave in Kashmir.

Institute perfected a method for the extraction and preparation of ephedrine from the Indian *ephedras* and the product was soon being made in Quetta and Madras. It also identified the santonin bearing *Artemisia* and supplies of santonin were assured from India.

It organised the growing of *Pyrethrum*, a most useful anti-malaria insecticide and the basis of many such preparations as "Flit," and in quite considerable areas *Pyrethrum* is now growing in South India.

Paper and Pulp

The demand for medicinal creosote for the health of the troops was urgent. The Institute improved a method of *chir* tar distillation; special retorts were erected and distillation sufficiently improved to yield a finished tar not only suitable for use in rope and rubber works but also for this very important medicinal purpose.

Right at the outbreak of war, fibre board packing cases were made for Ordnance for packing petrol tins and stores and also a corrugated kraft liner board packing case. But many problems arose connected with paper and pulp, such as the making of insulation and pressed boards, vegetable parchment, vulcanised fibre and grease-proof paper. Possibly to the layman the two most interesting were making parchmentised paper for gas detection and producing a water-proof paper for map reproduction capable, within reason, of standing up to wet, mud and blood.

Minor Forest Products

The Institute did considerable work on woods suitable for charcoal producer gas plants, studying such problems as clinker formation, ash content and road performance.

But perhaps the most spectacular of these miscellaneous minor forest products was the discovery of the various uses of the tamarind seed. There were enormous quantities and it was waste product. Tamarind seed is a very rich source of the well-known pectin used in the manufacture of jams and jellies. This tamarind pectin was then converted into a gum-like substance resembling gum tragacanth. The seed kernel powder was used as a sizing material for textiles, the demand for which was enormous.

It was found, moreover, to be an excellent agent for creaming rubber latex and was in fact the only material for that important work in India. After the close of the Middle East campaign the pectin became the basis for other military uses which are far more important but which at present are still secret.

MUNITIONS PRODUCTION

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 670)

Some workshops were entrusted with the manufacture of empty fuses for high explosive shells.

Even the Jute Industry was harnessed thus providing a "feeder service" for munitions parts. The mills concentrated on the manufacture of base plates and transit plugs for shells, cast iron for defence uses and component parts for armoured vehicles. Their average production rose to 200,000 units per month. During the first eight months the production of components per month rose from 2,400 to 135,400

A CREDITOR NATION

Borrowing: Sheet-Anchor of War Finance

At the end of hostilities in Europe, India can look back with pride on her achievement in the field of war finance. She has borne the steadily increasing financial burden of the war, which has risen to nearly six times the peacetime level. The total expenditure charged to revenue in 1938-39, the immediate pre-war year, was Rs. 85.15 crores; for the year 1944-45 (Revised)) it amounted to Rs. 512.65 crores. This burden at one time strained Indian economy almost to breaking point. But effective counter-measures were adopted, which checked this dangerous tendency and restored the economy to wartime equilibrium.

In the beginning, reliance was placed mainly upon increased taxation to finance the war. Wartime borrowing was on the small side, but gradually took precedence. And, as Sir Jeremy Raisman stated in his last two budget speeches, borrowing has become the sheet-anchor of India's wartime finances, not only for securing funds to finance the war but also effectively to counter the forces of inflation.

Role of Taxation

The last two budgets can be characterised as anti-inflationary budgets, since the taxation and other financial measures adumbrated therein had, as one of their main objects, the countering of the inflationary tendency in the first half of 1943. Prices became more or less stabilised at comparatively lower levels in 1944, a tendency which still prevails.

Direct taxation has begun to play an increasingly important role in the tax structure of India. The aggregate of taxes on income, including corporation tax, has increased from Rs. 17.28 crores in 1938-39 to Rs. 210.00 crores (Revised) in 1944-45, or a twelvefold increase. While the yield of customs revenue has, in spite of the imposition of a general surcharge of 20 per cent., decreased generally as a result of wartime difficulties of supply and import restrictions.

Excise revenue has been buoyant. Not only has it expanded but new sources have been tapped. In 1938-39, for instance, the yield of Central Excise duties amounted to Rs. 8.66 crores; in 1944-45, Rs. 39.07 crores (Revised). Customs revenue showed an appreciable increase in 1944-45 and is expected to show substantially better results during the current financial year, the estimate for 1945-46 being Rs. 55.25 crores. This is partly because of the general easing of the shipping position and also because increasing imports of consumer goods have latterly become possible as one of the measures to counteract inflation.

The total revenue derived during the war period is indicated in the following table:

	(In crores of Rs.)
Pre-War Year	
1938-39	84.51
War Period	
1939-40	94.57
1940-41	99.85
1941-42	134.57
1942-43	176.88
1943-44	245.95
1944-45 (Revised)	356.85
Total	1,112.73

The total revenue realised during the first six years of war amounts to Rs. 1,113 crores. If revenue had accrued at the rate of the peacetime level of Rs. 94.57 crores a year, the aggregate for this period would have been Rs. 567 crores. The difference between these two figures—*viz* Rs. 546 crores—represents mainly the increase in wartime tax revenue, either due to natural expansion of revenue or to new measures of taxation. Thus, the aggregate revenue realised during the period has increased by about 100 per cent. over the figure calculated for it on the basis of the pre-war level.

New Taxation Measures

It is difficult to tell how much of this increased revenue is due to natural expansion and how much to new taxation. After the adoption of the slab system, Income-tax has shown a progressive tendency. Moreover, expansion of business activities has brought in more assessees and more tax revenue from them. Similarly, Excise revenue has increased owing to increased industrial output. Taking these and other factors into consideration, one would not be far off the mark in assuming that at least two-thirds of the above amount represents the proceeds of extra taxation during and the rest normal growth of revenue in the war period.

A brief account of the new taxation measures adopted during the war may now be given. In the 1940-41 budget, the Excess Profits Tax was introduced for the first time in

the Indian tax system, the rate being 50 per cent. Other taxation measures adopted during the year were raising of the Sugar Excise and Import Duties from Rs. 2 to Rs. 3 per cwt. and raising the Petrol Tax, both Excise and customs, from As. 10 to As. 12 per gallon. A supplementary budget was introduced in November, 1940. It provided for a 25 per cent. surcharge on all taxes on income, including Super-tax and Corporation tax, and a limited increase in postal and telegraph rates and telephone rentals.

The 1941-42 budget raised the Excess Profits Tax from 50 per cent. to 66 2/3 per cent. The Central surcharge of 25 per cent. on Income-tax and Super-tax was raised to 33 1/3 per cent. In the field of indirect taxation, Excise duty on matches was doubled. A new Excise Duty of 10 per cent. *ad valorem* was introduced on pneumatic tyres and tubes. The alternative specific import duty on artificial silk yarn and thread was increased from 3 annas to 5 annas per lb.

In 1942-43, the taxable minimum for Income-tax purposes was reduced from Rs. 2,000 per annum to Rs. 1,500. The surcharge on income-tax was raised from 33 1/3 per cent. to a scale which ran from 6 pies in the rupee on incomes between Rs. 1,500 and Rs. 5,000 to 9 pies in the rupee on the next Rs. 5000, 1 anna 2 pies on the next Rs. 5,000 and 1 anna 3 pies on the balance over Rs. 15,000. The surcharge on the rate of Super-tax was raised to 50 per cent. and, at the same time, Corporation Tax was raised to 1½ annas in the rupee. While E.P.T. was retained at the 66 2/3 per cent. level, as an incentive to economy in business administration, the Government agreed to contribute an amount up to one-tenth of the E.P.T. paid to a reserve for the re-equipment of industry after the war, provided the assessee deposited double this amount.

Anti-Inflationary Measures

The main indirect taxation was the levy of an emergency surcharge of one-fifth on all Customs imports duties, the only exceptions being: (i) raw cotton, the duty on which had already been enhanced by 100 per cent. for a special purpose, (ii) petrol, the excise and customs duties on which were raised by 3 annas a gallon, and (iii) salt.

The excise duties on silver and kerosene were equated to the new import duties and certain posts, telegraphs and telephone rates were further increased.

In 1943-44, a number of measures were promulgated which had the dual purpose of bringing in more revenue and checking inflation. The surcharge on Income-tax was raised on incomes above Rs. 5,000; the effect of the change was to impose a surcharge amounting uniformly to 66 2/3 per cent. over the basic rates of Income-tax.

As regards super-tax the surcharge was increased uniformly by 6 pies in the rupee on slabs of income between Rs. 25,000 and Rs. 1½ lakhs. The resultant aggregate rates of super-tax, including surcharge, ran from two annas in the rupee on the lowest slap to 10½ annas on the top slab. Corporation tax was also raised by half an anna to two annas in the rupee.

As regards indirect taxation, two new Excise duties were introduced, one on tobacco and the other on vegetable products. Tobacco excise was anticipated to yield a revenue of Rs. 10.50 crores during thhe first year. The duty on vegetable products was at the rate of Rs. 5 per cwt. and was expected to yield Rs. 1·80 lakhs. There were further increases in certain postal and telephone rates, anticipated to yield Rs. 120 lakhs.

Indirect Taxation

In a similar manner, the financial measures of 1944-45 were designed not only to increase the revenue for war and post-war needs, but also to check inflation. To absorb surplus money, provision was made for advance payment of tax on incomes from which tax was not deducted at source. While no change was made in the E.P.T., the compulsory deposit proportion was increased to 19/64th of the tax, in the cases of companies and 17/64th in other cases, which immobilised the entire excess profits remaining after E.P.T. had been paid thereon and income-tax and super-tax paid on the balance.

Relief was given to persons whose incomes were below Rs. 2,000 by raising the taxable minimum from Rs. 1,500 to Rs. 2,000. On the slab from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 15,000 the surcharge was increased by 2 pies, from 16 to 18 pies over the basic rate of 24 pies; and on the balance above Rs. 15,000 it was increased by 4 pies, from 20 to 24 pies over the basic rate of 30 pies. The super-tax was further increased by half an anna in respect of the surcharge on slabs between Rs. 35,000 and Rs. 2 lakhs. Similarly, Corporation tax was increased by one anna to three annas; but a rebate of one anna in the rupee was given on so much of a company's total income as was not distributed in dividends other than dividends payable at a fixed rate.

In respect of indirect taxation, the Excise duty on tobacco was further increased so as to bring in an additional revenue of Rs. 10 crores. Three new excise duties were levied, namely, on betel nut, coffee and tea, at annas two a pound.

The total estimated additional revenue from all these sources amounted to Rs. 23½ crores, while from the point of view of their anti-inflationary effect, the new measures were estimated to bring in approximately Rs. 90 crores.

There was not much increase in taxation in 1945-46. The surcharge on slabs of income above Rs. 15,000 was increased by 3 pies, the estimated yield being about Rs. 4 crores. The Excise duty on the highest class of flue-cured tobacco was further raised at varying rates so as to yield an additional revenue of Rs. 360 lakhs. Import duty on unmanufactured tobacco was also raised correspondingly to yield Rs. 240 lakhs. There were a few changes in inland postal parcel rates and surcharge on trunk telephone calls and telegrams, anticipated to yield Rs. 135 lakhs.

Principal Sources of Revenue

The following table gives the principal sources of revenue (in crores of rupees) during the war period:

Years.	Customs.	Central Excise.	Corporation Tax.	Taxes on income other than Corporation Tax.	Salt.
Pre-War.—					
1938-39	40·51	8·66	2·04	15·24	8·12
War Period					
1939-40	45·88	6·52	2·38	16·99	10·86
1940-41	37·30	9·49	4·14	21·79	7·67
1941-42	37·89	13·15	11·66	32·40	9·20
1942-43	25·12	12·75	31·40	54.36	10·91
1943-44	26·57	24·94	51·28	77·86	8·34
1944-45	40·00	30·07	106·11	103·89	9·30

Customs touched a low level of Rs. 25 crores—about 40 per cent. below the pre-war level—in the very year in which a general surcharge of 20 per cent. was levied on all Customs duties. Except for a slight break in 1942-43, Central Excise has progressively expanded. Taxes on income, including Corporation Tax, show a spectacular rise—from Rs. 17 crores in 1938-39 to Rs. 210 crores in 1944-15. Salt has been more or less steady.

In addition to higher realisations from expanding revenues of new taxation, certain Commercial Departments of the Government, like the Railways and the Posts and Telegraphs, have made substantial increased contribution to the general revenues. The following table, for instance, gives details of the net contribution (in crores of rupees) by the P. and T. and the Railways:

Year	Posts and Telegraphs	Railways
Pre-War		
1938-39	.19	1.37
War Period		
1939-40	.89	4.33
1940-41	1.25	12.16
1941-42	3.41	20.17
1942-43	4.52	20.13
1943-44	9.03	37.64
1944-45 (Revised)	9.32	32.00
Total	28.44	126.43

Wartime Expenditure

The aggregate expenditure charged to revenue during the first six war years i.e., from 1939-40 to 1944-45, amounted to Rs. 1,598 crores, details being as under (in crores of rupees):

Pre-War		
1938-39		85.15
War Period		
1939-40		94.57
1940-41		114.18
1941-42		147.26
1942-43		289.05
1943-44		439.85
1944-45	(Revised)	512.65
Total		1,597.56

On the basis of the expenditure for the pre-war year 1938-39, the total expenditure for the period should be Rs. 511 crores; but the actual revenue expenditure was Rs. 1,598 crores, which represents a threefold increase or an increase of Rs. 1,087 crores over that basic figure. This increase can be attributed to expenditure connected with the war, mainly Defence expenditure.

Defence expenditure increased from Rs. 46.18 crores in 1938-39 to Rs. 397.23 crores in 1944-45 (Revised). This represents more than an eightfold increase. The yearly details are as follows:

	Defence Expenditure (Net) in crores of Rs.
Pre-War	
1938-39	46.18
War Period	
1939-40	49.54

1940-41	73.61
1941-42	103.93
1942-43	214.62
1943-44	358.40
1944-45 (Revised)	397.23
Total	1,197.33

The aggregate Defence expenditure amounted to Rs. 1,197 crores during the European war period. On the basis of the pre-war level, the normal expenditure for this period would be Rs. 277 crores.

Increased Defence Expenditure

It has been observed before that the increase during the war period in the aggregate revenue expenditure was Rs. 1,087 crores. Of this, the increase in Defence expenditure accounts for Rs. 920 crores; the rest, namely Rs. 167 crores, can be accounted for by increases in the expenditure on Civil Departments and the aggregate of other increases. The high-water-mark of Defence expenditure—viz., Rs. 397 crores—was reached in 1944-45. The estimates for the current year have been placed at the slightly lower figure of Rs. 394 crores.

An innovation has been made from 1942-43 in the presentation of Defence expenditure. This has been divided into two portions, namely, revenue and capital. The figures given above represent revenue expenditure, while the capital portion was as follows:

	In crores of Rs.
1942-43	52.51
1943-44	37.46
1944-45 (Revised)	59.41

The capital portion consists of expenditure of a capital nature against most of which tangible and valuable assets are held.

H. M. G.'s Share

The total Defence expenditure brought to account in India's books is much more than what is indicated by the above figures. A substantial portion of this total expenditure has been borne by His Majesty's Government under what is known as the Financial Settlement, concluded between the Government of India and His Majesty's Government in 1939 regarding the allocation of total Defence expenditure brought to account in India's books between the two Governments. This total amounted to Rs. 2,722 crores till the end of 1944-45, of which India's share was Rs. 1,198 crores and H.M.G.'s Rs. 1,374 crores. Following are the details. (In crores of rupees):

Year.	Total Defence Expenditure.	India's Share.	H. M. G.'s Share
1939-40 ..	54	50	4
1940-41 ..	127	74	53
1941-42 ..	298	104	194
1942-43 ..	573	215 +52*	306
1943-44 ..	774	358 +38*	378
1944-45 (Revised) ..	896	397 +60*	439
Total	2,722	1,198 +150,*	1,348 1,374

N.B.—These figures represent Defence Capital Expenditure.

In addition to the above share of the total Defence expenditure brought to account in India's books, H.M.G. have incurred capital expenditure amounting to crores of rupees in implementing the recommendations of the Chatfield Committee. They have further undertaken to supply India, without charge, large quantities of aeroplanes, guns and other equipment required in connection with the expansion of India's air force and army. The total value of such free supplies cannot be readily estimated, but certainly runs into many millions of rupees.

Lend-Lease and Reciprocal Aid

From 1942, India has been admitted to the benefits of the Lend-Lease of the U.S.A. along with the United Kingdom and other members of the Commonwealth. To ensure that India participated to the fullest possible extent in these facilities, an Indian Purchasing Mission was established in the United States. India received or is receiving from America, under Lend-Lease, medical stores, ordnance stores, motor vehicles and spares, steel, provisions, lubricants, machine tools, machinery, electrical equipment, A.R.P. stores, radio sets, oil pipeline and machinery, ferro alloys, locomotives, dock and harbour equipment, aircraft parts, chemicals, scientific instruments, etc.

India is giving Reciprocal Aid to American forces stationed in India. Although she has not entered into a Mutual Aid Agreement with the U.S.A., as other members of the United Nations have done, she has wholeheartedly accepted the principle of mutual aid and is giving all possible help. The goods and services relating to this aid take, broadly speaking, the following three main forms:

(1) Reciprocal Aid to U.S. forces in India in the shape of rations, clothing, ordnance and other stores, the construction of accommodation, airfields and connected works and the provision of transportation, communications and maintenance facilities of various kinds.

(2) Reciprocal Aid to U.S. shipping using Indian ports in the shape of port dues of all kinds, ship repairs, etc.

(3) Available raw materials and available foodstuffs such as tea, required by the U.S. Government directly for war purposes.

The total amount of supplies and services made to India under Lend-Lease arrangements up to the end of 1944-45 is estimated at Rs. 515 crores; the value of those which India, but for Lend-Lease, would have had to provide at her own expense is roughly Rs. 150 crores. The amount of Reciprocal Aid which India has rendered to the U.S.A. is about Rs. 124 crores from the beginning of the war up to the end of 1944-45.

The table (below) gives the Revenue and Expenditure (met from Revenue) position during the war period:

During the war period, the total deficit on Revenue account amounted to Rs. 477 crores, which was mainly met by borrowing. Borrowing has thus played a large part in financing the war. Total borrowings from the beginning of the war to the end of January, 1945, aggregated Rs. 833 crores. The cheap money policy, which had succeeded in the pre-war years, was continued during the war period, and wartime borrowings have been on a 3 per cent. basis.

Different types of loans were floated to suit the needs of different types of investors—short-term, medium dated and long-term loans. Special efforts were made to tap the resources of the small investor. Mention should be made in this connection of the 12-Year National Savings Certificates, which carry a slightly higher rate of interest with a view to attracting thereby these investors.

Efforts to stimulate small savings met with a good response from the public, thanks to the active co-operation of the Provincial Governments and non-official organisations. The results are reflected in the net deposits in the Post Office Savings Bank Accounts and the 12-Year National Savings Certificates. Net investments in these and other forms of small savings continue at the satisfactory rate of about Rs. 3 crores a month.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

(In crores of Rs.)

	1938-39	1939-40	1940-41	1941-42	1942-43	1943-44	1944-45 (Revised)
Revenue							
Principal Heads of Revenue	76·11	84·09	82·01	106·15	136·57	191·51	301·32
Other Miscellaneous Sources of Revenue ..	8·34	8·05	16·39*	12·23	26·56	31·27	40·80
Net contribution of P. & T. to General Revenues ..	·19	·89	1·25	3·41	4·52	9·03	9·32
Net contribution of Railways to General Revenues ..	1·37	4·33	12·16	20·17	20·13	37·64	32·00
	86·01	97·36	111·81	141·96	187·78	239·45	383·44
Deduct share of income-tax payable to Provinces ..	1·50	2·79	4·16	7·39	10·90	19·50	26·56
Total Revenue ..	84·51	94·57	*107·65	134·57	176·88	249·95	356·88
Expenditure(From Revenue) ..							
Defence Services (Net) ..	46·18	49·54	73·31	103·93	214·62	358·40	397·23
Civil Expenditure ..	38·97	45·03	40·57	43·33	74·43	81·45	115·42
Total Expenditure(From Revenue) ..	85·15	94·57	114·18	147·26	289·05	439·85	512·65
Deficit ..	·64	..	6·53	12·69	112·17	189·90	155·77

*Includes 7·77 transferred from Revenue Reserve Fund.

The floating debt, which was Rs. 111 crores at the end of 1943-44, stood at Rs. 93 crores on January 31, 1945. The Government's ways and means position, from the strictly budgetary point of view, must be regarded as comfortable.

Borrowing to Check Inflation

Government's effort to absorb surplus funds has also been successful. Surplus money has been immobilised not only through borrowing but through compulsory deposits, mainly relating to E.P.T. and the system of 'Pay-as-You-Earn' relating to income-tax. Although a substantial measure of success has been achieved in the direction of closing the inflationary gap, the problem still exists, as Sir Jeremy Raisman pointed out in his last budget speech, and, judging from recent indications, may call for increased vigilance and control.

At the end of 1944-45, the total Public Debt of India (interest bearing obligations) amounted to Rs. 1,799 crores. This was covered by interest-yielding assets to the extent of 1,004 crores. It was further covered to the extent of Rs. 312 crores by cash and securities held on Treasury account. The balance of interest-bearing obligations not covered by any of the above assets thus amounted to only Rs. 483 crores.

India—A Creditor Nation

One of the outstanding results of the war is the emergence of India as a creditor nation. From the debtor position which she had long occupied previous to the war, this change was rendered possible by the acquisition of large sterling balances in the U.K. as a result, first, of her increased favourable balance of trade during wartime with the U.K. and other countries which is cleared through sterling: secondly, of the military expenditure incurred on behalf of H.M.G. and other United Nations for which payment is made in sterling; and thirdly, of a number of miscellaneous items expenditure made by the Government of India on behalf of H.M.G. which are refunded by sterling credits. The required rupee finance was arranged through the Reserve Bank of India.

Sterling thus acquired soon accumulated at a rapid pace and attained big proportions and it was resolved, with the co-operation of H.M.G., compulsory to repatriate this sterling debt. The Debt amounted to Rs. 396.50 crores before the war (1938-39); it is now barely Rs. 14 crores, consisting of securities which do not come under the vesting orders of either India or the U.K. In lieu of the sterling debt, India has accumulated sterling balances which stood at Rs. 1,363 crores on March 30, 1945.

The repatriation of the sterling debt has immeasurably strengthened India's economic structure and raised her status. The real gain to the country lies in the liquidation of external obligations, which may have proved an embarrassment in the future, and their replacement by internal debt. India has completed the transition from a debtor to a creditor country in a very short time and liquidated within the brief space of three years accumulations over decades of its public indebtedness to the United Kingdom.

The sources of supply of sterling and its disposal up to the end of January, 1945, are shown in the following table:

	Crores of Rs.
1. Sterling Assets held by Reserve Bank, August, 1939	64
2. Sterling purchased by the Reserve Bank up to January, 1945	633
3. Sterling Payments by H.M.G.	1,245
Total	1,942
4. Sterling amounts involved in repatriation	400
5. Other sterling commitments	238
6. Sterling holdings of Reserve Bank at the end of January 1945	1,304
Total	1,942

In the disposal of the sterling balances, the sterling debt repatriation scheme has, of course, played a notable part. A few other methods were also employed with the same object in view, the important ones being:

1. Funding the Railway annuities and redemption of Railway debenture stock: £62 million;
2. Purchase of company-managed Railways; £28 million;
3. Repayment of Chatfield Debt: £8½ million; and
4. Conclusion of an agreement with H.M.G. regarding the allocation during the war of non-effective charges: £15 million.

Utilisation, in the post-war period, of the sterling balances which have accumulated to India's credit has now become an important question. Sir Jeremy Raisman had preliminary talks with H.M.G.'s Treasury officials during his visit to the U.K. last year. These conversations were necessarily directed towards exploring the background for future discussion and the indication of a suitable time-table for more definite negotiation.

International Monetary Conference

A delegation from India consisting of Sir Jeremy Raisman, the then Finance Member (Leader), Sir C. D. Deshmukh, Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, Dr. Sir Theodore Gregory, Economic Adviser to the Government of India, Sir Shanmukham Chetty and Mr. A. D. Shroff (with Dr. Madan of the Reserve Bank as Secretary) attended the International Monetary Conference, held at Bretton Woods in July, 1944, to consider the International Monetary Fund proposals (previously circulated to the United Nations) and proposals for the establishment of an International Bank.

The Indian delegation pressed for partial multilateral clearing of war balances through the machinery of the Fund, in the interests alike of promoting economic development of backward countries and assisting the broad objectives of the Fund to secure the expansion of multilateral trade. The proposal, however, was negatived by the Conference, primarily on the ground of the limited size of the Fund in relation to the magnitude of the war balances. The question, therefore, remains one for settlement in direct negotiation with the U.K. The report of the delegation will be placed before the Central Legislature in due course. The conclusions of the Conference will be reviewed in the light of the action taken on them by the chief member countries concerned, in particular by the U.S.A. and the U.K.

Problems of Post-War Finance

Problems connected with the financing of post-war social and economic development plans of the country ar eengaging the attention of Government. Sir Jeremy Raisman stated in his 1944 budget speech that, granting the maintenance by concerted international effort of full production and employment, a reasonably rapid rate of demoblisation and a determination on the part of Governments to utilise to the full the taxable capacity of the country, after one or two deficit years, revenue surpluses rising to the order of Rs. 100 crores per annum could be expected in the fourth or fifth year after the war.

With all-out borrowing continued in accordance with the technique developed during the war, he said, it was possible to visualise total resources approximating Rs. 1,000 crores, for the purpose of financing post-war plans, during the first effective quinquennium after the war. This excluded any direct private investment, which was estimated at another Rs. 500 crores during the same period by the Second Report of the Reconstruction Committee of Council. There were, besides, the resources of Provincial and States Governments.

Sir Jeremy was of the opinion that estimates for subsequent 5-year periods could be related to the actual results of the first quinquennium in a sort of geometric progression. He emphasised that sound finance was necessary for proper planning. Individual schemes should be designed to be as remunerative as possible and priority should be given to those schemes which could contribute directly to an increase in material wealth and prosperity and thereby reinforce the public revenue.

Post-war Taxation

In his last budget speech, Sir Jeremy further elaborated his views on problems of post-war finance. He indicated the following possible additional sources of post-war taxation:

(1) Estate Duty on property other than agricultural property.

(2) Agricultural income-tax.

(3) Customs receipts may soar to unprecedented heights in the immediate post-war period. They may decline thereafter but will remain buoyant for a number of years. But with the growing industrialisation of the country, this source of revenue can hardly be expanded and may even appreciably contract.

(4) Increasing reliance on Central Excise and

(5) Expansion of the sales or turnover tax.

On the question of the relative advantages of State ownership or operation of industry and private enterprise, Sir Jeremy Raisman said that, in the future, the State might possibly find it necessary to nationalise certain industries—especially those with large possibilities of expansion—in order that Government might have at its disposal additional sources of income for the sustenance of the national well-being as a whole.

INDIA'S SHARE IN ECONOMIC WARFARE

Foreign Trade Controls

THE implementing of economic warfare to the extent to which India was concerned was Commerce Department's contribution to victory. The Department's activities also ranged over the whole field of economic activity of Government with the exception of finance, supply, labour, agriculture and transport, and from those activities sprang in course of time three entirely new Departments of Government, namely, Food Department, Industries and Civil Supplies Department and the Planning and Development Department.

Thus, price control was originally dealt with by the Commerce Department, particularly the question of controlling the prices and movements of foodgrains. Industrial controls of various kinds were also instituted by it, with the dual object of enabling the Supply Department to secure their requirements on a fair basis and the civil population its essential needs. It implemented methods to step-up industrial production and organised industrial research so that new uses might be found for raw materials which could no longer be exported.

The Commerce Department was also responsible for focussing attention on problems connected with post-war reconstruction for it was at the first meeting of the Reconstruction Committee in June 1941, presided over by the Hon'ble Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, the then Commerce Member, that it was decided to set up four other committees, to deal with labour and demobilisation, disposals of war contracts, public works and Government purchases and trade and agricultural development, respectively. A Consultative Committee of Economists was also set up, the first meeting of which was held in October, 1941, and over which also the Commerce Member presided.

Price Control Conferences

Six price control conferences were held under the auspices of the Department, from the outbreak of war to September, 1942. At the first, held immediately after the outbreak of war, the question of the war's reaction on prices was considered in all its bearings. While Provincial Governments were given certain general powers to control and regulate prices wherever they considered such steps necessary, it was the general opinion of the conference that agricultural prices should not be controlled and should, on the other hand, be allowed to make some headway as a result of the war, to make up to some extent the losses of the pre-war depression period. This was also the opinion of the second price control conference, held in about the middle of 1940.

After a spurt in the early months of the war, there was a tendency in 1940 for prices to decline. They resumed their upward trend in 1941, but there was nothing to warrant a drastic and comprehensive action. In the middle of 1942, however, after the Japanese occupation of south-east Asia, including Burma, there was a break in prices, which assumed a runaway character in the last quarter of 1942 and the first half of 1943.

At the third price control conference, held in October, 1941, attention was paid to cotton cloth and yarn, prices of which had soared as a result of the freezing order against Japan. This discussion might be said to have been the genesis of plans for the production of Standard Cloth and for the control of cloth distribution.

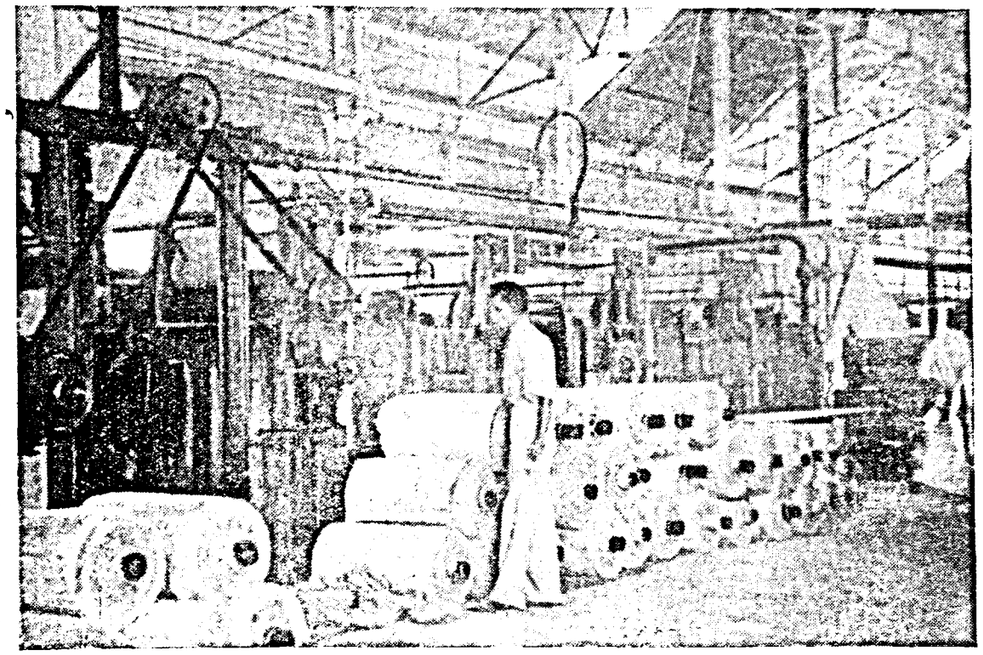
Control of Foodgrains

The conference also considered that the upward trend in the prices of wheat should be carefully watched. To check speculation, the Government fixed in December, 1941, the maximum price of wheat at Rs. 4-6-0 per maund at Lyallpur and Hapur. In April, 1942, the Wheat Control Order was issued. Movements of wheat by rail from producing provinces to consuming areas were regulated by permits issued by the Wheat Commissioner.

At the fourth price control conference, held in February, 1942, it was recognised that control over distribution, in co-ordination with transport arrangemets, might have to take precedence over control of prices.

The fifth conference, held in April, 1942, emphasised the vital importance of linking control over distribution with price control and recommended the introduction of the licensing of wholesale dealers by Provincial and State Governments. This, it was thought, would enable these Governments to maintain information as to the course of distribution of the various foodgrains and thus minimise hoarding. The Foodgrains Control Order, issued in May 1942, empowered Provincial Governments to license wholesale dealers in foodgrains and to require returns of their transactions.

The sixth price control conference (September, 1942) reviewed the working of the wheat and sugar controls and discussed suggestions for improving the existing machinery for control of foodgrains. Opinion favoured



One of the many machines used in the dyehouse for the manufacture of Khaki in a South Indian cotton mill. This mill has produced large quantities of cloth for the Indian Army.

instituting some system of co-ordinated purchase of surplus wheat and other foodgrains to meet the requirements of deficit areas. From December, 1942, these problems were dealt with by the newly-created Food Department.

As already stated, the Standard Cloth scheme had its genesis in the discussions with the cotton textile industry at a conference held in Bombay in 1941. At the fifth price control conference (April, 1942) it was suggested that Provincial Governments should report to the Central Government the quantities of Standard Cloth which they would require for their respective areas.

Standard Cloth

The question of Standard Cloth was also considered at the sixth price control conference, held in September, 1942. Subsequently, the then Commerce Member, (Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarkar) visited Bombay and discussed the question of Standard Cloth manufacture and distribution with representatives of the cotton textile industry. It was decided that the Government of India should appoint a Standard Cloth Commissioner and set up a Standard Cloth Panel to advise the Central Government on matters concerning Standard Cloth.

The industry agreed to place at the disposal of the Government 60 per cent of its total productive capacity, for the manufacture of Standard Cloth and cloth ordered by the Supply Department for war requirements. The agreement was expected to give a maximum of 1,500 million yards of Standard Cloth in a year. It was anticipated that the price would be about 40 per cent below current market rates.

With the creation of the Industries and Civil Supplies Department in May, 1943, the question of Standard Cloth manufacture and its supply was taken up by the new Department from that date.

Early in the war, the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research was set up under the auspices of the Commerce Department for research on the utilisation of India's raw materials which had lost their export markets as a result of the war and to discover new processes and methods by which industrial development could further the war effort and to take advantage of the elimination or the reduction of certain kinds of imports. A permanent Council of

Scientific and Industrial Research was subsequently set up, to co-ordinate and generally to exercise administrative control over the work of the Board and its adjunct, the Industrial Research Utilisation Committee.

The use of vegetable oils as a lubricant, preparation of plastic materials chiefly from certain products available in the country, the economic disposal of molasses, manufacture of sulphur, preparation of dyestuffs, particularly dyestuffs from vegetable products, manufacture of certain drugs, investigation of the possibilities of making scientific instruments, work in regard to metals and alloys, research regarding glasses and refractories investigation of the possibility of manufacturing internal combustion engines in this country, manufacture of graphite and carbon electrodes and production of rayon and cellulose from raw materials available in the country—these were some of the main tasks on which the Board was engaged during the period it was connected with the Commerce Department.

Industrial Research Fund

An Industrial Research Fund was set up in September, 1942, to foster industrial development, by an annual grant of Rs. 10 lakhs for a period of five years. Several committees were constituted to investigate subjects of primary importance in a planned programme of research. Proposals were mooted to institute a National Metallurgical Laboratory at Tatanagar, a Central Research Fuel Station for collieries and a Central Glass Research Institute.

In May, 1943, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research and the Industrial Research Utilisation Committee came under the jurisdiction of the Industries and Civil Supplies Department, which also took over the stepping up of industrial production.

Paper and Newsprint Control

In consultation with Indian paper mills, maximum wholesale prices for bulk lines of paper were fixed in January, 1942. To effect economy in the use of paper, the Paper Control Order was promulgated in November. This order placed restrictions on the printing of posters, advertisements, circulars and wrapping papers. Efforts were also made to step up production to maximum capacity, mainly through rationalisation by reducing the number of varieties which gave a large writing surface.

To conserve newsprint, Government promulgated in January, 1942, the Newspaper Control Order, by which the size of a newspaper was regulated according to a fixed price-scale. The position in regard to newsprint was again reviewed in February, 1943, and orders were promulgated further restricting sale and purchase of newsprint and prohibiting the starting of new newspapers without the previous sanction of the Central Government.



Bales of yarn from an Indian spinning mill on their way to a railway station for despatch to various centres.

Vigorous steps were taken to increase the production of rubber, which became scarce early in 1942 when the Japanese occupied the East Asian rubber producing countries. A Rubber Control Conference recommended measures for restricting the export of raw rubber, price control of rubber, creation of a distributing organisation for raw rubber so as to eliminate competitive purchases and to canalise the requirements of raw rubber from different sources of supply and control of production and distribution of manufactured articles so as to give preference to the Defence Services' requirements. Under the Rubber Control Order, issued in April, 1942, a Rubber Control Committee was constituted to control the purchase and distribution of raw rubber. Maximum wholesale prices for various grades of raw rubber were fixed in May, 1942.

The Second Rubber Control Conference (September, 1942) considered a scheme for Governmental purchase of all rubber produced in the country and proposals for intensifying the rubber production drive in India. On the recommendation of the Conference, an Indian Rubber Production Board was set up in November. Its main function was to encourage and ensure the increased production of rubber by all possible means. Permits were granted for about 28,000 acres of new plantation in South India, excluding Travancore; the target was 50,000 acres by the end of the 1943 planting season. An increase of 1,000 tons per annum was visualised.

The British Rubber Mission arrived in India in January, 1943, and their recommendations were designed further to stimulate rubber production so as to secure an additional 2,500 tons.

Post-War Reconstruction

Fully alive to the problems which were likely to arise at the end of the war, the Government of India set up a Reconstruction Committee as early as June, 1941, presided over by the Commerce Member. Other members were the Economic Adviser to the Government of India and representatives of the Finance, Commerce, Defence, Education, Health and Lands, Labour, Supply, and Railway Departments. The Committee was expected to direct and coordinate detailed work to be done by sub-committees appointed to deal with specific problems. It was further intended that persons with special knowledge, whether official or non-official, should be added to the various sub-committees.

At the first meeting of the Reconstruction Committee the same month, the name of the Committee was changed into "Reconstruction Committee (Co-ordination)". Four other committees were set up:

(i) Reconstruction Committee (Labour and Demobilisation);

(ii) Reconstruction Committee (Disposals and Contracts);

(iii) Reconstruction Committee (Public Works and Government purchases); and

(iv) Reconstruction Committee (Trade, International Trade Policy and Agricultural Development).

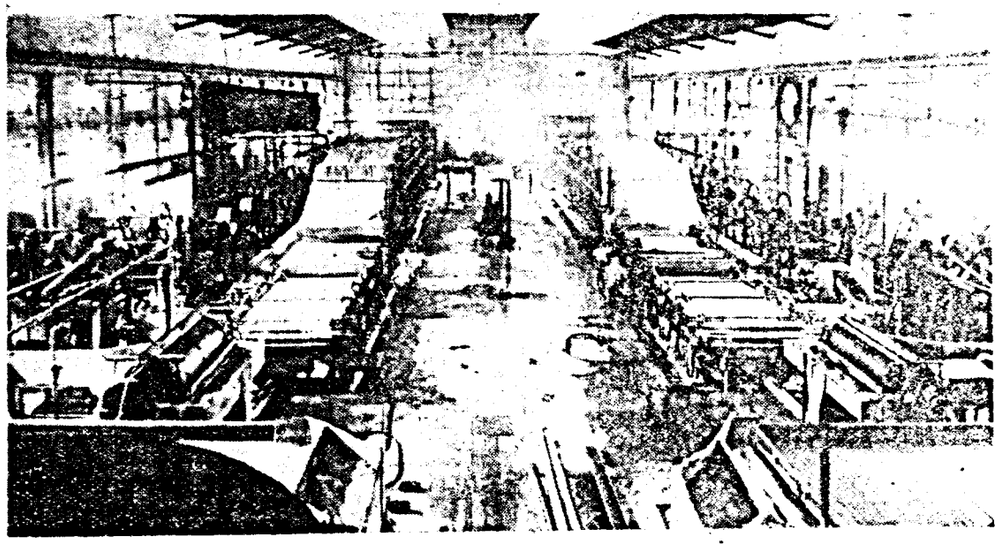
These committees consisted of representatives of the Departments of the Central Government, Provincial and State Governments, commerce and industry and labour, according to the nature of the work done by each committee. A Consultative Committee of Economists was also set up. The meeting considered various questions relating to labour and demobilisation, disposal of war contracts, post-war trade policies, etc. The first meeting of the Consultative Committee of Economists, drawn from various universities in the country, was held in October, 1941.

Trade Controls: Export Controls

In March, 1943, this reconstruction machinery was overhauled and a Reconstruction Committee of the Executive Council, with H.E. the Viceroy as President and the Hon'ble Sir J. P. Srivastava, as Deputy President, was set up.

On the outbreak of war, it became necessary to control the foreign trade of India. Every precaution had to be taken in the first instance that no goods reached the enemy, directly or indirectly; that was a fundamental consideration in the prosecution of economic warfare. Rigorous export control thus became a necessity.

Another problem also faced Commerce Department. India lost many of her usual export markets for her principal export commodities, particularly for raw cotton, raw jute and oil-seeds. The off-take of Indian cotton by foreign countries in the pre-war years was about 3 million bales a year distributed as follows: 1,000,000 bales by the Continent of Europe; 1,500,000 bales by China and Japan; and 500,000 bales by the United Kingdom. The Continental, Chinese and Japanese markets were lost.



The interior of an Indian paper mill.

Japan was the principal purchaser of India's short staple cotton. The problem was to deal with the situation arising from the surplus production of cotton. With the rising tempo of production in the Indian mills there was more consumption of superior varieties of Indian cotton in the country itself and with the inauguration and vigorous prosecution of the Grow More Food campaign, the acreage under short-staple cotton was reduced. About 4 million acres under cotton cultivation was diverted to the cultivation of food crops.

So far as raw jute was concerned, the problem was solved through a compulsory drastic reduction in the area under cultivation. The diversion was in favour of food crops. The chief oilseed adversely affected with the cessation of exports to the Continent was groundnut. Prices declined sharply. His Majesty's Government came to the rescue, by making large-scale purchases in the Indian market at fair prices. The situation gradually improved as, in addition to purchases by H.M.G., oilseeds were consumed in the country itself to an increasing extent through expanded production of soaps, vegetable *ghee* and vegetable oil-cum-mineral oil lubricants.

To explore alternative markets, the Meek-Gregory Mission was sent to the U.S.A. in 1940 and it reported early in 1941 to the effect that the armaments programme of that country called for commodities such as manganese, shellac, mica, and cocoanut-shell charcoal, which India was in a position to supply.

With the pre-occupation of the U.K. with her war production and the elimination of Japan from the markets of the world, a shortage of cloth was felt in several countries which were mainly dependant of those two producing countries. The Indian cotton mill industry had thus an excellent opportunity to capture export markets at attractive prices. Exports of piece-goods, which before the war amounted to only about 200 million yards, soared (at one time) to more than 800 million yards.

Control of Cloth Exports

But, with the emergence of the inflationary spiral in India in the early half of 1943, several counter-measures had to be adopted. One of these measures was rigorous restriction on the exports of commodities which were required in the country for essential civil consumption. Cloth was one. A ceiling of 600 million yards was fixed for the annual exports of piecegoods from India. To assist importing countries to obtain supplies at reasonable prices, ceiling prices were fixed for mill-made cotton piece goods exported to them. Powers were taken by the Central Government to prescribe and enforce minimum specifications and packing for cloth intended for export.

The Government of India reserve the right to withdraw these ceiling prices in respect of exports to any country where the Government concerned did not adopt measures for regulating prices and the margin of profit, in the interests of the ultimate consumer. Latterly, as scarcity has been felt in finer varieties, export control has been further tightened in respect of these varieties, to make them available to consumers in the country.

Tightening up Export Control

In addition to tightening up export control on cloth, restrictions were placed upon the exports of a variety of other goods with the same object, namely, countering inflation by ensuring maximum availability of essential goods produced in the country for local consumption. Some of the articles so dealt with were manures, including oil-cakes, bones, and bone-meal, leather and leather goods and paper and stationery.

Essential demands for civil supplies from a number of Empire and Allied countries, such as Ceylon, South Africa, East Africa, the Middle East, Australia and Afghanistan, were carefully screened in the light of the internal supply position and assistance was given wherever possible for essential requirements. Exports to Portuguese India were also brought under the licensing procedure.

A system of licensing was introduced in respect of exports to certain maritime States on the west coast of India to restrict exports to those States to quantities required for *bona fide* use of consumption therein. Special action was also taken to prevent accumulation at the Persian land frontiers of goods which were subject to strict export control and which were likely to be smuggled across the border.

Post-War Export Trade

With the continuous and rapid increase in the volume and complexity of work connected with Export Trade Control, a separate executive organisation was set up last year in New Delhi and entrusted with the administration of the Export Control Regulations under the general direction of the Commerce Department. The Chief Controller of Exports is the head of this organisation.

The Department is also taking steps to see that India secures a fair share of the world's export trade at the end of the war against Japan. Indian Trade Commissioners are already functioning in the U. K., the U.S.A., Canada, Australia and South America. The Department plans to appoint Trade Commissioners in several other countries, particularly in the Middle East, Africa and South-East Asia, where there is likely to be a good market for Indian products. A Trade Commissioner has already been appointed for Teheran and will take up his duties in the near future. It is also proposed to set up a Trade Commissioner's office in Iraq.

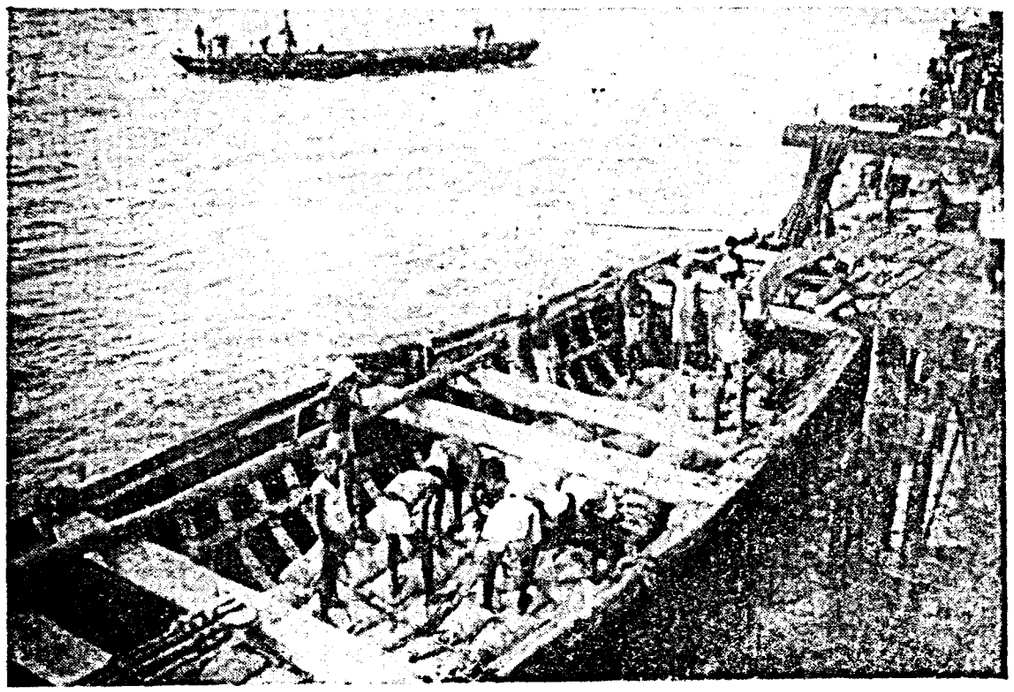
Commercial publicity on the widest scale is contemplated. It is also proposed to reorganise the entire Trade Commissioner's cadre to enable the organisation to subserve the needs of India's foreign trade to a greater extent than in the past. The present Trade Commissioners have reported on post-war trade prospects in their respective areas; these reports are receiving close attention.

An organisation has also been set up in the Department to study problems relating to post-war foreign trade, trade policy, trade treaties and participation in international trade organisations. Questions connected with the future tariff policy and the nature of the machinery needed to implement that policy are also under active consideration.

Import Trade Control

Import Control was instituted from the beginning of hostilities for two reasons. In the first place, the U. K. and America, the two main countries from which India could get consumer goods, were pre-occupied with war production. Export trade was controlled at the other end and import trade had to be controlled at this end. In the second place, there was the question of lack of shipping space.

But the policy called for some relaxation from the middle of 1943, with the spiral of inflation. One method to cope with this development was to endeavour to remove the scarcity felt in the country in respect of certain essential goods for civil consumption. With this object in view, local production was stepped-up wherever possible, and large-scale imports of consumer goods were encouraged. These goods were of the type considered essential for the civil population, but were not being produced in sufficient quantities locally and there was little prospect of increased local production within a reasonable time. The need to adopt anti-inflationary measures being paramount and urgent, it was considered desirable to permit large-scale imports of such types of essential consumer goods which did not compete with local production.



Manganese being loaded into lighters at an Indian port to be taken out to a waiting ship for export.

To permit the import of more consumer goods, the Import Control lately has been further liberalised, by bringing under Open General Licence a number of consumer goods which were previously subject to strict import control. It is expected that the essential needs of India will be supplied by the U. K., to a fair extent in the current year and to a substantially larger extent in 1946.

War Risks Insurance

Early in the war, it was realised that India should adopt a scheme of war risks insurance. Accordingly, a scheme to insure goods was launched in October, 1940, followed in April, 1942, by another scheme to insure factories. Under these schemes, the Government of India provided cover against land war risks for goods on sale, factory properties, etc. Under the former, insurance was compulsory if the value of such goods owned by the seller thereof and held by him in any one presidency town or district exceeded Rs. 20,000; in other cases, insurance was optional.

The latter scheme, though designed primarily to cover factories (as defined in the Factories Act of 1934), also applied to certain other properties, e.g., above-ground machinery of mines, the distribution and transmission systems of specified gas, electricity and hydro-electric undertakings, and inland vessels of specified trading corporations. This scheme was worked on a single premium basis, while in the other case insurance was by quarterly periods, the rate of premium being revised from time to time.

Total receipts under the War Risks (Goods) Insurance Scheme up to September 30, 1944, amounted to Rs. 17,11,40,137 against a total expenditure of Rs. 23,24,460 only. Those under the War Risks (Factories) Insurance scheme up to November 30, 1944, amounted to Rs. 19,26,31,917. The total expenditure under this scheme, up to March 31, 1944, amounted to Rs. 13,74,983 only.

MICA SUPPLIES FOR THE UNITED NATIONS



A miner easing out a 'book' of mica.

Vital Role in War

THE shortage of mica was among the causes which contributed to Germany's ultimate defeat in the last war. In the absence of this valuable mineral, which is known as the world's finest insulator, the Germans were reduced to using oil-impregnated paper for insulation purposes in such high power machinery as Zeppelin Engines.

In this war mica has played not only a much greater but also an indispensable part in the manufacture of the delicate precision machinery to which science has given a high place in modern warfare. India's 70-year old mica industry has produced the largest quantity of mica for the United Nations, and can claim a considerable share of credit for victory in Europe.

Throughout the six years of war, there has been a regular flow of mica from the mines and factories in Bihar to the great armaments works of the Allies, in which the weapons of victory were forged. The demand was so great and so urgent that Indian mica was given a high air priority. Some of the finer qualities of the more urgent consignments were transported by air from India to Great Britain and the United States of America.

In Bihar's little known towns of Kodarma and Giridih, close to the centre of this vital war industry, are the offices of the Joint Mica Mission, composed of representatives of the British and U.S. Governments. The Mission makes daily purchases from miners and dealers and stimulates both production and sales. Before the establishment of the Joint Mica Mission in 1942, the Government of India, through the Geological Survey of India, purchased considerable quantities of mica on behalf of the American Government. The Geological Survey continues to give every assistance to the industry throughout India, in obtaining machinery, stores, etc., in order to maintain the output of mica at the maximum.

India's Wartime Output

India's wartime output of mica and figures of her supplies to U.K. and U.S.A., as well as to other countries like Australia and China, should naturally remain undisclosed until the final defeat of Japan. But some idea of the contribution made by India can be had from the fact that up to the war the greater proportion of the world's requirements of better quality sheet mica, perhaps over 80 per cent., were supplied from India. The only other important sources of supply of high quality mica open to the Allies are in Brazil, where the war has brought about a considerable expansion of mica mining, and in Russia. Other producing countries are Canada, Madagascar, and the Argentine, none of whose output is comparable to that of India.

Mica is probably the only strategic mineral in respect of which the Allies are so very dependent upon India. It would not have been possible to make modern high power motors for aeroplanes without using mica as the insulating medium. Transmission of power under enormous tension exceeding 250,000 volts, is possible only by the use of mica insulation in the transformers. In condensers for radios, mica is used as a dielectric. Only the finest quality mica can be used in transmitter condensers, and most of it has come from India, with Brazil as the second largest source.



The cutting of mica to the required shape is done mostly by women and children near the mine, in factories or at home.

High quality mica is also used for certain other condensers, particularly in aeroplane magnetoes, and along power lines for television transmission. In radio tube receiving sets pieces of mica are used to support and insulate the filaments from each other. The highest quality mica is necessary as a filter in television. Sheet mica insulation is used in certain generators or motors which may have to run at high temperatures, such as fully enclosed machines used in mines, and in machines working in hot climates. It is required for insulation between the copper segments of generator and motor commutators.

Other Uses of Mica

Then there are other uses for which mica is less essential. Electrical mica finds a wide use as a terminal insulator in many modern appliances such as water heaters, coffee percolators, toasters, flat irons etc. It is also used in the construction of the heating elements of many such appliances, both as the core on which the heating element is wound and as insulation. The motor industry absorbs a very considerable amount of micanite for use in ignition coils. Washers and discs of mica are employed in a large variety of electrical apparatus and machinery; in some of which the heat insulation as well as the electrical insulation properties of mica are of importance.

Other uses of block mica—uses of a non-electrical character—are for oven, stove and furnace windows, gas lamp chimneys and lamp shades, gas masks, goggles, stereopticons, instrument covers, etc., where transparency is necessary. There is no known substitute for its use in special compasses.

Destined to play such a vital strategic role in the world's biggest war, India's Mica industry is also looking forward to a bright future. It may be called upon to play an equally indispensable role in the marvels of science which man has yet to invent. This mineral has also a hoary past. There is evidence to show that mica was mined, in Bihar, by primitive means centuries ago. Even today in the mica fields one comes across stony idols worshipped by the simple villagers as Gods and Goddesses of mica.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 711)

WAR SUPPLIES TO MIDDLE EAST AND RUSSIA

IN the deserts of North Africa were laid the foundations of ultimate victory on the battlefields of Europe. The story of India's contribution to this Desert Victory may be put in a nutshell by saying that long before the full force of American aid gave the promise of victory, she was almost wholly responsible for the supply of bulk stores to the Middle East—from railway wagons to landing craft, and electric torches to trouser buttons.

Steel was also supplied from Indian workshops for the provision of water supply in the arid, waterless desert and the length of the water pipes alone would reach many thousands of miles.

As the victorious army passed on, behind the lines Indian Engineers and Pioneers were joining up the last link of the vital railway line from Mersa Matruh to Tobruk. At one time India was solely responsible for the supply of rolling stock, locomotives, trucks, sleepers, wagons and all ancillary equipment.

It reflects the confident ability of the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force that this line was on the promontory of Libya in the full gaze of Axis shipping and air bases.

Timber for railway sleepers, for jetties, lorries, vehicles, packing stores, ammunition boxes, telegraph poles, and a hundred and one other uses came from India and it is estimated that India supplied all, or nearly all, of the Middle East requirements.

Role of New Industries

From the naval yards of India came many assault and self-propelling landing craft. These played an important part in the provisioning of our troops along the North African coast and in spectacular raids on enemy-occupied villages.

Much could be written of the way in which Indian manufacturers developed new industries to meet the vast needs of the armies overseas. Examples of new products are electrical cables of many kinds, electric fans, and water valves and pumps, while the ceramic industries of India began, for the first time, to produce porcelain cleats, insulators and fuse-holders. Similarly, India developed a new industry of plastics to make bakelite lamp-holders and ceiling roses.

An outstanding contribution in this field was the supply of dry batteries and cells. Communication between aircraft from air to ground and *vice versa* depends largely on the efficiency of the batteries the planes carry. Shipments to the Middle East from the United Kingdom by the long Cape route impaired the batteries' effective life.

Arrangements for the production of a particular type of batteries required for the R.A.F. were, therefore, begun in India during the latter part of 1941 and since then India has supplied millions of cells for the R.A.F. alone. If other services are taken into consideration, the number of batteries supplied would reach astronomical figures.

Nets and Tents

The Battle of El Alamein, it is said, was won largely through effective camouflage. Large quantities were despatched from India of camouflage paints, nets, and hemp. Stretched end to end, the nets would loop the world eight times.

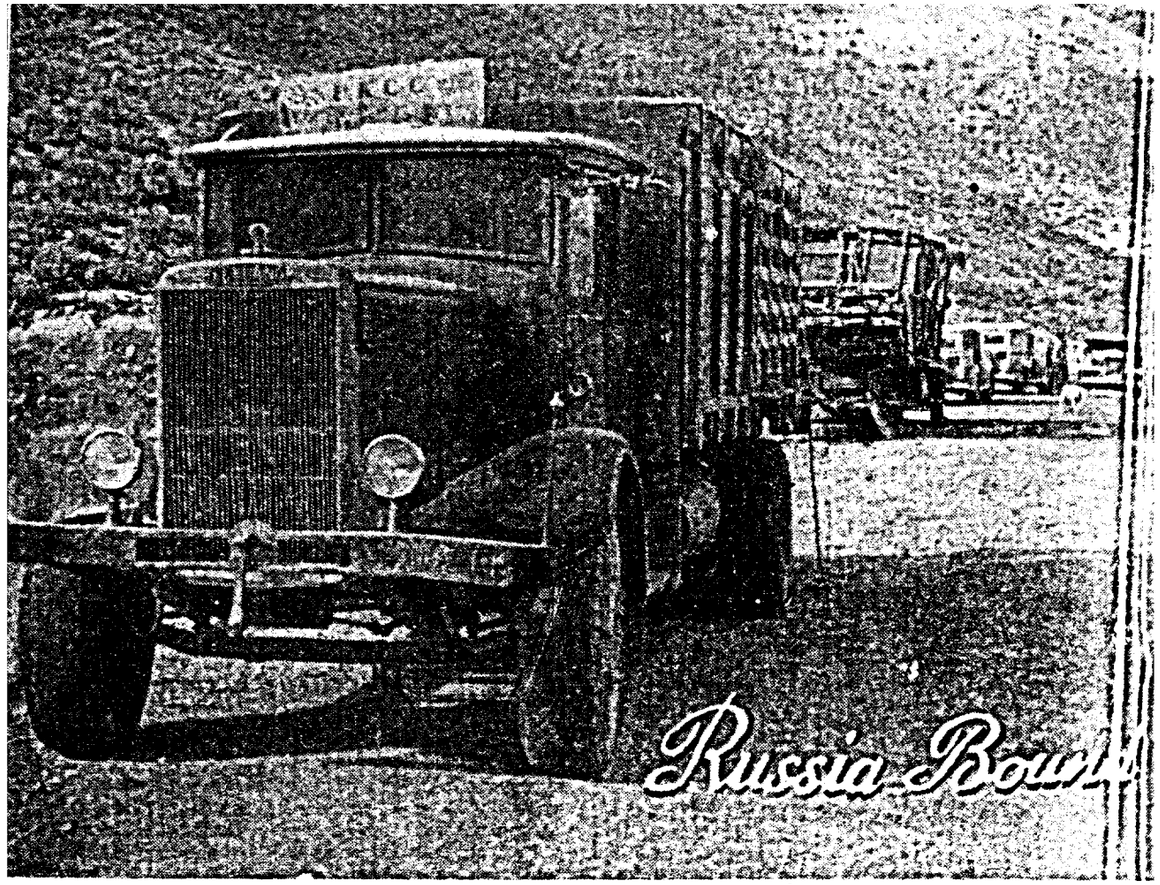
These camouflage nets are not all the products of India's high-power factories but are being made by the thousand in the villages and the little known parts of India. They play an important part in the concealment of troop concentrations, particularly of artillery before an offensive.

A certain type of mountain-gun which was used with marked success in the Eritrean campaign was "adopted" by India and India undertook full responsibility for the equipment and maintenance of these guns.

Nearly 90 per cent of the tents which protected the troops from the torrid heat, the canvas and ground sheets which kept the pernicious sand out of the tanks, planes and motor vehicles, went from India. Indian pattern tents gradually replaced other pattern tents in the Middle East, while troops wore clothes made in India and, to a lesser extent, walked in boots supplied from Indian factories. And of the food they ate, a large proportion came from India. Scientific dehydration, one of the first developments in India since the war, enabled India to supply 40,000 tons.

Medical Stores

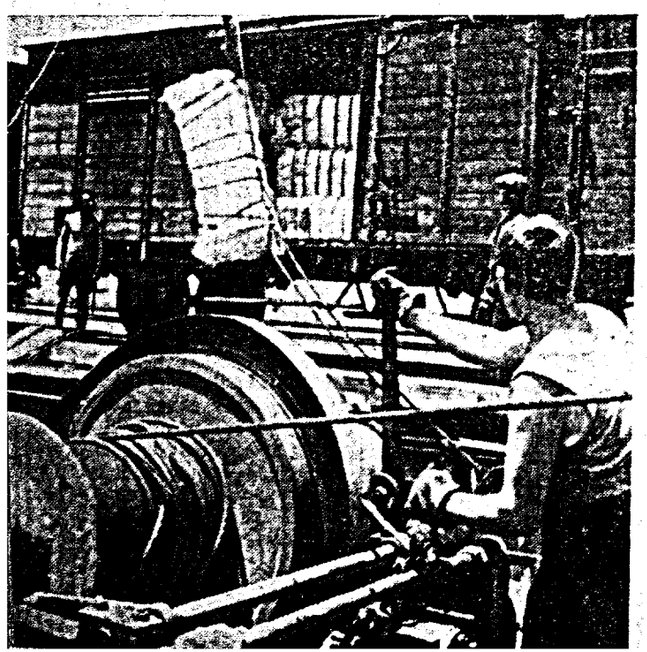
Among medical stores, equipment and comforts for troops, India supplied over 50,000 stretchers, over 1,000,000 blankets, 250,000 mosquito nets, 1,500,000 water-testing tablets, and 160 tons of anti-mosquito cream, to say nothing of 336,000 ounces of castor oil. 1,500 different items of medical stores were supplied from India and of field dresssings, over 1,250,000



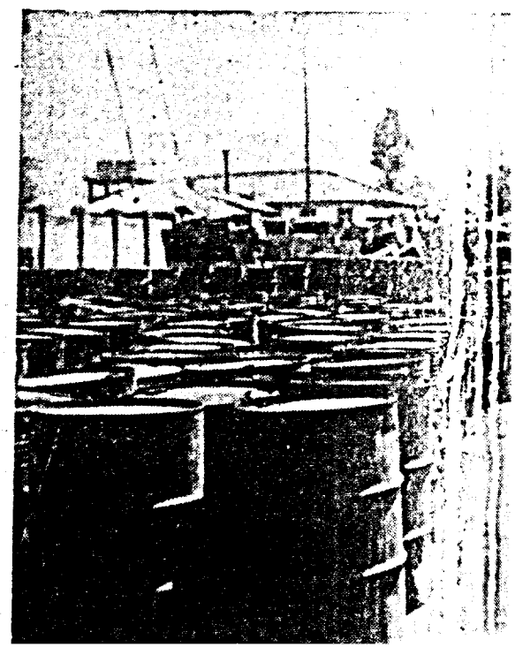
Russia Roun

Heavy motor trucks carrying vital supplies for Russia on the high road running through Iran

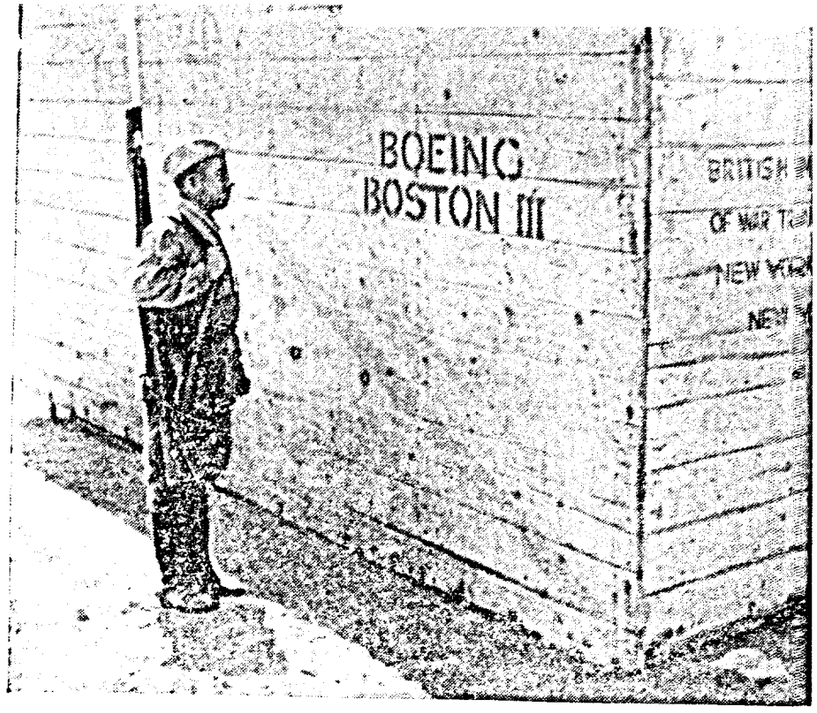
Sisal being unloaded into the aft hold by a crane.



Vital supplies awaiting shipment at the wharf.



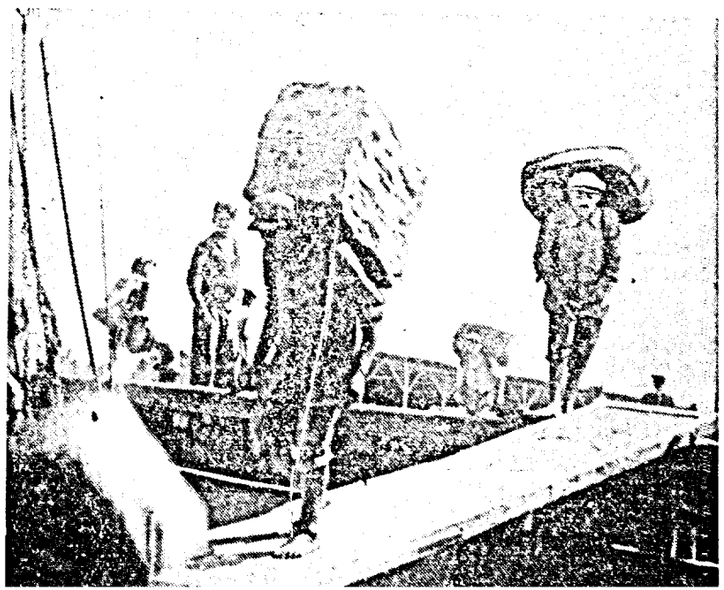
Soviet sentry stands guard over a crate of spare parts of U. S.-built bombers for service in the U.S.S.R.



Some of the enormous Allied war supplies to Russia were sent by road from the Persian Gulf to a port on the Caspian Sea. The task of transporting these vital supplies across Iran involved a very large number of heavy ten-ton lorries. A steady stream of these lorries arrived daily. The supplies were unloaded at the wharf and then loaded on to Russian cargo boats which travelled across the Caspian Sea to the U.S.S.R.

Loading bales of rubber into the hold of a Russian cargo boat.





of the 2½-inch wide bandages, which is part of the first-aid equipment for every soldier in the field, would, if stretched from end to end, extend well over 2,000 miles.

The most important and far-reaching effect of India's contribution—outstanding as it has been—was the enormous saving in shipping tonnage which was effected. Had it been necessary to supply from the United Kingdom, it would have taken so much more shipping away that it is doubtful if on the other front so much tonnage could have been spared for Russia. Along the shorter supply route India pumped steadily over 1,500,000 tons of stores, which may be regarded as so much extra tonnage released for Russia.

The safe convoying and delivery of supplies rested on Indian convoy ships, while on the Persian Gulf and on the North African ports an enormous amount of material, labour and technical supervision supplied by India, helped to extend port facilities in Egypt and Iraq. In the later stages of the campaign, these ports were thus able to cope with the vast amount of supplies, especially from the Eastern Group and the U.S.A.

Several times during the North African campaign, when supplies expected from the United Kingdom and America were lost *en route*, India supplied from her own resources. In one of these instances, 7,000 tons of steel sheets rolled in India were shipped to the Middle East for the manufacture of anti-tank mines—when these could not arrive from England without dangerous delay—and enabled the vast mine-fields to be laid which proved so invaluable.

24-hour Continuous Service

Along 3,000 miles of metalled highway across burning desert and barren land, through mountain passes 7,000 feet high, thousands of vehicles have been running a 24-hour continuous service carrying supplies to Russia overland through Iraq and Iran. Operated by Allied military personnel and with Allied equipment, fleets of lorries manned by British, Americans, Indians and Russians formed an endless stream of traffic. The journey was made under extreme climatic conditions—a winter with its temperatures of 50 and 60 degrees below zero and a spring with its avalanches and floods.

Supplies had to be sent through Iran to the Caspian Sea and the same route had to be

Men of the Indian Pioneer Corps maintained roads in the Western Desert in a good state of repair for supplies to go through.



taken by everything coming to Russia by the southward routes from the United States. Since the summer of 1941 harbours and warehouses, railways and motor roads have been built or enlarged so that a mere trickle of goods has become a flood.

Enormous amount of material, labour and technical supervision came also from India for the purpose of extending port and dock capacities.

Over 5,000 tons of vital war materials were sent from India to Russia during the first six months of 1944. Russia has received quantities of gunny bags, tossa canvas, jute ropes, tea, pepper, tin, wolfram and silk, shellac and hides. Approximately 80,000 surgical instruments of indigenous production were supplied from India's first vintage. Two special consignments were 1,000 tons of nickel and 1,000 tons of harvest yarn, both of which reached Russia in record time.

Other Middle East Countries

India's contribution to victory in the West is not limited to "bulk stores" for the North African Campaign and supplies to Russia. She maintained a regular flow of materials to other Middle East countries. Egypt got telephone line equipment, bedding valises, steel hutting nails, binding wire, telephone stores, rolled steel joints, mild steel sheets and angles, wire nails, reinforcement bars, steel tanks and staging and road-rolling plants, soft timber, steel huts, black and galvanised steel wire, electric fans, army wire-mesh road track with pitches, road-making plants, steel sheets for bitumen containers and bridging cribs.

Supplies to South Africa comprised buttons, hooks and eyes, cotton textiles, sandbags, etc. Sulphuric acid was supplied to Mauritius. The railways in Tanganyika were kept supplied with various types of broom brushes and items of uniform for railway employees. Vehicles and spare parts were sent to Iraq. Cotton textiles, coloured goods, jute, dressed leather and leather manufactures went to Kenya and Uganda, and fabricated sheet buildings to Palestine.

India's supplies to the United Kingdom—supplies having a direct bearing on victory in Europe—consisted of textiles, cotton jute union canvas, cotton canvas and yarn, mock leno cloth, tossa jute canvas, cotton duck and sandbags, boots, biscuits, golden syrup, anti-mosquito cream, cocoanut shells, etc.

300,000,000 MAPS FOR THE ARMY

Survey of India's War Work

THE war has seen the Survey of India turn from its peacetime topographical surveys of India and Burma, with the constant revision of maps necessitated to keep those surveys up-to-date, to the vital task of providing the Allied forces defending India's outposts with the maps which they need and ensuring that they get them in good time and in sufficient numbers.

Today the Department is engaged almost entirely on war work and some idea of the increase in its map output may be obtained from the fact that, whereas before the war it turned out every year from 500,000 to 750,000 prints of about 1,500 maps of India, Burma, Iran and Afghanistan, since April 1, 1940, it has produced roughly 50,000,000 prints of several thousand maps of India, and many other countries, some of which are still occupied by the enemy, others liberated.

This work represents some 300,000,000 "pulls" in various colours from the printing machines, and about 2,000 tons of paper.

For some years before the war two civil survey units, designed to be the nucleus of Military survey units for service on the North West Frontier, had been maintained in North-West India and military survey training and exercises had been carried out from time to time. The outbreak of war caused training to be intensified, but it was not till 1941 that Indian Field Survey headquarters and companies were formed for service overseas, in Iraq.

Military Units

Since that time a large number of headquarters, companies, map supply sections, park sections, drawing sections, air survey sections and other special units have been formed for active service in theatres of war connected with India. The personnel to form these units has mainly been drawn from the Survey of India as such or by training in the Survey of India of commissioned officers and soldiers.

The role of the Survey headquarters with a military formation, such as an army corps, is to foresee the map requirements of its formation, to co-ordinate and control survey, mapping and map publication by the units under its command and, by no means least, to ensure that



Members of the Army Mobile Map Printing Unit examine air photographs.

the maps reach the troops in time in sufficient quantities.

In all these survey and map-making activities accuracy and speed must take precedence of all other considerations. It will not do to permit the armed forces to be given indifferent and inaccurate maps on which to carry out their operations against the enemy; they must have the most accurate maps possible, and they must have them in time.

Indian Field Survey companies carry out the field survey, including the air survey, required within the area of the military formation to which they are allotted, and the drawing and publication of these surveys. Indian Air Survey companies specialise in dealing with concentrations of air survey work in support of the field companies. Extra Air survey sections, drawing sections and reproduction groups may be allotted to them or to headquarters to help them out in an emergency; park sections (which are really survey store depots) are allotted to headquarters or areas to act as local reservoirs for stores and equipment; and map supply sections provided with motor transport are allotted as required to act in a similar capacity in respect of maps; they are organised to ensure quick



The Mobile Printing Press is the answer to one of the most important needs in modern war—the wide distribution to the troops of up-to-date information.

distribution to the troops of maps supplied from the central and advanced map depots.

Supporting this military organisation is the base organisation, which is the civil Survey in India.

It trains the personnel required by the military units, acquires the stores and equipment needed (of which it holds a sufficient reserve), lends a hand with civilian personnel when military surveys are required in India or in air surveys anywhere and undertakes all the long-term map drawing and publication required by the military Director of Survey. The maps are sent to the central or other map depots, as published, for onward transmission.

Wartime Re-Organisation

It also undertakes scientific work and research in all matters connected with surveying; the former includes the preparation of tide tables for many of the ports of India and elsewhere, preparation and publication of "control" (triangulation, traverse and precise levelling) data as required for military and other war uses, the calculations required for military map grids and the publication of suitable tables for them—as well as many other scientific operations of which by no means the least is assistance in the location of minerals such as manganese and mica by the application of geophysical methods.

Before the war, the Survey of India was organised on somewhat decentralised lines as regards surveys and mapping, and very centralised lines in respect of map publication, permitting the concurrent survey and mapping of widely dispersed areas with concentrated publication "in slow time" of the results.

To meet war needs, the reverse became necessary, that is, to be able to put heavy concentrations of survey and drawing power into the mass production of selected groups of maps required by the army, while at the same time dispersing map publication power to avoid disaster if photographic and printing plant was destroyed by enemy action or accident at any one place.

Considerable reorganisation and movement was, therefore, necessary during the early stages of the war and indeed now, as new methods are developed and new plant acquired, to ensure that the map publication power of the Department—much enhanced since the outbreak of war—is distributed in a completely satisfactory way. The problem has been to carry out the requisite reorganisations with the minimum reduction of output from the map factories.

Before the war, maps had been printed on imported paper and many of the chemicals and other stores, as well as plant and equipment, had been manufactured outside India. Now, practically all printing paper used is Indian-made; type, used for hand-typing the names on maps, is being cast departmentally; many items of survey and map printing stores and plant are being manufactured in India, either in Government factories or by the trade, and imports include only those articles that it has so far not been found possible to manufacture in India.

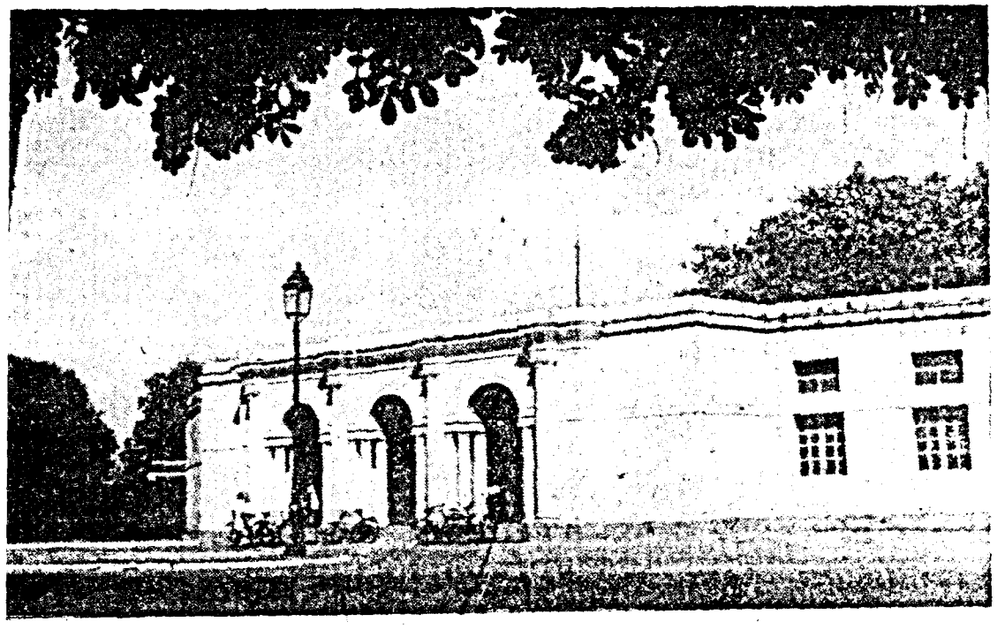
With the celebration of V-day the Survey of India is turning its attention to the vast amount of survey work that is required to initiate, or in the execution of, post-war reconstruction and development projects; for the past year in fact it has taken up, with the very limited resources available to it, the preliminary surveys required for a number of irrigation projects, the sindri fertiliser project and other works of this nature. Maps will still be required in large numbers, perhaps even larger than hitherto, till the Jap has been defeated; but the Survey of India has now under detailed consideration the reorganisation necessary to put it back on a full peacetime utilisation basis and to carry out the transition with minimum loss of output.

INDIA'S MICA SUPPLIES

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 704)

The industry's development and expansion came with the rapid growth of a world electrical industry from the eighteen nineties onward. Since 1919, the industry has grown rapidly and during the period output has increased at least 2½ times. Recorded production in 1919 was 34,230 cwts., but by 1938 it had increased to 84,235 cwts. Its commercial price ranges from Rs. 50 per ton for scrap to Rs. 5,000 per maund for the best qualities.

Eighty per cent. of India's output is concentrated in Bihar over an area of approximately 1,500 square miles. Considerable quantities are also mined in Nellore district, Madras, and in Rajputana. Before the war the industry employed a labour force of between 50 to 60 thousand persons, with a mica mining and processing tradition. This figure, however, takes into account only those who were engaged in mines and factories; in addition, there were about 100,000 persons working in the capacity of 'home splitters'.



A modern post office.

VITAL ROLE OF INDIA'S COMMUNICATIONS

OF all wars in history, this has been a war of communications, a war of transport. In this total war the United Nations had to garner and mobilise all their available resources, whether manpower, supplies, or transportation facilities. But mobilisation always presupposes ample, facile, efficient and speedy means of communication. The postal, telegraph, telephone and wireless communications were the arteries which had to convey to every corner of the country, orders, demands and valuable intelligence for ensuring a complete harnessing of the nations' entire resources. The story of India's share in the Western Victory is in part the story of the entire mobilisation and speeding up of the communication services in India.

On September 3, 1939, India was at war with Germany. The effects of this declaration on the Indian Posts and Telegraphs service were momentous. The relations between Germany on the one hand and the British Empire and France on the other, had been strained to the point of war for some time before the actual commencement of hostilities. The Posts and Telegraphs Department had made preparations against such an eventuality and immediately on the declaration of war all postal, telegraph and telephone communications with enemy country were immediately stopped and a thorough censorship imposed on all inward and outward communications. Steps were taken to ensure that no letters left the country or were transmitted out before being subjected to a duly constituted censorship. In order that mails might be produced for censorship at fixed stations, the normal routing of mails had to be changed in several cases, but the diversion of mails was arranged in such a manner as to cause the minimum of delay and the least possible inconvenience to the public and to the troops.

Apart from this, numerous other factors contributed to upset the normal working of the Department services. For instance, the Empire Air Mail Scheme which had been planned with great forethought and was working with increasing efficiency had to be suspended, and the enormous burden of mails on the aeroplanes was reduced by imposing heavy surcharges.

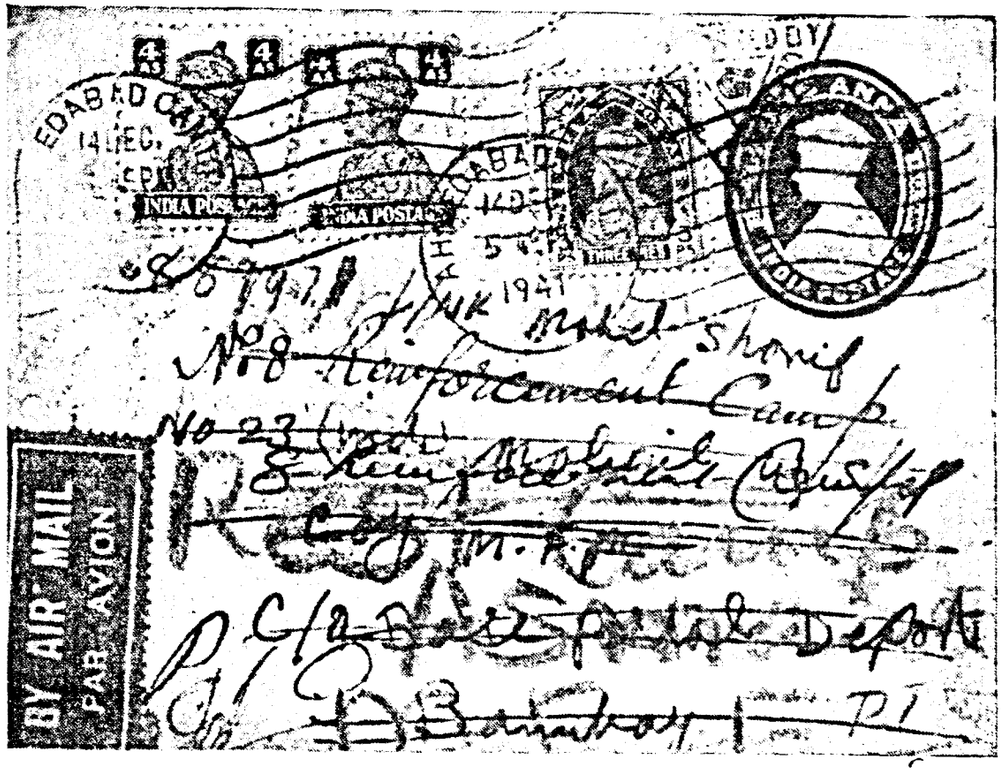
The conveyance of mails by surface route was affected owing to restrictions imposed on Empire Shipping. Economic warfare led to varied export and import controls, both on goods and currency. The outbreak of war saw withdrawals of savings bank deposits and discharge of cash certificates, but this contingency had been anticipated and adequate arrangements had been made in advance to ensure prompt payment.

Ever-increasing Traffic

On the telegraph side, traffic stepped up on many routes to three or four times the normal pre-war volume. All overseas communications by telephone were immediately cut due to difficulty in exercising censorship on telephone conversations. This was offset by the inland trunk traffic which rose steeply and caused considerable congestion. Full control of wireless communication with ships was assumed by the Indian Naval Authorities. All private transmitter licences were cancelled. These measures, taken well in advance, lessened to a large extent the dislocation consequent on the sudden change from quiet peacetime efficiency to the hurly-burly of a gigantic total war.

The Department, therefore, had to make arrangements for coping with an ever-increasing postal, telegraphic and telephonic traffic. Hitler's first onrush brought him almost to the threshold of the Asian continent. Japan seized this opportunity to crash into the arena and surged as far as the Eastern borders of India itself. India, thereafter, became one big arsenal and a base for operations in two theatres of war. Africa and the Far East were considered India's particular problem. Supplies from the U.K. and the U.S.A. dwindled to insignificant proportions in those days of U-boat menace and grave transport crisis, and almost overnight the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department found itself the nerve centre of a bi-zonal war.

Throughout the African campaign India built up communications in alien countries in



An insufficiently addressed letter—this is what the post office has often to contend with.



Mail vans loaded with thousands of letters and parcels from India arrive at a Base Post Office.

record time. Base Post Offices had to be established in the space of a few days; telegraph stations, wires and wireless receiving and transmitting stations had to be installed at a few hours' notice. Trained personnel had to be sent overseas. Assisted by the Royal Signals and Indian Signal Corps, the Posts and Telegraphs Department went about this task with quiet efficiency. Their task, it must be remembered, was none too easy in the light of the pre-war situation.

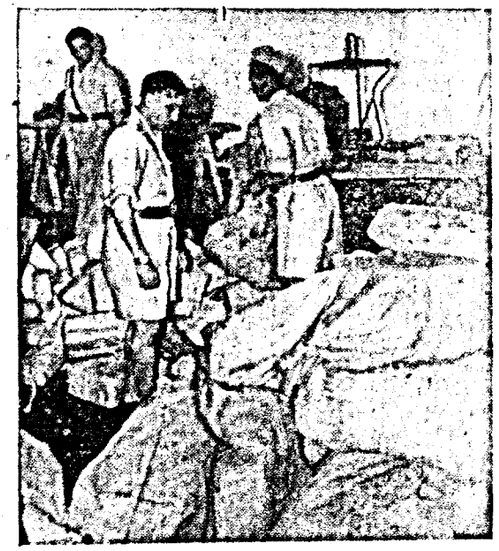
Base and Field Post Offices

Prior to the outbreak of war there had been a period of acute commercial depression which led to a fall in traffic and a consequent fall of revenue resulting in a deficit budget. Government had felt compelled to resort to general measures of economy to meet the budget deficit and had to apply the axe rather freely. The strength of the personnel had thus been brought down to what the falling traffic justified; all projects involving large expenditure but not likely to be immediately remunerative had been postponed. The telegraph and telephone facilities were just sufficient for a peacetime economy. Thus there were insufficient resources left in any branch of the Department which could be utilised to meet any sudden and unexpected increase in the business of the Department.

By Victory Day, however, this Department, starting from scratch, had mobilised 32 Base and 200 Field Post Offices, a Base Postal Depot at Bombay for sorting surface mail for troops, a Base Air Post Depot at Karachi, and an Air Mail Section at Calcutta. Over 3,500 of its trained and experienced personnel and 60 commissioned officers had been lent for field service, and 12,000 temporary staff were recruited and trained for service on the civil side.

P. and T. Defence Corps

On the telegraph side, the staff deputed with the Units was 21 Officers and 413 other ranks. The total number enrolled in the P. and T. Defence Corps to date is 26,000 men and 174 officers. In spite of its newly recruited and inexperienced staff, the Department managed to dispose of 1,575 million articles a year with an average of only one complaint per 100,000. It carried through a large portion of a vast construction programme reckoned to cost over 16 crores for the provision of telegraph and telephone carrier channels between the main centres in India and for the extensive line communications required by the Defence Services.



Parcels being sorted.



Franking letters at an Indian Field Post Office in Cyprus. Besides money order and savings bank facilities, about 2,500 letters and parcels are handled here daily.

Some 110,000 miles of wire and nearly 10,000 miles of new routes were laid, connecting all important cities and enabling a number of messages to be transmitted on a single pair of wires simultaneously. Nearly 180 telephone and over 250 telegraph channels were added. New trunk routes were put up all over India and about 4,500 miles of post route and over 43,000 miles of line and 67,000 miles of wire were erected for this purpose alone.

Telecommunications

Early in the war the Department of Posts and Telegraphs had realised that without the expansion of facilities the increase in traffic could not be met. The course of war aggravated the situation to no small extent. A preliminary scheme was made up and provision was made in 1942-43 for a crore of rupees for developing telecommunications. But the great demands of the Defence Services on the Telephone System necessitated a reorientation of the entire plan then visualised.

The next step was the formulation of a comprehensive plan to develop telecommunications for Defence purposes during wartime and also to double existing civil circuits. A new Telecommunications Development Board, with the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, as Chairman, was set up with full powers. A Branch was also created by the Department to carry out this project which involved the erection of over 10,000 miles of line. By the end of 1942, a 16-crore scheme was sanctioned and a good start had been made. The Scheme, as it stands now involves construction of a number of principal routes linking up major cities in India, and radiating inter-connections from larger to smaller centres, a considerable portion of which has already been completed.

With India's sea routes menaced, there was a cessation of import of technical and communication equipment, which was required in large quantities for the Department's own needs and for supply to the armed forces. The Department decided to manufacture locally such equipment as could be manufactured here. The workshops at Alipore and the newly-acquired telephone workshop at Bombay were enlarged and a large new workshop was established at Jubbulpore. Apart from these,

91 workshops of private ownership, large and small, were employed all over India in the manufacture of line stores. The value of stores supplied by these workshops in 1943-44 alone reached Rs. 80,00,000.

Practically all the line stores and a substantial proportion of other material required for the telecommunication scheme and for maintenance is now being produced in India. This development scheme also includes the extension of local telephone exchanges, including 20,000 new instruments. The load on the exchange in towns like Delhi, Poona and Lahore has greatly increased and necessitates greater facilities. Telegraph traffic too has shown a phenomenal increase during the war and the burden of producing equipment has fallen on the workshops manned by the P. and T. Department.

Wartime Increase in Traffic

The total number of telegrams handled by the Department in 1943-44 was over 28 millions and the total signalling operations performed were almost 125 millions, as compared with 16 millions and 82 millions in the pre-war year, 1938-39. The total number of foreign telegrams handled in the fifth year of war was 3,844,000 telegrams containing more than 97 million words as against 2,773,000 telegrams containing 25 million words in the year preceding the war.

Telephone trunk traffic has similarly increased from the pre-war figure of 2 million calls to 4 million calls in 1943-44 and the number of departmental telephones together with company-owned systems now taken over by Government, has increased from 82,728 to 113,005. This figure, however, excludes Defence Services' connections and would have increased still further if the equipment and instruments had been readily available.

Various Postal concessions, involving a loss to the P. and T. Department of revenue amounting to several crores of rupees, were granted to troops serving in India and overseas. To meet the demand for improving air mail facilities for troops and yet to keep the total weight of air mail within the load capacity available, two new kinds of postal services, namely "air-graphs" and "air-letters", were introduced.

Troops were also allowed to send a limited number of parcels to the U.K. free of any duty and without any customs formalities. Special arrangements were made for the conveyance of mails to and from Prisoners of War in Europe by the quickest route available from time to time.

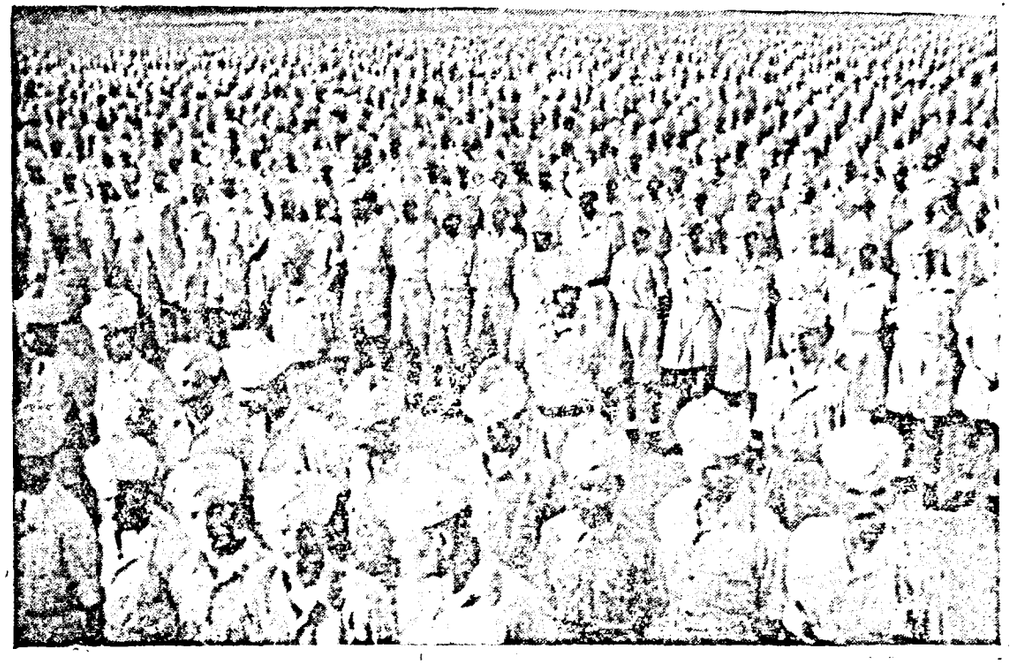


Checking cash before the post office is closed for the day.

There are other spheres in which the Posts and Telegraphs figure in the general contribution towards Allied victory. The whole of the net surplus revenue of the Department—which this year reached 9 crores—was handed over to general revenues. Every post office, large or small, helped in the anti-inflationary drive, the results of which are shown by substantial increases in Defence Savings figures.

The number of Defence Savings Bank Accounts rose, for instance, in 1943-44, from 94,000 at the beginning of the year to 2,308,000 at the end of the financial year. The total Defence Savings balances rose from Rs. 40.6 lakhs to Rs. 3.5 crores. The Department had its own War Purposes Fund started in 1940 by Sir Gurunath Bewoor. The disbursements made from this Fund have resulted in the purchase of three aeroplanes, three amenities lorries, five ambulance cars for the United Nations Forces, and donations of Rs. 56,000 to other war services funds.

Telegrams to and from Denmark and Norway are now admitted but restricted to (1) Government telegrams in code, cypher or plain English, French, Spanish, Portuguese or the national language of Government concerned (2) Press telegrams and (3) private telegrams of non-commercial nature in plain English or French. Commercial telegrams are not admitted. Rates in the current Post and Telegraph Guide apply, said a Press Note issued by the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, on May 22.



Recruits at an Indian Army Training Centre.

ARMED FORCES' CONTRIBUTION TO ALLIED WAR EFFORT

INDIA'S strategic position has played a large part in her contribution to the Allied war effort.

India is the spring-board for the liberation of Burma and the supply base from which British, Indian and American forces, in co-operation with their Chinese ally, can strike at Japan from the west.

India's position to the east of the Persian Gulf enabled her to play an important part in sending Allied supplies to the Soviet Union.

India joined with Ceylon and Australia, on the one side, and with East and South Africa on the other in helping to maintain Allied sea power in the Indian Ocean—a control which isolated Germany from Japan.

The pre-war strength of the Indian Army was 182,000. Today the Army numbers over 2,000,000, all of whom are volunteers. Recruits come from every corner of the country and the average rate of recruitment has been 50,000 to 60,000 a month. The recruitment rate, however, dropped during the 5th year of war, the monthly intake for technical and non-technical personnel being 7,785 and 27,833 respectively.

Recruitment to the officer class, both King's Commissioned Officers and V.C.O's, has increased proportionately. The Indian Military Academy, which before the war accommodated about 200 cadets, has been enlarged to take 600, while other Officer Training Schools have been opened. Compared to 400 Indian Officers at the outbreak of war, there are now more than 10,000 Indian Commissioned and King's Commissioned Officers. At present among the King's Commissioned Officers one out of six is an Indian.

The percentages of Indians amongst the Officers recruited to the three Services since

the beginning of the war are as follows: Royal Indian Navy 45 per cent., Indian Army 47.3 per cent., and Royal Indian Air Force 100 per cent.

The pre-war Indian Army was armed and organised mainly for internal security and frontier defence. The general reserve, or Field Army, consisted of only three brigades. The need for mechanisation was realised, but the necessary equipment could not be obtained from the U.K. India's military problem has, therefore, been to expand her forces and at the same time to revolutionise their training.

Training Schools

Existing training schools have been very greatly increased and many new ones opened. These include a Tactical School, a Fighting Vehicles School, an Infantry School (which teaches minor tactics as well as the handling of infantry weapons), a Jungle Warfare School for officers and non-commissioned officers, in addition to the Anti-Aircraft Artillery Training Centres, etc., which have been opened for the recruits of the various arms. Indian Infantry and Gurkha reinforcements for the Eastern Theatre undergo intensive training in the jungle.

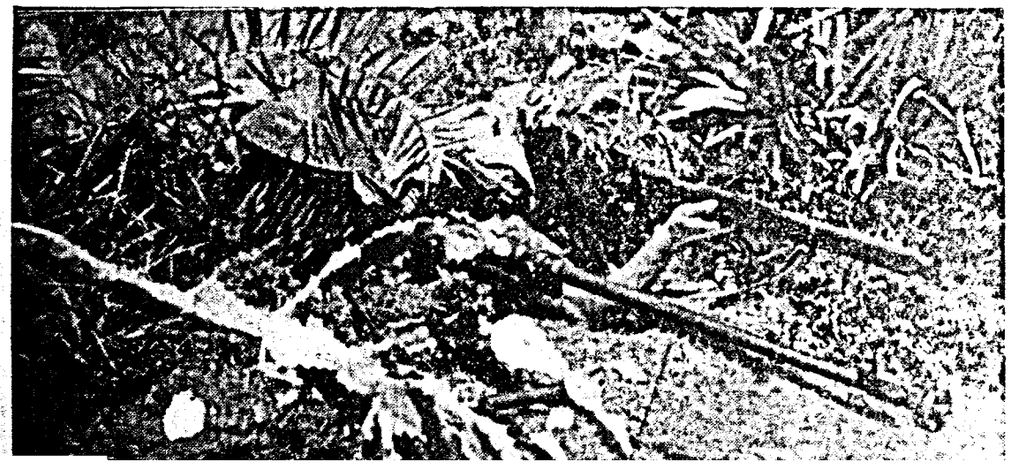
Technical Training Centres for Ordnance and M.T. Artificers have been inaugurated. There are also schools for engineers, signallers, supply and transport technicians and others. Many recruits have to be given a general education before they can learn to handle complicated modern weapons and equipment. Large schools have now been opened for training boys so that when they reach Army age they can join up as fully qualified technicians.

Indian Armoured Corps

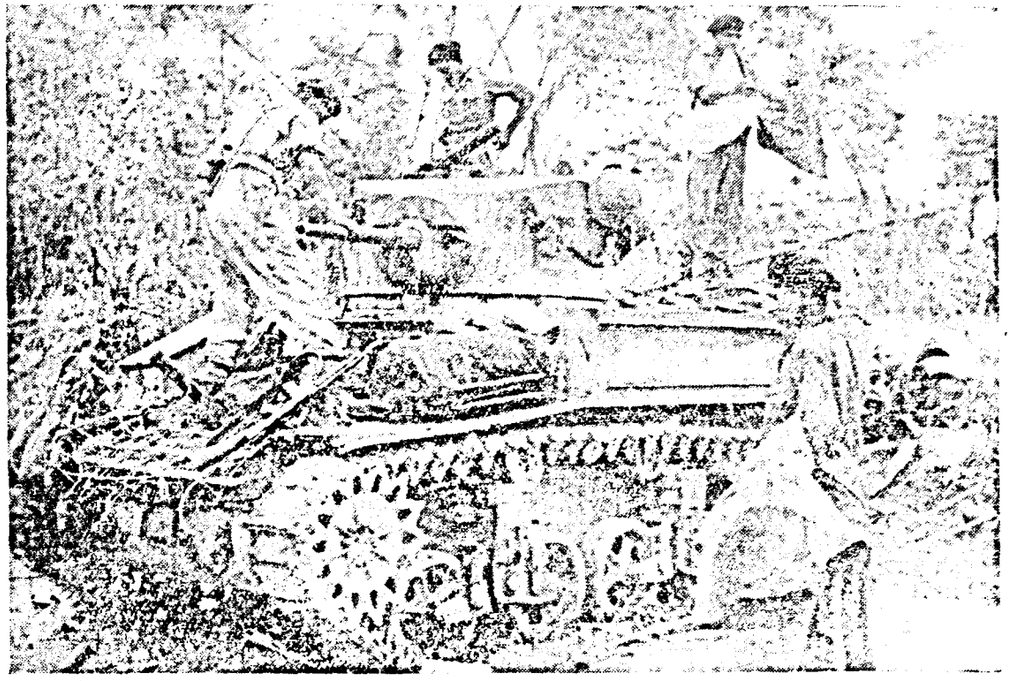
In 1937 the mechanization of the Indian Cavalry began and at the outbreak of the present war this was greatly accelerated until finally in March 1941, the last "horsed" regiment disappeared and in 1942 the old Indian Cavalry became known as the Indian Armoured Corps.

During the early part of the present war one Basic Training Centre and two Trade Training Centres were established in place of the original Training Centres—for the Armoured Car Regiments and for the Tank Regiments.

During 1943-44 Indian Armoured Crops' tank brigades equipped with the most modern armoured fighting vehicles were in action on the Burma Front. From April to July, squadrons of the 7th Cavalry were in continuous action in clearing the Japs from the Imphal plain. The regiment's tanks were the first to break through the Jap positions. As reconnaissance regiments probing the enemy's defences and returning with vital information the I.A.C. has played a valuable part in the Italian campaign.



Training in jungle warfare. A rifleman and an anti-tank rifleman lying in wait.



Men of the 7th Light Cavalry on the Burma Front clamber on their tank after the 'action stations' warning.

The outbreak of the present war made it necessary to strengthen the Indian Artillery and it has undergone great expansion and development, which has brought it to the front rank of the combatant corps. The Indian Artillery now has its own Mountain, Field, Medium, Heavy A.A., Light A.A., Anti-Tank, Mortar, Survey, Coast and Searchlight Batteries. Today all personnel of the Indian Artillery, except for some British Officers and N.C.O. instructors, are Indians and are enlisted from Sikhs, Mahrattas, Ahirs and all Punjabi Muslims besides the classes enlisted in 1935.

I.E.M.E.

In the present war its gunners have been in action and have inflicted heavy losses on the enemy in North Africa, Burma, Sicily and Italy.

The Corps of Indian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers is the youngest Corps in the Indian Army. It was formed on May 1, 1943. Its present strength stands at over 2,500 per cent. of its pre-war level. It embodies approximately 1,800 officers and 80,000 other ranks with some 20,000 civilian craftsmen of all trades. The floor space occupied by the Corps static workshops now nears five million square feet.

The Corps' chief function is the repair and recovery of all the technical equipment of the Indian Army, such as tanks, vehicles, guns, wireless sets, instruments, small arms, searchlights and refrigerators, all of which have to be maintained in the highest possible state of efficiency. Such a responsibility calls for efficient technicians, expert supervision and well-equipped workshops.

To deal with the complicated nature of the many and varied types of equipment a staff of over 100,000 technicians is required, comprising no fewer than 43 different trades. Three Corps Recruit Training Centres have been established to cope with 1,000 new craftsmen a month. Supervision is carried out by British and Indian technical officers known as Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, British Warrant and Non-Commissioned Officers, Indian Armament Artificers and Viceroy's Commissioned Officers promoted from among Indian Non-Commissioned Officers and Craftsmen.

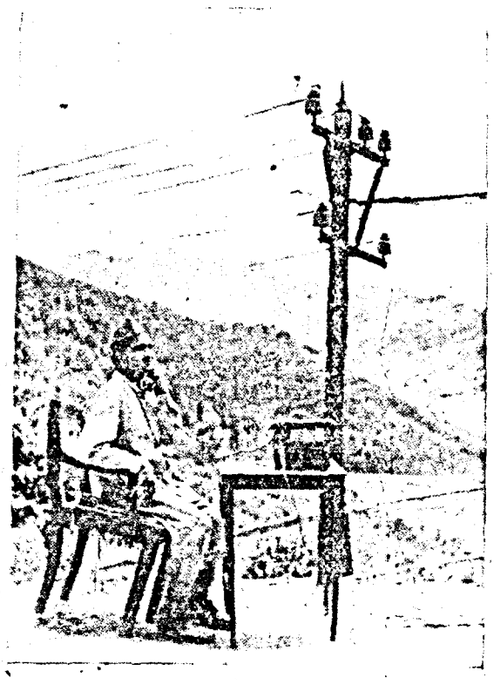
The I.E.M.E. have taken or are taking part in campaigns in Africa, Italy and South-East Asia. Through the Burma jungle from the Arakan to Kohima, the men of I.E.M.E. carried out many outstanding feats of recovery, local repair and improvisation without proper tools and often within sight of the enemy.

Indian Signal Corps

The Indian Signal Corps, formed in 1922, required a vast expansion on the outbreak of war in 1939. The recruit signalman had then to learn the intricacies of modern wireless sets, telephones and telegraph communication equipment. Today its strength stands at over 50,000. In addition to campaign requirements, hundreds of signal units have been raised to provide communications inside India itself.

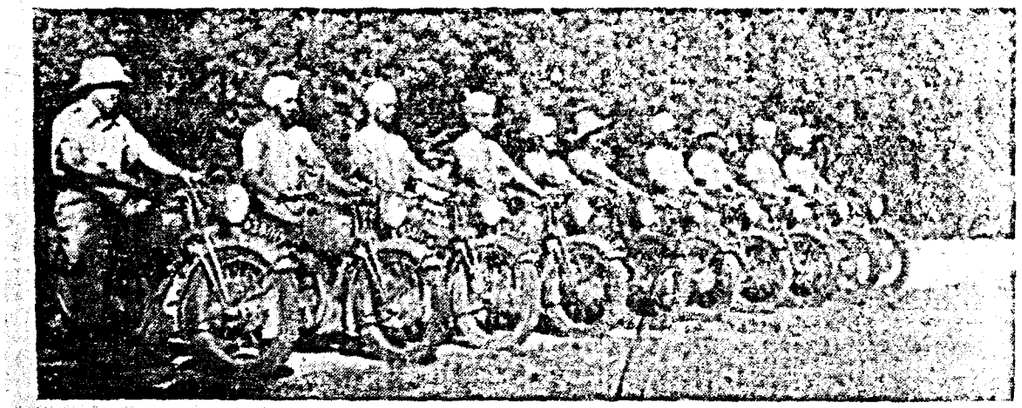
Indian Other Ranks are operating and maintaining today the most modern and complicated types of equipment. When occasion arose signalmen have also fought. Men of an Indian divisional signals gallantly defended their divisional headquarters against attacks by the Japanese somewhere in Burma.

Paratroop Battalions have been raised and Indian and Gurkha troops are showing themselves well suited for the service. Together with a battalion of the Fifth Mahratta Light Infantry, two companies of the State forces and British and Indian gunners, men of Indian parachutes formation denied the plain of Imphal for six days to the oncoming Japs and thus won a valuable respite in which the relieving Fifth Indian Division could be flown in from Imphal. The parachutes have been made in India from Indian silk.

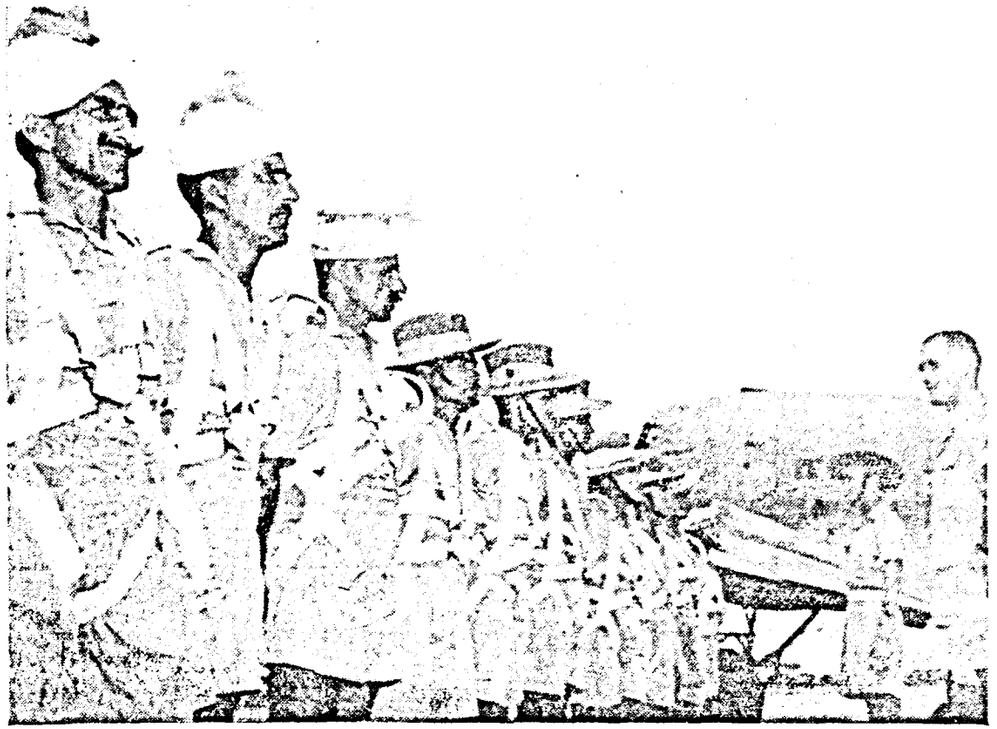


A Punjabi Signaller sends out a message from his observation post, high in the hills near Imphal.

On the mountainous and jungle-covered Indo-Burma border, where roads are scarce considerable numbers of animal transport units have been raised in addition to those retained



A squad of motor cycle despatch riders at an Indian signal training centre



Pathans, Gurkhas, Rajputs, Garhwalis and other Indians—all volunteers—in training as members of the Indian Paratroop Regiment.

on the North-West Frontier. The Indian Army Remount Department has bought over 60,000 animals in India for active service in this war. Extensive horse and mule breeding is encouraged by the Army and every three out of every five animals at present serving the 14th Army are Indian bred.

The Indian Army Medical Corps was formed in 1943 by amalgamating all branches of the Indian Military Medical Services, the Indian Medical Services, the Indian Medical Department and the Indian Hospital Corps. By the middle of 1943 more than 300 major field Medical Units had been raised in India. They are functioning wherever Indian Army units are serving. Large hospitals have been built and staffed, and many new medical training schools have been opened. Women doctors are now recruited, with full liability for service in and out of India. The Army Nursing Service has been raised for work with the new medical units and hospitals. By 1944 the incidence of malaria was reduced among troops in Assam by at least 50 per cent.

Every month 200,000 tons of stores pass through Indian Army Ordnance Corps depots located all over India. They are made up of 300,000 items as compared with 40,000 before the war. Field activities of the Corps have developed with the further supply of field parks, which are in fact small ordnance depots on wheels, mobile cinemas and mobile laundries.

Indian General Service Corps

Speaking 13 different languages and hundreds of dialects nearly 55,000 combatants and non-combatants of the Indian General Service Corps are today serving in all theatres of war. They serve over 2,000 units and formations. More than 1,600 of them are prisoners of war. The Corps was formed in 1939 to provide a reservoir of men ready to tackle the many and varied jobs of modern war, not falling within the sphere of specialist corps.

Many wartime units grew up under the aegis of the I.G.S.C. e.g., Indian Observer Corps, Coast Defence Battalion, Garrison Companies, Intelligence Corps and Censor Units; in the raising of these units 11,000 men were trained and permanently transferred away from the I.G.S.C.

Women's Auxiliary Corps (India)

A Women's Auxiliary Corps numbering over 10,000, of whom more than 1,000 are officers, had been formed to release soldiers and technicians for more active duty. They work as switchboard operators, wireless operators, clerks, dispensers in hospitals, etc. The officers also replace staff officers in the larger headquarters. A naval wing of the W.A.C.(I) has been formed for duties with the Royal Indian Navy.

Nearly 430,000 members of the Indian Army have been sent overseas. They have served with distinction in the defence of East Africa and the Sudan, in Eritrea, Abyssinia, the Western Desert, Tunisia, Italy, Syria, Persia, Iraq, Malaya and the East Indies, Burma and Hongkong. A small detachment of animal transport units served in France.

Awards for Gallantry

Indian troops have shown conspicuous gallantry wherever they have served. Up to April, 1945, 21 Victoria Crosses, one George Cross, 142 Distinguished Service Orders and three Indian Orders of Merit (1st class) had been won by officers and men of the Indian Army. Out of the 21 V.Cs. three were won by Englishmen and the rest by Indians. Other awards won by the Indian Army include 561 Military Crosses, 941 Indian Distinguished Service Medals, 2 Distinguished Conduct Medals, one George Medal and 518 Military Medals.

Awards to the Indian Army and the Indian States Forces during the war so far total 2,468. In addition, there have been several thousand mentions in despatches and gallantry certificates.

India stands second in the number of V.Cs. won during this war. Up to December, 1944, the 116 V.Cs. won in World War II had been distributed as follows:—U.K. 75, India 18, Australia 11, New Zealand 7, Canada 3, South Africa 1 and Fiji 1.

The 4th Indian Division has had an unparalleled record. It formed part of Wavell's small army in 1940; played a prominent part in the Abyssinian campaign; returned to the defence of the Egyptian frontier against Rommel; saw hard fighting in Syria; took part in General Auchinleck's 1941 offensive; held Benghazi when Rommel struck back from El Agheila, and during the fighting withdrawal several times repulsed superior enemy forces. At El Alamein it attacked on the Ruweisat Ridge, helped pursue Rommel to the Mareth Line and forced the Halfaya Pass on March 15, 1943. In 1944 it was fighting with the Eighth Army in Italy. Indian troops form a large part of the 9th and 10th Armies at present stationed in Persia and Iraq.

The Eighth Indian Division has had the honour of leading the Eighth Army's main assault in Italy where they succeeded in breaking the German winter line. The Fourteenth Army, the bulk of which has been drawn from the Indian Army, is fighting the enemy at every possible point on the Burma border.

Royal Indian Navy

The Royal Indian Navy is now more than 20 times as big as it was at the outbreak of the war. The Service has been greatly expanded in personnel, ships and training establishments. The personnel has increased from 1,200 officers and men at the time of the outbreak of war to nearly 30,000 by the beginning of 1944.

During 1943-44 well over 1,750,000 miles were steamed by His Majesty's Indian ships of all classes. Escort duties on the coastal and ocean passages accounted for the largest share, keeping Indian warships at sea 85 per cent. of their time.

Two major naval bases have been built and three minor bases fitted with the needs of a modern naval base. The Royal Indian Navy's Dockyard at Bombay refits vessels, makes repairs, builds flight craft and carries out the degaussing and arming of merchant ships. Indian shipyards have contributed several new warships to the fleet.

With the movement eastwards of the naval centre of gravity, heavier responsibilities were cast on Indian warships helping to escort merchant ships with reinforcements and equipment. It is estimated that there are 2,000,000 tons of merchant shipping in the Indian Ocean at any given moment, and His Majesty's Indian ships played their part in protecting this vital traffic.



R.I.N. landing craft at Ramree beach

Indian warships have taken part in actions against enemy submarines, while at the approaches to our ports Indian minesweepers have laboured constantly to keep channels clear for shipping. Ranging far down the Burma coast the little ships of the R.I.N. Arakan Coastal Forces harassed the enemy's sea flank and assisted the advance of our land forces. They destroyed Japanese craft carrying troops and bombarded shore positions.

R. I. N. Landing Craft

From December 1, 1943, to April 1, 1944, little ships of R.I.N. Coastal Forces steamed more than 30,000 operational miles on 43 separate missions firing 26,000 shells at the enemy from point blank range along 250 miles of Japanese-held coast.

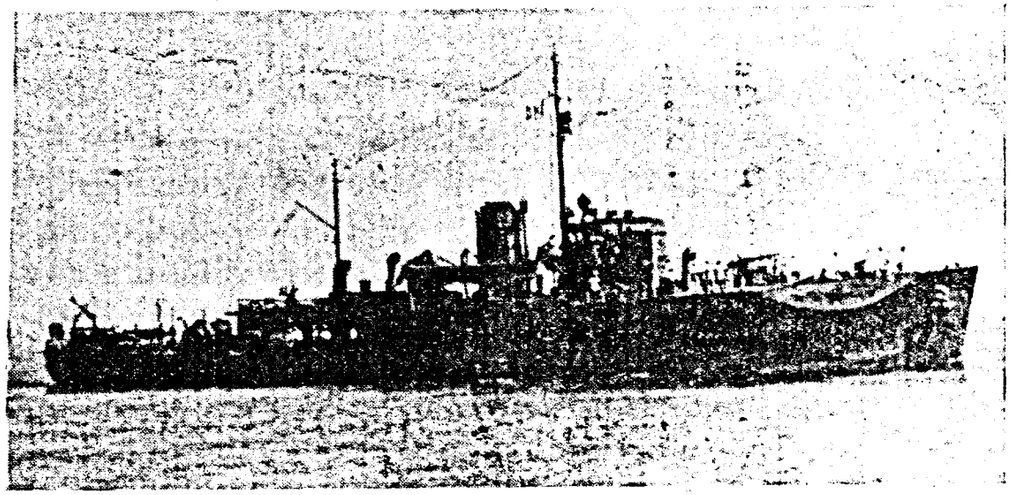
The Royal Indian Navy can now boast of its own Landing Craft Wing, its Coastal Forces and Women's Service—the W.R.I.N.S. Indian Navy has every type of technical training school needed for a fighting navy. The number of new training establishments started since 1939 has now risen to sixteen. A new torpedo school and a new anti-submarine school, the largest in the British Commonwealth outside the United Kingdom, have been built.



British Commandos of the 15th Indian Corps wade ashore from R. I. N. landing craft at Myebon.



Aboard a motor launch of the Arakan Coastal Forces, Telegraphist Philip Thomas of Quilon (Travancore) and L/S Fazaldad of Nurpur (Punjab) paint "greetings" to Jap warlords on 3 lb. shells destined for enemy strongpoints.



H. M. I. S. "Bengal" entering port after the battle with Jap raiders in the Indian Ocean.

The school of Naval Gunnery has been enlarged since the war and the number of ratings taking the gunnery course has increased—fifteen-fold. At combined Training centres located on the coast of India, Naval officers and ratings in conjunction with Indian troops and R.A.F. are training strenuously in amphibious warfare.

When Malaya was invaded, ships of the Royal Indian Navy were busy in the Malacca Straits and the Java Sea. The sloops *Jumna* and *Sutlej*, which had spent the first part of their commission on convoy work in the Atlantic, were in the Gunda Straits where the *Jumna* survived a day-long battle with dive-bombers, shooting down four for certain and receiving the congratulations of Vice-Admiral Fitzherbert for her fine work. The *Sutlej* destroyed five aircraft in another engagement in defence of a convoy.

H.M.I.S. "Bengal"

The Royal Indian Navy did particularly good service off the Burma coast in support of operations on the Arakan front. The evacuation of 40,000 Indians from Burmese ports was organised and carried out when that country was invaded. The *Indus* was sunk in Akyab harbour by Japanese bombers. In 1943 the Royal Indian Navy took part in convoy operations escorting the Eighth Army reinforcements and supplies to Sicily from North Africa.

The First Lord of the Admiralty told the House of Commons that there was no finer story than that of the minesweeper, H.M.I.S. *Bengal*. In November, 1942, she was escorting the motor-vessel *Ondina* when the raiders *Kikoku Maru* (10,000 tons) and *Kunikawa Maru*. (6,863 tons) were encountered. Each was believed to be armed with six 5.5-inch guns, torpedo tubes and two catapult aircraft. The *Bengal* immediately steamed into the attack; many hits were scored on the larger ship, followed by an explosion, and she finally went down by the stern and sank. The minesweeper was herself hit, but only slight damage resulted and no casualties were suffered.

H. M. I. S. "Bihar"

During 1943-44 an enemy submarine was sunk in the Indian Ocean by three warships of the Royal Navy, the Royal Indian Navy and the Royal Australian Navy. For H.M.I. ships part in the successful operation her Commanding Officer was mentioned in despatches. Good work was done by H.M.I.S. *Bihar* in rescuing 191 survivors from a torpedoed merchant ship at night.

Within a few years, the Indian Air Force (which has now been designated the Royal Indian Air Force) has risen from a strength of 200 to 27,000.

Beginning this war with only one full Squadron, the R.I.A.F. now has more than 10, all of which have seen active service against

the Japanese, and some have also been on operations again in the North-West Frontier. Mainly constituted as "Fighter Reconnaissance" Squadrons, they have proved themselves to be some of the finest in action. Their deeds have done much to enhance their high reputation. Many R.I.A.F. personnel have received decorations and awards, including a D.S.O., a D.F.C. and bar, eight other D.F.Cs. and one A.F.C. in addition to their normal "Fighter Recce" duties. R.A.F. pilots and aircrew have been engaged in the vital task of air supply in Burma.

Empire Air Training Scheme

The first batch of trainees from India went to Canada under the Empire Air Training Scheme in 1943. The I.A.F. by the end of 1943 had 17 technical and non-technical schools. These schools catered for all trades connected with the I.A.F. Besides these technical schools there are Flying Training Centres. Over 50 per cent of the instructors at these centres are Indians. There is also an important civil aviation training scheme designed initially to turn out 300 pilots and 2,000 ground staff a year for two years.

The Indian Air Training Corps Scheme has been extended to cover all the 19 Indian Universities, including three Universities in the Indian States. Students in India have now an opportunity for preparing and training for a career in the flying branch of the Indian Air Force while they are at their regular studies.

The Coastal Defence Wing of the R.I.A.F. has been expanded and 75 per cent of its personnel is Indian. Since its formation in 1940 its planes have flown thousands of miles escorting the huge supplies of men and materials that India is sending abroad.

R.I.A.F. Over Burma

Squadrons of the R.I.A.F. operating from India have been fighting over Burma since 1942. They have helped to support the Land Forces throughout the advance from the borders of India to the Irrawaddy and through the Arakan, and from Imphal into Central Burma. They took part in the invasion of Akyab and Ramree and continue to give full support to the other fighting forces. During the operational season, the R.I.A.F. squadrons did upwards of 7,600 sorties, amounting to 10,500 hours and dropped more than 1,000 tons of bombs.



Officer Instructor at a training school gives two young officers last minute instructions before the take-off.

The R.I.A.F. is equipped with modern aircraft, both fighters and bombers, and its personnel is almost entirely Indian.

The ruling Princes have supplied over 375,000 recruits for the fighting forces of India. For the first four and a half years of the war approximately 300,000 recruits from the states have been enlisted for the various services in India. Bigger states like Patiala have provided as many as 33,000 recruits. Smaller states have also contributed their own quota. In the comparatively small State of Sachin, for instance, about 8 per cent. of the total male population is serving outside the State in various services connected with war effort. There are about 63 States forces units serving outside the States, in addition to about 38 Indian Army units raised by the States.

All the states have readily adopted the various war measures introduced by the Central Government, including those which affect industry, commerce, finance and manpower. The maritime states have collaborated in all



H. H. the Maharaja of Kashmir with men of the 1st Punjab Regiment on the Italian Front.

measures connected with the economic war and have adopted the Government of India's measures for the control of exports and imports and contraband control.

Many of the states have released military forces for service outside their territories. Troops from Alwar, Bikaner, Faridkot, Gwalior, Hyderabad, Indore, Jaipur, Jind, Jodhpur, Kapurthala, Kashmir, Malerkotla, Nabha, Patiala, Rewa and Tripura have assumed special duties in British India or are undergoing training in association with the new field armies.

States' Forces

The Kashmir Mountain Battery, the 1st Patiala Infantry, the Jind Infantry, the Jodhpur Sardar Infantry, two Jaipur Battalions, the Tripura Rifles and the Tehri Garhwal and Malerkotla Sappers and Miners have all served with distinction in various theatres of war. Nepal has sent over 8,000 men of her army to India to aid the Allied cause, in addition to meeting all the Government of India's requests for recruits to Gurkha units.

Several states are raising new war battalions, a number of their cavalry regiments have been mechanised and they are helping to recruit and train men for the Indian Army. State Flying Clubs are co-operating with the



H. H. the Nawab of Bhopal talking to officers of a battalion of Bhopal Infantry at a jungle warfare training centre in India.

Central Government scheme for training air reserves, and a number of the states are co-operating in the training schemes for mechanics and skilled artisans in munition factories. Certain Indian Princes have placed at the disposal of the Army large jungle tracts as jungle training areas where formations can train intensively under conditions similar to those in Burma.

Technical Work

Large numbers of men from states have also been recruited to non-combatant ranks, including many for skilled or technical work. Indian states have also provided labour units for the construction of roads and aerodromes. From Travancore and Cochin in the South, over 70,000 men have travelled north to carve out roads to be traversed by the fighting soldiers.

A recent appeal to the states for road-making machinery received so overwhelming a response that all requirements were met, and not a single state took advantage of the Government's offer to pay the machinery or its transport. Labour units have also been provided by the states for the construction of roads and airfields in all parts of India.

Indian Princes have also provided aircraft, water-craft, buildings, machinery, training facilities, medical aid, donations and gifts of every sort and description.

Every state has placed its resources and industries at the disposal of the War Department. Larger states have supplied a variety of goods.

Mysore's Steel Works

An arms factory has been started in the Hyderabad State with the Nizam Government's co-operation. Mysore is producing 24,000 tons of steel per annum, in addition to large quantities of cast pipes. This state is now erecting a 25-ton steel furnace which will almost double the State's steel output.

Mysore has also recently installed an electric furnace which is making ferro-silicon for steel making. These will meet about half the total demands of India. Also, an aircraft factory in Mysore State is playing an important part in India's war effort.

Thousands of army blankets and many thousands of yards of woollen cloth and hosiery goods have been supplied from States like Hyderabad, Baroda, Kashmir, Jodhpur, Jind and Nawanagar. Kashmir and Mysore supply valuable silk for parachute manufacture. Gwalior has made a free gift of the only mill in India for the manufacture of webbing cloth, producing Rs. 800,000 worth of cloth per year.

A very large proportion of India's supply of chemicals comes from the States. Rubber products have come from Travancore, Baroda and Mysore. Travancore's contribution of many million pounds of rubber last year has partially made up for the loss of British possessions in the East with their immense supplies of rubber.

For various purposes the States have supplied approximately 215,000 tons of timber, as against the total timber production in India for war purposes of 396,000 tons, in 1941-42.

Other Important Supplies

Among other important supplies, 250,000 tons of cement were produced in Hyderabad alone last year. Over 7,000 tons of oil were obtained from States' mills last year. Thousands of tons of food supplies have also been provided by the States.

The investments by the Princes and people of the states in war loans amount approximately to Rs. 37,50,00,000. The total financial contributions from the states have exceeded Rs. 65,000,000.

About half the total contributions to the Viceroy's war funds have come from the states, as well as many other gifts of material and money. The Nizam of Hyderabad has contributed a corvette to the Navy and a bomber squadron to the Royal Air Force, together with a large sum for its maintenance and equipment. This squadron has operated on the Italian front and in Burma. The Hyderabad "Hurricane" Fund raised money for other aircraft and there are now three R.A.F. Hyderabad Squadrons. Two others are named after Baroda and Mysore, whose rulers made gifts for the purchase of complete fighter squadrons.

Indian Prisoners of War

There are 9,944 Indian Prisoners of War in the hands of Germans and 42,571 confirmed and 22,036 believed to be prisoners of war in the hands of the Japanese. On September 8, 1943, there were 5,110 Indian prisoners of war in Italy, of whom 773 had been released. As to the rest when Italy was invaded by the Allies the enemy transferred most of the prisoners to Germany. Some of them who were not so transferred escaped.

There are now 29,499 enemy prisoners of war held in India, of whom only six are Germans.

There were about 400,000 Indian evacuees in India from Burma and 5,000 from Malaya. There were about one million Indians in Burma before December 1941, and about 800.000 in Malaya.

The number of evacuees of all nationalities in India is 405,093. The number of evacuees and dependents of persons stranded in enemy-occupied territories maintained in camps or assisted financially is about 150,000.

Amenities for Troops

In order to look after the servicemen's welfare and amenities, a Directorate of Welfare has been established with a large organisation. E.N.S.A. has been operating in India since November, 1943, and is responsible for the provision of entertainment for British troops. By September, 1944, E.N.S.A. had a dozen parties touring India.

For making provision of entertainment for Indian troops, *Fauji Dilkhush Sabha,* the Indian counterpart of the British E.N.S.A., was established in April, 1944. At present it has 28 parties touring India and seven overseas. Its Controller is an Indian Army Officer and the staff consists of Indian civilians. Provision for soldiers' recreation includes games, reading, resting, wireless sets, cinemas and swimming pools. The scheme costs Rs. 24 lakhs a year.

Indian Soldiers' Boards came into existence at the end of the last war to assist demobilised soldiers to take their places back in civil life. In 1938, there were 79 District Soldiers' Boards; today there are 135 in British India and another 28 in the Indian States. This organisation looks after the interests of Indian servicemen and their dependents.

Broadcasting Programmes

A new scheme for the welfare of servicemen's families—the *Fauji Sevadarni Scheme*—has been started by the Indian Army. This is in addition to the civilian District Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Board and the Civil Liaison Organisation—*Fauji Sevadarni* (Indian Military Women Welfare Workers) have been employed in certain districts to contact female relatives of absent servicemen who might be reluctant to ventilate their grievances to male welfare workers.

Broadcasting for Indian troops has now been developed as one of the most active welfare services of the Indian Army. For Indian soldiers who may not always be able to read newspapers or books the wireless has been a special boon and full advantage of this opportunity has been taken.



Gurkhas of the 5th Army are keen listeners of Indian programmes broadcast from the 5th Army Radio Station. At the radio set is Jem. Jitbahadur Gurung of Nepal.

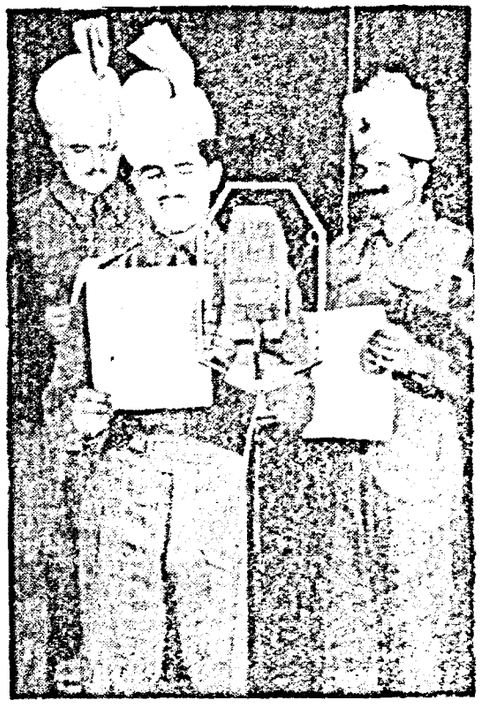
Delhi station of All India Radio broadcasts a daily programme for Indian servicemen in India, Burma, Ceylon and overseas. Broadcasts for Indian troops are also made from Colombo, Baghdad, Beirut, Teheran, Bari (Italy) and Cairo.

Ten minutes are daily devoted to purely local entertainment for troops from selected areas. Individual messages for servicemen abroad from their relatives and friends at home are also put out by All India Radio.

News concerning towns, villages, welfare associations, cattle, fields and other domestic affairs gathered by recruiting and liaison officers and correspondents are also broadcast.

Although 4,831 lease-lend sets have already been distributed to British and Indian units, there is still a heavy demand for wireless sets.

At Christmas, 1943, a monetary grant per head for the purchase of extra Christmas fare for both British and Indian troops was authorised in India and gifts in kind were sent to all Indian troops serving overseas. Funds amounting to Rs. 13 lakhs, for the Christmas



Indian soldiers overseas broadcast messages home

Gifts Scheme were provided by donations from the Viceroy, Provincial Governors and the Indian public.

Relatives of Indian or British troops who are reported to be dangerously ill in hospitals in India may now visit the men free of charge. The return fare for the journey will be given to two persons, one of whom must be a relative, wishing to see an Indian Other Rank who may be ill. Relatives of British Other Ranks and officer cadets are entitled to the concession.

The Directorate of Resettlement formed in March, 1944, has formulated a scheme for assisting in the re-employment of ex-servicemen on demobilization. A scheme for resettlement of W.A.C.(I) personnel is also being evolved. Schemes for resettling and training disabled men are also under preparation.

Civil Training Centres (controlled by Labour Department) which are now fully occupied with the training of service personnel and civilian war workers, with a capacity of nearly 30,000 places, will become available for the post-war vocational training of service personnel awaiting demobilization.

A number of women medical graduates have been recruited for medical service with full liability for general service in and out of India.

The Indian Military Nursing Service recruits Indian and European nurses for military hospitals and units attached to the Indian army. Hundreds of Indian nurses of the service have been volunteering for service overseas.

The Auxiliary Nursing Service organised in September, 1941, to form a reserve of trained nurses for the regular Indian Military Nursing Service, recruits Indian women who are not experienced and trained nurses and trains them.

Thirteen per cent. of the entire labour force, which is turning out war material from Indian factories are women.

Indian Red Cross

The *Fauji Sevadarni* or Women Military Welfare Workers consists of Indian women, mostly wives of serving Indian officers, who have pledged themselves to safeguard the welfare of military families.

While in 1939 the Indian Red Cross organisation spent Rs. 5 lakhs, in 1943 they spent Rs. 150 lakhs, only ten per cent. of which was spent on administration. The rest goes towards purchase of materials. They cater for the sick and wounded in hospitals not only in India but also abroad and our eastern frontier. They also send help to our prisoners of war in enemy hands.

There are about 400 different items that they supply to hospitals, consisting of clothing, blankets, surgical equipment, ward accessories, hardware, certain food comforts, games, musical instruments, wireless sets, stationery, books, toilet requisites and many miscellaneous articles.

In 1942, on behalf of the Indian Comforts Fund (London), Mr. Amery sent over 540,000 food parcels to Europe through the International Red Cross at Geneva, at a total cost of £200,000, which was paid for entirely by the Indian Red Cross Society.

On the St. John Ambulance Association side, their voluntary and trained nursing personnel have increased from under 500 before the war to over 4,000 now.

WOMEN OF INDIA'S RESPONSE

In India, as in Britain, the war has provided women with a big opportunity. Their response to the call to serve has been splendid —they have come forward in increasing numbers to join the Medical and Nursing Services, the W.V.S., the Red Cross and the Women's Auxiliary Corps.



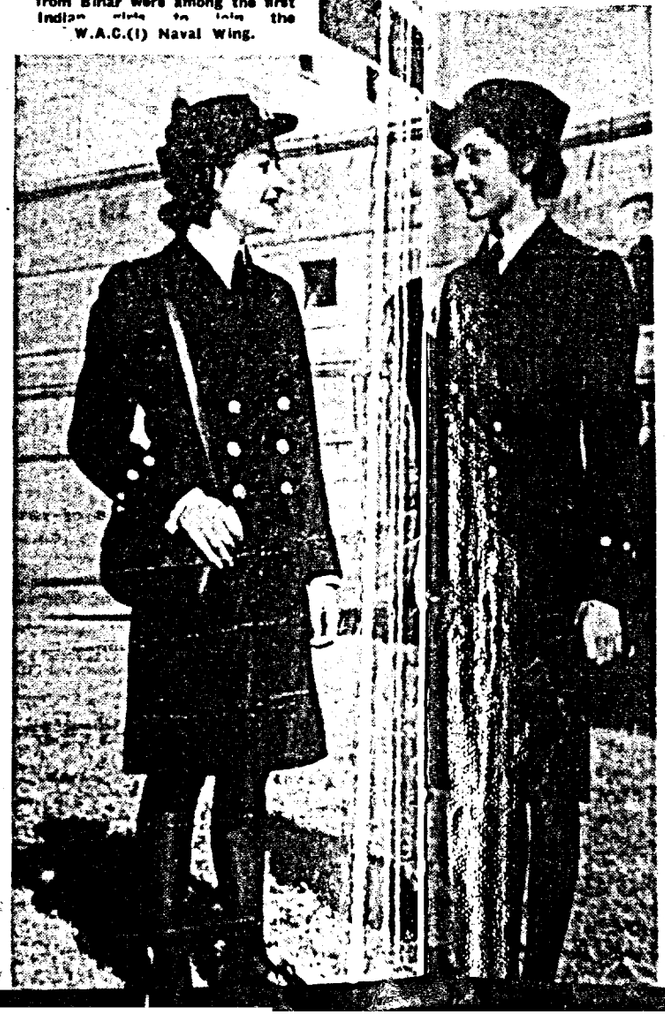
Members of the Nursing Divisions at St. John Headquarters, New Delhi. (Below) W.A.C. (I)'s at work on the engine of a motor car.



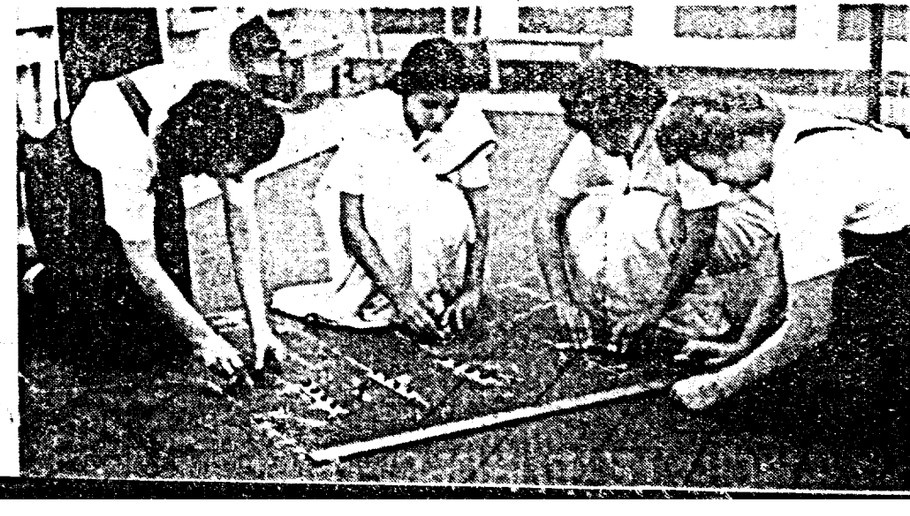


A women's workparty knitting comforts for troops. (Below) W.A.C.(I) Recruits on parade at the Inter-Services W.A.C.(I) Recruits Training Centre, Ahmednagar.

Chief Petty Officer Betty Khan (left) from the N.W.F.P. and Chief Petty Officer Moina Imam from Bihar were among the first Indian girls to join the W.A.C.(I) Naval Wing.



WRINS working with the R.I.N. Tactical Unit help in the training of naval officers. Picture shows WRINS plotting the reported positions of Allied ships and those of the enemy during manoeuvre practice.



PAIFORCE: AN IMPORTANT TASK

When an assessment is being made of the events which led up to our victory in Europe the major campaigns will loom large—North Africa, Italy, Normandy and the successes which followed it. These were campaigns on a grand scale; they are assured of a permanent place in popular memory.

But there were lesser campaigns on the success of which the later victories depended. Who now remembers the fighting in Iraq, Syria and Iran? They were comparatively minor affairs, it is true, but they were vital. If, for instance, Iraq had been lost to the Allies, the Middle East might well have been lost.

As a result of the operations in the Summer of 1941 the German threat to the oilfields of Iraq and Persia was removed, the air route to India was made secure and a new supply route to Russia—vital at that time—was opened up.

In each of these three separate campaigns Indian troops had prominent fighting roles. Later, in the Paiforce area, they carried out an important task in building up, maintaining and defending the arteries along which one of our "blood transfusions" to Russia was effected.

30-Day Campaign

First of the three Nazi-corrupted countries to receive attention was Iraq, so wooed by the Nazi propaganda of Dr. Grobba that the rebel Rashid Ali was able to arouse a section of his compatriots with some success against the Allies. It has been said that "seldom have British improvisation and resource been so brilliant and incalculable as in the 30-day campaign which led to the capture of Baghdad."

That brilliance was matched by the fighting spirit of the Tenth Indian Division, hastily rushed from India and taking part in its first "show" since formation. They were engaged in bitter fighting during May, 1941; their reward was in subduing, and making safe for the Allies a country which, in enemy hands, could have been like a knife in our belly.



Mahratta bugler sounds a call during tactical exercises in Iran.



On a snow-covered mountainside in Iran.

Shortly after the subjugation of Iraq the penetration of German influence in Syria and the complaisance of the Vichy French authorities to Nazi approaches made it necessary in June, 1941, for the Allies to step in.

Once again the Tenth Indian Division was ready. It was called on to march several hundred miles over the Iraqi desert to take Deir-ez-Zor in East Syria. The resultant threat to Aleppo was a major factor in the rapid collapse of Vichy resistance.

Four-Day Blitz

Meanwhile the Fifth Indian Infantry Brigade of the Fourth Indian Division, rushed up from Egypt, had crossed the border along the road to Deraa and Damascus and thrust north with Free French elements. Their moves were of the greatest strategic importance and helped to free Damascus.

In the four-day "blitz" in August, 1941, which was necessary to eradicate Nazi influence in Persia, the Eighth and Tenth Indian Divisions had a prominent part. Moving up from Basra the Eighth Indian Division took Abadan and the South Persian oilfields while the Tenth, with light tanks of an Indian armoured brigade, made the assault on the Pai Tak Pass and Kermanshah. The Persian positions were strongly held but the Indian troops broke through everywhere and opposition collapsed.

A flying column pressed rapidly northward and at Aveh, roughly halfway to the Caspian Sea, for the first time in this war British and Russians who had moved down from the north—met in the field.

The establishment of law and order in Persia and Iraq made it possible for the Allies to concentrate on the creation of a supply route to Russia at a time when the Germans had thrust almost across to the Caspian. Indian troops loomed large in this vast enterprise, notably the Sixth Indian Division, which, rather to its chagrin, had missed the Persian episode.

It was unspectacular but vital work. Ports had to be built, railways extended, roads made. When the work was completed the new communications had to be policed and maintained and millions of tons of supplies had to be carried to the Russian border.

This work was done largely by men of the Sixth Indian Division, working in extremes of temperatures and in country which was often barren and uninviting. That the Russians are now triumphant on German soil is the Indians' reward for three years of unremitting toil.



Men of the 4th Indian Division going into action in the Western Desert.

INDIAN DIVISIONS HASTENED AFRICA VICTORIES

ESSENTIAL prelude to the conquest of Hitlerite Europe was the purging of Nazi and Fascist influence from North Africa. It was from here that there came the first rumblings of the great storm which later broke upon the German people. Here, in 1940, assembled a gallant Allied army in the Nile valley that was first to defy and then to destroy utterly Nazi dreams of world domination.

From all corners of the Empire they came—Indians, men from the United Kingdom, Australians, New Zealanders, South Africans and others; all joined together to bar the road to the German and Italian alike.

Producers of this stout-hearted army were the men of two of India's greatest formations, the Fourth and Fifth Indian Divisions.

Both leapt into fame in the summer of 1940, when the Italian jackal sprang upon the bleeding corpse of France and the French colonial forces were no longer available to help us. Against Marshal Graziani's Libyan army of 300,000 men, another 250,000 in East Africa, a little Allied force, under the command of Field Marshal (then General) Wavell, marched into the Western Desert and fell upon the Italian hordes. In one hour and 25 minutes, in the midst of a sandstorm, our troops, the Fourth Indian Division in the van, captured the Italian camp at Nibeiwa with thousands of prisoners, many guns, lorries and vast quantities of stores.

Italian Disaster at Sidi Barrani

There followed the great Italian disaster at Sidi Barrani, where in December, 1940, over 20,000 Italians capitulated and the fate of Italy's Empire was decided. Wavell's men then swept on to Sollum, Bardia, Tobruk, Derna and Benghazi.

In the meanwhile the Fifth Indian Division was smartening up the Italians further east, where an army of 250,000 men was tasting the might of India's arms at Gallabat on the Sudan border in November, 1940. Early in the New Year the Fifth drove the Italians from Gallabat, Gedaref and Butana Bridge and then, with the Fourth, continued the pursuit deep into Eritrea.

Great victories at Barentu and Ad Teclesan paved the way for our astonishing feat of arms at Keren, where the Italians turned at bay.

Here, in some of the most difficult hill country in the world, handfuls of Indian troops clung desperately to the steep, craggy sides of towering peaks and after two weeks of bitter struggle compelled the Italians to hoist the white flag.

The Fifth went on to Asmara, Massawa fell to them and then in May came the crowning triumph when the Viceroy of Abyssinia surrendered at Amba Alagi. Italy's African Empire was now a dream.

Back again to the Western Desert went the Fourth and Fifth Indian Divisions in June, 1941, to meet a new menace—Rommel's panzers.

Offensive at El Alamein

Those were days of bitter disappointment, relieved only by the gallantry displayed by the Empire's troops. Under the command of General Auchinleck our forces contested desperately every yard of the German advance. But we were slowly pushed back to Mersa Matruh and the fruits of months of hard campaigning seemed lost; Benghazi was cut off, Tobruk fell. Well might Mussolini prepare for a triumphant entry into Cairo itself.

But at El Alamein in June, 1942, came the turn of the tide. It was the Fifth's last action before leaving for Iraq en route to India and they signalled it by capturing, in a counter-attack on the Ruweisat Ridge, no fewer than 2,000 prisoners. They were relieved by the Fourth, whose fortune it was to play a great part in chasing the Germans right out of Africa.

At the Mareth Line

On October 23, 1942, we passed to the offensive at El Alamein. A few days later with a roar from hundreds of guns, the Fourth Indian Division's Fifth Brigade forced its way through the enemy's defences and opened up a way for our armour to pass through. The avalanche had started, to come to a halt only on the other side of Africa. The man who was responsible for the German debacle had only just succeeded General Auchinleck and later, as Field Marshal Montgomery, was to strike other lusty blows against the Germans in Europe.

Rommel's mighty host was rolled back out of Egypt, then across Cyrenaica and towards Tripolitania. The old year died, January and February of 1943 came and went and the retreat continued. At the Mareth Line the enemy decided to make a stand, but his defences crumbled against the Eighth Army, the Fourth Indian Division among them, and he retreated still further west.

There followed the Fourth's brilliant action in the Wadi Akarit area, where Subedar Lalbahadur Thapa, 2nd Gurkha Rifles, won the Victoria Cross on the Fatnassa *massif*, and the pursuit of the Germans went on.

Sfax was by-passed, Sousse was occupied in the middle of April, and the stage was set for the final showdown. At Garci, peak effort of the Fourth, the Germans once more turned to fight. The men of the 6th Rajputana Rifles will ever remember Garci, for it was here that Company Havildar-Major Chhelu Ram won the Victoria Cross in circumstances of great gallantry.

Our advance progressed relentlessly. The Eighth Army linked up with the British First Army, and together they burst open the gates of Tunis in the middle of May. In this final action the Fourth Indian Division, switched overnight to effect a surprise assault on the First Army Front, played a prominent part. It was a fitting climax to the whole campaign that General von Arnim, who took over from Rommel as commander of Axis forces in Africa, was compelled to surrender to this Indian formation.

Deeds of Valour

These Indian troops had travelled far—thousands of miles—and in their odyssey they had helped to let loose the storm that was gathering fast to burst finally in Germany itself. Many were the deeds of valour they had performed. No fewer than four Victoria Crosses came to them, for in addition to those already mentioned the supreme award was bestowed on 2|Lt. (now Major) Premindra Singh Bhagat, Bombay Sappers and Miners, for his gallantry in Abyssinia in February, 1941, and posthumously to Subedar Richpal Ram, 6th Rajputana Rifles, for his fortitude at Keren the same month.

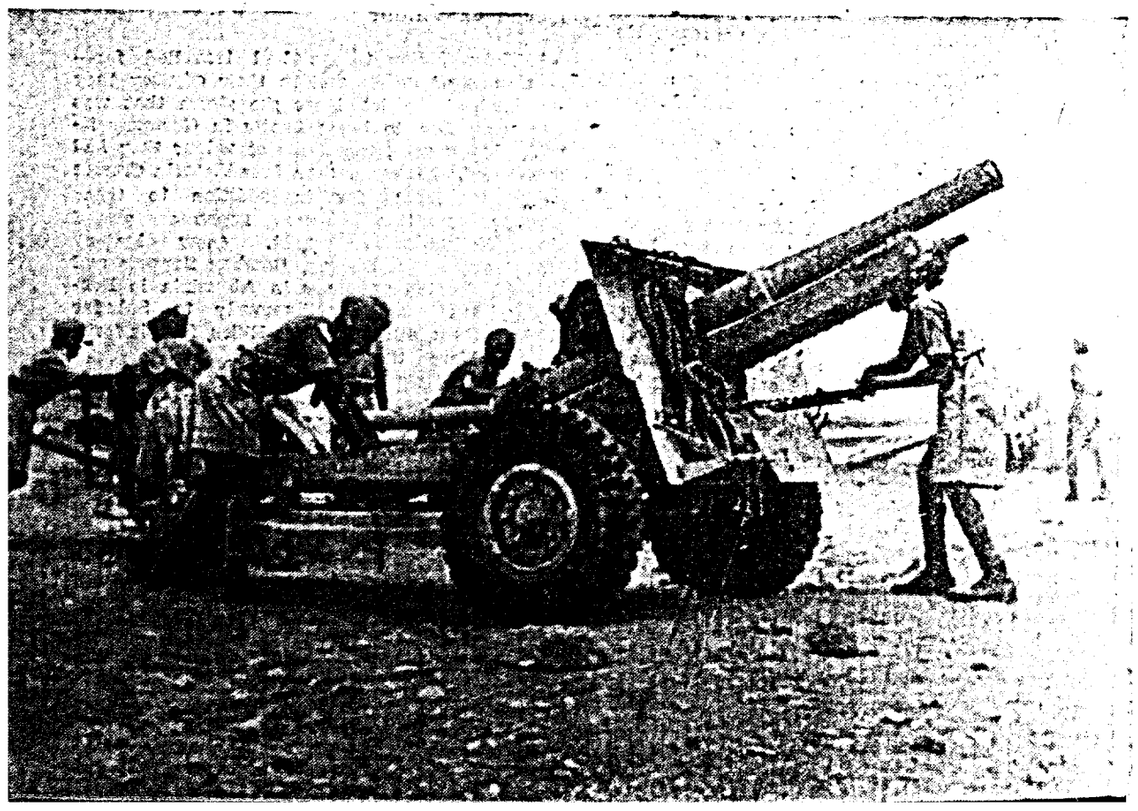
So these warrior sons of India did what they set out to do—cleanse the African continent of the Nazi plague. They did more. They added fresh renown to their country's martial traditions. They added to her prestige in the eyes of the world. They deserved that the people of India should strain every nerve, put forth every ounce of energy and make a united effort to complete the good work of our soldiers in the West by destroying the enemy in the East.

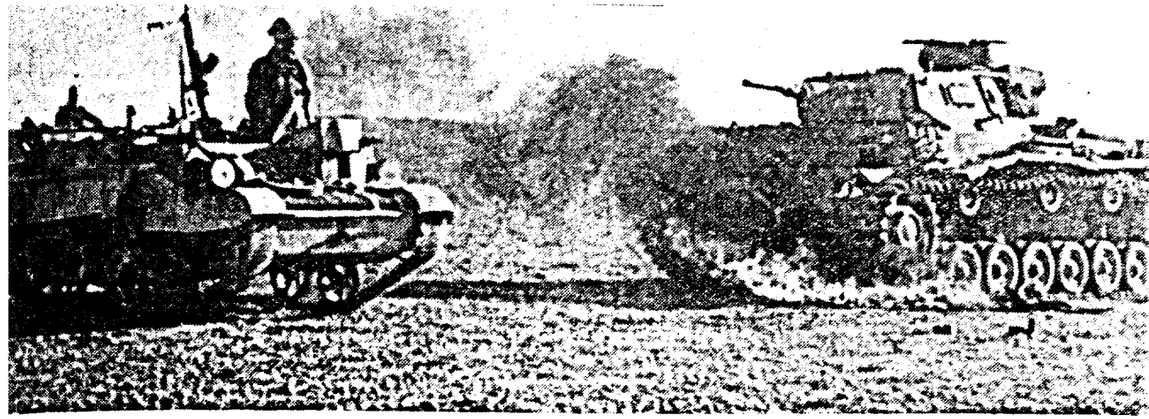


IN NORTH AFRICA....

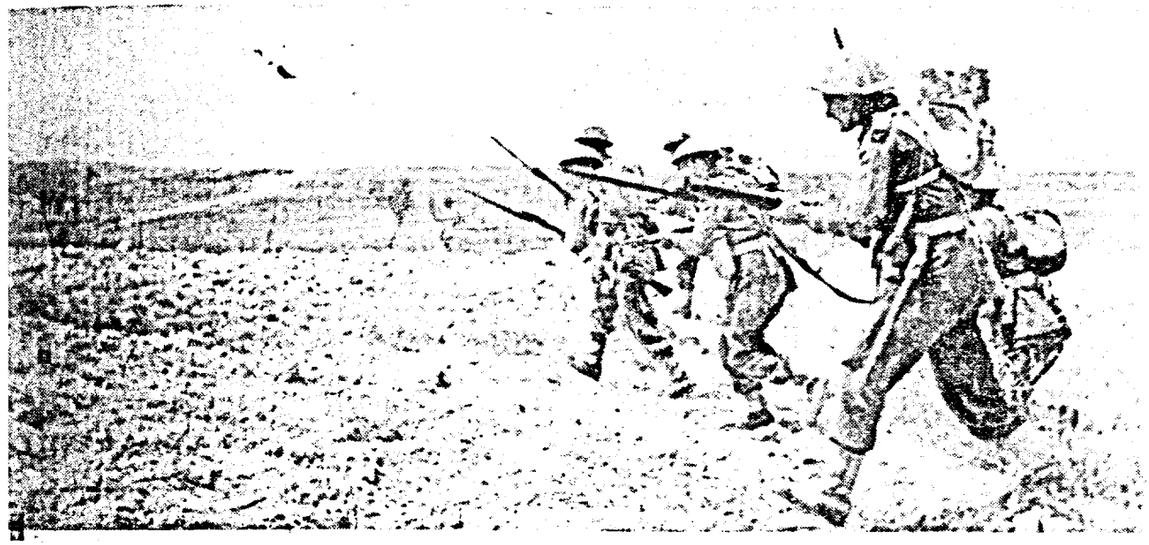
Indian officer explains, with the aid of a sand model, the infantry plan of attack on German positions in Tunisia. (Right) Sikh soldiers take up positions near the crest of a mountain in Abyssinia. The V.C.O. points out an enemy position. (Below) Sikh gunners of the Fourth Indian Division get their 25-pounder into action in the Western Desert.





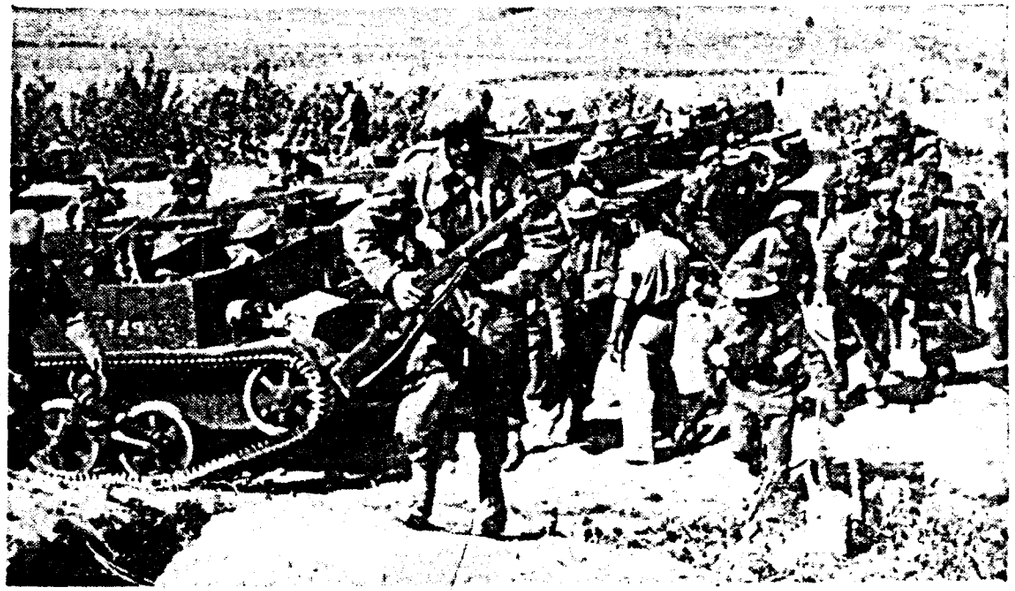


An Indian Bren carrier puts the finishing touches to the destruction of a German tank set ablaze during a battle in the Western Desert. (Below) Men of the Fourth Indian Division attack an enemy post in Tunisia.



Axis prisoners on the march. They were taken by an Infantry Brigade in the Western Desert.





Indian troops of the 5th Army dismount from their Bren carriers to take up positions during the attack across the Senio River on April 9—the beginning of the final effort to destroy the German armies remaining in Italy.

THEY HELPED TO LIBERATE EUROPE

IN the liberation of Europe Indian troops have played a worthy part. By their exploits in the hard-fought Italian campaign, they have proved to the world that the valour of Indian troops is second to none. They have also shown other great qualities—ability to continue steadfastly in action despite severe wintry conditions and capacity to campaign for long periods in difficult mountain country calling for a high degree of physical endurance.

The Italian campaign brought new honours to three of India's most famous divisions—the Fourth, Eighth and Tenth. High Allied service chiefs, including Lieut.-General Mark Clark, have praised the Indians and last year His Majesty the King himself went to Italy to see them in action.

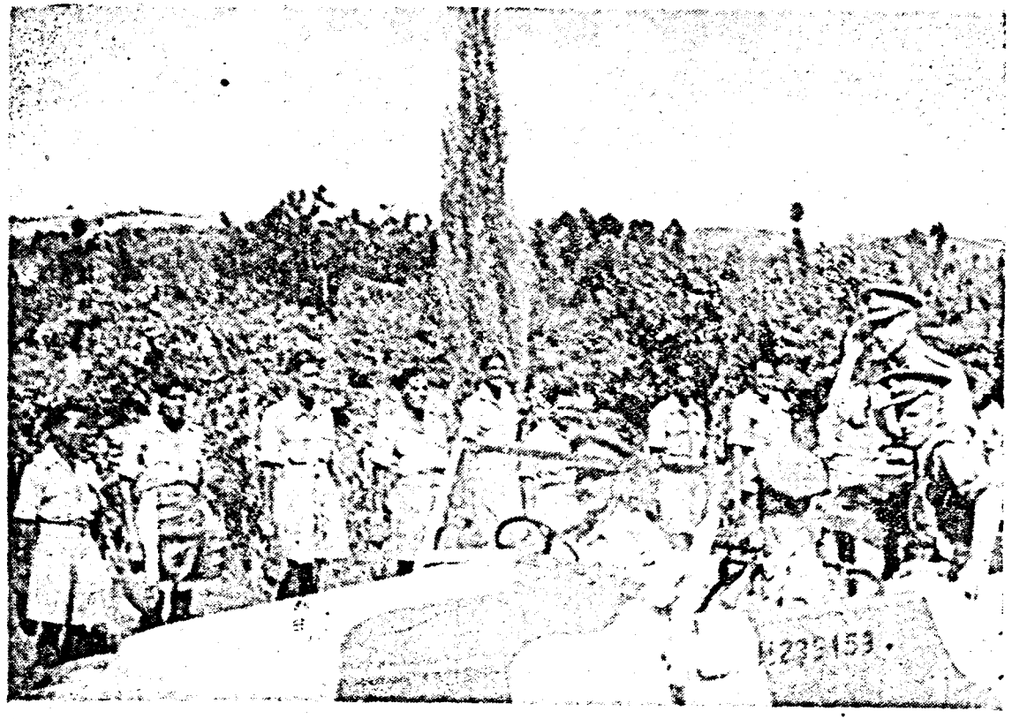
The picture in retrospect of what has been achieved by men of the Indian Army in Italy is bright and full of colour. To the tune set by Field Marshal Alexander they have played their assigned role in that majestic symphony of bravery and endurance—the American Fifth and the British Eighth Armies.

Ably led by Major-Generals Holworthy, Dudley Russel and Denys Reid, the Fourth, Eighth and Tenth Indian Divisions, forming a miniature but weighty India, have rolled on slowly but surely, for a distance of 400 miles through the so-called "soft under-belly of Europe"—really a mountainous spine—smashing in their wake several natural barriers and many more cleverly constructed artificial obstacles.

"Hun Hunting" in Italy

During the months of "Hun hunting" in Italy the bonds of friendship that had been established with other Allied troops south of the Mediterranean have been greatly intensified. The Canadian Indian combination is perhaps the closest approach to the ideal conception of brotherhood in arms. No facile turn of phraseology can describe the mutual respect and genuine friendship of the "jawan", the "Tommy", the "Yank" and the "Jock".

To the New Zealanders Indians have been tried and reliable comrades of whom only the best could ever be expected. Having arrived at a correct estimation of the fighting worth of Indians, the Yanks would say "We are sure happy to know that Indians are in our vicinity." The exploits of the Indian Infantry with the South Africans were praised by the Springboks. Before the French troops left Italy to fight for the liberation of their own country, it was to



Troops of an Indian Division lined the road as H.M. the King passed seated on the hood of his car during his tour of the Italian Front.

the liberation of their own country, it was to the Eighth Indian Division that they handed over a part of their sector. In that "blood bath" called Cassino, close association with the Poles was established.

Honours as well as hazards have come the way of Indian troops in Italy. Three Victoria Crosses were won in less than one year in Italy. What the twenty-year-old *Gujar* boy Kamal Ram, V.C. of the 8th Punjab Regiment, did on the Rapido front will live in Indian military history. The determination and cool courage displayed by the late Mahratta Naik Yeshwant Ghadge, V.C. of the 5th Mahratta Light Infantry, in one of the battles south of Citta di Castello was worthy of the highest traditions of the Indian Army. The supreme gallantry exhibited by the late Gurkha Rifleman Sher Bahadur Thapa, V.C. of the 9th Gurkha Rifles, during the rapid advance into San Marino state will be hard to parallel.

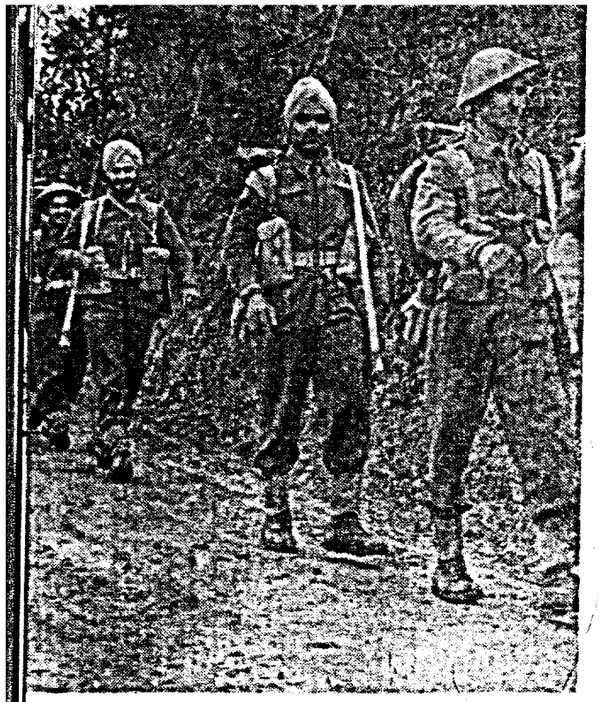
The Indian Army's score in Italy opened with the entry of the Eighth Indian Division gradually into the line on October 19, 1943. Having crossed the Biferno River before the end of the month it accomplished in November the more difficult crossing of the Trigno River despite bitter opposition by crack German paratroopers holding strong positions on 2,000-foot high hill tops.

The Division's next water jump was the crossing of the Sangro. After one brigade had gone over in a diversionary attack, the main assault was made with tank support on November 27, 1943. The Sangro was crossed, and was followed by systematic winkling out of Jerry from houses, wine cellars and dug-outs in the key village of Mozzagrogna.

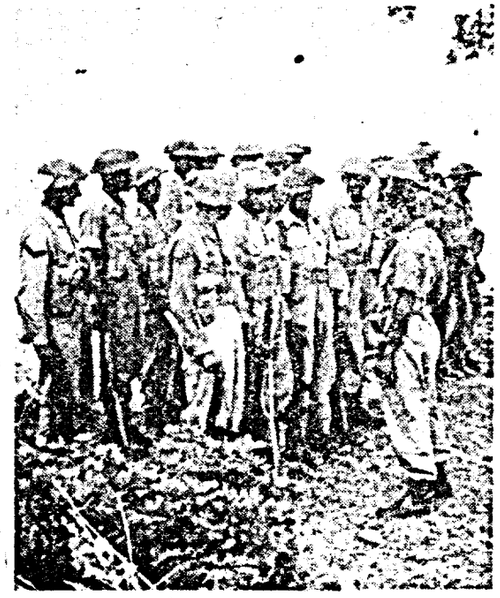
After breaking the German Winter Line by capturing Lanciano, this Indian Division had to get past the Moro River, where the enemy decided to make a stand. Consequent on the grand job done by the divisional engineers who put up the "impossible bridge" against heavy odds, tanks and infantry crossed over. The winter months were spent in the Orsogna sector.

Meanwhile the Fourth Indian Division entered the arena on December 8, 1943. Following a short spell in the Orsogna and Maiella sectors, it was shifted to the Cassino front in mid-February, 1944.

IN ITALY—



Indian shock troops of the 8th Army on the road near the Moro River.



An Indian patrol being briefed before mopping up stray German positions.



White clad, camouflaged against the snow, an Indian patrol moves through a shell-torn village in Central Italy.

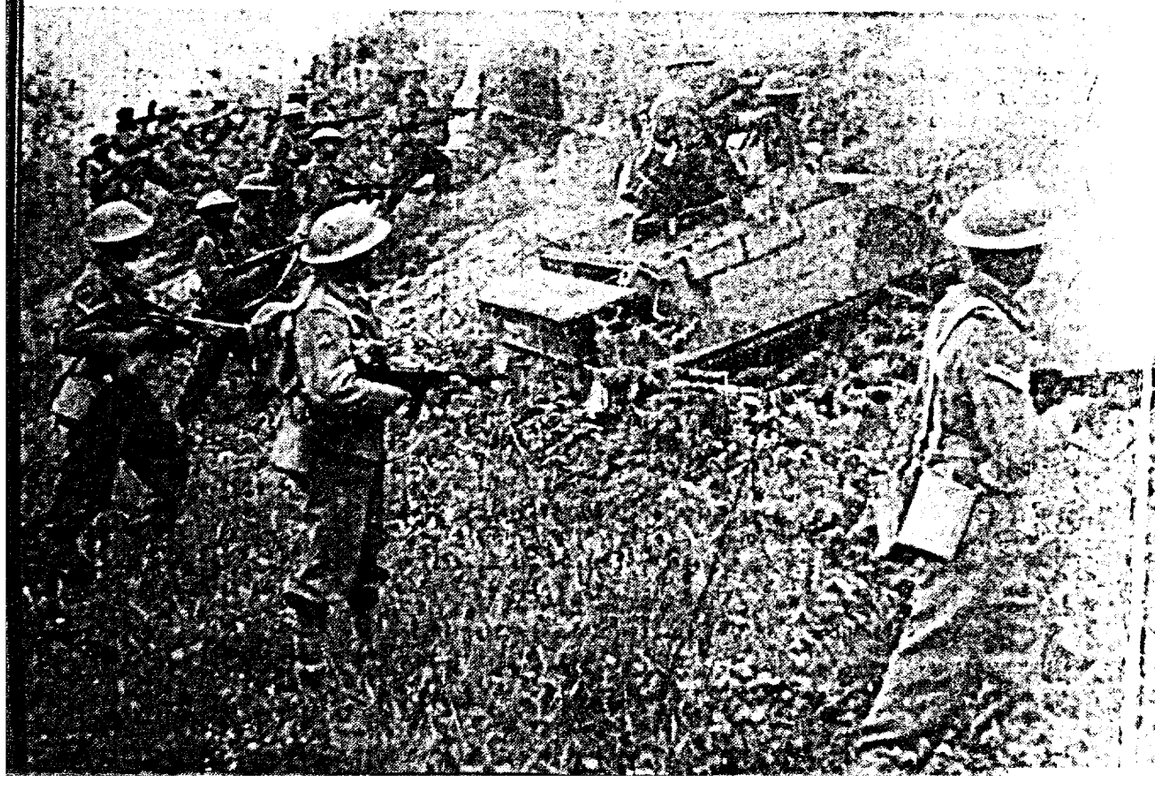


Indian sepoys investigate a German dug-out at Monte Calvo.



Axis prisoners being rounded up by Indian troops.

Mahratta Infantry with carrier support goes into action in the battle for Rome.



Mahratta soldiers crossing a river under cover of a smoke-screen and machine-gun fire.



Spearheading the American Fifth Army's second and third offensives to get past Cassino, the "Fighting Fourth" added one more glorious chapter to its history. From February 14, to the last week of March, 1944, some of the fiercest battles of the war were fought by this Division. The storming of point 593, the grim fight for points 444 and 450 and the holding of point 435, the sinister "Hangman's Hill" in the face of fantastic odds stand out as highlights of this operation.

In April, 1944, the third of the trio, the Tenth Indian Division, formed in Ahmednagar in February, 1941, and having seen active service in Iraq, Syria, Persia and the Western Desert, came in to relieve a Canadian Division in the Adriatic sector. The Division had to do patrol work for the first few weeks as the front was static due to winter conditions.

When the grand offensive for breaking through Cassino started in May, the Eighth Indian Division was assigned the most vital role—that of crossing the Rapido, south of Cassino. Commencing with a terrific artillery barrage on the night of May 11, 1944, a memorable battle was fought with a high degree of integration and co-ordination between machine-gunners, engineers and sappers and infantry. The task set was accomplished to the wonder of the world, and the name of the Eighth Indian Division featured on the front pages of newspapers. Cassino was outflanked and fell.

With the fall of Rome the three Indian Divisions were assigned new roles. The Tenth quit the Adriatic sector and appeared towards the end of June, 1944, in the Perugia-Tiber area. In the last week of July the Eighth took over the Certaldo-Poggibonsi sector from the French. After clearing Pescara and Chieti the Fourth Indian Division began beating the Boche along the Upper Tiber and Arno valleys

Attack on Gothic Line

While the Eighth crossed the Arno river, entered Florence and proceeded to the Sieve valley after fighting several battles, the Tenth maintained a steady rate of advance clearing the Boche from a succession of hill features dominating the upper reaches of the Tiber. All this time the Fourth was moving stealthily forward, travelling "incognito" to the Adriatic to spearhead the Eighth Army's all out attack on the Gothic Line.

Opening with secrecy and speed behind a thin screen of Italian forces, the Fourth Indian Division struck the first blow at the Gothic



Snow on the Italian Front. Bengal Sappers clear a road.

Line near Cagli. Urbino was captured and the Foglia River reached on the night of 29|30 August, 1944. Putting to speedy use information brought in by a patrol, elements of this Division which had caught the Jerry on the hop were firmly established 2,000 yards inside the Gothic Line; the Division swung northwest, forced a bridgehead through the Marano River and captured the citadel fortress of San Marino.

Breaking of Gothic Line

In the breaking of the Gothic Line the other two Indian Divisions also played a decisive part. Under the command of the Fifth Army the Eighth Indian Division went through Mount Giovi, crossed one more river—the Sieve—captured after a model attack Mount Verucka, and ended up by occupying a fortress feature called Femina Morta. The storming of the Gothic Line by the Eighth Indian Division was due to the tactical skill and dash of junior commanders, together with fine co-ordination of artillery, tanks and infantry.

While in the mountains overlooking Bologna, the Division was called upon shortly afterwards to avert a menacing situation in the Serchio valley in the West. Moving with maximum possible speed units of the Division went into action. Speaking of this operation Lieut.-General Mark Clark said, "We sent the bulk of the Eighth Indian Division there. They held part of the line and helped to stop the German offensive."

Meanwhile, faced with another tough assignment, the Tenth Indian Division kept moving against stubborn resistance eliminating the enemy from cliff after cliff, blazing trails for tanks, mules and jeeps., Going past Pietrolunga and Alpe di Catania, M. Filleto was taken in a frontal night attack after bayonets had clashed with machine-guns. Moving in a north-easterly direction Farneto was taken before participating in the battles of the Adriatic sector early in 1945.

Gen. Mark Clark's Tribute

Altogether, the Indian *jawan* has covered himself with glory in the Battle of Europe. In the words of Lieut.-General Mark Clark, Commanding General, Allied Armies in Italy: "The achievements in combat of these Indian soldiers are noteworthy. They have carried on successfully in grim and bloody fighting against a tenacious enemy helped by terrain particularly favourable for defence. No obstacle has succeeded in delaying them for long or in lowering their high morale or fighting spirit.

"The bravery of Indian troops is attested by the battle honours and decorations awarded. The Fourth, Eighth and Tenth Indian Divisions will for ever be associated with the fighting for Cassino, the capture of Rome, the Arno Valley, the liberation of Florence and the breaking of the Gothic Line. I salute the brave soldiers of these three great Indian divisions."

INDIAN SOLDIERS CELEBRATE ITALY VICTORY

Throughout northern Italy Indian troops have been holding *tamashas* to mark the end of hostilities on this front.

At night the sky is aglow with fireworks as various units fire red, green, purple, yellow and orange rockets, flares and "Chandeliers" augmented with tracer bullets.

In a special Order of the Day General D. Russel, Commander of the Eighth Indian Division, said:

"The Eighth Indian Division had the honour of being given the major task of the Eighth Army's spring offensive which started with the breaking up of the Senio Line and has just finished. The Division has now been called off from a pursuit which harassed the enemy to such an extent that organized resistance has completely ceased.

"The three weeks, April 9 to 29, have been a glorious period in the 20 months that the Division has been in Italy. I have been greatly impressed during this last lap by the keenness and determination of everyone to get on as far as it is possible."

INDIANS' "TRAIL OF GLORY"

Tribute to the Indian troops who fought side by side with Commonwealth and Allied troops to bring about the unconditional surrender of the enemy in Italy is paid by the Service paper, *Union Jack*.

Devoting a whole page and chronicling their activities under the heading "Trail of Glory" it says: "Among the finest fighters in the Italian campaign have been the men of the three Indian divisions—Fourth, Eighth and Tenth. Everyone who has fought with Indians has nothing but praise for their prowess."



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

R.I.N.'S PART IN THE DEFEAT OF GERMANY

UNDER the burning African sun, in the storm-swept Atlantic and in the enemy-infested mediterranean, ships of the Royal Indian Navy have contributed gallantly to victory in the west.

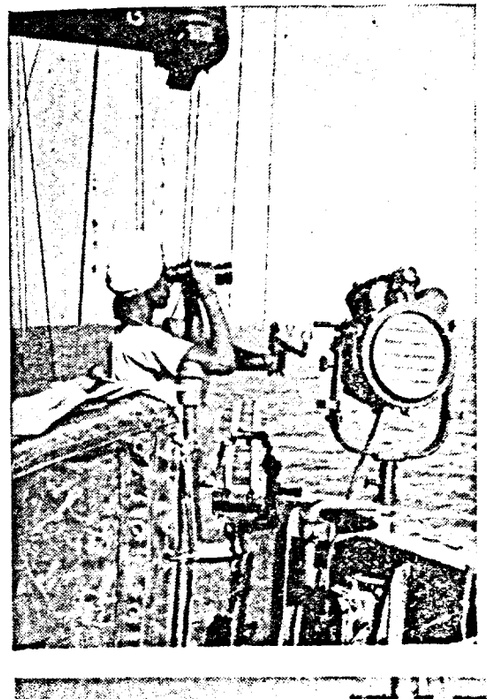
They helped to make the Mediterranean "Cunningham's Pond", played a large part in eliminating Axis influence in the Red Sea and Persian Gulf, and during the battle of the Atlantic escorted convoys and operated in U-boat "killer groups".

In 1940, a number of H.M.I. ships were placed under the Naval Commander-in-Chief, East Indies, for service in the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden and Persian Gulf. During the dark days following the fall of France it was necessary for our forces to retire temporarily from British Somaliland, and in covering the troops' withdrawal H.M.I. ships co-operated with the Royal Navy. The same vessels supported the combined operations which led to the reoccupation of the colony in 1941. Having escorted the assault force to the coast, the Navy reconnoitred the reef-strewn approaches to Berbera and with a heavy bombardment silenced the Italian batteries. A landing was made almost without opposition.

During our troops' advance into Eritrea, ships of the Royal Indian Navy co-operated in offensive action against enemy ports and coastal positions, conveyed men and supplies and swept for mines. H.M.I.S. *Ratnagiri* assisted in the landing at Mersa Taclai, and when the final assault on Massawa took place His Majesty's Indian Ships *Hindustan, Indus* and *Parvati* formed part of the Naval force.

H. M. I. Ships' Part

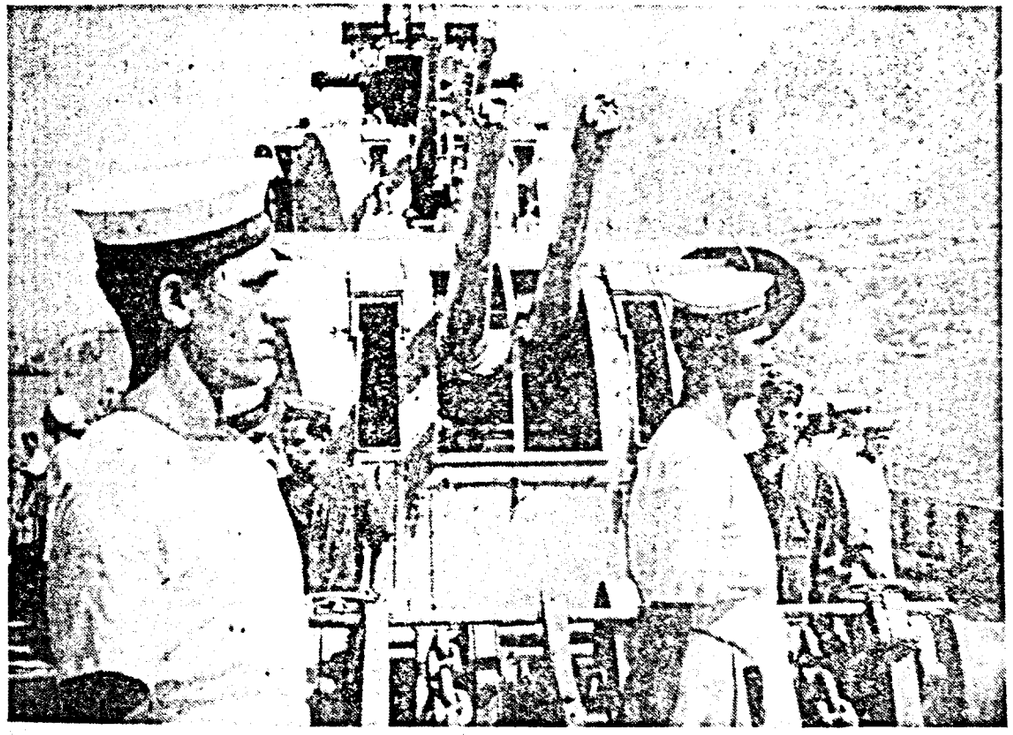
The entrance to the Italian Naval base was heavily mined, and H.M.I. ships helped in sweeping and buoying a channel through the minefields. In the first attempt to enter, one ship passed through two minefields and eventually steamed into a section where six mines were cut by the sweeps in a few seconds. A moment later one sweep was blown up and the other disabled. With unswept mines in front of her and six floating mines near her stern, she had anxious moments but managed to ease out of

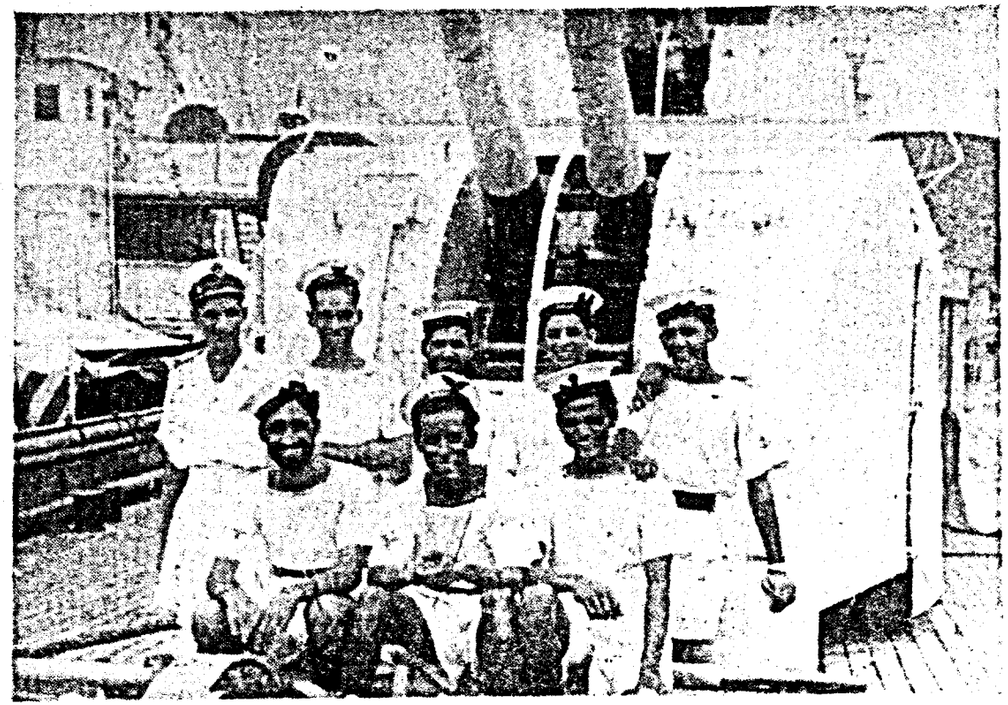


danger. A clearer passage was then found, and H.M.I.S. *Hindustan* triumphantly led the way into the captured port. Action against the enemy-held base of Assab was largely undertaken by H.M.I.S. *Ratnagiri* while other H.M.I. ships joined in reducing Italian strongholds elsewhere on the coast. In this way India's Navy helped to overthrow the Fascist regime in Italy's North-East African colonies—the first step towards its destruction in Italy itself.

In the Persian Gulf operations, necessitated in August, 1941, by Nazi intrigues in Iran, British, Indian and Australian ships landed troops at Abadan and Bandar Shahpur. Royal Indian Navy officers and men helped to save seven out of eight Axis merchant ships from being scuttled by their crews. Two Indian Naval Officers received the D.S.C., and three

(Left) R.I.N. ship on convoy duty in the Mediterranean. (Below) R.I.N. ship enters Oran Harbour (Mediterranean) after safely escorting a large convoy.





Punjabi ratings of H. M. I. S. "Jumna". Front Row (L. to R.) Leading Stoker G. Rabani (Rawalpindi), Stoker I.S.A. Shamim (Ludhiana), Stoker I. R. Joseph (Lyallpur). Back Row (L. to R.) Mechanician II Manga Khan (Attock), Stoker Petty Officer M. Sabir (Montgomery), Stoker I. M. Hussain (Gujrat), Stoker I. M. Din (Attock), Leading Stoker S. Dad (Jhelum).

D.S.Ms. for ratings were among other awards to the R.I.N.

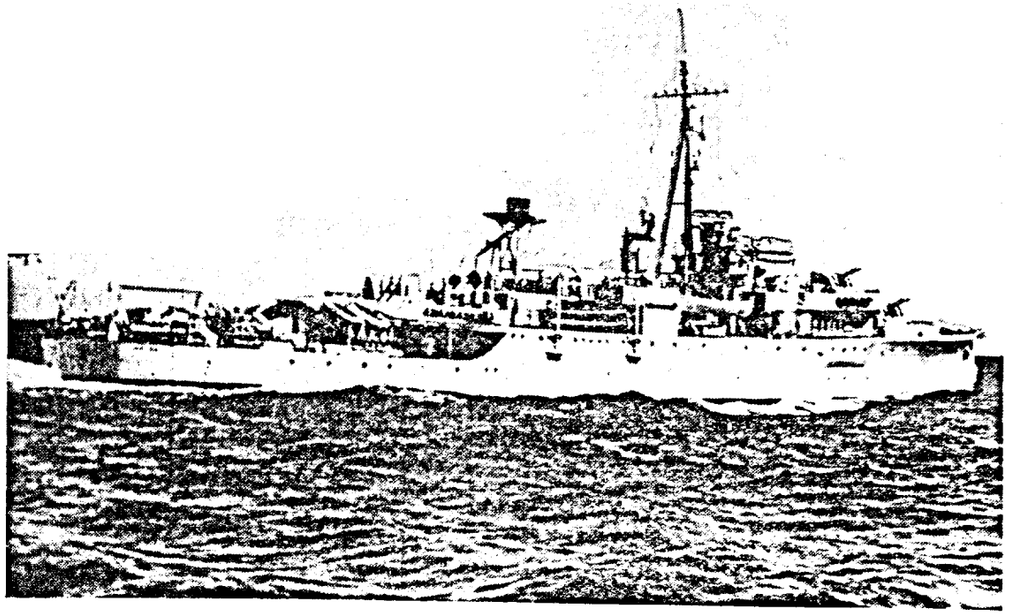
Up to this stage in the war the R.I.N. had lost two ships in action, a small loss when the magnitude of the operations is taken into account. In both cases most of the ships' companies were saved.

Convoy Duties

Several sloops built for India in the United Kingdom, including H.M.I.S. *Jumna* and *Sutlej*, were temporarily lent for service in the Atlantic from 1941 on. Escorting convoys through waters made hazardous by German submarines and aircraft, officers and men gained valuable experiences put to good use later in the Far East.

Other H.M.I. warships built in British shipyards had their share of convoy work in the Atlantic and Mediterranean. The experiences of H.M.I.S. *Kumaon* and H.M.I.S. *Kathiawar* were typical. After a period in Scottish waters they spent six weeks on convoy duties to and from Gibraltar. At times they were less than 40 miles from the First Army front in Tunisia, where the Germans had a considerable number of aircraft with which they were bombing Allied ports and convoys. U-boats in wait along the North African coast had to be hunted, and *Kumaon* was officially credited with one submarine possibly damaged. These two warships thus represented the R.I.N. at the final liberation of North Africa, one of the turning points in the war against Germany. On proceeding to India they escorted more convoys, and on many occasions had to contend with the known presence of U-boats along their route.

Sloops of India's Navy formed part of the screen of escorting warships for the Eighth Army when it landed on Sicily. They were there on "D" Day guarding our troops against attack by submarines and aircraft, and subsequently escorted convoys carrying reinforcements and supplies. One sloop was at sea for 25 days except for a break of a few hours.



H.M.I.S. "Kistna", one of the newest sloops of the Royal Indian Navy.

During that time she made a double crossing of the Mediterranean, out into the Atlantic and back to a Levant port, a distance nearly one-third the way round the globe. While in Augusta harbour she helped to repel an air attack on the port.

U-boat "Killer" Group

H.M.I.S. *Kistna*, another sloop built in the United Kingdom, was the principal anti-aircraft escort of the first convoy to be heavily attacked by glider bombs. Earlier, this same convoy had been assailed by a U-boat pack, and *Kistna* was officially credited with one U-boat "probably slightly damaged."

Another sloop, H.M.I.S. *Godavari*, was a member of an Atlantic U-boat "killer" group which made itself famous for its toll of Germany's underwater craft. On one occasion this group sank two U-boats and probably two others. H.M.I.S. *Godavari* was honoured by a visit from the King-Emperor while in British waters and afterwards led the Battle Fleet out on manoeuvres.

Ships of India's Navy have thus been in the thick of the sea war in the West, and it is fitting to end with the tribute paid to the Service by Admiral Ramsay, the Allied Naval Commander-in-Chief during the Normandy invasion.

"In this war", Admiral Ramsay said, "the Royal Indian Navy has worked side by side with the Royal Navy and the Navies of other countries. It has taken part in the battle of the Atlantic as well as serving in the seas around India. Although no ship of the Royal Indian Navy served under my command in the assault on German-occupied Europe, the Indian Navy has helped indirectly by its vigilance in other waters.

"Once more the Navies have shown that control of the routes across the oceans brings victory and that failure to control them inevitably brings defeat, however carefully the aggressors may have prepared for war on land."

On the occasion of his Silver Jubilee H.H. the Nawab of Junagadh has generously contributed Rs. 25,000 for St. Dustan's Home for Blinded Indian Servicemen.

"TOILED TO MAINTAIN TRAFFIC OF THE SEAS"

"THE Royal Indian Navy has taken its part in this victory, nor must we ever forget the work of Indian merchant seamen who, through dangers have toiled to maintain the traffic of the seas."—*Rt. Hon. L.S. Amery, Secretary of State for India.*

The Indian mercantile marine has made a notable contribution to victory in the west. Nearly 6,000 Indian seamen have made the supreme sacrifice; over 1,000 are prisoners of war and many more have suffered disablement.

On convoy duty in the Atlantic when the U-boat campaign was at its height, Indian seamen also participated in the African, Italian and D-Day landings. Today they continue to give valuable aid in operations against the Japanese.

The war has seen substantial increases in their wages. A carpenter seaman, who in the pre-war period was paid Rs. 120 per mensem, now receives Rs. 426. Similarly, the wages c cooks have been raised from Rs. 70 to Rs. 27(serang from Rs. 60 to Rs. 246, seacunny fror Rs. 55 to Rs. 231, pantryman and second coo from Rs. 40 each to Rs. 186 each and first tinda from Rs. 37 to Rs. 177. Others, paid betwee Rs. 22 (the minimum wage) and Rs. 33, no\ draw five times their pre-war wages. Tl recently, their war risks money was equal t their pre-war wages; now they have got ar other 200 per cent increase with a ceiling c Rs. 66 per month.

A scheme of compensation provides fo widows' pensions and children's allowances t dependants of seamen killed in action.

Funds have also been placed at the dis posal of the Principal Officers, Mercantil Marine Department, at Calcutta, Bombay Madras and Karachi, to provide relief for dis tressed and shipwrecked seamen, on arrival a these ports.



Boys of the training ship 'Dufferin', future officers of India's mercantile and fighting ships, photographed on the annual prize giving day.

H.E. the Viceroy has allotted Rs. 6,00,000 from his War Purposes Fund for providing amenities for Indian seamen. A similar amount has been provided for amenities for British and Allied seamen.

Two Amenities Officers for Indian seamen have been appointed at Calcutta and Bombay. A welfare committee, composed of officials and non-officials, has been formed at each of these ports, with jurisdiction over other ports. Special Welfare Officers are to be appointed at Cochin, Karachi and Madras.

Welfare Officers

A Welfare Officer for Indian seamen has recently been appointed in New York and three Welfare Officers and an Assistant Welfare Officer for United Kingdom ports. It is proposed to appoint similar officers in Australia and other countries. Clubs and canteens have been established in New York and the U.K. for the benefit of Indian seamen.

A Welfare Directorate has been created in the Commerce Department, with a Director who will be responsible for the planning and provision of amenities throughout India. There are two Deputy Directors, one to deal with the welfare of Indian seamen; the other, British and Allied seamen.

IMAM OF JAMA MASJID MEETS THE POPE

At a private audience the Pope received Shams-ul-Ulama Maulvi Syed Ahmed, the Imam of the Jama Masjid, Delhi, who has been visiting Muslim troops in the Middle East, Italy and Paiforce.

Interpreter between the Pope and the Imam was Capt. S. A. Rahman, an Indian Army officer, of Ziarat Kaka Sahib, Peshawar district.

The Imam, who is over 80, made a striking figure as he passed the colourful Swiss Guards at the Vatican city. He is a direct descendant of Shah Abdul Ghaffar. of Bokhara, a Muslim scholar of the 17th century.

The Imam is accompanied on the tour by his son, Syed Bashir Ahmad Bokhari, and a grandson, Khawaja Amihullah. He is making a six-week tour in a special plane placed at his disposal by the Government of India.

A CLEARING HOUSE FOR SUPPLIES

COMMUNICATIONS have played a very important role in speeding victory in the West and from the days of the North African Campaign, Indian ports have acted as a clearing house for India's munitions production, vital food and other supplies to the Western Theatre.

Although it appears far removed from the Western Zone, Calcutta was one of the major ports which not only cleared U.S.A. lend-lease material intended for Indian production, but lent harbour and landing crafts including tugs, lighters, barges and launches, to say nothing of trained personnel, to our fighting forces both in the West and in the East.

Credit for our success on the Eastern front and our victorious march to Rangoon legitimately belongs in a large part to Calcutta's busy port.

Several Improvements

The war caused a tremendous increase of traffic. Various agencies were connected with the working of the port. The need for co-ordinating the work of all these organisations, military and civil, and others employed in the Port areas was essential.

For this purpose the service of Mr. F. A. Pope, Chief Commercial Manager of the London, Midland and Scottish Railway, was secured and he was appointed Regional Port Director.

Since this appointment several improvements were introduced in co-operation with the Port Commissioners, Army authorities, Lighter owners, shipping agents, stevedores and others. The turn round of ships was speeded up, resulting in noticeable improvement in the rates of loading and unloading. No small credit is also due to the Port labour and labour working under the stevedores.

Some of the berths were also specially set apart for the U.S. Army and was worked by the U.S. Army personnel.

All tugs and launches belonging to the Boating companies have been pooled. Supervisory staff were appointed under an Assistant Port Director to control the operation of the Pool. Since this step the time taken from ship to shore has been steadily reduced. Clearance

from the Port and intermediate transit areas was considerably improved.

A scheme for hoisting cargoes on to steamers has also been introduced and this has considerably eased the strain on lighters moving cargo into ships.

There have been great improvements in the loading and unloading of river flats which has accelerated supplies of military stores along the rivers into Assam and thence to China thus increasing the carrying capacity along the riverways.

Facilities for Training

Arrangements for supply of drinking water to ships were previously unsatisfactory and so the Port Director extended the Pool System to water-boats also. Under this scheme, the use of all water-boats belonging to various interests has been rationalised and the supply of water accelerated. This pool is under the control of the Sea Transport Officer.

Sir Godfrey Rhodes, Port Director, who succeeds Mr. Pope, has maintained contact with all agencies using the port, with employers of labour, with shipping agents and stevedores. The spirit of co-ordination and co-operation which has been introduced will stand in good stead even after this war.

Port capacity has also been increased. The development works were carried out by the Port Engineering staff with the assistance of personnel, material and equipment from Army sources. These developments will materially assist the Port in the post-war period.

The greatly increased traffic has thrown considerable strain on the port staff who have gone through a strenuous time and stood up bravely to enemy air attacks.

A SHORT-TERM LOAN

As it appears that there is a steady 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 further issue of 2½ per cent. Loan 1948-52 for Rs. 25 crores, said a Press Note issued by the Finance Department, Government of India.

It added: The securities will be available for sale on Government account by the Reserve Bank of India through the usual procedure for the sale of counterparts and special issues at prices to be ascertained from the Bank.

ARMY SHIPBUILDERS SPEED FRONT-LINE SUPPLIES

TO-DAY the Indian Army is not only sailing ships but building them as well.

Many thousands of tons of vital stores have been carried to our fighting men in the Arakan by men of the Indian Engineers who operate the supply craft along the eastern waterways. Now comes an announcement of the Army's part in building these vessels.

As the 14th Army pushes forward into the area intersected by countless rivers and *chaungs* more and more inland water transport craft are needed for supplies. The Transportation Service of the Indian Engineers has taken a hand in building them.

Supply Boats

On the site of a former jute mill on the banks of the Hooghly the Army's first dockyard is springing up. Indian troops of the Transportation Service have been trained to work as welders, platers, rivetters, carpenters and shipwrights.

Vessels varying from ten to 500 tons are already being assembled, welded and fitted with accessories. They are let down temporary shipways and floated to the Hooghly to begin their careers as front-line supply boats.

The dockyard presents a busy scene. Mill buildings have been turned into workshops, store sheds and barracks; new workshops are going up and roads and light railways have been laid.

A creek by the side of the mill has been widened and deepened by hundreds of Indian labourers and massive earth-moving machinery. A new quay is being constructed and permanent slipways will soon be ready.

Mobile Cranes

Mobile cranes unload the "knocked down" parts of the new craft. Soldier-technicians sort out the prefabricated parts and engines, received in huge packing cases, and feed them to the ever-hungry construction gangs.

From parts prefabricated in England and America with engines from British and American factories, complete craft are being turned out as fast as human ingenuity can contrive even while work continues on the erection yard itself

"INDIAN SOLDIER IS ASTONISHINGLY VERSATILE"

Gen. Sir Mosley Mayne's Tribute

"HAVING served and fought, during this war, with Pathans, P.Ms., Sikhs, Dogras, Gurkhas, Jats, Rajputs, Mahrattas, Madrassis and many others I find it impossible to select any particular class for the award of the Blue Rosette. Each has its own characteristics and outstanding qualities, but the Indian soldier of this war is astonishingly versatile", said Gen. Sir Mosley Mayne, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., A.D.C., Military Secretary to the India Office, addressing the Royal United Service Institution, London, recently. Field Marshal Sir Philip Chetwode, G.C.B., O.M., G.C.S.I., K.C.M.G., D.S.O., was in the chair.

Speaking of the recent accomplishments of the Indian soldier Gen. Mayne said:

"It fills those of us who knew the Indian soldier in the first three decades of this century with admiration and pride when we see that he has accomplished, in the field of modernisation, so much more than we expected and hoped of him, and when we see proof that Indian formations, in modern warfare, are a match for the equivalent formations of any first class power. We saw it in the Middle East, and we are seeing it now, even more unmistakably, in Italy and Burma."

Referring to the "martial" classes in the Indian Fighting Services Gen. Mayne said that dictated to a great extent by the need to widen the net for vast expansion of numbers, discrimination between the classes enlisted in the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force had largely disappeared. Certain races, excluded for several generations, or enlisted in restricted numbers, had come into their own again, proving themselves as valuable and as staunch in battle as the races hitherto exclusively styled as "martial".

He added that Gurkhas, Pathans and Dogras —essentially hillmen—had fought as well as any in the Desert. Jats, Mahrattas and Rajputs from the plains had fought and won on the crazy heights of Keren, the Abyssinian uplands and the Italian Appennines. All classes were proving the master of the Jap in the dense jungles of Burma.

Referring to the brigade which he took overseas at the start of the East African campaign Gen. Mayne said that it was an "Indianising" battalion of the Frontier Force Rifles. There were no special Indianised units in the Indian Army. All were indianising. The Commanding Officer of that battalion, the second-in-command and one other officer were British, and the balance were King's Commissioned Indian Officers and Indian Commissioned Officers.

Gen. Mayne said that no battalion could have done better at Gallabat, Keren, Amba Alagi and, later in the Desert. In that battalion or in others, he had seen a Sikh commanding P.M.'s, a Parsi commanding Sikhs, a Rajput commanding Mahrattas. Contrary to the foreboding of many of them, it worked. The modern unsophisticated Indian soldier would obey and follow any officer, British or Indian, provided he was just, impartial and professionally efficient. Again, British officers and other ranks were serving in regiments, in battalions, in batteries and in almost every type of unit under the command or leadership of K.C.I.O.'s and I.C.O.'s. It was working well.

Mutual Respect and Friendship

Speaking of the various Arms and Services, he described the expansion in and the good work done by the Indian Armoured Corps, Indian Artillery, Indian Sappers and Miners, the Signals, Indian Infantry and the Administrative Services and spoke of the relations between the British and Indian elements in the Army in India.

"Having served and fought exclusively with Indian Formations during both wars, I am quite sure of my facts when I tell you that the mutual respect and friendship between British and Indian troops in this war is very much stronger than it was even in the war of 1914-18. May I give you one or two typical examples?

"On one occasion a battleworthy Indian battalion from each of the brigades in my division was to be withdrawn to strengthen other brigades which had seen no fighting. Before they left, one full battalion—officers, N.C.O.s and men—was given a party by a British county regiment; it was a spontaneous gesture of esteem and affection by the British soldier. The second battalion was similarly feted and entertained by a British Field Artillery regiment. I expect the third battalion was entertained too—it certainly was close friends with the British battalion in the brigade—but I do not know; I was not there.





A mobile workshop (left) in a forward area where Army technicians work to keep our troops fully supplied with the weapons of war. Briefly, their job is to repair damaged equipment as quickly as possible and get it back to the fighting line. (Above) Fitter G. Jesurathnam (Sangamyaguria Mudi), Fitter P. Kondaiah (Kavali) and Driver G. Chinna Rao (Mallavaram) work on a jeep.



Fitter M. Swamidoss (Barwada), Driver S. Martin (Godavole) and Fitter V. Venkata Ratnam (Rajahmundry) are mending tyres and tubes.

"On another occasion, just as I was finishing an hour's climb to the summit of a rocky, precipitous hill to a battalion O.P., I saw a party of Garhwalis giving tea and chapattis to half a dozen British gunners. On my way down a little later, the same party invited me in. Having drunk my tea and knowing that they were on short rations of food and water, I asked whether they made a habit of entertaining every stray gatecrasher to their battalion O.P. They answered:—"We had to ask you because you are our general; we asked the others you saw because they are our gunners; we don't ask everyone." The friendship between that battalion and the 28th Field Regiment R.A. was very remarkable.

Speaking of the Royal Indian Navy and the Royal Indian Air Force, Gen. Mayne said:

"Due to rapid expansion the Royal Indian Navy, in common with other services, found itself very short of experienced personnel. Training establishments were, therefore, modernised and new establishments built. In all there are now 16 schools accommodating about 4,000 ratings undergoing training in the various branches of the Service. Courses are identical with those for corresponding personnel of the Royal Navy, and the Indians are mastering the intricacies of modern equipment remarkably well.

"The fleet now comprises several modern sloops, fleet minesweepers, trawlers, coastal craft and landing craft, and ships of the Royal Indian Navy have served in most naval theatres of war other than the Pacific. With ships of the Royal and Dominion Navies they have taken part in operations in the Red Sea, Persian Gulf, Atlantic, Far East and in the Mediterranean, and, of course, H.M.I.S. *Bengal's* spirited action, while on her maiden voyage from Australia with the Dutch tanker Ondina, against two large Japanese raiders will readily be recalled. In addition, coastal craft have carried out operations on the Arakan coast, fought many successful actions and are still operating in that area.

"At present the Royal Indian Navy provides about half the ships of the East Indies Escort Group and a similar proportion of the Coastal Forces and is playing a very vital role, though, for obvious reasons, details cannot at present be given.



British officers of a Sikh battalion wear head-dress, beard and same uniform as their men. Picture shows (L. to R.) Hav. Madho Singh, Maj. P. W. Weeler, of Dorchester (Dorset.), Maj. M. W. S. Hoch, of Hampstead (London) and Capt. M. B. Elstau of Highbury (London).

"India is very proud of her growing navy; and the Allies have every reason to be very grateful to the Service for the part it has played, is playing and promises to play in the future.

"India's Air Force is a new and young service. Formed in 1933 it consisted, at the outbreak of the War, of a single squadron with 13 officers and 260 airmen. Now it has expanded tenfold and supplies one-fifth of the personnel in the S.E.A. Air Command. Apart from this increase in size, the Indian Air Force (now Royal Indian Air Force) has been supplied with, and fully trained in the use of, modern aircraft and equipment to the same standard as in the Royal Air Force.

Royal Indian Air Force

"The Indian Air Force is entirely Indian in composition. As in all of India's fighting services recruitment is entirely voluntary and the expansion achieved during this war has been on that basis. If assistance is required from British personnel they remain in the Royal Air Force and are merely "attached". Any Indian can join the Indian Air Force without restriction of class, caste or creed. The men all live and eat together in the same messes without religious distinction. The Service is drawn from all over India.

"When the war with Japan broke out an Indian Air Force squadron was sent to fight in Burma. It was a great moment as it was the first time the Indian Air Force was to take part in a major war, and it was the first completely Indian squadron. Since then, several Indian Air Force squadrons have fought the Japanese successfully. It has been Indian squadrons which have provided the army with its air reconnaissance during the recent fighting on the Burma Front.

"Their duties have also included dive bombing, tactical and photographic reconnaissance, strafing and numerous other operational missions including supply dropping. Several Indian pilots have distinguished themselves and have been decorated for gallantry.

"In brief, the Indian Air Force has already taken its stand with the other Air Forces of the Commonwealth. It has inherited the spirit and the tradition of the Royal Air Force and is an integral and essential member of the Empire Brotherhood of the Air. It has begun extremely well and, having justifiable pride in its past achievements, is facing with confidence the wider role which it will be called upon to play during the closing stages of this war."

Gen. Mayne, paying a tribute to India's contribution to the war effort and to the part played by Indian troops in the various theatres of war, said:

"At the start of the war with Germany and before Italy ranged herself against us, India, having already sent reinforcements to the peacetime garrison of Singapore, the 4th Indian Division to Egypt and transport units to France, had domestic military problems of her own to face. She had to prepare for the defence of her Western frontiers against the indefinite, but yet conceivable, contingency of hostile invasion from that quarter by a first-class power.

"The threat increased, and then diminished, and then grew again as German hordes swept eastwards across Russia and southwards to the Caucasus near the border of Iran. The threat, which seems to be forgotten by, or unknown to, the general public, remained a real one until the late summer of 1942 when the Russians, after their historic stand at Stalingrad, turned the tide and swept the German armies from the Caspian to the Black Sea.

"During that early period India, despite her domestic commitments, was pouring out her resources in men and material—the 5th Indian Division and other formations, garrison units and administrative services, to the Middle East; the 8th, 10th and 6th Indian Divisions, and armour too, to fight in Iraq, Persia, Syria and elsewhere. Once again, may I remind you of the strong British element in each of those divisions.

Indian Armoured Corps

"In addition, India was contributing to the war effort overseas a quantity of indigenous resources and material which imposed a very heavy strain on her own economy—railway track and rolling stock; ocean going ships and river craft; productive and manufacturing capacity over a very wide range.

"Then, while India was still looking westwards, Japan attacked from the East, and India was forced to turn about and face in that direction too. Although her immediate preoccupation was now the defence of her own Eastern frontier against the Japanese Army with which she was at close grips, India still maintained at full strength her military contribution to the Middle East and Paiforce.

"In that summer of 1942, three Indian divisions and a brigade of the Indian Armoured Corps were fighting in the Western Desert; three Indian divisions, amongst others which were not Indian, were ready to meet the very real threat of a German advance through Iran against the oilfields of Iraq and Khuzestan and towards the western frontier of India itself; other Indian formations were, as I have said, holding the hitherto victorious Japanese on the Burmese frontier; and, in addition, India was raising and training the numerous fresh formations which are winning the war in the Far East to-day.

"Now the menace to her own frontier exists no longer, but India's contribution to the Allied war effort is greater than ever before. Recently, an Indian formation went to Greece to deal with the trouble there; Indian troops in very considerable numbers are still employed on security and administrative duties all over the Middle East Command; and Indian formations are taking, and others are ready to take, a leading part in the destruction of the Japanese Armies wherever they stand and fight.

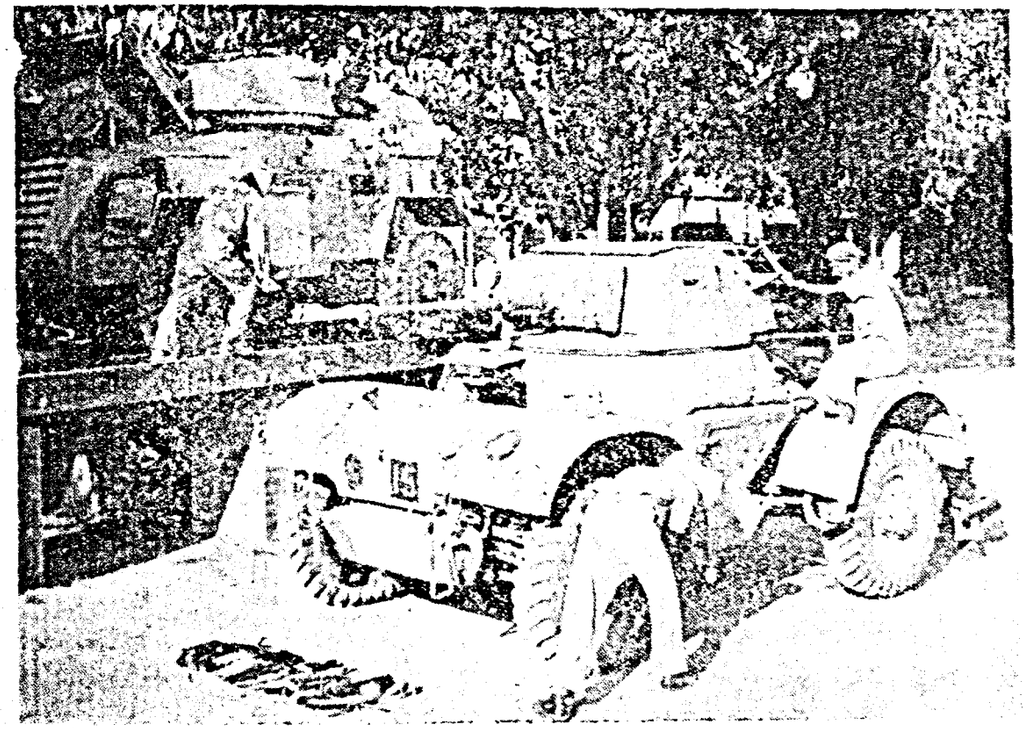
"Going around, as I did in India during 1944, I sensed amongst all ranks, British and Indian, of certain units a distinct feeling of jealousy. Such and such a division, such and such a unit, has had all the luck. It has been in battle for months or even years. We are every bit as good, but have not had our chance yet. When is it going to come? Such is the spirit in the Army in India, and in the Royal Indian Navy and in the Indian Air Force too. Their morale is wonderfully high."

C.-IN-C.'S VICTORY MESSAGE TO BRITISH SERVICEMEN

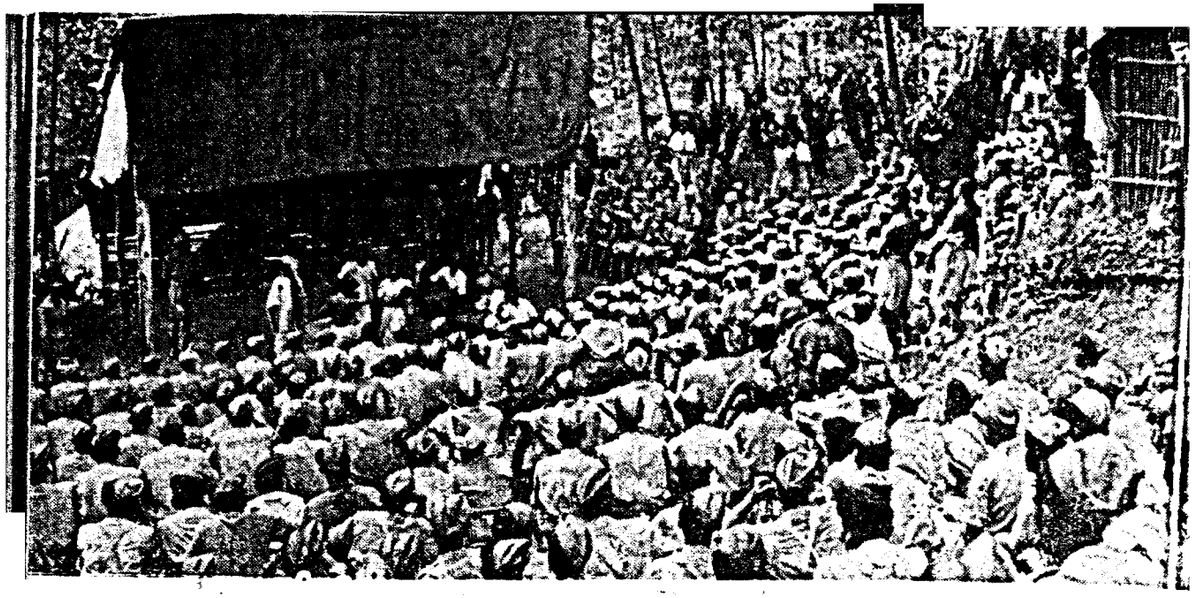
In a victory message to British servicemen, Gen. Sir Claude Auchinleck, says:

"Many of us have felt at times that it was our brothers and relatives in Europe who were fighting the main enemy of freedom; we must not forget that the Japanese are as great a menace to our way of life as were the Nazis.

"With the wealth of material and manpower now coming to hand for use against Japan the end is sure and cannot long be delayed if each one of us puts forth his or her full effort. To achieve this we shall all need the firmest determination and the strictest self-discipline."



Recruits to the Indian Armoured Corps learn to repair and maintain armoured vehicles.



Indian soldiers being entertained to Indian dancing and music by some of their comrades in a forward area on India's eastern frontier.

H. E. THE VICEROY'S WAR PURPOSES FUND

THERE is hardly a war charity or an organization connected with the war effort either in India or in England which has not benefited during the last five and a half years from the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund. The Fund was opened in September 1939, to serve as a channel for transmitting to the proper authorities the contributions for war purposes which the people and Princes of India began to offer as soon as war broke out.

In its sixth year the Fund continues to receive voluntary contributions from all parts of India, having reached the total of Rs. 11.64 crores at the end of February. Of the total receipts about Rs. 6.5 crores have been contributed by the Princes. The largest of these contributions have been Rs. 190 lakhs from Hyderabad; Rs. 54 lakhs from Mysore; Rs. 26 lakhs from Nawanagar; Rs. 24 lakhs each from Travancore and Baroda; and Rs. 20 lakhs each from Jodhpur and Gwalior.

The great generosity of the Princes continues unabated, recurring contributions from them amounting to Rs. 39 lakhs annually.

These magnificent contributions in no way overshadow the small donations of the poor—totalling Rs. 5 crores—whose sacrifice has been perhaps the greatest. "Kindly take this poor's rupees two as two lakhs as I can afford to pay only this much"; a child's contribution of Rs. 10, saved from his pocket money; a peon's Rs. 7 on two occasions—these are but a few of the many examples.

Indians abroad, who have contributed lakhs of rupees to the Fund, continue to send large amounts and recently contributions totalling thousands of rupees have been received from Zahidan, Muscat, Meshed, Abadan, Kerman, Zanzibar, Kabul, Teheran and from the Aly Khan's Ismailia War Fund of Africa.

Grants from the Fund

Donations received from "Well-wishers in Ethiopia", Persian Nationals in Teheran and Yezd and from the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce during the last eight months show the interest continued to be taken in the Fund in foreign countries.

Payments amounting to Rs. 10.10 crores have been made from the Fund in accordance with the wishes of donors as well as on the advice of the Appeal Committee. They show how great a part the Fund has been able to play in assisting the war effort during the five and a half years of its existence



Indian soldiers playing indoor games at an Army training centre.

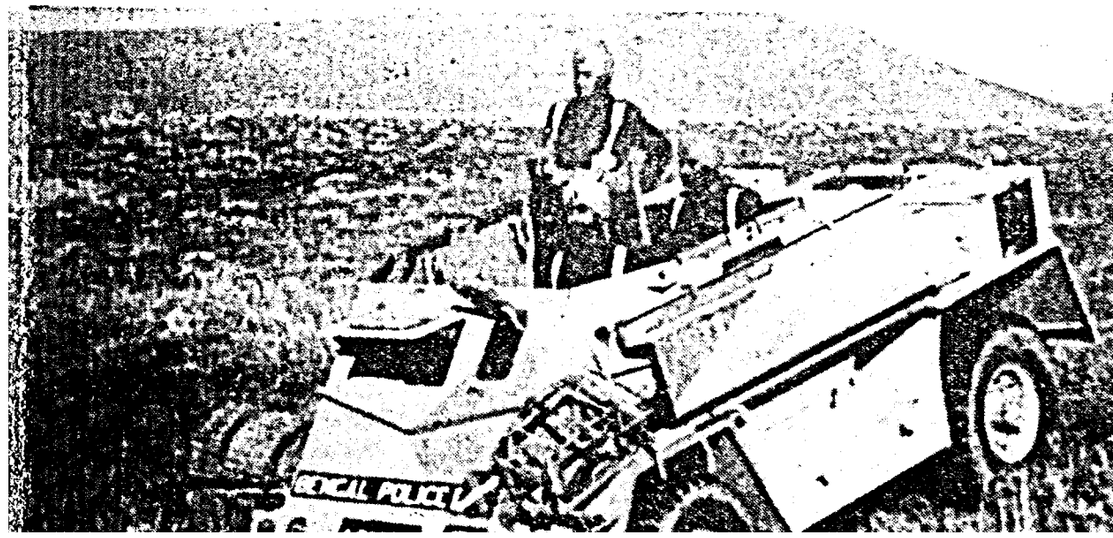
Large grants have been made for the improvement of amenities for troops, Merchant Navy personnel and Women's Services in India. During the last eight months over Rs. 12 lakhs have been given for the establishment of clubs, institutes and canteens and the provision of other amenities for Merchant seamen at ports in India; Rs. 6 lakhs to Air Headquarters for the benefit of officers and airmen of the R.I.A.F. in India; Rs. 3,25,000 to Naval Headquarters for welfare work in the R.I.N.; Rs. 2 lakhs for woollen scarves and gloves for Indian troops in Italy; Rs. 75,000 for the supply of extra tea and amenity packets for troops in Italy; and Rs. 2 lakhs to the Y.W.C.A. for service to women in uniform. Apart from these, other payments have been made for troops amenities, including contributions earmarked by the donors themselves. The latter were transferred to the Welfare Directorate of General Headquarters.

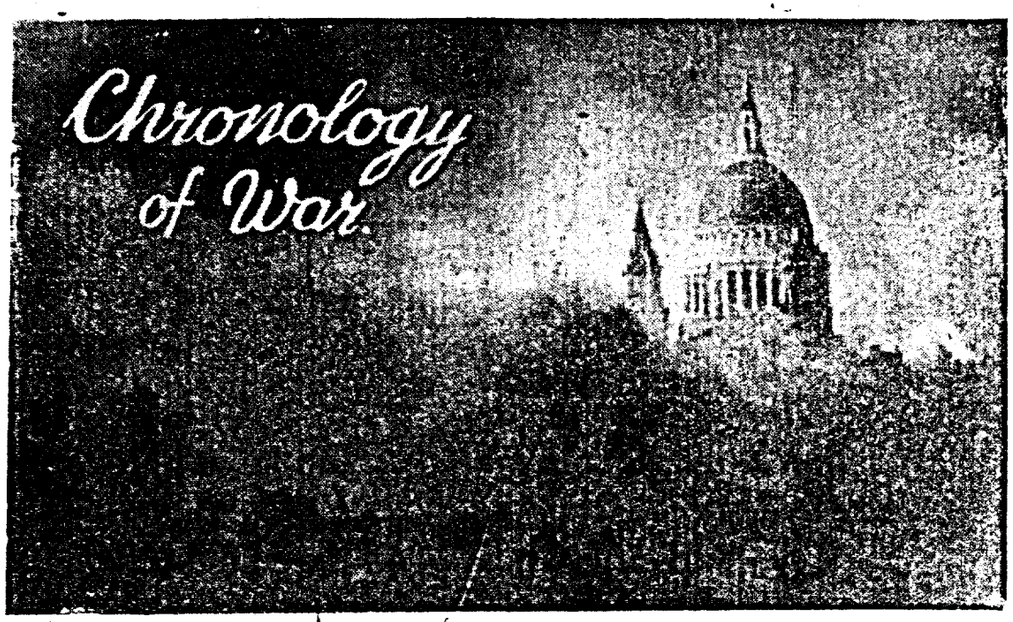
Besides grants for amenities, important payments from the Fund included Rs. 252.94 lakhs to the R.A.F.; Rs. 257.18 lakhs to the Indian Red Cross and St. John Ambulance Association; Rs. 52.27 lakhs for armaments for the defence of India; Rs. 38.90 lakhs to the R.I.N. for minesweeping trawlers and other naval craft; Rs. 10.68 lakhs to the Indian Comforts Fund in London for parcels for Indian prisoners of war in Europe and amenities for Indian troops and seamen in England; Rs. 20.76 lakhs to the Lord Mayor's Fund for air raid relief; and contributions for relief of war distress in Allied countries, such as China, Greece, Russia and Burma.

The St. Dunstan's Section of the Fund for the war-blinded totalled Rs. 19,50,000 on February 28, 1945. Rs. 11,50,000 has been sent to St. Dunstan's in England and Rs. 7,00,000 has been spent in India, largely on the establishment of a St. Dunstan's Centre at Dehra Dun. The Centre has filled a great need and is doing most useful work for India's war-blinded.

The Indian Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Boards and the separate Benevolent Funds of the R.I.A.F. and R.I.N., which are responsible for providing relief to incapacitated members of the forces and dependants of those killed, will be given special consideration when the balance in the Fund comes to be distributed at the end of the war. Post-war schemes for rehabilitation of soldiers and for education of their children will also benefit from the balance.

An armoured carrier presented by the Bengal Police and manned by men of a famous Indian Armoured Corps Regiment.





St. Paul's Cathedral—photograph taken during the blitz on London.

SEPTEMBER 1939—MAY 1945

September (1939)

1—Germany invades Poland.

3—Britain and France declare war against Germany. *Athenia* sunk north-west of Ireland.

27—Warsaw falls.

October

11—Empire Air Training scheme announced.
Barter agreement—timber for tin and rubber—concluded with U.S.S.R.

12—Chamberlain rejects Hitler's peace proposals.

November

17—Allied Supreme Council adopts plans for pooling economic resources.

December

13—Battle of the River Plate.

17—Following the River Plate battle, German pocket battleship the *Admiral Graf Spee* scuttled.

First contingent of Canadian troops lands in Britain.

27—Indian troops land in France.

1940

February

12—First contingent of Anzacs reaches Suez.

March

18—Hitler-Mussolini meeting at the Brenner Pass.

20—Daladier resigns.

28—Supreme War Council decision not to conclude peace or armistice except by mutual consent.

April

9—Germans invade Denmark; Copenhagen occupied.
Germans invade Norway.

10—First Battle of Narvik; German advance from Oslo.

13—Second Battle of Narvik; seven enemy destroyers sunk.

15—British landing near Narvik.

16—British landing in Faroe Islands.

16-18—British troops land at Namsos.

18-19—British troops land at Andalsnes.

20—Announcement of French landing in Norway.

23-24—British fail to reach Trondheim.

May

2—Allied forces embark at Namsos (announced on May 3).

3—Polish landing in Norway announced.

10—Germany invades Holland, Belgium and Luxemburg; British and French troops enter Belgium; Germans cross the Maasat Arnheim; British troops land in Iceland; Churchill becomes Prime Minister.

11—British War Cabinet formed.

13—Dutch Government move "elsewhere".

14—Local Defence Volunteers in U.K. proposed; bombing of Rotterdam (of the 50,000 civilian casualties, 30,000 were killed); Holland capitulates; Queen Wilhelmina arrives in London.

15—Germans break across the Meuse.
B.E.F. withdrawn west of Brussels.

24—Germans advance to the Channel ports.

28—Narvik falls.
Belgian army capitulates.

May 28-June 3

—Dunkirk evacuation; 244,585 British and 112,546 French and Belgian troops evacuated. 222 British naval vessels and 635 other British craft engaged in the operation.



Some of the thousands of British soldiers, tired but undaunted, who were brought back safely from Dunkirk.



Marshal Petain, leader of the puppet Vichy Government, shaking hands with Otto Abetz, German Ambassador to Paris, when the former became Premier of France and asked Germany for armistice.

British material lost—700 tanks, 2,400 guns and 50,000 vehicles of all kinds. British casualties total 13,000 killed and 40,000 P.O.W.

June

3—Paris bombed.
5—Battle of France. Germans forced the Somme and Aisne-Oise crossings.
Cripps appointed Ambassador to Russia.
11—French retire across the Marne.
Italy at war with Britain and France.
13—Paris declared an open town.
14—Germans enter Paris.
16—British offer of Anglo-French Union rejected by French Government. Reynaud resigns.
Petain forms new government.
17—Evacuation of B.E.F. from France completed; de Gaulle's broadcast appeal to the French to continue the fight.
18—Hitler-Mussolini meeting at Munich.
25—Hostilities in France end.
German armistice accepted.
26—Announcement of de Gaulle's plans to continue fight.
28—Viceroy promulgates new Ordinance to conscript skilled Indian labour.

July

4—Kassala and Galabat occupied by Italians.
French warships in British ports taken over.
5—Petain's Government break off diplomatic relations with Britain.
15—Moyale attacked by Italians; withdrawal of British garrison.

August

2—Beaverbrook joins War Cabinet.
4—Somaliland invaded.

August 8—October 31

The Battle of Britain—2,375 enemy aircraft were destroyed in daylight by fighters of the R.A.F. and anti-aircraft fire. The R.A.F. lost 733 aircraft, a ratio of 3-1; 375 pilots were killed.
During the period August-September 1940 there were five separate occasions when the R.A.F. shot down over a hundred enemy aircraft daily. Enemy aircraft shot down on August 15 numbered 181; on September 15 the number was 185.

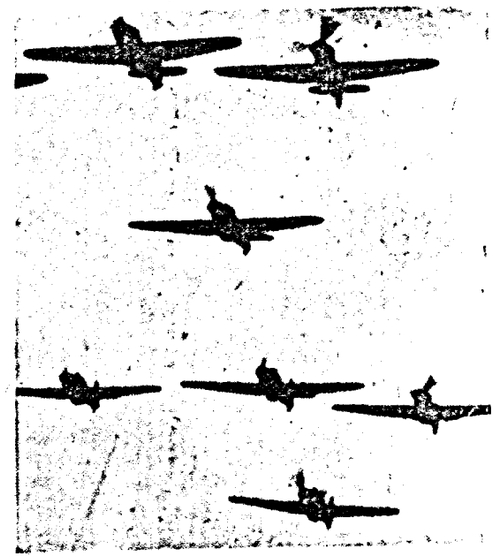
16—British evacuate British Somaliland

September

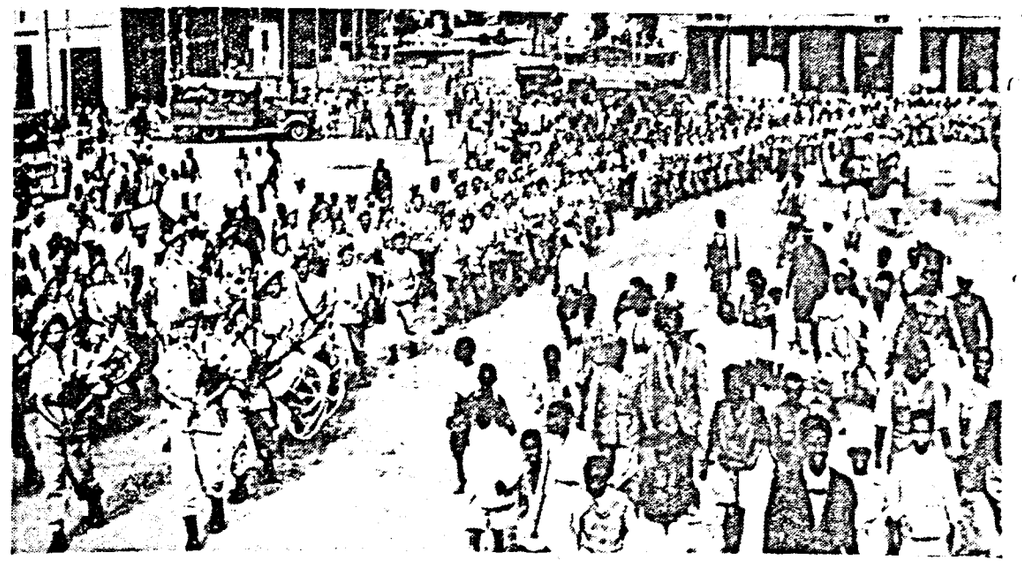
3—Anglo-American agreement; Sea and Air Bases in Newfoundland and Bermuda to



Battle of Britain: fire-fighters combat a blaze in the London dock area.



Hurricanes flying in formation—It was these machines and Spitfires which fought so gallantly and successfully in the Battle of Britain that prompted Mr. Churchill to use his famous phrase—"Never before, in the history of human conflict, was so much owed by so many to so few."



Victorious Imperial troops enter Addis Ababa, the Abyssinian Capital.

be leased free to America. Bases in Jamaica, St. Lucia, Trinidad, Antigua and British Guiana leased in exchange for the transfer of 50 destroyers to the United Kingdom.
9—First U.S. destroyers taken over.
14—Indian troops arrive in Egyptian territory.

October

25—Eastern Group Conference inaugurated by the Viceroy in New Delhi.
28—Italians invade Greece.

November

11-12—Fleet Air Arm attack Italian naval units in Taranto harbour.
23—Bevin outlines new scheme for Indian workers and seamen.

December

9—Wavell's Cyrenaica offensive begins.
11—4th Indian Division smash Italian fortresses and capture Sidi Barrani.

1941

January

18—Kassala re-occupied.
22—Tobruk captured.

February

1—Agordat captured.
2—El Agheila reached.
5—Benghazi captured.
1-27—Siege of Keren; Keren captured by Indian troops on February 27.
15—Kismayo captured.
25—Mogadishu captured.

March

4—First Lofoten raid; fish-oil factory and ships destroyed.
11—Lease-Lend Bill signed by President Roosevelt.
28—Battle of Cape Matapan.
30—H. M. the King sends message to the Viceroy, congratulating India on the part played by her armed forces in the capture of Keren.

April

2—British withdraw from Merza Brega.
3—Announcement of R.I.N.'s notable part in assisting land operations in Eritrea.
British evacuate Benghazi.
Hostile *coup d' etat* engineered by Rashid Ali in Iraq.
6—Addis Ababa occupied; Germans invade Greece and Yugoslavia; British and Imperial Forces in Greece.
13—Siege of Tobruk begins. Germans capture Bardia.
17—An Indian brigade landed to protect the oil supply line in Iraq.
19—British, Indian and other Imperial force arrive in Basrah.

April 2-June 15

—German counter-offensive in North Africa.

ATLANTIC MEETING OF ALLIED LEADERS



The historic meeting of Prime Minister Churchill and President Roosevelt in the Atlantic from where what is now known as the Atlantic Charter was announced to the world.

April 25-May 2

—Evacuation of Imperial Forces from Greece.
27—Germans occupy Athens.
28—Germans capture Sollum.

May

5—Haile Selassie enters Addis Ababa.
10—Rudolf Hess lands in Scotland.
19—Duke of Aosta capitulates at Amba Alagi.
20—Germans invade Crete.
27—*Bismarck* sunk.
31—British troops enter Baghdad; end of rebellion; reinstatement of Emir Abdul Ilah.

June

1—British forces withdrawn from Crete. Evacuation of British and Imperial Expeditionary Forces (17,000 troops reach Egypt).
8—Fifth Infantry Brigade of Fourth Indian Division strikes towards Damascus.
22—Germany invades Russia.
30—Lwow captured.

July

1—Riga captured.
14—Allied forces occupy Syria.

August

14—Atlantic Charter meeting between Churchill and Roosevelt.
Russians announce evacuation of Smolensk.
18—Germans capture Kingisepp. Leningrad threatened.

September

9—Persian Government signs treaty of alliance with Britain and U.S.S.R.

19—British forces reach Teheran.
Germans occupy Kiev.

October

October 5-December 6—Battle for Moscow.
16—Odessa falls.
20—Limit of the German advance was between 25 to 30 miles north, west and south of Moscow.

November

1—Sevastopol threatened.
7—Decision to arm U.S. merchantships and to permit them to enter combat zones.
13—U.S. Neutrality Act revised.
16—Germans capture Kerch.
22—Germans enter Rostov.
27—British relieve Tobruk.
28—Russians recapture Rostov.

December

7—Japan launches air attacks on U.S. naval, military and air bases at Pearl Harbour. Other air attacks on Manila, Shanghai, Malaya, Thailand, and Hong Kong.
8—Britain and the Dominions declare war on Japan.
U.S.A. declare war on Japan.
China declares war on Italy, Germany and Japan.
Japanese attack on Hong Kong; Japanese troops land in Thailand, near Malayan frontier.
10—H.M.S. *Prince of Wales* and H.M.S. *Repulse* sunk.
11—Italy and Germany declare war on the United States.
U.S. Congress declares war against Germany and Italy.
17—British capture Benghazi.
22—Japanese launch major attack on the Philippines.
23—First meeting of Anglo-U.S. War Council in Washington.
24—More Japanese landings in Luzon; Manila raided.
Indian troops in Libya occupy Barce.
25—Surrender of Hong Kong (forces engaged; 4,000 British, 2,000 Indian, 2,000 Canadian and a local voluntary force of 6,000).
26—Second Lofoten raid. Manila declared open city. Churchill in Washington, addresses Congress.

1942

January

2—Manila and Cavite fall.
3—Twenty-six nations, including Britain, U.S.A., Russia, China, the Netherlands and India sign joint declaration against Axis Powers.
8—Rommel withdraws to El Agheila.
23—Jap air raid on Rangoon.
27—Churchill announces. (i) Combined Chiefs of Staff Committee to be set up in Washington (ii) Pacific War Council to be set up in London; (iii) U.S. land and air forces to join British forces in United Kingdom. Dominions to be represented in War Cabinet.
23-27—Japanese landing in New Guinea at Lae; Japanese landing in Solomon Islands.
28—Russian cross Upper Donetz into the Ukraine.
30—British withdraw to the Island of Singapore.
31—Japanese capture Moulmein.

February

9—Marshal Chiang Kai-shek visits Delhi.
12—According to New Delhi announcement India invited to be represented on War Cabinet and on Pacific War Council.
15—Singapore falls.
17—British and Indian airmen active over enemy positions in Burma.

March

7-9—Rangoon evacuated and extrication of British forces from Pegu.
23—Japanese occupy Andaman Islands.
27-28—St. Nazaire raided. Principal battleship dock destroyed.

April

6—Japanese bomb India for the first time; attacks on Coconada and Vizagapatam in Madras Presidency. Japanese landings on Bougainville.
16—H. M. the King awards George Cross to Malta.
18—American Technical Mission arrives in Delhi.
29—Lashio falls. Evacuation of Mandalay, British retreat to India. Four-fifths evacuated to India.

May

4-7—British landing in Madagascar. Diego Suarez captured.
4-8—Coral Sea Battle.
Japanese fleet withdraws after heavy losses.



Allied landings in North Africa; American troops come ashore at Surcouf.

6—Corregidor garrison surrenders.
15—First British forces retreating from Burma reach Indian frontier.
26—Twenty-year Anglo-Soviet Treaty signed in London, providing for full collaboration during and after the war.
30-31—R.A.F. raid Cologne with 1,130 bombers.

June

1-2—R.A.F. raid Essen with 1,036 bombers.
10—Germans summer offensive opens in Russia. War Resources Committee of Viceroy's Council announced.
11—Duke of Gloucester arrives in India on an inspection tour of the forces.
21—Germans capture Tobruk.

July

1—Germans reach El Alamein. Germans recapture Sevastopol after a seven-month siege.
2—Viceroy's Council enlarged. First Indian Defence Member appointed. Indian representatives on War Cabinet and Pacific War Council announced.

August

12—Churchill visits Moscow.
19—Commando raid on Dieppe.

September

3—Germans capture Novorossisk.
12—Germans enter the streets of Stalingrad.



Guns being man-handled off the beach by U.S. troops after they had been landed

October

23—Montgomery opens offensive at El Alamein.

November

2—Allies capture Cocoda.
3—In Egypt Axis forces begin to retreat.
8—Allied landing in North-West Africa. Casablanca, Oran and Algiers captured.
11—Epic fight of H.M.I.S. *Bengal* with two Jap destroyers while escorting Dutch oil tankers.
13—British capture Tobruk.
16—British First Army enters Tunisia.
20—British capture Benghazi.
25—Australians capture Gna.

December

15—British capture El Agheila.
20—First Jap air raid on Calcutta.

1943

January

2—Allies occupy Buna.
14-24—Roosevelt and Churchill together with their Chiefs of Staff meet near Casablanca. Conference named "The Unconditional Surrender" meeting.
16—Iraq declares war on Germany, Italy and Japan.
23—British capture Tripoli.
30—Adana Conference. Churchill meets Inonu.

February

2—German resistance in Stalingrad ends. German Sixth Army consisting of 300,000 men completely destroyed.
25—R.A.F. begin round-the-clock bombing.

March

2—Battle of Bismarck Sea begins.
20—British capture Mareth. Fourth Indian Division plays prominent part
29—British capture Gabaz and El Hamma.

April

6—British capture Akarit position.
7—Eighth Army makes contact with the Americans
7-10—Hitler and Mussolini meet at Fuehrer's headquarters.
10—British capture Sfax.
12—British capture Sousse.

May

11—U.S. forces land on Attu Island. Churchill arrives in Washington.
12—All organised Axis resistance ends in North Africa.
20—Announced that a Commando force under Wingate has spent 3 months in Central Burma.
30—All Japanese organised resistance ceases in Attu.

June

7—Composition of French Committee of National Liberation announced.
11—Allies occupy Pantellaria.
12—Lampedusa surrenders. H. M. the King arrives in North Africa.
13—Linosa surrenders.

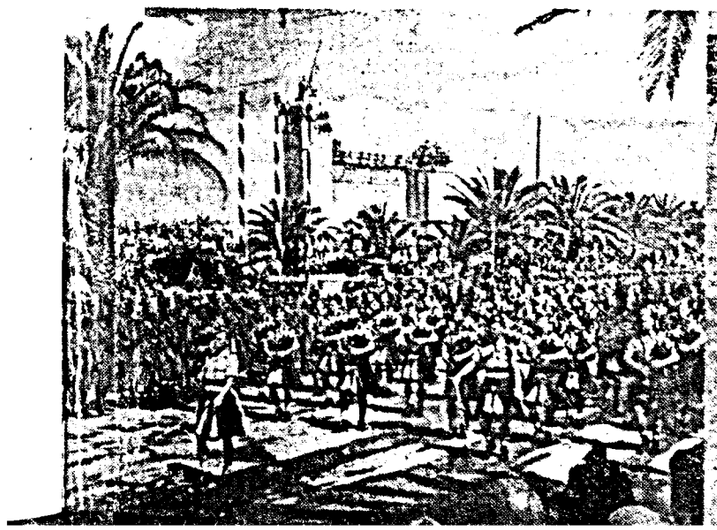
July

9-10—Invasion of Sicily. Indian troops land on the southern shores of the island.
15—Russians announce new offensive north and east of Orel.
25—Mussolini resigns; Badoglio becomes Italian Prime Minister.

August

10—Churchill arrives in Quebec for conference.
17—Messina captured. All enemy resistance in Sicily ends.
25—Appointment of Lord Mountbatten as Supreme Allied Commander of South-East Asia announced.

Victory parade in Tunis.



Invasion of Sicily.



TEHERAN MEETING OF THE BIG THREE



Following their meeting in Cairo with Marshal Chiang Kai-shek, Mr. Churchill and President Roosevelt went to Teheran to plan with Marshal Stalin the military and political strategy which has culminated in the downfall of Nazi military aggression.

September

3—Allied landings on the mainland of Italy. A detachment of Jodhpur Infantry were the first Indians to set foot on the Italian mainland.

8—Eisenhower announces unconditional surrender of Italy.

11—Surrender of Italian Navy.

22—Midget submarines attack German battleship *Tirpitz.*

27—Foggia captured.

October

1—Fall of Naples.

4—Corsica liberated.

12—First air raid on Madras.

13—Italy declares war on Germany.

18—Conference of Foreign Ministers in Moscow.

November

9—U.N.R.R.A. agreement signed in Washington.

22—Cairo Conference—Roosevelt, Chiang Kai-shek and Churchill meet.

28—Teheran Conference between Roosevelt, Stalin and Churchill.

29—Sword of Stalingrad presented to Stalin.

December

24—Names of commanders of European Liberation Army announced.

26—German battleship *Scharnhorst* sunk.

1944

January

23—Allied landing south of Rome.

February

2—Financial and Mutual Aid Agreement between U.K. and French Committee of National Liberation.

26—Red Army advance in the north towards Lake Peipus and Lake Pskov.

28—Jap withdrawal in Arakan.

March

1—Allied landing on Admiralty Islands.

17—Airborne troops land in the rear of Japanese communications in Central Burma.

21—German occupation of Hungary announced.

22—Japanese raiding columns enter Manipur.

April

3—Russian troops enter Rumania.

10—Red Army liberates Odessa.

16—Lord Mountbatten transfers headquarters from Delhi to Kandy.

24—Allied landing on New Guinea coast.

May

12—Offensive in Italy by the Eighth and Fifth Armies.

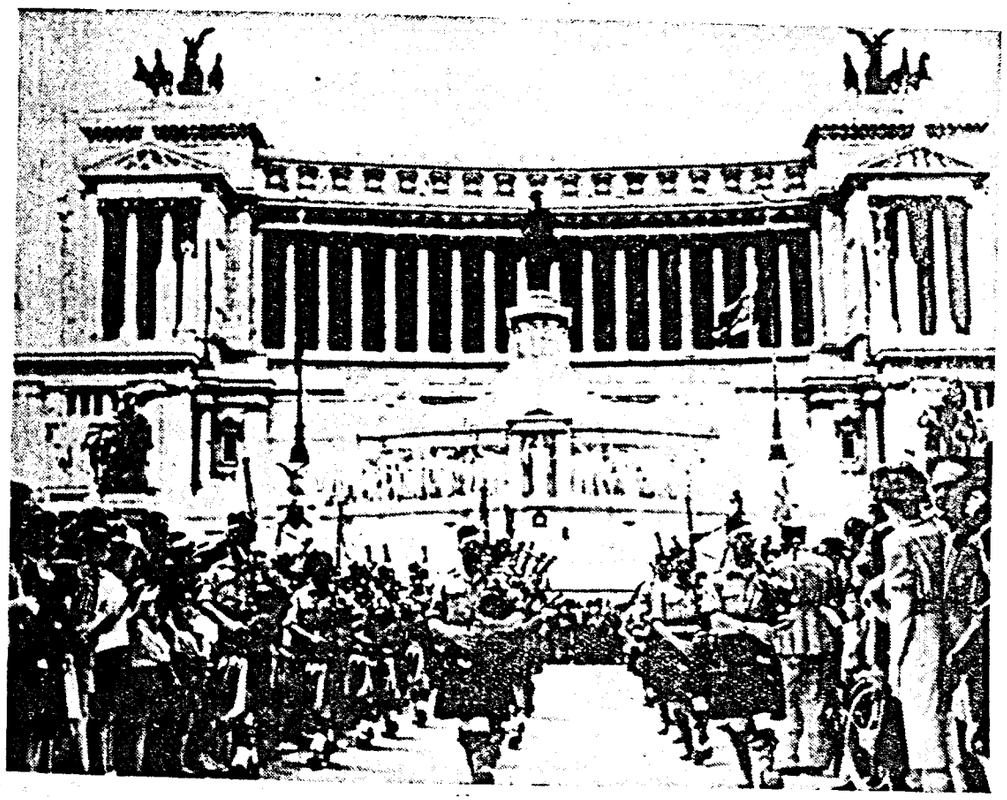
17-18—Fall of Cassino.

26—Germans invade Bulgaria.

June

4—Allies liberate Rome.

6—Allied landing in Northern France. 1,183 Indian sailors took part in the operations (announced later).



Continuing their advance in Italy, Allied troops entered Rome on June 4, 1944. Picture shows massed pipe bands of a famous Highland regiment leading Allied Victory Parade through the Italian capital.



British troops being landed on the Normandy beaches.

7—Japanese withdrawal from Kohima area.

8—Capture of Bayeux.

10—Indian troops occupy Pescara.

15—Super-Fortresses bomb Japanese mainland.

16—First flying bombs fall on Southern England.

20—Allied occupation of Elba complete.

23—Russian offensive on the Central Front

27—Cherboug in Allied hands.

28—Capture of Mogaung.

July

9—Capture of Caen.

20—Japanese retreat from Imphal.
Attempt on Hitler.

August

3—Allies capture Myitkyina, important Japanese base in North Burma; Rennes liberated.

6—Tamu captured.

12—German retreat begins from Normandy.

15—Large Allied force lands in South France.

17—Japs driven out of Manipur State.

19—Falaise liberated. German 7th Army trapped in the "Falaise pocket".

22—French enter Toulon (Finally cleared on August 27).

23—French capture Marseilles. Americans reach Grenoble.

24—Rumania accepts peace terms offered by United Nations.

25—Complete liberation of Paris after French Forces of the Interior had partially liberated the town on 23rd.
Rumania declares war on Germany.

30—Capture of Ploesti.

31—British capture Amiens.
Americans reach Sedan.
Russian forces in Bucharest.

September

1—Dieppe, Arras and Verdun captured.

3—Brussels liberated by the British, advance to Antwerp.
Occupation of Lyons announced.

5—Allies carry war into Germany: Aachen and Saarbrucken captured.
Russia declares war on Bulgaria.

6—Russian troops reach Yugoslav frontier.

7—"Flying-bomb offensive against Britain virtually over"—Duncan Sandys' announcement.

8—Super-Fortresses bomb Anshan in Manchuria.

9—Soviet troops cross into East Prussia.

12—Churchill-Roosevelt Conference begins at Quebec.
Le Havre garrison surrenders.

14—MacArthur announces Allied landings in Halmahera and Palau islands.

15—Allies capture Nancy.

16—Capture of Brest announced.
Red Army enters Sofia.

17—Allied airborne invasion of Holland.

18—Carrier-borne air attack against Sumatra.

19—Russo-Finnish Armistice signed.

22—Stalin announces capture of Tallinn, the Estonian capital.

24—Swedish decision to close ports to German shipping.

25—Britain's £650,000,000 Social Security Scheme announced.

26—Eighth Army cross the Rubicon.

30—Shelling of Dover ends.

October

1—Canadian troops occupy Calais.

5—Allied landing in Greece announced.

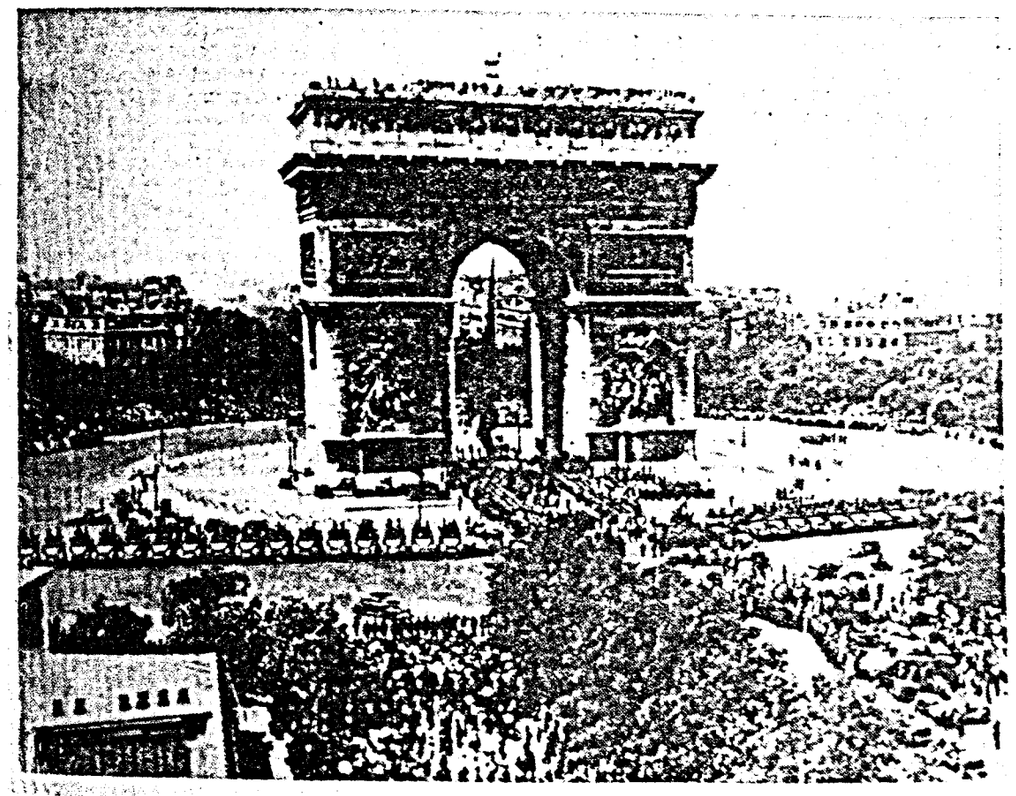
9—Churchill in Moscow.
New Allied landings south of Scheldt.
U.S. Fleet strikes at Ryuku islands: 26 Jap ships destroyed or damaged.

10—British troops in Corinth.

13—Russians capture Riga.

14—British troops occupy Athens.

19—Capture of Tiddim by Indian troops of 14th Army announced.



The liberation of Paris: vehicles of the second French Armoured Division lined up in front of the Paris landmark, the Arc de Triomphe, during the ceremony at the tomb of the Unknown Warrior of World War I.

20—Aachen falls to troops of American First Army:
MacArthur back in Philippines—Roosevelt's announcement.
Capture of Belgrade announced.
23—"Big Three" recognise de Gaulle's administration as the provisional Government of France.
Big naval battle off Philippines begins.
24—Viceroy presents 4 V. C.'s won by men of the Indian Army.
26—British troops land on Dutch island of S. Beveland.

November

1—British Commandos land on Walcheren
Britain's Home Guard "Stands Down".
5—Stalin invested with the insignia of the Order of Victory.
7—Capture of Kennedy Peak by Fifth Indian Division announced.
8—Dewey concedes re-election of Roosevelt.
9—Fifth Indian Division captures Fort White.
10—Churchill's announcement in House of Commons that the Germans had been using long-range rockets against Britain for the last few weeks.
Churchill and Eden arrive in Paris on the invitation of de Gaulle.
13—Sinking of *Tirpitz* announced: Patton captures first Metz Fort.
14—Yugoslav National Liberation Army liberates Skoplje capital of Macedonia.
16—East African troops occupy Kalemyo:
MacArthur announces invasion of Mapia Island by American amphibious troops.
20—Chinese troops break into Bhamo.
22—Metz and Sarrebourg fall to Americans.
Mulhouse captured by troops of French First Army.
28—White Paper on Britain's war effort published:
Eisenhower-Montgomery Conference in Belgium.

December

3—Capture of Kalewa by E. African troops announced.
5—Saarlautern in Allied hands.
Ravenna captured.
8—Afghan Military Mission arrives in Delhi.
10—De Gaulle in Moscow: Franco-Russian Mutual Assistance Pact signed.
15—British troops in Arakan clear Buthidaung:
Chinese 38th Division occupies Bhamo.
16—Americans land on Mindoro:
Allied Forces link up East of Chindwin.
17—Faenza captured by Eighth Army.
18—Battle of Ardennes—Big German attack north of Trier.
21—German drive 35 miles into Belgium.
23—Civil War breaks out in Greece.
24—Capture of Donbaik announced.
25—Churchill arrives in Athens:
MacArthur announces completion of Leyte campaign.

1945

January

3—14th Army troops enter Ye-U.
5—British and Indian troops of 15th Indian Corps land on Akyab Island.
7—Indian troops of Fourth Corps enter Shwebo.
9—Huge U.S. forces land on Luzon.
11—Truce signed between British and E.L.A.S.
12—Troops of 15th Indian Corps land on Myebon Peninsula, 32 miles from Akyab.
13—Russian winter offensive launched on three fronts.
15—Chinese troops capture Namhkam:
Kielce captured by Konlev's forces.
17—Warsaw liberated by Red Army.
19—Stalin announces Capture of Cracow.
21—Allies land on Ramree Island.
22—Monywa captured:
First breach in land blockade of China—linking of Ledo and Burma Roads announced.
26—Russians break into Danzig.
29—Capture of Memel announced—Lithuania completely cleared of Germans.
30—Duke of Gloucester sworn in at Canberra as Governor-General of Australia.

February

4—Zhukov's forces 46 miles from Berlin:
Kunming greets first convoy over Led Road.
Americans enter Manila.
6—World Trade Union Conference opens in London.
8—Paraguay joins the Allies.
10—Capture of Ramree town by 15th Indian Corps announced.
11—Russians cross the Oder north-west of Breslau.
12—Churchill-Roosevelt-Stalin statement on Yalta Conference.
Allies capture Cleve.
13—Red Army captures Budapest.
15—1,500 planes attack Tokyo for nine hours.
18—American troops land on Corregidor.
19—American landings on Iwojima announced.
Canadians break into Goch.
20—White House announcement that Churchill and Roosevelt met in Alexandria on their way back from Crimea to discuss Pacific war.
23—Capture of Poznan announced—Red Army bags 23,000 prisoners.
Turkey declares war on Germany and Japan.
24—American 9th Army troops capture fortress town of Julich.
25—Egypt declares war against Axis.
Duren captured by U.S. First Army.
26—MacArthur hands over civil Government of the Philippines to President Sergio Osmena.

March

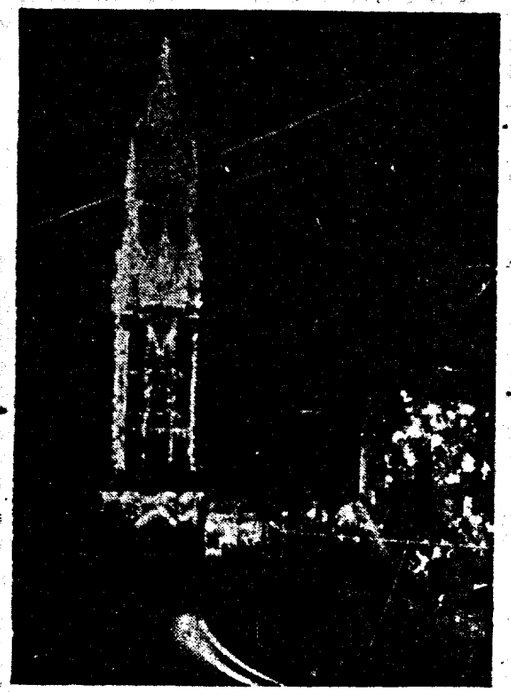
2—Allies capture *Trier*.
3—Viceroy presents five V.C.'s at Delhi Parade.
Arab League constitution signed.
4—Allies reach the Rhine on 20-mile front.
Red Army reaches Baltic Coast.
5—14th Army captures Meiktila.
6—Cologne falls to Americans.
7—U.S. First Army troops cross the Rhine, south of Cologne.
8—19th Indian Division enters Mandalay.
11—MacArthur announces American landings on Mindanao.
12—Red Army captures Kuestrin.
13—14th Army Task Force takes Maymyo.
14—R.A.F. use 22,000-lb bombs for the first time.
16—Nimitz announces end of Iwojima battle.
17—Third Army troops enter Coblenz.
20—Mandalay falls to 14th Army.
22—*Wavell leaves for* London for personal consultations with H.M.G.
24—*Montgomery* strikes across the Rhine.
25—Churchill crosses the Rhine.
26—U.S. Third Army breaks into Frankfurt-on-Main.
Lloyd George dead.
28—Stalin announces capture of Gdynia.

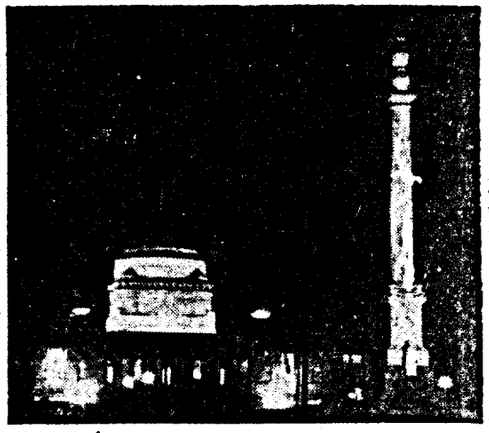
April

1—Americans land on Okinawa.
2—Eighth Army lands behind German lines.
3—*Americans* take Kassel.
4—Capture of Bratislava, capital of Slovakia, announced.
5—Jap cabinet resigns.
Moscow Radio announces end of Soviet-Japanese Neutrality Pact.
Washington announcement that MacArthur will command all Army forces in Pacific theatre and Nimitz all Naval forces there.
7—Japan's biggest battleship, the 45,000-ton *Yamato* sunk.
10—8th Army Cross Senio river on wide front.
U.S. Ninth Army captures Hanover.
11—Fall of Essen announced.
Sinking of German pocket battleship *Admiral Scheer* announced.
Spain breaks off relations with Japan.
12—Roosevelt dead. Harry Truman sworn in 33rd President of the United States.
13—Capture of Vienna by Red Army announced.
14—Capture of von Papen in Ruhr pocket announced.
16—Canadian and Polish troops reach North Sea on wide front.
S.E.A.C. announces capture of Taungup, last Jap coastal supply base in Arakan, by 15th Indian Corps.
17—Allies 50 miles from Berlin.
19—Patton's troops enter Czechoslovakia.
21—*Allies* capture Bologna.
Sinking of German pocket-battleship *Lutzow* by R.A.F. announced.
22—U.S. Seventh Army reaches Danube at Dillingen.
23—Stalin announces Russian entry into Berlin.
24—S.H.A.E.F. announces capture of 1,000,000 prisoners since April 1, 1945.
25—San Francisco Conference opens.
26—German radio announces that Goering has relinquished command of the Luftwaffe.
27—Announcement of U.S. and Russian link-up at Torgua.
U.S. Third Army crosses into Austria
Fifth Army troops enter Genoa.
29—Mussolini executed by Partisans.
Allied troops enter Milan.
British cross Elbe south of Hamburg.
30—U.S. Seventh Army capture Munich.
Allied troops enter Venice.

May

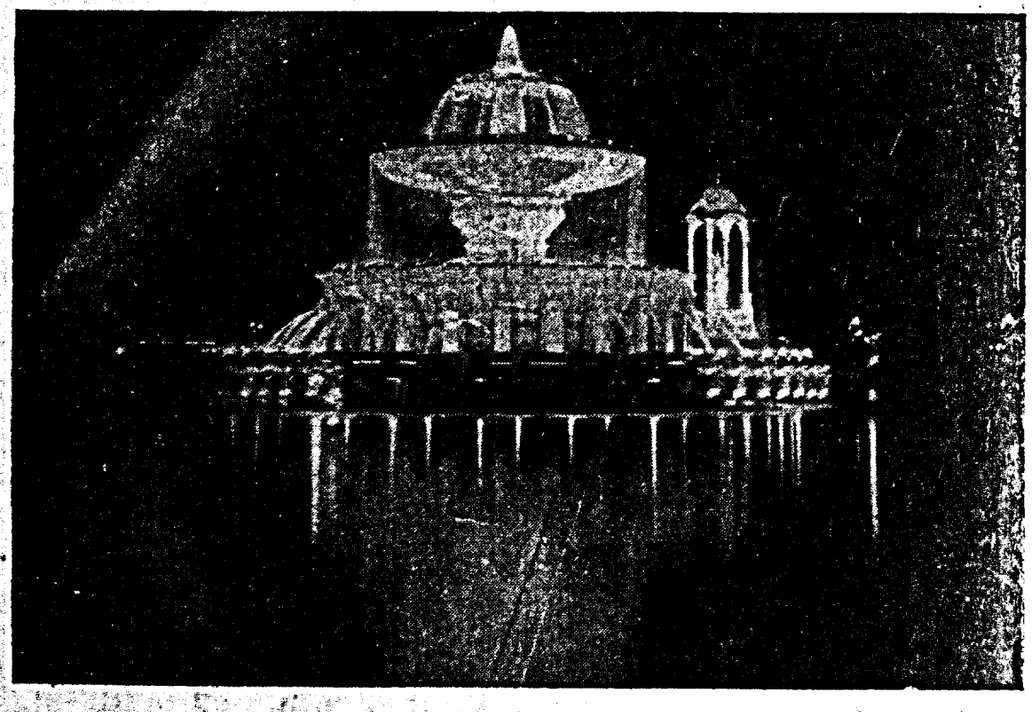
1—Hitler's reported death: Doenitz becomes new Fuehrer.
List and von Leeb captured.
2—Surrender of German armies in Italy announced.
Stalin announces capture of Berlin.
Rundstedt captured.
4—14th Army take Rangoon.
Berchtesgaden captured.
7—Unconditional German surrender.





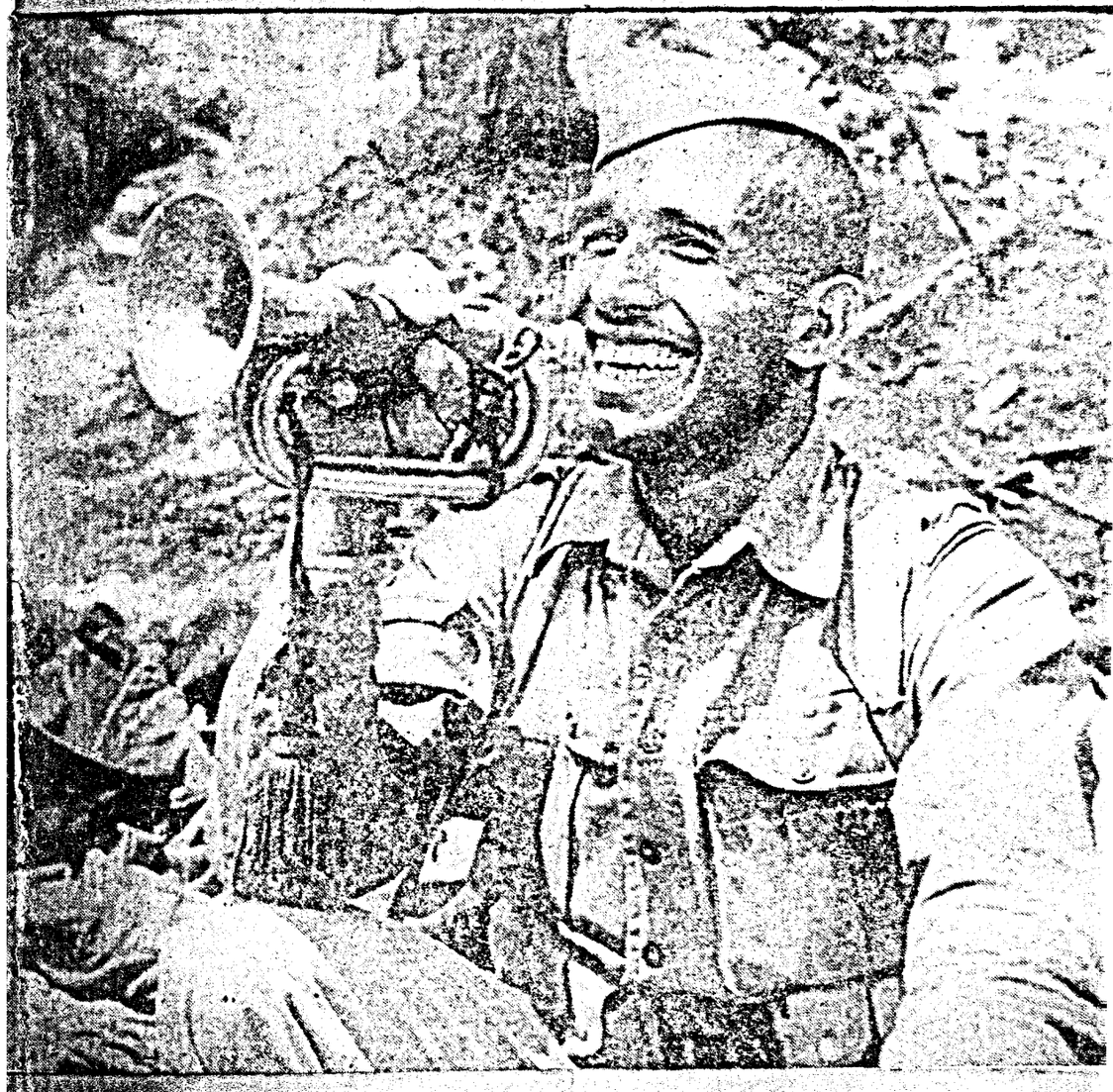
VICTORY ILLUMINATIONS IN DELHI

Delhi—old and new—was a city of lights on May 14, when the Viceroy's House, the Secretariat, the Council Chamber and other prominent buildings, public as well as private, were illuminated and floodlit to celebrate victory in Europe. These pictures show (above) the Viceroy's House (left) the Clock Tower in Chandni Chowk, Old Delhi, and (below) the fountain near India Gate illuminated.



Issued fortnightly by J. Natarajan, Principal Information Officer, Government of India. Printed in India by K. G. Tilt (General Manager) at The Civil & Military Gazette, Ltd., Lahore. Communications for the Editor should be addressed to the Bureau of Public Information, Government of India, Lahore, and not to the Printers.

INDIAN INFORMATION



Vol. 16, No. 163: June 15, 1945.
Issued Fortnightly by the Principal Information Officer, Government of India.

● VICEROY'S BROADCAST ON CONSTITUTION PROPOSALS



Fall of Kyaukse—Indian Troops advance towards Kyaukse Railway Station. The enemy left behind an engine and 23 carriages full of hospital equipment and furniture.

Vol. 16 No. 162. INDIAN INFORMATION June 15, 1945

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.

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

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

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

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

MAIN CONTENTS

	Page
Viceroy's Broadcast on Constitutional Proposals	778
Five More V.C.s for Indian Army	780
Allied Ships Steam into Rangoon	781
Permanent Commissions in Indian Armed Forces	794
Employment of Demobilized Defence Personnel	799
India and the I.L.O.	805
Social Security for Industrial Workers	807
Post-War Plans for Civil Aviation	814
Position of Indians in Ceylon	819
Indian Economy in 1942-43	821

COVER PICTURE: Naik Bakhshi Ram of Kangra District (Punjab) is about to give a solo on a captured Jap bugle in Burma.



LORD WAVELL RETURNS TO INDIA

H.E. Lord Wavell, who left for England in March to discuss with His Majesty's Government the Indian political and other questions, returned to New Delhi on June 12.

These pictures taken at the New Delhi airport show: (Left) Lord Wavell alighting from the plane. (Below, left) His Excellency with the then acting Viceroy (H.E. Sir John Colville) and the Military Secretary. (Below, right) Lord Wavell being greeted by Sir Sultan Ahmed.





H.E. the Viceroy broadcasting from New Delhi over A.I.R. network on June 14.

VICEROY'S BROADCAST ON CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS

HIS Excellency the Viceroy broadcasting from New Delhi on June 14 said:

I have been authorised by His Majesty's Government to place before Indian political leaders proposals designed to ease the present political situation and to advance India towards her goal of full self-government. These proposals are at the present moment being explained to Parliament by the Secretary of State for India. My intention in this broadcast is to explain to you the proposals, the ideas underlying them, and the method by which I hope to put them into effect.

This is not an attempt to obtain or impose a constitutional settlement. His Majesty's Government had hoped that the leaders of the Indian parties would agree amongst themselves on a settlement of the communal issue, which is the main stumbling-block; but this hope has not been fulfilled.

In the meantime, India has great opportunities to be taken and great problems to be solved, which require a common effort by the leading men of all parties. I therefore propose, with the full support of His Majesty's Government, to invite Indian leaders both of Central and Provincial politics to take counsel with me with a view to the formation of a new Executive Council more representative of organised political opinion. The proposed new Council would represent the main communities and would include equal proportions of Caste Hindus and Muslims. It would work, if formed, under the existing Constitution. But it would be an entirely Indian Council, except for the Viceroy and the Commander-in-Chief, who would retain his position as War Member. It is also proposed that the portfolio of External Affairs, which has hitherto been held by the Viceroy, should be placed in charge of an Indian Member of Council, so far as the interests of British India are concerned.

A further step proposed by His Majesty's Government is the appointment of a British High Commissioner in India, as in the

Dominions, to represent Great Britain's commercial and other such interests in India.

Such a new Executive Council will, you realise, represent a definite advance on the road to self-government. It will be almost entirely Indian, and the Finance and Home Members will for the first time be Indians, while an Indian will also be charged with the management of India's Foreign Affairs. Moreover Members will now be selected by the Governor-General after consultation with political leaders; though their appointment will of course be subject to the approval of His Majesty the King-Emperor.

The Council will work within the framework of the present constitution; and there can be no question of the Governor-General agreeing not to exercise his constitutional power of control; but it will of course not be exercised unreasonably.

I should make it clear that the formation of this interim Government will in no way prejudice the final constitutional settlement.

The main tasks for this new Executive Council would be:

First, to prosecute the war against Japan with the utmost energy, till Japan is utterly defeated.

Secondly, to carry on the Government of British India, with all the manifold tasks of post-war development in front of it, until a new permanent constitution can be agreed upon and come into force.

Long-term Solution

Thirdly, to consider, when the Members of the Government think it possible, the means by which such agreement can be achieved. The third task is most important. I want to make it quite clear that neither I nor His Majesty's Government have lost sight of the need for a long-term solution, and that the present proposals are intended to make a long-term solution easier.

I have considered the best means of forming such a Council; and have decided to invite the following to Viceregal Lodge to advise me:

Those now holding office as Premier in a Provincial Government; or for Provinces now under Section 93 Government; those who last held the office of Premier.

The Leader of the Congress Party and the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League in the Central Assembly; the leader of the Congress Party and the Muslim League in the Council of State; also the leaders of the Nationalist Party and the European Group in the Assembly.

Mr. Gandhi and Mr. Jinnah as the recognised leaders of the two main political parties.

Rao Bahadur N. Siva Raj to represent the Scheduled Classes.

Master Tara Singh to represent the Sikhs.

Invitations to these gentlemen are being handed to them today and it is proposed to assemble the Conference on June 25 at Simla where we shall be cooler than at Delhi.

Provincial Ministries

I trust that all those invited will attend the Conference and give me their help. On me and on them will lie a heavy responsibility in this fresh attempt to make progress towards a final settlement of India's future.

If the meeting is successful, I hope that we shall be able to agree on the formation of the new Executive Council at the Centre. I also hope that it will be possible for Ministries to re-assume office and again undertake the tasks of government in the Provinces now administered under Section 93 of the Constitution Act and that these Ministries will be coalitions.

If the meeting should unfortunately fail, we must carry on as at present until the parties are ready to come together. The existing Executive Council, which has done such valuable work for India, will continue it if other arrangements cannot be agreed.

But I have every hope that the meeting will succeed, if the party leaders will approach the problem with the sincere intention of working with me and with each other. I can assure them that there is behind this proposal a most genuine desire on the part of all responsible leaders in the United Kingdom and of the British people as a whole to help India towards her goal. I believe that this is more than a step towards that goal, it is a considerable stride forward, and a stride on the right path.

I should make it clear that these proposals affect British India only and do not make any alteration in the relations of the Princes with the Crown Representative.

With the approval of His Majesty's Government, and after consultation with my Council, orders have been given for the immediate release of the members of the Working Committee of Congress who are still in detention. I propose to leave the final decision about the

others still under detention as the result of the 1942 disturbances to the new Central Government, if formed, and to the Provincial Governments.

The appropriate time for fresh elections for the Central and Provincial legislatures will be discussed at the Conference.

Appeal for Co-operation

Finally, I would ask you all to help in creating the atmosphere of goodwill and mutual confidence that is essential if we are to make progress. The destiny of this great country and of the many millions who live in it depend on the wisdom and good understanding of the leaders, both of action and of thought, British and Indian, at this critical moment of India's history.

India's military reputation never stood higher in the world than it does at present; thanks to the exploits of her sons drawn from all parts of the country. Her representatives at International conferences have won high regard for their statesmanlike attitude. Sympathy for India's aspirations and progress towards prosperity was never greater or more widespread. We have thus great assets if we can use them wisely. But it will not be easy, it will not be quick; there is very much to do, there are many pitfalls and dangers. There is on all sides something to forgive and forget.

I believe in the future of India, and as far as in me lies will further, her greatness. I ask you all for your co-operation and goodwill.

MR. L. S. AMERY'S STATEMENT IN PARLIAMENT

Here is the text of the statement made in Parliament by Mr. L. S. Amery, Secretary of State for India, on June 14:

During the recent visit of Field-Marshal Viscount Wavell to this country His Majesty's Government reviewed with him a number of problems and discussed particularly the present political situation in India.

Members will be aware that since the offer by His Majesty's Government to India in March 1942 there has been no further progress towards the solution of the Indian constitutional problem.

As was then stated, the working out of India's new constitutional system is a task which can only be carried through by the Indian peoples themselves.

While His Majesty's Government are at all times most anxious to do their utmost to assist the Indians in the working out of a new constitutional settlement, it would be a contradiction in terms to speak of the imposition by this country of self-governing institutions upon an unwilling India. Such a thing is not possible, nor could we accept the responsibility for enforcing such institutions at the very time when we were, by its purpose, withdrawing from all control of British Indian affairs.

The Offer of March 1942

The main constitutional position remains therefore as it was. The offer of March 1942 stands in its entirety without change or qualification. His Majesty's Government still hope that the political leaders in India may be able to come to an agreement as to the procedure whereby India's permanent future form of government can be determined.

His Majesty's Government are, however, most anxious to make any contribution that is practicable to the breaking of the political deadlock in India. While that deadlock lasts not only political but social and economic progress is being hampered.

The Indian administration, over-burdened with the great tasks laid upon it by the war against Japan and by the planning for the post-war period is further strained by the political tension that exists.

All that is so urgently required to be done for agricultural and industrial development and for the peasants and workers of India cannot be carried through unless the whole-hearted co-operation of every community and section of the Indian people is forthcoming.

His Majesty's Government have therefore considered whether there is something which they could suggest in this interim period, under the existing constitution, pending the formulation by Indians of their future constitutional arrangements, which would enable the main communities and parties to co-operate more closely together and with the British to the benefit of the people of India as a whole.

It is not the intention of His Majesty's Government to introduce any change contrary to the wishes of the major Indian communities. But they are willing to make possible some step forward during the interim period if the leaders of the principal Indian parties are prepared to agree to their suggestions and to co-operate in the successful conclusion of the war against Japan as well as in the reconstruction in India which must follow the final victory.

To this end they would be prepared to see an important change in the composition of the Viceroy's Executive. This is possible without making any change in the existing statute law except for one amendment to the Ninth Schedule to the Act of 1935. That Schedule contains a provision that not less than three members of the Executive must have had at least 10 years' service under the Crown in India. If the proposals I am about to lay before the House meet with acceptance in India, that clause would have to be amended to dispense with that requirement.

Viceroy's Executive Council

It is proposed that the Executive Council should be reconstituted and that the Viceroy should in future make his selection for nomination to the Crown for appointment to his Executive from amongst leaders of Indian political life at the Centre and in the Provinces, in proportions which would give a balanced representation of the main communities, including equal proportions of Muslims and Caste Hindus.

In order to pursue this object, the Viceroy will call into conference a number of leading Indian politicians who are the heads of the most important parties or who have had recent experience as Prime Ministers of Provinces, together with a few others of special experience and authority. The Viceroy intends to put before this conference the proposal that the Executive Council should be reconstituted as above stated and to invite from the members of the conference a list of names. Out of these he would hope to be able to choose the future members whom he would recommend for appointment by His Majesty to the Viceroy's Council, although the responsibility for the recommendations must of course continue to rest with him and his freedom of choice therefore remains unrestricted.

Defence of India

The members of his Council who are chosen as a result of this arrangement would of course accept the position on the basis that they would whole-heartedly co-operate in supporting and carrying through the war against Japan to its victorious conclusion.

The members of the Executive would be Indians with the exception of the Viceroy and the Commander-in-Chief, who would retain his position as War Member. This is essential so long as the defence of India remains a British responsibility.

Nothing contained in any of these proposals will affect the relations of the Crown with the Indian States through the Viceroy as Crown Representative.

The Viceroy has been authorised by His Majesty's Government to place this proposal before the Indian Leaders. His Majesty's Government trust that the leaders of the Indian communities will respond. For the success of such a plan must depend upon its acceptance in India and the degree to which responsible Indian politicians are prepared to co-operate with the object of making it a workable interim arrangement. In the absence of such general acceptance existing arrangements must necessarily continue.

If such co-operation can be achieved at the Centre it will no doubt be reflected in the Provinces and so enable responsible Governments to be set up once again in those Provinces where, owing to the withdrawal of the majority party from participation, it became necessary to put into force the powers of the Governors under Section 93 of the Act of 1935. It is to be hoped that in all the Provinces these Governments would be based on the participation of the main parties, thus smoothing out communal differences and allowing Ministers to concentrate upon their very heavy administrative tasks.

External Affairs

There is one further change which, if these proposals are accepted, His Majesty's Government suggest, should follow.

That is, that External Affairs (other than those tribal and frontier matters which fall to be dealt with as part of the defence of India) should be placed in the charge of an Indian Member of the Viceroy's Executive so far as British India is concerned, and that fully accredited representatives shall be appointed for the representation of India abroad.

By their acceptance of and co-operation in this scheme the Indian leaders will not only be able to make their immediate contribution to the direction of Indian affairs, but it is also to be hoped that their experience of co-operation in government will expedite agreement between them as to the method of working out the new constitutional arrangements.

His Majesty's Government consider, after the most careful study of the question, that the plan now suggested gives the utmost progress practicable within the present constitution.

None of the changes suggested will in any way prejudice or prejudge the essential form of the future permanent constitution or constitutions for India.

His Majesty's Government feel certain that given goodwill and a genuine desire to co-operate on all sides, both British and Indian, these proposals can mark a genuine step forward in the collaboration of the British and Indian peoples towards Indian self-government and can assert the rightful position, and strengthen the influence, of India in the counsels of the nations.

THE PROPOSALS EXPLAINED

Explaining the Proposals in the House of Commons, Mr. L. S. Amery said:

"The offer of March 1942 stands in its entirety. That offer is based on two main principles. First no limit is set to India's freedom to decide her own destiny whether as a free partner in the Commonwealth or even without it. Second, that this can only be achieved under a constitution or constitutions framed by Indians to which the main elements are consenting parties.

"These principles, if I may quote the Prime Minister 'stand in their full scope and integrity. No one can add anything to them and no one can take anything away.' This is an affirmation not only of our own loyal purpose but of the inescapable facts of the Indian situation. We can only transfer our ultimate control over India to a government or governments which are capable of exercising it. We cannot hand India over to anarchy or civil war. Our responsibility to the people of India themselves and, indeed, to the peace of the world forbids that. On the other hand we cannot impose a constitution that will break up the moment our authority is no longer there to sustain it.

The Deadlock

"So far no progress has been made in that direction and the internal deadlock, essentially a deadlock as between Hindu India and Muslim India, remains unresolved. We should do wrong to be unduly impatient with Indian political leaders for their failure to find common ground. The issues at stake are great and the differences of approach to the problem are based on convictions sincerely and strongly held."

Mr. Amery added that the right solution would presently emerge and certainly His Majesty's Government would at all times be anxious to give such assistance as might contribute to its attainment.

"Meanwhile, India cannot stand still. Over and above the effort still required for the war against Japan there is an immense task of reconstruction which cannot wait for the slower processes of political adjustment but which at the same time calls for the whole-hearted co-operation of every community and section of the Indian people. This cannot be done without some real advance in the political field, some closer and more effective association of the organised political forces in India with the government of their country.

All-India Union, the Ideal

"At the present juncture this is only possible on an interim and provincial basis. It must be without prejudice to the ultimate constitutional settlement. The ideal to which we have always looked is that of an all-India union in which the States would play their full part. At the same time we have also recognised the possibility that agreement between Hindus and Muslims on any form of Indian unity may be unattainable. Any interim advance, therefore, must in no way prejudge the question whether the ultimate settlement is based on a united or a divided India or affect the existing position of the future freedom of choice of the States. That means that it must be within the existing constitution, for there is no change in that constitution which would not be regarded as giving a bias in favour of one or other solution. There can be no question therefore, of making the executive responsible, in our parliamentary sense, to the legislature. That would at once in Muslim eyes imply control of a unified India by a Hindu majority.

Viceroy's Reserve Powers

"Nor can there be any question of doing away with the existing power of the Governor-General to overrule a majority view of his council if in his opinion, I quote the language of the Act, 'the safety, tranquillity or the interests of British India are, or may be, essentially affected' nor of his consequent responsibility of the Secretary of State and to Parliament for its exercise. That power is a power in reserve, not an instrument in normal use.

"So long, however, as there is no Indian constitution under which controversial issues can ultimately be resolved it is a necessary protection for the minorities whether against immediate injury or against decisions which might prejudice the constitutional future. It is in any case a power whose main purpose is to safeguard Indian interests. That applies no less to the Viceroy's duty, in the existing constitutional position, to secure the fulfilment of our obligations towards the States.

British High Commissioner

"In order to emphasise this aspect of the Viceroy's position as well as for reasons of practical convenience, His Majesty's Government have, in connection with these proposals, decided to appoint a United Kingdom High Commissioner in India to represent particular interests of the United Kingdom.

"Under the present conditions there is always the possibility that the Viceroy might, on a particular occasion, be placed, in dealing with his Council, in the ambiguous and even embarrassing dual position of being both concerned, as the head of the Government of India, with the defence of Indian interests and, at the same time, with representing the specific material interests of this country. A United Kingdom High Commissioner, on the other hand, would be free as in the Dominions to discuss and negotiate with the Government of India on a footing of complete equality but also of complete frankness."

"They have served India Well..."

Mr. Amery, continuing, said he had reviewed the conditions inherent in the situation which indicated the only line on which advance was possible. He described the changed composition of the Executive Council in the last five years and paid a tribute to the present Members of the Viceroy's Executive Council. "These Indian Members," he said, "are men who have played an active and distinguished part in Indian public life. They responded to the Viceroy's invitation to join him as colleagues, because both as patriots and as practical men they believed that they would serve India better by assuming responsibility than by abstention. They have served India well and the value of their service and of the advance it has represented will some day be more fully recognised.

"Unfortunately, it has to be admitted and the Members of the present Council would be the first to admit it, that their position is weakened by the fact that they do not enjoy the support of the main organised political parties. Neither in the Legislature nor in the Press are they sustained as a body by that measure of co-operation, goodwill and understanding which is so desirable for the carrying out of the great and urgent tasks of reconstruction.

"Nothing could serve that purpose better than if the leaders of those parties, postponing without prejudice the constitutional issues which have so far divided them, would agree together in giving their support to the formation of a new executive selected from among the leaders of Indian political life both at the Centre and in the Provinces.

"If the offer which His Majesty's Government now make is accepted, all portfolios except that of the War Member held by the Commander-in-Chief will be transferred to Indian hands. The portfolios transferred would include not only the important Home and Finance Departments but also that of External Affairs hitherto reserved to the Viceroy in person. This would naturally be accompanied by the appointment of fully accredited representatives abroad and so constitute a definite enhancement of India's international status. The new Executive would thus in fact, though not as the outcome of any formal constitutional process, be more representative of organised Indian political opinion.

"In selecting his Council, the Viceroy will be concerned to secure a balance of representation of the main communities including equal proportions of Muslims and Caste Hindus. I understand that he also intends to include representation for the Scheduled Castes, for the Sikhs and possibly for some other special interests. But the essential condition is equality in representation between the two main communities. That is indispensable to securing agreement.

"If, however, the proposals for a newly selected executive at the Centre are accepted, we would hope that ministerial government would be resumed in the Provinces, now under Section 93, on a coalition basis. Such questions as the holding of elections whether at the Centre or in the Provinces will no doubt be discussed at the Conference which the Viceroy has invited to meet him."

Referring to the composition of the Conference, Mr. Amery said: "These then are the proposals which the Viceroy on behalf of His Majesty's Government is laying before India. They owe everything to the initiative of Lord Wavell, to his deep sympathy with India's aspirations and to his firm belief in India's

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 816)

FIVE MORE V.C.s FOR INDIAN SOLDIERS

GALLANTRY ON THE BURMA FRONT

FIVE more Victoria Crosses have been won by men of the Indian Army. They are Jem. Parkash Singh (13th Frontier Force Rifles), L|Naik Sher Shah (16th Punjab Regiment), Naik Gian Singh (15th Punjab Regiment), Naik Fazal Din (10th Baluch Regiment) and Hav. Umrao Singh (Indian Artillery). This brings the total V.C. awards to the Indian Army during this war to 26.

India's 22nd V.C. of this war has been won posthumously by Jemadar Parkash Singh, aged 28, 13th Frontier Force Rifles, of Kahna Chak village, Hira Nagar tehsil, Kathua district, for "inspired leadership and a unique example" at Kanlan Ywathit, south of the Irrawaddy, last February.

The main weight of a night attack, lasting over three hours, was directed against Jem. Parkash Singh's platoon. Though wounded four times, and with many of his platoon killed and wounded, he continued to encourage and lead his men until he finally died from a grenade burst.

This is the first Indian Army V.C. to be won this year.

Jem. Parkash Singh is the first V.C. of the 13th Frontier Force Rifles. His battalion has killed about 2,400 Japs.

A week after Jem. Parkash Singh won the V.C. his brother was killed fighting the Japs.

Encounter with Japs

The V.C. action occurred during the 14th Army's drive towards Mandalay. A strong Jap force, supported by artillery, mortars and medium machine-gun fire, initiated a series of fierce and bloody attack, later augmented by flame throwers, against Jem. Parkash Singh's position.

Jem. Parkash Singh was wounded and ordered back to company headquarters. With no thought for his personal comfort he spent the time filling bren gun magazines and passing ammunition forward.

When the platoon havildar and the officer commanding the platoon had been wounded he crawled forward, dragging himself on hands and knees, and took command. When the company commander visited the platoon position he found the jemadar dropped up by his batman, also wounded, firing a two-inch mortar, the crew of which had been killed. He was shouting encouragement to his men and directing the fire of his platoon.

When he had expended all the two-inch mortar ammunition Jem. Parkash Singh crawled round the position collecting ammunition from dead and wounded, which he distributed to the remaining men. He was wounded again while firing a bren gun.

In spite of intense pain and loss of blood he did not fall out of the line. When wounded a third time, although weak and unable to move, he lay down facing the enemy and continued to direct his men, encouraging them to stay their ground.

He was wounded for the fourth time by a Jap grenade. He died a few minutes later, just after telling his company commander not to worry about him as he could look after himself.

"INDOMITABLE COURAGE" OF L./NAIK SHER SHAH

India's second Muslim V.C. winner of this war was announced on May 8—Lance-naik Sher Shah, 16th Punjab Regiment, a Punjabi Mussalman, of Chikrala, Mianwali district. He wins the V.C. posthumously for "indomitable courage" in the Kaladan Valley last January.

This is India's 23rd V.C. of this war, the second to be won this year and the first to be won by the 16th Punjab Regiment. The first Muslim V.C. was Jemadar Abdul Hafiz, 9th Jat Regiment, who won it posthumously last year near Imphal.

With his right leg shattered by a mortar splinter L|Naik Sher Shah propped himself against the side of a trench and continued to fire his weapon and encourage his men. When asked whether he was hurt he replied that his wound was only slight and it was not until afterwards that it was discovered that his leg was missing.

The action took place at Kyeyebyin, Kaladan, when just after dusk a Jap platoon attacked the post held by L|Nk. Sher Shah's section.

V. C. Heroes of Indian Army



Hav. Umrao Singh.



Jem. Parkash Singh.

To prevent the enemy destroying his section he stalked round alone behind them and broke up their attack by firing into them.

He killed the Jap platoon commander and six other Japs and then crawled back.

At midnight the Japs, now reinforced with a company, started to form up for another attack. Again L|Nk. Sher Shah left his section post and crept forward in the face of enemy fire; again he fired into a group of Jap officers and men and again dispersed the enemy.

It was while returning to his post that he was hit by the mortar bomb which severed his leg. In spite of his wounds and considerable loss of blood he went forward again as the Japs were preparing for yet another attack.

Firing from point blank range he again sent the enemy helter skelter. He continued to fire until shot through the head, after which he died.

Twenty-three dead and four wounded Japs including an officer, were found in daylight immediately in front of his position.

Last year L|Nk. Sher Shah gained the M.M. for outstanding leadership and initiative in the Kaladan.



Naik Gian Singh.

NAIK GIAN SINGH

Firing his tommy gun and hurling grenades Naik Gian Singh, 15th Punjab Regiment, a Jat Sikh of Sahabpur village, Jullundur district, Punjab, made two lone charges against the Japs astride the Kamye-Myingyan road in Burma, captured an anti-tank gun singlehanded and killed many of the enemy. He has been awarded the Victoria Cross, the Indian Army's 24th of this war.

As all water points in this area were within a Jap position it was essential that the enemy be dislodged. The attack on the first objective was successful but when a Punjab platoon was ordered to assault a nearby village it came under very heavy fire.

Nk. Gian Singh, in command of the leading section of the platoon, ordered machine-gunners to cover him as, firing his tommy gun, he rushed the enemy fox-holes. He was met by a hail of lead and wounded in the arm but he continued to advance hurling grenades.

He killed several Japs including four in one enemy main weapon pit. By this time our tanks had moved up and came under fire from enemy anti-tank guns. Nk. Gian Singh, in spite of his wounds, again rushed forward and annihilated a Jap anti-tank gun's crew, capturing the weapon singlehanded.

He then led his section down a lane of cactus hedges clearing all enemy positions. About 20 Jap bodies were found in this area, the majority of whom fell to Nk. Gian Singh and his men.

After renewed action the Punjabi company reformed to take enemy positions to the rear. It was at this stage that Nk. Gian Singh was ordered to the regimental aid post but, in spite of his wounds, requested permission to continue leading his section until the whole action had been completed. Permission was granted.

"There is no doubt that these acts of supreme gallantry saved Nk. Gian Singh's platoon many casualties and enabled the whole operation to be carried out successfully with severe loss to the enemy," says the citation.

NAIK FAZAL DIN

Run through the chest by a Jap officer's sword, Naik Fazal Din, 10th Baluch Regiment, a Punjabi Mussalman of Hussainpur village, Hoshiarpur district, Punjab, seized the weapon as his opponent withdrew it and killed the Jap with it. Despite his terrible wound he accounted for two more of the enemy, staggered to his platoon headquarters to make his report and died shortly afterwards.

He has been posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross, the 25th to be won by the Indian Army during this war.

Nk. Fazal Din was leading his platoon in a company attack on an enemy position near Meiktila in Burma. Heavy machine-gun fire and grenades greeted the section as they reached the bunkers defending the area but Nk. Fazal Din personally attacked the nearest bunker and silenced it.

"Supreme Devotion to Duty"

Suddenly six Japs commanded by two officers appeared. A Baluch bren gunner shot one officer and another Jap but, as his ammunition had by then run out, he was himself killed. Nk. Fazal Din, in going to his assistance, received the sword of the second Jap officer in his chest.

After killing this officer Nk. Fazal Din slew another Jap and then, running to the help of one of his sepoys, despatched a third enemy. Waving the captured sword he continued to encourage his men but when he reached platoon headquarters he collapsed, dying soon after at the regimental aid post.

"Naik Fazal Din's action was seen by almost the whole platoon who, undoubtedly inspired by his great gallantry and taking advantage of the bewilderment created among the enemy by the loss of their leaders, continued the attack and annihilated the garrison which numbered 55," says the citation.

"Such supreme devotion to duty even when fatally wounded, and his presence of mind and outstanding courage has seldom been equalled and reflects the unquenchable spirit of a singularly brave and gallant N.C.O."

HAVILDAR UMRAO SINGH

For his "magnificent bravery" when his gun position was repeatedly attacked by two companies of Japs in the Kaladan Valley of the Arakan last December, Havildar Umrao Singh has won the first V.C. to be awarded to the Indian Artillery in this war and the 26th to the Indian Army as a whole.

Hav. Umrao Singh, who was serving with a mountain battery, is an Ahir, of Palrah village, Jhajjar tehsil, Rohtak district.

The first Jap attack against the position was prefaced by heavy fire from 75 mm guns and mortars which lasted 1½ hours. When the attack came, says the citation, Hav. Umrao Singh so inspired his detachment with his personal example and encouragement to fight and defend the gun that they were able to beat off the attack with loss to the enemy.

Resolute Action

Though twice wounded by grenades in the first attack he held off a second enemy attack by skilful control of the detachment's small arms fire and by manning the bren gun against Japs who had got to within five yards. Again the enemy were beaten off with heavy loss.

The third and fourth attacks were also beaten off by the resolute action of the havildar, but by this time all the gun detachment save two were killed or wounded.

When the final attack came, the other gun having been overrun and all ammunition expended, Hav. Umrao Singh seized a gun bearer (a heavy tool) and closed with the enemy in furious hand-to-hand fighting. He was seen to strike down three Japs in desperate efforts to save his gun till he was overwhelmed and knocked senseless.

Six hours later, when a counter-attack restored the position, he was found in an exhausted state beside his gun, almost unrecognisable with seven severe head wounds. Ten dead Japs were around him.

"By his personal example and magnificent bravery," concludes the citation, "Hav. Umrao Singh set a supreme example of gallantry and devotion to duty. When recovered, his gun was fit for firing and was in action and firing later the same day."

V.C. HERO'S VILLAGE HEARS THE GOOD NEWS

News of the award of the Victoria Cross to Havildar Umrao Singh, of the Indian Artillery, was received with great excitement by the little village of Palrah, in the Rohtak district of the Punjab, where he was born.

I was the first to break the news, writes an Indian Army Observer. To do so I drove from New Delhi on a series of roads which, after leaving the main Rohtak road, gradually deteriorated until, three miles before Palrah, I was faced with a bumpy drive over a vague bullock cart track which wound through sunbaked scrubland.

I found the home of this 25-year-old hero standing off the village "square". The narrow lane leading to it, flanked by simple mudhouses, was soon jammed with villagers who had come to congratulate the havildar's family.

Modest Hero

Umrao Singh is a modest hero, for although he was home on leave recently before rejoining his regiment, having recovered from his wounds, I was told he had given no hint of the gallant action in which he won his V.C. He had talked little of his exploits in Burma, being content to enjoy to the full the simple pleasures of the Indian village life he left more than five years ago.

Neighbours crowded into the courtyard of his home as I talked to the brothers and sisters of Umrao Singh. They had come to express their pride in the honour which the gallant havildar had brought to Palrah.

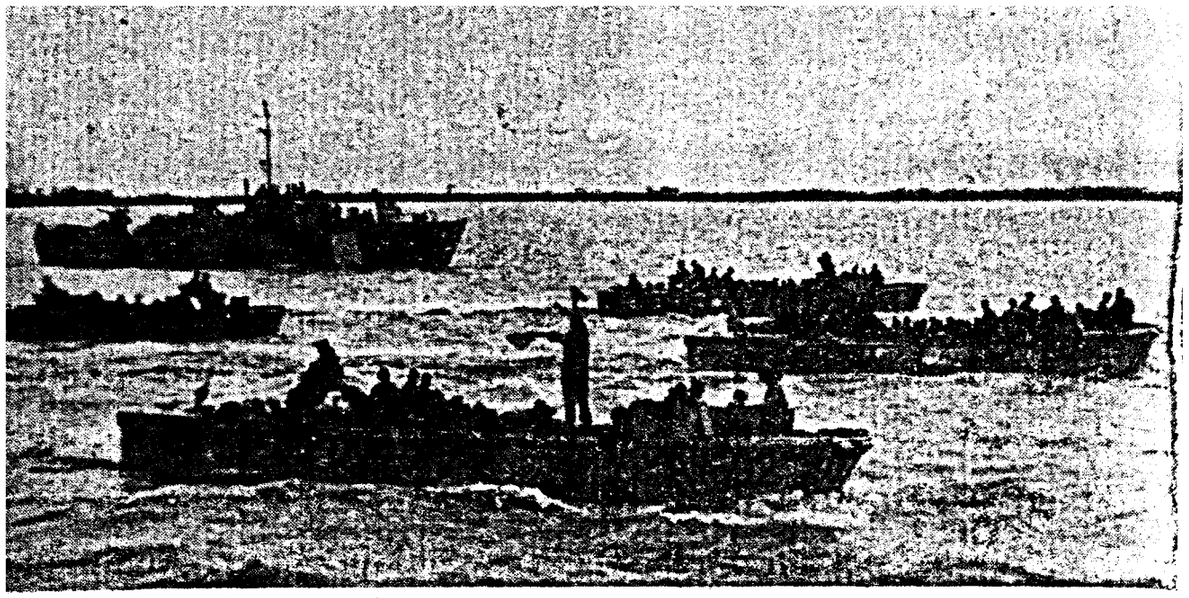
The press in the lane grew as my news was carried to outlying parts of the village. In the courtyard, somewhat overwhelmed but obviously delighted by the news, stood the family group. It was incomplete, for the father died some years ago, and Umrao Singh's mother was visiting relations in a village some miles distant.

But there were Duli Chand, delight for his brother's honour showing in a broad smile, and Basanti and Sarwarni, two married sisters who were on a short visit to their home. Two shy young sisters—Dankaur and Dharmbai—were also present, a little bewildered by it all.

They pointed out to me the household goods and belongings of their brother....calves, grain bins, a straw cutter, a pitchfork. Some day Umrao Singh will return to them. It is safe to say that when he does there will be a grand *tamasha* for Palrah's modest V.C.

VICEROY'S WAR PURPOSES FUND

Contributions amounting to Rs. 8,45,560 during March, 1945, have brought the total of H. E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund to Rs. 11,72,36,361 while the payments in the same month amounting to Rs. 6,19,284 raised the total of payments to Rs. 10,16,49,249 leaving a balance in hand of Rs. 1,55,87,112 of which about Rs. 1 1¼ crores represented unearmarked money.



Landing craft and motor launch in the Rangoon River on the day of liberation of Rangoon.

ALLIED SHIPS STEAM INTO RANGOON

SAILING into the Port of Rangoon with the first British ships since March, 1942, I have been sharing in the tumultuous welcome the townsfolk gave to our returning troops, writes an R.I.N. Observer.

The passage of our ships up the Rangoon River was like a triumphant procession. On the leading vessel, a stoker from a British destroyer marched back and forth playing bagpipes. Battle ensigns fluttered from the mastheads of many ships.

The blown-up boom across the river half a dozen miles south of the port was no obstacle to our advance and soon the harbour came into view—empty of shipping and looking as lifeless as the surrounding shore. Burnt-out buildings by the waterside showed the results of Allied bombing and many of the wooden quays looked dilapidated and long disused.

By the time the leading ships arrived at the Central Quay, a huge crowd had collected. They waved and cheered deliriously, and old people danced for joy like small children. A mass of welcome signs and the explosion of Chinese crackers expressed the mood of the liberated Burmese. British, Chinese and American flags flew again, after having been hidden for three long years.

The first ship to touch alongside was a motor launch of the Royal Navy, commanded by Lieut. Michael Hunt, R.N.V.R. Her First Lieut., Sub.-Lieut. "Tiff" McKay, R.N.Z.V.R. of Wellington, New Zealand, jumped ashore, swarmed up the nearest lamp-post and hoisted the first white Ensign to appear in liberated Rangoon.

As landing craft touched in to disgorge their troops, small boys fought for the privilege of taking their lines. To get to the road, you had to struggle through a feverishly eager crowd, all wanting to shake you by the hand and showing their enthusiasm by exploding crackers round you.

Wrecked tramways and newly-demolished buildings were evidence of the last acts of destruction by the Japanese before they cleared out of the city. Rangoon is without electric light, or main water supply. The streets are littered



The first merchantship to tie up at Rangoon after re-occupation.

with the worthless currency which the Japs imposed on the population. I had great bundles of Japanese "ten rupee" notes thrust into my hand by passers-by—as souvenirs, they said.

Three Years of Sufferings

My first stop was at the former Indian school, dust-covered, and in disrepair since the Japanese came. One of the masters, Mr. G. H. C. Nakhuda, told me of some of the sufferings the last three years had brought: how, in the early days of the occupation, Japanese soldiers would seize wrist-watches, from the arms of people in the streets; how they had been desperately short of food and clothing and how, with no medicines to be obtained, disease had claimed many victims; how their only news of the outside world had come from a lying propaganda-sheet called "Greater Asia."

The worthless currency had resulted in fantastic prices—24,000 "rupees" for a bicycle, 40 "rupees" for a bunch of bananas, 600 "rupees" for a piece of cloth that before the war would have been worth ten annas.

It was in November, 1943, Mr. Nakhuda said, that the Japs stopped using the Port of Rangoon for their warships.

A cameraman colleague and I soon found ourselves the centre of a party. Tables and benches were set before a house in the main street and we were offered Turkish delight, tea and bananas. A dignified *mullah* from the Mogul-street mosque joined us, and a great crowd of citizens gathered round, asking questions and telling us of their experiences. We talked until it was dark and then an oil lamp was produced and set on the table.

We were left in no doubt that the "New Order" of the past three years had produced nothing but contempt and hatred for the Japanese invader.

DISMAL SCENE AT RANGOON

The scene on our return to Rangoon, the first of the great Imperial cities to be liberated was, frankly speaking, a pretty dismal one. This was how I found Rangoon, writes an Indian Army Observer.

Rain, which had dogged the expedition from the start, formed great pools in the lifeless main streets. All the big European stores, Rowe and Co., Watson and Co., and Union Motors, were completely gutted.

Only a facade remains—mockery of the Rangoon that had once been. The Gymkhana Club, the Jubilee Hall, the Strand hotel—all were badly damaged.

The Town Hall and the Post Office are among the few buildings still intact. St. Mary's Cathedral smelled like a pig sty. Walls had been built across the nave, and the floor was littered with sour rice and dirt.

Damaged Buildings

Two wooden presses stood in the chancel. The Cathedral had been used as a sake distillery and sauce factory. A broken memorial tablet to John Miller Strachan, second Bishop of Rangoon, lay forlornly in the stinking litter. This morning (May 10) a naval padre was going to work to clear the mess.

The offices of the *Rangoon Gazette* had been used as the Japs' Greater East Asia propaganda factory. Their floors were littered with propaganda blocks and all manner of literature about the "victorious sweeps" of the Jap Imperial Army.

R.A.F. bombing had smashed the main water pipe line and the Japs had demolished

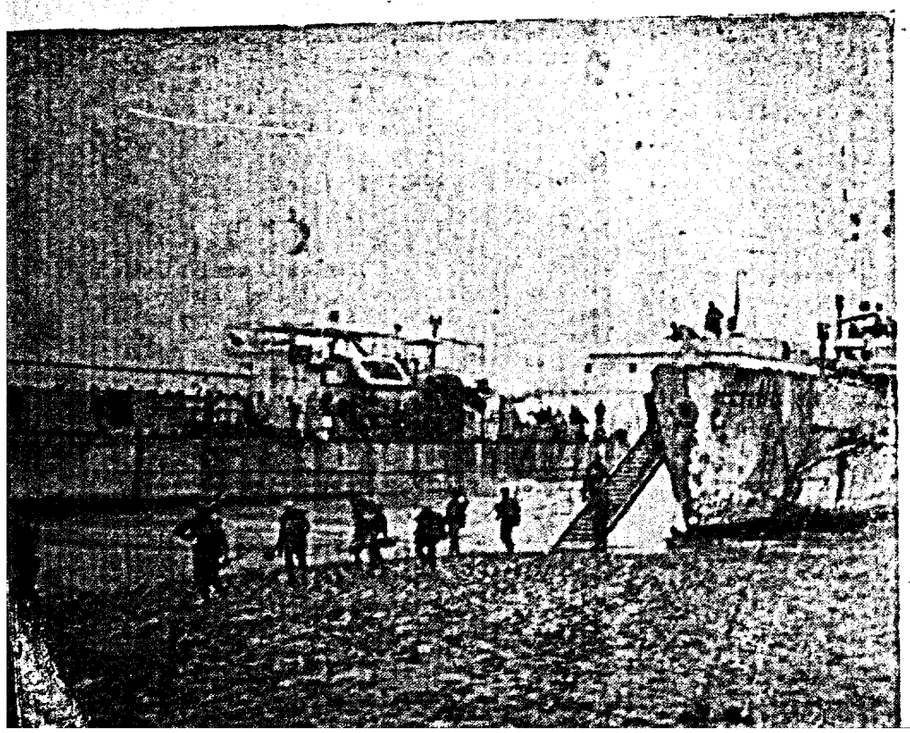


FALL OF RANGOON

A brilliant achievement of Indian and British troops in Burma was the recapture of the Burmese capital, Rangoon, on May 3.. (Above): An airstrike started these fires before the troops went ashore. (Below): Indian troops land on the undefended Rangoon beach.



(Above) Landing craft pass [illegible] ties first wave of tr[illegible]port





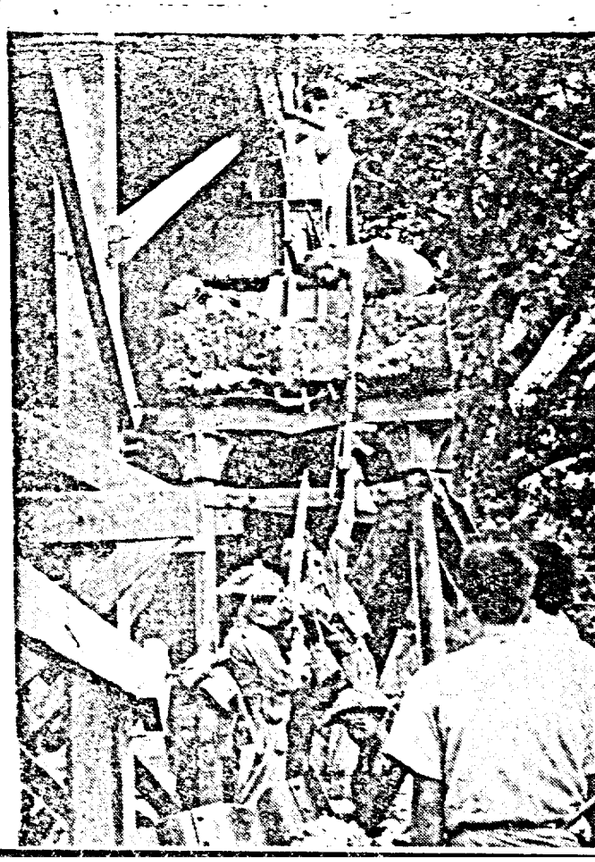
Burmese gather at the jetties to welcome the first wave of troops.



(Below) Burmese villagers help liberating troops at Rangoon bridge.



In the Rangoon docks. (Below) Paratroops drop from the planes over Elephant Point.



the power station. Rangoon is an oil-lit city, and its citizens draw water from wells in the streets.

Tramcars are piled up in the tram sheds, and the only transport on the street is supplied by a few tongas and a handful of Austin sevens of very ancient vintage. Soldiers are to be seen trundling their kit about the street on hand-carts.

While Jap currency notes littered the streets in many places, Jap money was still being used in exchange for small transactions. You could go to one street and pick up enough money to buy yourself a packet of cigarettes in another street.

The Reserve Bank of India was on fire, and Jap notes in parcels weighing half a pound a piece lay ankle deep all over the floor. Inflation had reached fantastic heights. A pair of boots cost 3,500 Jap rupees, a Jap bicycle cost 24,000 Jap rupees, a packet of inferior Jap cigarettes 90 Jap rupees.

A party of soldiers were asked 100 Jap rupees as fare for a 12-mile bus ride!

The Japs were paying ordinary labourers 15 Jap rupees a day.

Shwe Dagon Pagoda

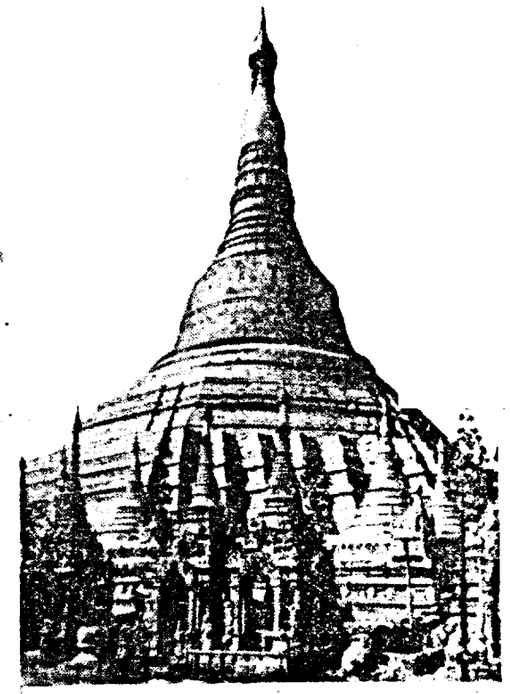
Many local people had taken refuge from the R.A.F.'s bombing in the temples that ring the Shwe Dagon Pagoda. The famous gold-brick pagoda is undamaged and already receiving its first parties of rubbernecking troops. But the gold leaf of the pagoda no longer gleams as it did in the British days. Much of it is covered with a coating of grime.

Under the Japs, said a *Pongyi*, the Burmese had not enough money to keep their famous shrine in repair.

About 15 days before our arrival, a curfew was clamped down to reinforce the inadequate policing of the city; peace preservation committees were formed and 'certificates of good citizenship' awarded.

Most moving sight of the first day of Rangoon's liberation was the grim gates of the jail opening, and a column of Indian prisoners marching out smartly in threes, followed at their tail by a squad of Chinese, shouting deep throated thanks to God as they marched.

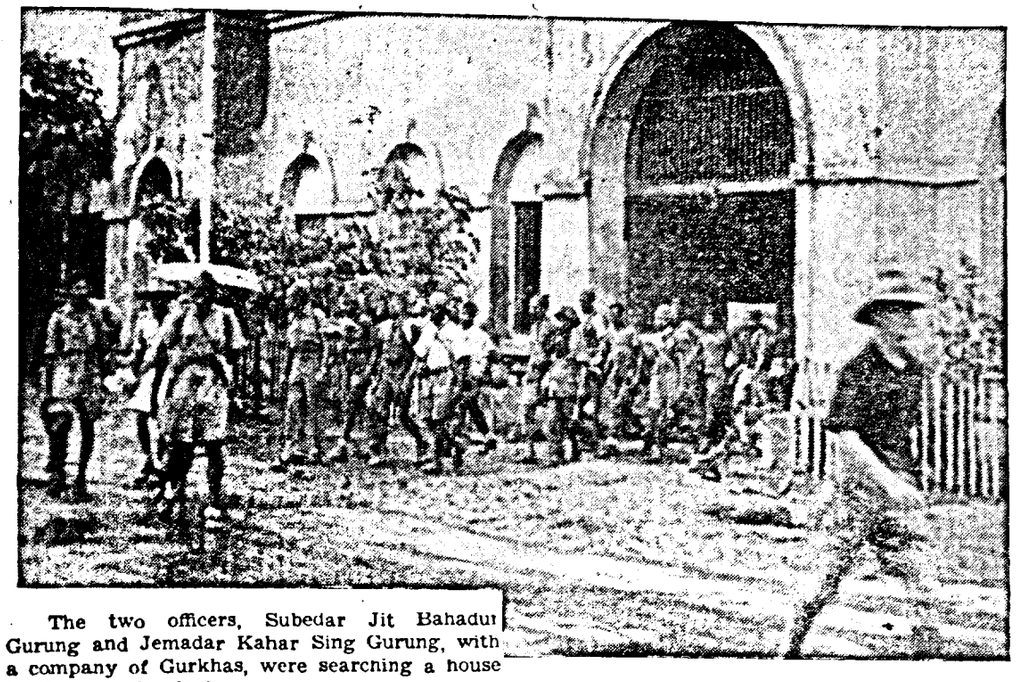
Two Gurkha officers of the Eighth Gurkha Rifles waded knee deep in bank-notes and coins worth over two lakhs of rupees when they landed in Rangoon.



The golden Shwe Dagon Pagoda.



Burmese gather to read posters prepared in secret by the Burma-Chinese Preservation Committee for the day of Rangoon's liberation.



The two officers, Subedar Jit Bahadur Gurung and Jemadar Kahar Sing Gurung, with a company of Gurkhas, were searching a house in the city for loot.

Before the arrival of the Indian and Gurkha troops of the 26th Indian Division *badmashes* had been stripping the city of valuables and taking them away and hiding them.

From the cellars of the house Gurkha soldiers brought up sack after sack of Indian, Chinese and Japanese money and dumped it on the floor of the main room.

There were one-rupee notes, a nice basketful of silver rupees, and copper coins, sheets of Chinese yaun and Japanese bank notes in thousands.

When the cellars were empty the Gurkhas were slipping and stumbling over maunds of rupees.

The civil authorities informed the Gurkhas later that the Indian bank notes and coin alone were worth 1,75,000 rupees and the Chinese nearly 30,000 rupees. The Japanese notes were of course worth nothing except as waste paper.

As men of the Bombay Sappers and Miners sweated away clearing the piles of rubble from the bomb-torn dockside the first two sizeable (4,000 tons) British ships to come up at the Rangoon River for three years tied up at the quayside. Veterans of the Normandy and Sicily landings, they brought reinforcements and much-needed supplies for the resuscitation of Rangoon.

Gates of the Rangoon prison opened at last for prisoners taken by Japs in the Burma war. Picture shows the freed prisoners leaving the jail.

Twelve other merchant ships anchored off Elephant Point outside the River, and unloaded on to landing craft.

The first Christian church service in liberated Rangoon was conducted by Major S. T. Lewis, senior Church of England chaplain of the 26th Indian Division.

Major Lewis gave holy communion to a large congregation of Anglo-Burman citizens.

It was their first communion in three years.

The service was held at the Church of the Holy Cross in a northern suburb—for it will take months to restore Rangoon's St. Mary's Cathedral.

ARMY ENGINEERS RESTORE SHATTERED BUILDINGS

Indian Army engineers in Rangoon have started on the gigantic task of restoring the city's shattered buildings. Drawings are now being prepared of roof trusses which will be turned out in their hundreds by a "mass production" prefabrication plant devised and run by the engineers themselves.

Great rafts of teak logs are to-day bobbing in the monsoon-swollen Hlaing River as they float 30 miles downstream from the Burma state forest to the timber yards on the west side of Rangoon's waterfront. In the next fortnight or so many thousands of logs—each 30 feet long and a yard or more in diameter—and hundreds of thousands of bamboos and poles will come spinning down the rain-torn river to the Rangoon timber yards.

Initial Programme

Meanwhile 130,000 more trees are being felled and hauled to collecting points on the river bank. Here are roofs and tables for roofless and tableless Rangoon. Saw blades are being flown in to get the three big saw mills humming at the earliest possible moment.

The initial programme calls for—amongst many other things—the production of 100,000 charpoys, 40,000 benches, 20,000 tables and 5,000 chairs. The shortage of these items is due to the action of the Japs, who unable to bring coal to Rangoon, had practically denuded the place of timber before they left. The enemy were, in fact, finally reduced to stoking the power station boiler with rice. Our troops actually found three godowns full of rice when we took over, writes an Indian Army Observer.

Restoring Water Supply

Forty miles to the north of the city Army engineers are preparing to install mechanical equipment for the development of quarries which, it is hoped, will eventually yield 1,000 tons of stone a day. This is badly needed for work on the roads on which the Japs—acutely short of bitumen—did no maintenance during three years of occupation.

Two platoons of the Bengal Sappers and Miners to-day have perhaps the most important job in Rangoon, wrote an Indian Army Observer from the City on May 26.

Twelve miles outside the city you can watch them every day wrestling with the great pipes that carry Rangoon's water 45 miles from

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 797)

"SAFETY OF INDIA'S EASTERN BOUNDARY ASSURED"

Lord Louis Mountbatten's Message

"THE whole campaign has been a grand inter-service affair and the safety of Eastern boundary is now assured," says Lord Louis Mountbatten, Supreme Allied Commander, South East Asia, in a message to H. E. Sir John Colville, then acting Viceroy of India, thanking His Excellency for a message of congratulation on the capture of Rangoon.

His Excellency's message read: "The Government of India and I send our warmest congratulations on the capture of Rangoon and the brilliant campaign leading up to it. Our thoughts are with you and your victorious sea, land and air forces, which include so many sons of India."

Gift for Troops' Amenities

In a message to General Leese, Commander-in-Chief, Allied Forces, South East Asia, His Excellency said: "Heartiest congratulations to you and all under your command on the capture of Rangoon. A splendid campaign indeed. I have telegraphed separately to Mountbatten. To mark the occasion I have sanctioned the grant of Rs. 1,48,000 for the clubs you are setting up for British officers and other ranks in Burma, in addition to the grant of Rs. 3 lakhs already made for amenities for your Indian troops. Best wishes for your continued success."

General Leese replied: Thank you on behalf of all ranks of the Allied land force for your kind congratulations on the capture of Rangoon. India may well be proud of the outstanding part her sons have played in the Burma campaign. Thank you very much indeed for your very handsome present of Rs. 1,48,000 which will be most helpful to us in establishing clubs for British officers and other ranks in Burma.

AMENITIES FOR R.A.F. AND R.I.A.F.

H. E. the Viceroy has sanctioned a further grant of Rs. 5,00,000 from the War Purposes Fund to Headquarters, Air Command, South East Asia, for amenities for R.A.F. and R.I.A.F.



British prisoners in the medical section of the Rangoon prison camp. The Japs gave them no medical supplies and treated them like animals. Rice was their only food.

JAPS' CALLOUS TREATMENT OF ALLIED WAR PRISONERS

STORIES told by Allied officers and men who arrived in Calcutta during May after their liberation from prison camps in Burma give a good idea of the life led by prisoners of war in Jap hands, writes an Indian Army Observer.

Interviewed in military hospitals, where they are now recovering from the effects of long imprisonment—some were in prison for over three years—their experiences, whether they were British, Indian, American or Chinese were generally identical. All spoke of insufficient diet and the complete absence of medical services, which added to the extreme callousness and lack of human feeling on the part of the Japs, made life almost unbearable.

The released prisoners spoke of "routine" beatings, especially when under interrogation. Solitary confinement was only too frequent and although in most cases it was a matter of weeks, there were men who were kept in a small cell without seeing another living soul or breathing fresh air for 12 to 14 months.

Among prisoners who were confined in the Rangoon jail were two British and two Indian medical officers who saved the lives of many of the men. Nevertheless it is estimated that about one-third of the men captured at the time of the fall of Burma died within the first 12 months. Most of these lives could have been saved had the Japs rendered any medical service or made available medical stores.

The diet was only just above starvation level, especially bearing in mind that prisoners were made to do cooly work. Food consisted principally of rice, and for two years it was rice rejected as unfit for Jap consumption. Then there was bran, the same as that given by the



A large number of war prisoners—Indian, British, American and Chinese—was landed in Calcutta recently after their liberation from Jap prison camps in Rangoon. Picture shows Mr. R. G. Casey, the Bengal Governor, talking to Major. N. I. Mcleod, I.M.S., who was in captivity for over three years. (Below) Liberated Indian war prisoners receive Red Cross amenities on landing.

Japs to their pigs. There was occasional gram and on most days there were eight pumpkins and marrows among 200 men.

The cook, also a prisoner, did wonders with the food, but it lacked vitamin B and health progressively declined. One prisoner lost 75 per cent of his vision and hearing due solely to malnutrition.

During their captivity no Red Cross food parcels or medical supplies were allowed through, but within the last few weeks the prisoners were allowed to write one post card. It was noticeable that as the Jap military position deteriorated so the treatment of the prisoners improved, a fact noticed in other parts of Jap-occupied territory.

Journey Home

In spite of all they had suffered, the released prisoners boarded the ship that was to bring them on the first part of their journey home in high spirits. They were in rags and every man had lice or scabies for in jail they had been allowed only two mess tins of water a week for all washing purposes.

Immediately on release they were provided with clothing, including pyjamas, vests, shirts and shorts, most of these garments being provided by the Indian Red Cross. In six days, 39,000 Red Cross cigarettes were supplied to the 443 men on board the largest ship which brought them to Calcutta and each man was given a bag in which to keep the possessions he was given including a razor, blades, soap, tooth brush and so on.

Welcome in Calcutta

The men were eager to see newspapers and magazines, having seen or heard no real news since they were captured. In some cases that was over three years ago. They were delighted to listen to the wireless, too.

On arrival in Calcutta, the prisoners were met by the Governor of Bengal and by the Army Commander, General Sir Richard O'Connor, both of whom spoke to the men. There was also a military band to welcome them and groups of Indian Red Cross welfare workers waited to give them more comforts as they entered the ambulances drawn up on the quayside. Once in hospital, they found workers ready to take messages for them, to bring them books or to do their shopping.

LOYALTY OF INDIAN WAR PRISONERS UNSHAKEN

AXIS attempts to undermine loyalty of Indian prisoners of war have long been known. Their failure has only been fully revealed by lightning advances in Europe and Burma.

Like thousands of prisoners of war of nearly all Allied nations found dressed up in Axis uniforms Indian soldiers have in vast majority of cases seized the first chance of escaping from their Axis masters.

Axis propagandists with the help of Subhas Chandra Bose paid particular attention to Indians.

Every effort was made to persuade them that by joining Bose's so called Indian National Army they would be fighting for the freedom of their countrymen. A few believed him to be a sincere patriot, others after Pearl Harbour, the fall of Malaya and Singapore and invasion of Burma felt Allies were losing war in the Far East and that they had better come in on the winning side. But the many stood fast.

Axis Attempts Foiled

In Italy an Indian Axis formed unit mutinied when it learnt that it was to fight against the Allies and had to be disbanded. In France a number of prisoners of war discarded their German uniforms and joined the Maquis against whom they had previously been enlisted to fight. Indians landed from a Japanese submarine on Indian coast promptly reported to the nearest officer of the Indian Army and revealed their orders to him.

At Bose's earnest request a defensive position in Burma was entrusted to his "Army" in February of this year. His troops took the first opportunity of coming over to our lines. Disappointed at results they were getting, both Germans and Japanese tried bribery and coercion. Concessions were given to volunteers. Those who refused were denied Red Cross parcels and systematically maltreated. Some driven by hunger and brutality pretended to change their allegiance. Many thousands who would not co-operate were sent by the Japanese to labour camps in S.W. Pacific and later found by the advancing Allied Forces living in conditions of indescribable filth and suffering.

These Indian prisoners of war had stood up to barbarous treatment with same spirit which has carried Indian Army to victory in every theatre of war and earned praise of every Allied Commander.

PERMANENT COMMISSIONS IN ARMED FORCES

AS a first step towards providing the anticipated requirements of regular officers for the post-war Indian Armed Forces, the Government of India have decided to grant during the war a limited number of permanent commissions to Indian officers in these forces.

The number of such commissions will, for the present, not exceed 60 for the Royal Indian Navy, 450 for the Indian Army and 90 for the Royal Indian Air Force. The number is based on a conservative estimate of the probable post-war officer strength of the three Services and takes into account the existing strength of permanent officers now serving in them.

Selection of Officers

The figures, therefore, by no means represent the number of permanent commissions that may ultimately be given to Indian officers in the post-war Indian Armed Forces. Selections of officers for permanent commissions will begin at once but will necessarily be spread over a period of time.

The question of the method of obtaining British officers for the Royal Indian Navy and the Indian Army and of the number of Royal Air Force officers to be attached to the Royal Indian Air Force is still under consideration.

The Government of India are aware that in all the three Services there are many young Indian officers holding emergency commissions who wish to make service in the Armed Forces their life's career, and they are confident that the decision now announced will encourage them to apply for permanent commissions so that the post-war Armed Forces of India may benefit by the retention of the experience and knowledge gained during the war by those who are selected for such commissions.

Although the War in Europe has ended, passenger accommodation to overseas countries is still very limited. It is therefore necessary to continue the existing system of allocation of passage priorities. Resumption of normal overseas traffic cannot be expected until some time after the end of hostilities with Japan, said a Press Communique issued by the Defence Department, Government of India, on June 12.

HIGHER RATES OF PAY FOR R.I.A.F. OFFICERS

THE Government of India have decided that for the duration of the war, officers of the Royal Indian Air Force shall be granted a special war pay which will bring their basic rates of pay up to the level of those admissible to R.A.F. Officers serving with the R.I.A.F. They will also be granted family allowances under the new code of Family Allowances admissible to R.A.F. officers in India. This decision has retrospective effect to November 1, 1944.

R.I.A.F. officers of the General Duties and Technical Branches will be paid the same rates as for officers of the General Duties and Technical Branches of the R.A.F. in India. Officers of the Legal Branch will be paid the same rates as officers of the General Duties Branch of the R.A.F. in India. Officers of the Accountant, Administrative and Special Duties, Balloon, equipment, Meteorological and Education Branches will receive pay and allowances admissible to officers of the Administrative and Special Duties Branch of the R.A.F. in India.

Wartime Measure

When serving outside India, officers of the R.I.A.F. will receive expatriation allowance.

Officers of the Medical Branch of the R.I.A.F. will continue to be governed by the terms applicable to I.M.S. officers.

The Government of India wish to make it clear that this adjustment is a wartime measure. It is intended that rates of pay of R.I.A.F. officers, as well as R.A.F. officers on the Indian Establishment, will be reviewed in the light of such recasting of the existing Indian Pay system as will prove desirable or necessary on the conclusion of hostilities.

A special Air Force Instruction (India) on this subject was published on May 2.

H. E. the Viceroy has been pleased to appoint Lt.-General Sir Noel Beresford Peirse K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., Welfare General in India to be a Member of the Indian Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Board.

FIRST INDIAN BRIGADIER FROM STATE FORCES



Brig. Balwant Singh

COL. Balwant Singh Sidhu Bahadur, C.B.E. D.S.O., O.B.I., commanding the 1st Patiala Rajendra Sikh Infantry, has been promoted to brigadier and is shortly to take command of an Indian infantry brigade. He is the third Indian holding this rank and the first officer from the Indian States Forces.

Brig. Balwant Singh was recently awarded the D.S.O. for distinguished services on the Assam-Burma Front. His home is at Changliwala village, Patiala State.

Valuable Services

Born in 1894, Brig. Balwant Singh was commissioned in 1910 into the Patiala State Forces. During the last war he saw action in Egypt and Palestine. From 1936-37 he served on the North-West Frontier.

In 1942, his battalion fought some brilliant rearguard actions during the withdrawal from Burma and later trounced the Japs in many encounters. The valuable services rendered by him in this period were recognised with the award of the C.B.E., in December, 1943.

He was presented with the D.S.O. for the conspicuous successes achieved by the men under his command when Jap troops were knocking at the gates of India in 1944. "Colonel Balwant Singh has undoubtedly proved himself to be an outstanding commander and a great leader of men," says the citation.

The 300-year-old 1st Patiala Infantry has spent two and a half years in the Burma jungle during which time it accounted for over 1,000 Japs dead and wounded.

It covered the advance of the first Wingate Expedition and at a later date despatched three columns to create a diversion and aid the hard-pressed Chindits. It fought in the Chindwin Valley, in the Kabaw Valley, on the Tamu road, and around Ukhrul.

Noteworthy Achievements

Particularly noteworthy were the achievements of one Patiala column, 120 strong, which forced its way through 350 miles of jungle in the Chin Hills area and after a trek of only 21 days returned with much valuable intelligence.

During the Jap 'invasion' of India, the Patiala forces at their request were given the job of cutting communications in the enemy's rear in the Ukhrul region. At the height of their operations they completely severed Jap lines of supply for 10 days, seriously interfering with the enemy's plans.

GRANT FOR ADDIS ABABA HOSPITAL

H. E. the Viceroy has sanctioned a grant of £1,000 from the War Purposes Fund to the hospital which is being built in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in memory of the late Princess Tsahai, daughter of the Emperor of Ethiopia, who died during the Royal Family's exile in England.

The grant is made as a gift from India to an ally that has suffered much in the war and in commemoration of the part played by Indian troops in the liberation of Ethiopia.



Lt.-Col. J. N. Chaudhuri, O.B.E., decorates Risaldar Abdul Razzaq Khan of Hirwar village (Jaipur) with the Military Cross for gallantry in the Meiktila battle.

COMMANDER OF 16th LIGHT CAVALRY

Lt.-Col. J. N. Chaudhuri

Commanding the 16th Light Cavalry, the oldest regiment in the Indian Armoured Corps, is Lieut.-Col. J. N. Chaudhuri, O.B.E.

In its recent engagements against the Japs in Burma the 16th Cavalry has inflicted heavy losses and captured much booty. It is composed of Jats, Rajputs and Kiam Khanis.

Lt.-Col Chaudhuri is the eldest son of Mr. A. N. Chaudhuri, Barrister-at-Law, Calcutta. He was educated at Highgate School, London, and at Sandhurst, which he left in 1928. On being commissioned he was posted to the 7th Cavalry.

At the outbreak of war he joined the staff of the Fifth Indian Division, with which he served in Eritrea, Abyssinia and in the Sudan.

He was General Staff Officer, Grade II. under Lieut.-Gen. Sir William Platt and his last spell of duty in the Middle East was as A.A. and Q.M.G., Fifth Indian Division. He was awarded the O.B.E. for his work in this position.

General Staff Officer

In January, 1943, Lt.-Col. Chaudhuri became General Staff Officer, Grade I, at the Staff College, Quetta, and in August 1944, he was given command of the 16th Cavalry.

Lt.-Col. Chaudhuri's two brothers are also serving in the forces. One is a Wing Commander in the Royal Indian Air Force and the other a Squadron Commander in the 2nd Royal Lancers commanded by Lt.-Col. R. K. S. Rajendrasinhji, D.S.O.

IMPROVEMENTS IN PAY OF W.A.C.(I)

A series of improvements connected with pay and designed to bring the Women's Auxiliary Corps (India) into line with its English equivalent, the Auxiliary Territorial Service, have been sanctioned in recent months by the Government of India.

Generally speaking the two services have received the same rates of pay but members of the W.A.C.(I), as an Indian service recruited in India, do not receive the overseas allowances to which members of the A.T.S. are entitled.

Staff Pay

W.A.C.(I) Officers holding first, second and third grade appointments receive staff pay amounting to two-thirds of the rates applicable to men holding the same appointments. Thus a W.A.C.(I) first grade officer is authorised staff pay of Rs. 200, as against Rs. 300 earned by a male first grade staff officer.

W.A.C.(I) second and third grade staff officers draw staff pay of Rs. 100, against the Rs. 150 of a male officer in the same appointment. A warrant officer of the first grade now draws Rs. 185, an increase of Rs. 30 on her original pay.

W.A.C.(I) Officers and warrant officers are eligible for field allowance at the rates and under conditions applicable to men in corresponding appointments. The rates are Rs. 20 p.m. for officers; Rs. 20 p.m. for W.O.S. I. and Rs. 10 for W.O.S. II. They are also entitled to an allowance of Rs 2-8 a day in lieu of rations.

War Service Increments

War service increments already made known to the public have been sanctioned at the rates of Rs. 40 p.m. for Senior Commanders and above to Chief Commanders after three years' qualifying service, plus an increment of Rs. 13 p.m. for each subsequent year of service. Junior Commanders and officers below that rank with the same period of service are entitled to Rs. 30 p.m. plus an increment of Rs. 10 for each subsequent year's service.

For sergeants Rs. 20 p.m. has been sanctioned, the period of service being the same as above, plus an increment of Rs. 6-11 p.m. for each subsequent year. Ranks below sergeant earn Rs. 13-5 p.m. plus an increment of Rs. 6-11 p.m. for each subsequent year's service.

Additional allowances sanctioned recently include a messing allowance of Re. 1|- a day for local service officers and -|12|- a day for local service auxiliaries; servant's allowance of Rs. 30 p.m. to officers on general service terms and a Bombay—Calcutta compensatory allowance to general and local service officers in those cities at the rate of Rs. 35 for those earning less than Rs. 500 and Rs. 55 for those earning over Rs. 500.

RESTORING RANGOON'S WATER SUPPLY

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 790)

the City's Gyobyu reservoirs. Each section of pipe is 25 ft. long and 5 ft. wide and weighs five tons. At least 17 sections have been shattered by R.A.F. bombings.

A city's water pipe line work is well out of an army engineer's normal line of territory, but these sappers, under the leadership of Jem. Pooran Singh, of Bgaha Purana village, Ferozepore district, are tackling the problem with all their native ingenuity.

A Tough Job

They salvaged bolts from a Jap dump to get the gantry found on the spot in working order. They used a bulldozer to draw out the shattered pipes. To build a wooden cradle for the pipes they collected strong timber from the Mingaladon airfield.

With no special equipment, manoeuvring the awkward 5-ton pipes into position is a tough job, but every day it is going forward, and the threat to the city's health recedes. New pipes and supplies arrive daily by the "9 a.m. from Rangoon" drawn by a couple of locomotives manufactured by cannibalising ten other bomb-torn engines.

Biggest obstacle has been the looters who stole the rubber washers that go between the pipes as well as the hydrants and stop cocks in the streets. But an appeal was put out by "grapevine" and most of the missing fittings have reappeared and no questions asked.

Directing the work of restoring Rangoon's water supply—now expected to be completed in about a fortnight—is Lt.-Col. Irwin Walker, formerly the city's water engineer, now in the Royal Engineers in charge of the restoration of Rangoon.



Shams-ul-Ulema Maulvi Sayed Ahmed, the Imam of Jumma Masjid, Delhi, recently toured the Middle East Command to meet Indian Muslim soldiers. Here, the Imam is talking to the O.C. of the I.A.O.T.C.

IMAM'S VISIT TO INDIAN TROOPS IN MIDDLE EAST

SHAMS-UL-ULEMA Maulvi Sayed Ahmed, 80-year-old Imam of Delhi Jumma Masjid, has expressed great satisfaction at the conditions under which Indian troops are living in the Middle East. He has toured Egypt, Syria and Palestine, writes an Indian Army Observer.

"During my 20 days' tour in the Middle East," he said, "I visited a large number of units. I saw the tents and barracks where they live, the kitchens, messes and recreation rooms where they eat, drink and relax, and the playgrounds where they play games to keep themselves fit.

"I talked to the soldiers informally in the absence of their officers. I visited their hospitals. I am glad to say that despite a host of unpleasant occupations and the great strain of this terrible war, Indian soldiers are very well looked after, and their religious aspects of life well catered for.

"Every camp is equipped with a mosque, a temple and *gurdwara*, which are well attended. My joy was very great indeed when I saw that officers from Jemadar up to the C.-in-C. are fully alive to and sympathetic towards the needs and requirements of men serving under them, and strive to give them as much comfort as possible.

"I am quite sure that but for separation from home and relatives Indian soldiers would prefer to live on here for any length of time."

EMPLOYMENT OF DEMOBILISED DEFENCE PERSONNEL

Government Plans

ADDRESSING a Press Conference on May 8, 1945, Mr. S. Lall, Additional Secretary, Labour Department, Government of India, said:

At the end of the war every country will be faced with the problem of the demobilisation of members of its armed and assimilated forces and their orderly absorption in civil life. For India, however, the problem will be in certain respects a new one. Demobilisation and resettlement on any large scale and in an organised and scientific manner has not been attempted in it before. The experience of other countries will, no doubt, be of great help to us; but, in view of the complexity and magnitude of the problem, we shall have to break much new ground.

The International Labour Conference at its 26th session held at Philadelphia in April-May, 1944, considered, *inter alia*, problems relating to employment organisation and employment service in the post-war period. Some of the general principles which it enunciated are as follows:

General Principles

"The first task is necessarily to find out in advance, so far as possible, the scope and character of re-employment in the transition from war to peace. For this purpose, it is necessary to collect all needed information regarding the persons likely to be seeking work and the employment opportunities likely to be available by a series of factual studies, covering each of the various categories of job seekers during the transition, the extent and timing of the demand for workers for different major industries at that time and the probable area-by-area balance of labour supply and demand in the transition period....."

"Plans for military and industrial demobilisation after the war will require effective machinery for facilitating transfer of millions of workers from one job, industry and area to another. The recommendation thus urges the widest possible use of the employment service by employers and workers, the organisation and extension of programmes of vocational guidance, for persons seeking work; the reorganisation, redirection and co-ordination of training and retraining facilities....; the planning of the location of industrial activity in relation to employment; and positive steps to facilitate the necessary mobility of labour, both occupational and geographical.

"Employment readjustment during the transition period will raise special problems and difficulties for particular groups of workers. It will, at the same time, provide an opportunity for reconsidering the policies which have traditionally governed the employment of these workers and for making advances over the past in many ways".

This, in broad outline, is the scope of the problem of resettlement and re-employment in civil life of demobilised members of the armed services and discharged war workers.

Integrated Organisation

In view of the urgency of the problem, Government have decided to set up immediately under Labour Department an integrated resettlement and re-employment organisation. The functions of this organisation are explained in the Memorandum handed over to the Press.

It is, however, to be pointed out that the object of this organisation is not to compel employers to take ex-service men and women in their employment but to assist them with information and advice in obtaining the most suitable workers. The organisation will similarly advise and assist workers in finding the most suitable employment. It is primarily intended to provide, on a voluntary basis, facilities to employers as well as persons seeking employment, in order to meet, so far as possible, their individual requirements. For this purpose its first and most important task will be to collect the needed statistical data regarding the number of persons likely to be demobilised from the Defence Services and regarding employment opportunities likely to be available with a view to ensuring the prompt reabsorption or redistribution in suitable employment of all demobilised persons who desire to work.

Facilities for Training

As regards facilities for technical and vocational training, it is intended that training or re-training, where necessary, should equip the trainee for suitable employment in normal competition with other workers and meet the man-power requirements of post-war development schemes initiated by Central and Provincial Governments and private enterprise. The establishment of an Employment Service in this country is a new venture and will require trained staff.

The Labour Department have secured the services of an officer of the Ministry of Labour and National Service in the United Kingdom for the training of the managerial staff required for the new Employment Exchanges which it is proposed to establish in the country. A suitable training syllabus has been framed. With a view to obtaining the best Services and civilian personnel available for the purpose, the selection of the managerial staff is being undertaken by the Federal Public Service Commission.

Employment Exchanges

It is proposed to start the training of the first batch of officers from June 1, 1945. The Services are being generously represented in the Employment Exchange staff since they will be in a better position to appreciate the special needs of ex-Service men and women. Every effort is being made to ensure that the Employment Exchanges in each province are manned by persons belonging to that very province. This, it is hoped, will prove helpful in so far as Employment Exchange staff will be familiar with the provincial languages and customs and habits of the people and their local contacts will prove of great value in this work.

The Services comprise nearly 1,000 trade categories. Some of the Services trades will be common military and civilian trades, some will be adjustable to peacetime requirement while some will have no counterpart in civil life. For the work of placement, it is essential to standardise occupational terms, determine civil equivalents of Services trades and define, as accurately as possible, different grades of skill in each trade.

Scheme for Disabled Persons

The Labour Department have appointed an Officer on Special Duty for this purpose. When preliminary data has been obtained and duplication in Services trades has been eliminated, it is proposed to set up in the near future an expert Committee to go into this question in collaboration with representatives of the various branches of the Defence Services and civil industry.

The rehabilitation and re-employment of disabled persons presents a specially difficult problem. The Labour Department have under consideration a separate scheme for the disabled whereby they will be provided with full opportunities for rehabilitation, specialised vocational guidance, training or re-training, and employment in useful work.

The success of resettlement will depend largely upon the volume and scope of employment available in the post-war period. It is hoped that the post-war development schemes of Central and Provincial Governments will provide ample scope for useful employment for demobilised members of the Defence Services and will open up new avenues of employment. The resettlement and re-employment organisation will endeavour to make available as promptly as possible the necessary man-power and skill required for the expeditious execution of these schemes as well as the requirements of private enterprise. It will also enable Central and Provincial Governments and private enterprise to correlate their schemes with the available man-power and to phase their projects in such a manner as will lead to full and long-term employment.

Although the organisation is primarily intended to cope with the resettlement and re-employment of demobilised members of the Defence Services and discharged war workers, it is hoped that it will develop into a permanent Employment Service closely integrated with the economic policies directed towards achieving full employment and raising the general standards of living of the Indian people.

NETWORK OF EXCHANGES

The Government of India are setting up a co-ordinated organisation to deal with the resettlement and re-employment in civil life of demobilised members of Defence Services and discharged war workers, said a Press Note issued by the Labour Department, Government of India, on May 8.

It added: A network of Employment Exchanges will be set up under the Labour Department to facilitate the registration for and placement in civil employment of demobilised persons. There are, at present 10 Employment Exchanges functioning in India for the registration and placement of technical personnel. Their number will be increased to 71 by February, 1946.

There will be a Central Exchange, nine Regional Exchanges, two special Exchanges for Naval and Aircraft Trades and 59 Sub-Regional Exchanges. Attached to each Sub-Regional Exchange will be a number of Employment Information Bureaux to serve as a supplementary channel for communicating information and advice to demobilised persons on all matters relating to their training, registration, placement, etc. The Regional and Sub-Regional Exchanges will also have Employment Advisory Committees consisting of representatives of workers and employers.

This set-up will be the beginning of a well-organised and co-ordinated Employment Service to help workers to find the most suitable employment, to assist employers to secure the most suitable workers and to ensure that the available workers and available jobs are brought together as promptly and satisfactorily as possible. It will also ensure that the necessary skills are available and are distributed satisfactorily among the various branches of production.

Military and industrial demobilisation after the war will require effective machinery for facilitating the transfer of large number of workers from one job, occupation, industry and area to another. It will be necessary to collect in advance information regarding persons likely to be seeking work, employment opportunities likely to be available for various categories of workers and the probable area-by-area balance of labour supply and demand.

Vocational Guidance

Employment re-adjustment during the transition from war to peace will raise special problems and positive steps will have to be taken to facilitate the mobility of labour, both occupational and geographical. Programmes of technical training and vocational guidance for demobilised persons have to be organised to equip them for the type of employment for which they are most suited and for meeting the manpower requirements of post-war development schemes. After their placement in civil employment the interests of ex-service men and women will also need watching for some time, with a view to assisting them to adapt themselves to their new surroundings and bringing about mutual understanding and cordial relations between them and their new employers.

These problems will be dealt with by six Directorates which are being established at the headquarters under a Director General of Resettlement and Re-Employment. The Directorate of Employment Exchanges and Statistics will supervise, integrate and direct the work of Central, Regional and Sub-Regional Exchanges. It will collect data regarding the number of persons likely to be demobilised and the employment opportunities likely to be available and all other relevant information pertaining to employment. The Directorate of Employment will function as an Employment-finding body. It will tap all available sources and explore new avenues of employment and keep abreast of post-war development schemes.

In collaboration with Government factories, Railways, Provincial Governments and Civil Industry, the Directorate of Technical Training will organise facilities for further technical training and apprenticeship training for such demobilised technicians as may need them for civil employment.

The Directorate of Vocational Training will prepare schemes for the training of demobilised persons in non-engineering trades and vocations, and will organise training facilities in collaboration with Provincial Governments, Universities and private institutions.

The Directorate of Publicity will popularise the employment of demobilised persons in civil employment, and canvass private employers. And, lastly, the Directorate of Welfare (Follow-up) will maintain a close liaison with labour welfare organisations of the Central and Provincial Governments with a view to ensuring that the interests of demobilised persons in Civil Employment are being properly watched and safeguarded.

Employment Advisory Committee

For the purpose of this organisation the country has been divided into nine Regions i.e., the Punjab and N.-W.F.P.; Sind and Baluchistan; Delhi, Ajmer and Merwara; U.P., Bihar and Orissa; Bengal and Assam; C.P. and Berar; Bombay; and Madras and Coorg. The Regional Organisation will be under a Director of Resettlement and Employment, and attached to him will be an Employment Advisory Committee consisting of representatives of Government Departments, employers and workers organisation and soldiers', sailors', and Airmen's Board.

The Resettlement Organisation will obviously require trained managerial staff to work the new Employment Exchanges. Arrangements for training are well in hand. The services of an officer from the Ministry of Labour and National Service in the U.K. have been obtained for conducting the training course. Civilian and Services Personnel required for the posts of managers and assistant managers in the Sub-Regional Exchanges, and deputy managers and assistant managers in the Central and Regional Exchanges is being recruited. The training of

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 806)



Mr. S. Lall addressing the officers selected for training at the Staff Training Centre, which was opened in Delhi on June 1.

PIONEERS OF A NEW AND GREAT SERVICE

Mr. S. Lall's Speech at Staff Training Centre

"THE opening of Employment Exchanges on the scale contemplated will be the beginning of a new chapter in labour policy," observed Mr. S. Lall, Additional Secretary, Labour Department, Government of India, addressing the first batch of officers selected for training in the managerial aspects of the resettlement machinery at the Staff Training Centre on June 1. The Centre is located in Shamshad Manzil, Roshanara Road, Delhi, and Mr. K. D. Jones is the officer in charge.

Mr. Lall said: "In the Labour Department we feel that we are embarking on something great—indeed so great that the magnitude of our task almost frightens us. But we are determined to do our best and we feel that if we undertake this task in the right spirit, we shall succeed in setting up, on solid foundations, an organisation from which generations of our countrymen will derive lasting benefit."

Continuing Mr. Lall said: "The opening of these Exchanges is due primarily to the obligations which we owe to the demobilised personnel of the Defence Services and to other discharged war workers. But we cannot deal with these categories in isolation. They are civilians and will merge in the civilian population. What we do for them cannot long be denied to others.

"We should indeed like very much from the start to take a wider and all-embracing view of the scope of our duties but there are limitations to what we can undertake in the beginning, specially when we embark on a new experiment of this kind. Knowing that the burden is too heavy for us to bear all at once it would not be wise to allow ourselves to be crushed by it. By patient manipulation we can handle it and this is what we should set out to do with courage but not with foolhardiness.

"Our Exchanges will at first be an important part of the machinery for resettlement.

We are to help the demobilised soldier, sailor and airman and also the large body of workers in ordnance and other war factories who will be compelled on the termination of hostilities to seek new employment. For them the transition from war to peace will be a period of great hardship and it is this hardship which it is our duty to alleviate as much as possible. In return for this assistance the demobilised personnel and the discharged war workers will help to build an up-to-date Employment Service which I feel sure will in time be of immense benefit to all without distinction of colour, breed, caste or rank.

"The essential part of a sound Employment Service in a country is a co-ordinated system of Exchanges developed on modern lines and on the experience of more advanced countries. We are now on the threshold of a world-wide campaign for Social Security and Freedom from Want. Can India where the need is greatest sit still and do nothing? Neither of these objectives can be secured without full employment. This is the goal which has been set before the world. For India with its 400 millions, its poverty and its illiteracy, it is a distant goal.

Workers and Jobs

"We have a very long way to go before we can hope to reach it. Our Employment Exchanges will not guarantee full employment but they are needed to help workers to find the most suitable employment, to assist employers to secure the most suitable workers and to ensure that the available workers and available jobs are brought together as promptly and as satisfactorily as possible.

"Our Exchange machinery should at least enable us to watch the level of employment in the country and to know whether that level has risen or fallen. If this level falls too rapidly there will be unemployment and distress. Our Exchange machinery should be able to give due warning and enable Government to take positive measures to raise the volume of employment for those categories who are likely to suffer. The Exchange machinery now visualised should therefore play an important part in the phasing of post-war development schemes with a view to ensuring proper co-relation between post-war planning and employment.

"The number of Exchanges that we propose to set up is comparatively small but it represents a real beginning. We are covering most of the important industrial centres and



Mr. S. Lall talking to lady officers undergoing training at the Centre.

we also propose to link up with rural areas through Employment Information Bureaux.

"The organisation that we are setting up is a delicate mechanism consisting of a Central Exchange, Regional and Sub-Regional Exchanges and a large number of Information Bureaux. Unless there is the fullest co-ordination throughout the organisation it cannot be expected to serve our purpose.

Human Element

"If we make a good beginning we can multiply the number of Exchanges quite easily at a later stage. We should not therefore be disappointed if the number of Exchanges that we are now setting up is comparatively small. It is the first step which is the most difficult and requires the greatest degree of caution. We are just about to take that first step.

"Before setting up Employment Exchanges in India I should like to make it very clear that they should not be regarded as ordinary

staff who man the Exchanges. I cannot emphasise this point too strongly to you, who will shortly be made responsible for the running of these Exchanges."

Referring to the task before the officers, the speaker said that they would be pioneers of a new and great service. It was important that they should have a clear idea of the nature of their duties. They would not be armed with legislative powers, such as factory inspectors were, to enforce what they considered to be right. Their success would depend on the goodwill of employers and workers.

Mr. Lall emphasised that to be successful, officers should have a sympathetic and just outlook on labour problems, a strong desire to serve employers and workers alike, and the necessary knowledge and experience to enable them to render proper service.

The first batch selected for training at the Centre consists of 31 Officers, 20 civilians and all servicemen, all recruited through the Federal Public Service Commission.. In addition, there are 2 nominees of the Trade Union Congress, 3 of the Indian Federation of Labour and 1 of Hyderabad State, who are attending the training course.

The primary object of the training course will be to acquaint the managers with problems of demobilisation, resettlement and employment. But it will also equip them with a general background of what is happening in all other fields of labour activity.

The intention is that the managers should be in a position to fully appreciate how their own work fits into the rather complex pattern of economics covered by the term "labour". Thus along with lectures on subjects like demobilisation and welfare of ex-servicemen, peacetime employment opportunities and Employment Exchange procedure, there will be lectures on labour legislation, wages, trade unionism, labour statistics, social security and factory welfare. Theoretical training at the Centre will be followed by practical training at the regional exchanges and visits to important centres.

Apart from arrangements for training the staff in India, arrangements have also been made with the Ministry of Labour and National Service for training a number of officers in the United Kingdom. Under this scheme six officers with some experience of the working of employment exchanges have already left for U.K.

These schemes will provide about 250 men trained for appointment as managers, deputy managers and assistant managers, in the Central, Regional and Sub-Regional Exchanges.

SERVICE RELEASES FOR EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES

MORE details regarding official plans for resettling ex-service personnel in India are given in an Indian Army Order announcing a big increase in the number of employment exchanges.

As already announced the Labour Department propose to increase the number of exchanges to enable them to place ex-service personnel in civil employment and the provision of manpower requirements of post-war development schemes now being prepared by Governments and private enterprise.

At present there are ten employment exchanges, the Order states. It is intended to increase the number to 71 by the end of 1945.

Qualified Officers

There will be 59 sub-regional exchanges, with branch offices and employment information bureau attached, the latter on a basis of one to every thousand ex-service personnel.

"It is essential that this organisation, staffed by fully trained personnel, should be ready to function before large scale releases from the services begin," the Order says.

"Its work will be first importance in the resettlement of ex-service personnel and it has, therefore, been decided to release a limited number of qualified officers, V.C.Os. and ratings or other ranks from the services and W.A.C.(I) to fill posts as managers, deputy managers and assistant managers of exchanges.

First Selections Made

"The staff of each exchange will include at least one of these, so that the interests of ex-servicemen and women will be carefully watched throughout the organisation."

Those who are released will fill posts as managers, deputy managers and assistant managers of the exchanges.

First selection have already been made. Successful candidates will train for three to four months with the Labour Department, Government of India, before proceeding to their appointments.

INDIA AND THE I.L.O.

Regional Conference for S. E. Asia

"THE proposed South East Asia Regional conference should provide a suitable opportunity for a review of the economic situation in the countries concerned, especially with a view to the consideration of ways and means of raising the standard of living of the masses", observed Mr. R. Rao, Chief of the Asiatic Service of the International Labour Office, in a talk on "India and the I.L.O.", broadcast from A.I.R., Delhi, on May 25, in their series "Building a new India"

Referring to the scheme of health insurance for industrial workers drawn up by Prof. B. P. Adarkar, Mr. Rao said that it was widely regarded as an unusually able survey of the problem as it had to be dealt with in India. In the last few years the International Labour Office had been devoting particular attention to the question of social security, a question which had assumed considerable importance as a result of the world economic depression and of the present war. The Office advised several countries on the development of their social security system. The Acting Director, Mr. Edward Phelan, was most solicitous that the Office should give all possible assistance to India also in the initiation of social security legislation, so that its scope might be extended, if and when it was found possible to do so, with the least dislocation of the administrative machinery.

Tripartite Collaboration

Speaking of tripartite collaboration, Mr. Rao said that it had proved to be a useful method in dealing with complicated labour questions and had been employed in several countries before and during the war. In India, a Labour Conference with a constitution modelled on the constitution of the International Labour Office, had recently been instituted. Tripartite collaboration not only facilitated a systematic consideration of labour issues, taking into account the views of the parties concerned, but it also tended to consolidate the trade associations of employers and workers.

He then explained the constitution and functions of the I.L.O. and quoted the late Sir B. N. Mitra (a former Member for Labour, Government of India) and the late Mr. C. F. Andrews to show how India's association with this organisation had led to the passing of a number of enactments for the amelioration of the condition of the working classes in the country.

"But legislation", he said "if it is not accompanied by other measures, has its limits, which are soon reached. In a country like India with a large and long-settled population and with resources to a large extent still to be developed, social security at an acceptable level cannot be attained until production is amply enhanced and employment is adequately regulated. The enhancement of production and the regulation of employment call for a large measure of organisation with due regard to local conditions and to immediate possibilities.

"The criticism has frequently been made at international conferences by representatives of non-European countries that, for one reason or another, scant attention is given to the particular conditions in such countries.

Better Living Standards

"The International Labour Organisation is not indifferent to such criticism. At Philadelphia last April, when the first regular session of the Conference was held since the commencement of the war, a programme of future activities was adopted, which includes the convening of a South-East Asia Regional Conference. The proposal was strongly supported by the Government, employers' and workers' representatives of China and India and it will be given effect to as soon as circumstances permit. The Office is in consultation with the Governments chiefly concerned with a view to taking the necessary preparatory action. Meanwhile, every effort is being made to follow closely developments in Asiatic countries in respect of labour and social reforms and to strengthen the Asiatic side of the activities of the Office.

"The proposed South-East Asia Regional Conference should provide a suitable opportunity for a review of the economic situation in the countries concerned, especially with a view to the consideration of ways and means of raising the standard of living of the masses. The regulation of conditions of employment in agricultural, industrial and commercial occupations, including, in particular, the characteristic regional industries such as the plantation industry, the improvement of nutrition, housing and training of the workers, the building up of a workable system of social security and the effective enforcement of labour laws are questions which call for urgent and serious consideration if an adequate supply of labour is to be ensured for the development of industry

in South-East Asia. Without industrial development and concomitant agrarian reform and reorganisation, it would hardly be possible to increase the volume of employment in the over-crowded and under-developed countries bordering on the Indian Ocean, and unless employment was expanded social security or indeed social stability, would remain an idle dream.

"The proposed Conference would be tripartite in character in conformity with the constitution of the I.L.O. It would provide an opportunity to all three parties to put forward their different views on the lines on which plans for future development should be based and might also determine how those views could be reconciled. Judging by past experience, such an undertaking may well prove a valuable training for leadership.

Study of Labour Questions

"The regional activities would need to be fitted into the wider context of general International organisation. That is a matter for the governing body of the International Labour Organisation to consider. The Governing Body includes a representative of the Government of India among its permanent members and the employers of India as well as Indian workers can at all times have access to it through their own chosen representatives.

"The study of labour questions in South-East Asia in the light of local conditions and having regard to the views of persons primarily interested in such questions is an indispensable preliminary to economic and social advancement in the present conditions. The International Labour Office may be relied upon to assist the countries concerned in this task in all possible ways."

The Philadelphia Declaration

Concluding, Mr. Rao referred to the Philadelphia Declaration, which was unanimously adopted by the International Labour Conference at Philadelphia, and said that it "bears testimony to the recognition by the delegates assembled that the surest safeguard of peace, the best form of collective security, is prosperity for all the peoples in all the lands. In the years that lie ahead the I.L.O. will devote itself to the promotion of ways and means for the attainment of that goal."

Suhrawardy Anti-Tuberculosis Challenge Shield

The Tuberculosis Association of India awards the Hassan Masud Suhrawardy Memorial Anti-Tuberculosis Challenge Shield annually to the organisation or institution which has the best record of effective anti-tuberculosis work done within that year.

Anti-tuberculosis work, for the purpose of this Competition, includes, among other details, house-visiting and contact examinations, propaganda, anti-tuberculosis legislation, surveys, insurance, medical examination of school children, housing schemes, care and after-care committees and such other details which the Association prescribes.

The Shield, popularly known as the Hassan Masud Suhrawardy Memorial Anti-Tuberculosis Challenge Shield, was presented 10 years ago by Lt.-Col. Sir Hassan Suhrawardy in memory of his only son who died of tuberculosis at the age of 17.

The Competition is an annual feature of the Association's activities, and is open to Corporations, Municipalities, affiliated Tuberculosis Associations, District or Local and other recognised bodies doing anti-tuberculosis work on approved modern lines.

EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES

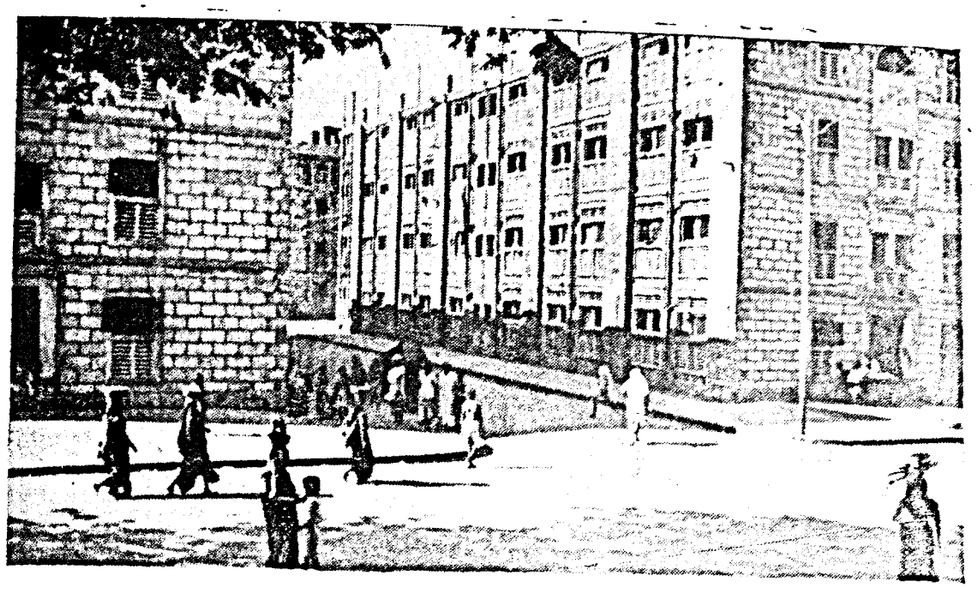
(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 881)

the first batch of officers will shortly commence at Delhi.

Arrangements are also being made with His Majesty's Government for the training of managers for Central, Regional and Special Employment Exchanges in the United Kingdom.

The duration of this scheme will be five years. Before the end of this period, the position will be reviewed in consultation with Provincial Governments.

Although the primary function of the Resettlement Organisation will be to deal with the resettlement and re-employment of demobilised members of Defence Services, it is hoped that this organisation will eventually develop into a permanent Employment Service closely integrated with the economic policies for achieving full employment and higher living standards for the people of India.



Workers' tenements constructed by the Bombay Development Department.

SOCIAL SECURITY FOR INDUSTRIAL WORKERS

Government's Scheme

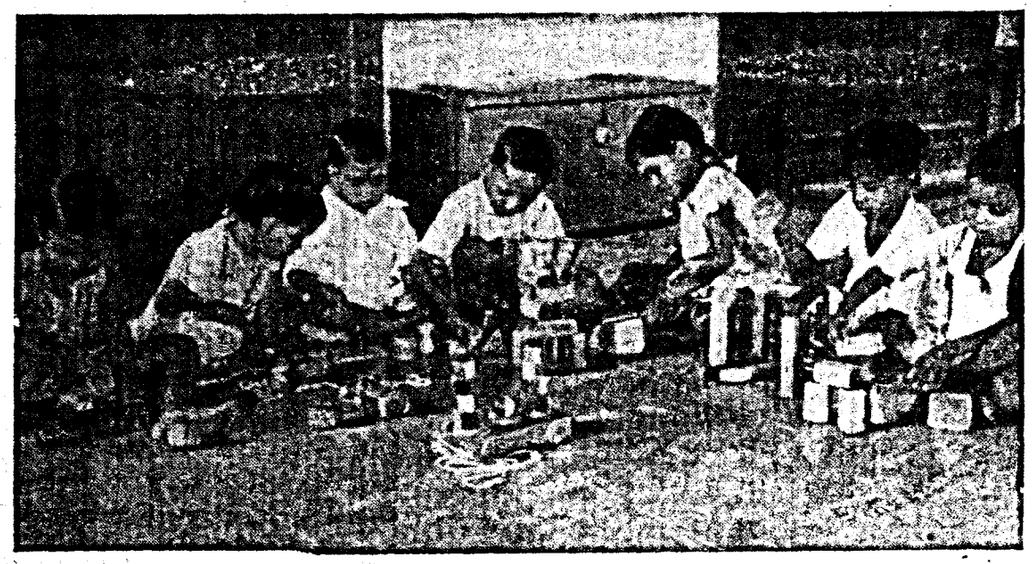
The Central Government have prepared, and have forwarded to Provincial Governments, a unified scheme of social security for industrial workers in India, covering health insurance, maternity benefit and employment injury. On receipt of the replies from Provincial Governments the question of introducing a Bill in the Central Assembly to implement the scheme will be considered.

The scheme is the outcome of the Report prepared by Professor Adarkar on Health Insurance for Industrial Workers. Professor Adarkar's proposals provided for progress by a series of steps and it was originally proposed to proceed initially with the first step only. It is now proposed, on the advice of Messrs. Stack and Rao of the International Labour Office, who came to India at the invitation of the Central Government, to tackle several steps at once.

The proposed scheme, therefore, covers all perennial factories and includes provision of cover both maternity benefit and workmen's compensation. It will thus be both economical and administratively simple to provide medical care during sickness, accident and maternity through the same medical organisation. Being an integral scheme of insurance, it may remove some of the defects that have crept into the present working of the Workmen's Compensation Act and of the Maternity Benefit Act.

Professor Adarkar had proposed that the Insurance Fund should set up its own medical service. According to the revised scheme, however, the provincial medical services will be utilised for the purposes of the Health Insurance Scheme. This change ensures that the Provincial Ministries of Health remain ultimately responsible for all health services operated within their jurisdiction, and that Provincial Governments will have a very close interest in the working of the scheme.

The cost of the scheme is proposed to be met in the following manner. The Central Government will meet two-thirds of the cost of administration as an *ex-gratia* payment for the first five years; the Provincial Governments are being asked to meet one-third of the cost of medical care of standard quality by the provision of Medical Services, and the remainder of the cost will be met from Employers' and Workers' contributions.



A kindergarten class in a school run by a big South Indian cotton mill for the benefit of its workers.

The administration of the scheme will be controlled by a statutory corporation—a Central Board of Social Insurance—to be set up under a Federal Act. In addition, there will be Regional Boards and Local Committees and judiciary, as suggested by Professor Adarkar in his Report.

CRECHES FOR CHILDREN OF WOMEN MINERS

An Ordinance published in the *Gazette of India Extraordinary* dated May 25, 1945, amends the Indian Mines Act, 1923, and authorises the Central Government to make rules for the maintenance of creches in mines where women are employed.

A provision already exists in the Factories Act, 1934, under which, in most of the Provinces, factories employing more than 50 women workers are required to maintain creches. The need for the provision of creches in mines is, however, no less than in factories. For some time past, the Labour Department have been urging Mining Associations to impress upon their members the necessity of establishing creches, but though some progress has been made in this direction, there is no measure of uniformity in the matter.

During the last session of the Legislature, the Labour Member gave an assurance that the question of making statutory provision for creches in mines was under consideration, and there seemed to be general agreement as to the necessity.

It is expected that the rules framed under the Ordinance will provide different standards for various classes of mines depending on the number of women employed—but that generally they will require the maintenance of suitable accommodation for children under the age of six. It is understood that the rules will be circulated to those interested before they are finally promulgated.

WAR RISKS (FACTORIES) INSURANCE

A Press Communique issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India on May 1, stated:

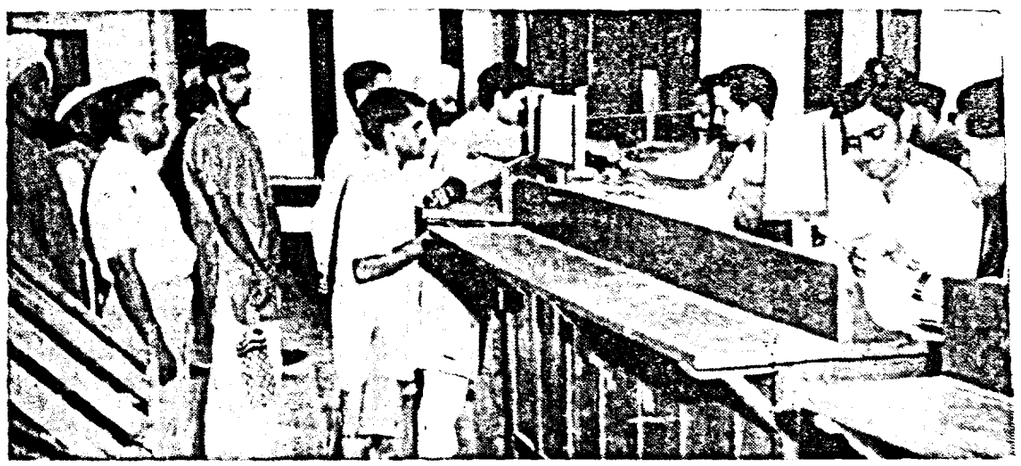
The War Risks (Factories) Insurance, 1942, and the Rules made thereunder have been amended so as to cover accidental damages occurring as the direct result of any explosion or fire which involves any explosives, munitions or other dangerous things required for war purposes, and which happens or is caused by, through, or in connection with the manufacture, storage or transportation of any such explosives, munitions or other dangerous things.



A crowd listens to rationing instructions from a broadcasting van in Delhi.

DELHI COMPLETES ONE YEAR OF RATIONING

Extending over an area of 60 square miles and embracing a population of over 900,000 people of whom 286,000 are children and 150,000 "heavy" manual workers, Delhi enters to-day (May 28) the second year of total food rationing which includes wheat and wheat products, rice and sugar.



They are taking their ration cards

Out of the 4,000 and odd centres now distributing rationed foodstuffs in Delhi nearly 3,500 are 'establishments' while the rest are either Government shops, co-operative stores, private dealers or industrial grain shops. The size of the weekly adult ration is 7 lbs. 14 ozs. of cereals and 10 ozs. of sugar. In terms of quantities consumed by Delhi's heterogeneous population this works out to 250, 40 and 45 tons of wheat, rice and sugar respectively per day. The cost of the scheme to date is approximately Rs. 13,77,000.

While in the initial stages of rationing there were complaints about quality of wheat supplied, with the introduction of new cleaning arrangements and careful selection before issue, these complaints have tended to disappear.

"While it would be futile to assume" stated Mr. R. K. Ramadhyani, Director of Civil Supplies, Delhi, in this connection "that the people are completely satisfied with rationing arrangements in Delhi, at the same time it is generally admitted that food queues of pre-rationing days have been abolished and things are much quieter on the food front to-day than last year.

Staff, Supplies and Storage

"In the initial stages," continued the Director of Civil Supplies, "our main difficulties were due to what I might call the three S's—staff, supplies and storage. As a deficit dependent entirely upon others for its rationed supplies and also for its rationing staff, Delhi has perhaps had to face more difficulties than any other area. We have gradually overcome these difficulties and in the matter of storage, the capacity has more than doubled since rationing began. It is admitted that we have not been able to satisfy the requirements of the richer classes in the matter of quality rice and the sugar ration, but then rationing implies equality of sacrifice."

With a view to make fresh vegetables available to the public at reasonable prices the Delhi Administration are selling certain vegetables at cheap rates at Government ration shops. An extension of the scheme which might help to lower bazaar prices is being considered.

The food rationing organisation has been utilized for the scheme of partial rationing of fuel which has now been working for over 6 months, and it is now proposed to make use of the organisation for cloth rationing which is expected to come into effect in the first week of June.

DISTRIBUTION OF PROTECTIVE FOODS

The new Division of the Central Food Department which came into existence recently with the responsibility for handling problems connected with fresh and 'protective' foodstuffs as well as sugar, salt, edible oils and imported processed foods will implement one of the resolutions passed at the Fifth Food Conference.

The Resolution *inter alia* made the Central Government responsible for affording assistance to Provincial Governments to increase production, ensure supplies and control distribution of eggs, poultry, fish, milk, livestock, fresh fruit and vegetables and edible oils. Information from Provinces on local production and requirements, normal sources of supplies, export surpluses, etc., "protective" foods is being received in the Food Department, on the basis of which a programme for the future will be drawn up.

It is pointed out that while procurement and distribution of cereals has so far been the main anxiety of the Central Food Department, this is no longer its only important task. It is now possible to devote greater attention to other food requirements of the civilian population than those met by the main cereals.

It is expected that the new Division will be assisted by the work which has already been done by the Army Command Co-ordination Committees in reducing the effects of competitive local purchasing of fresh foodstuffs and will link the work of these Committees with civilian requirements in India generally.

APPLICATIONS FOR CAPITAL ISSUES

Applications for issues of capital are required to be made in the form of a letter which is to include answers to certain questions, a list of which is furnished on request to intending applicants, said a Press Note issued by the Finance Department, Government of India, on May 9.

It added. One of these questions, in the case of new companies, is as to the names of proposed directors. It is found that in some cases persons named as proposed directors have not been consulted and are not willing to become directors of the company. It should be widely known that applications relating to new companies should specify the names of those persons only who have already agreed in writing to become directors.

GOVERNMENT'S RESOLUTION ON FAMINE INQUIRY REPORT

A Press Communique issued by the Food Department, Government of India, on May 7 stated:

The Famine Inquiry Commission, under the chairmanship of Sir John Woodhead, was constituted by the Governor-General in Council under the Ordinance No. XVII of 1944, to investigate and report to the Government of India upon the causes of the food shortage and subsequent epidemics in India and in particular in Bengal in the year 1943 and to make recommendations as to the prevention of their recurrence with special reference to:—

(a) the possibility of improving the diet of the people and the quality and yield of food crops, and

(b) the possibility of improving the system of administration in respect of supply and distribution of food, the provision of emergent medical relief and the emergent arrangements for the control of epidemics in famine conditions in those areas and in those aspects in which the present system may be found to have been unsatisfactory.

Coherent Account

The Commission were instructed, in the first instance, to direct their attention to the Province of Bengal and to make a report and formulate recommendations in relation to that Province in advance of the final report. The report now released for publication relating to Bengal is submitted in accordance with that Instruction.

The Government of India consider that the Report presents a closely argued and coherent account of the complexity of inter-related factors contributing to the famine, which merits, and will receive, the most detailed study, but they do not think it proper that publication should be withheld until their study has been completed.

The Government of India desire to express their great appreciation of the services rendered by the Chairman and Members of the Famine Inquiry Commission in making this valuable Report.

Food Position in Mysore, Travancore and Cochin

A feeling of greater confidence among the administrations of Travancore, Cochin, and Mysore in their ability to deal with the food situation, is the impression gained by the Hon'ble Mr. B. R. Sen, Director-General of Food, after his recent tour of these areas.

The over-all stock position of foodgrains in these states is satisfactory. Travancore will probably be in the near future to raise the rice quota in the ration from 12 to 14 ounces a day. They are also in a position to spare about 12,000 tons of rice for other needy areas. As regards wheat they are willing to surrender about 4,000 tons from their present stocks for other areas.

Cochin will continue their present ratio of 12 ounces of rice in the daily ration of 1 lb. per head.

It has been decided to allot an additional quota of 16,000 tons of rice to Mysore which will enable the State to give a full ration to all those above 8 years of age. At present, half an adult's ration is given to those whose age is 10 years or below. Mysore will now also be able to raise its rice ration from 9½ to 12 ounces per day.

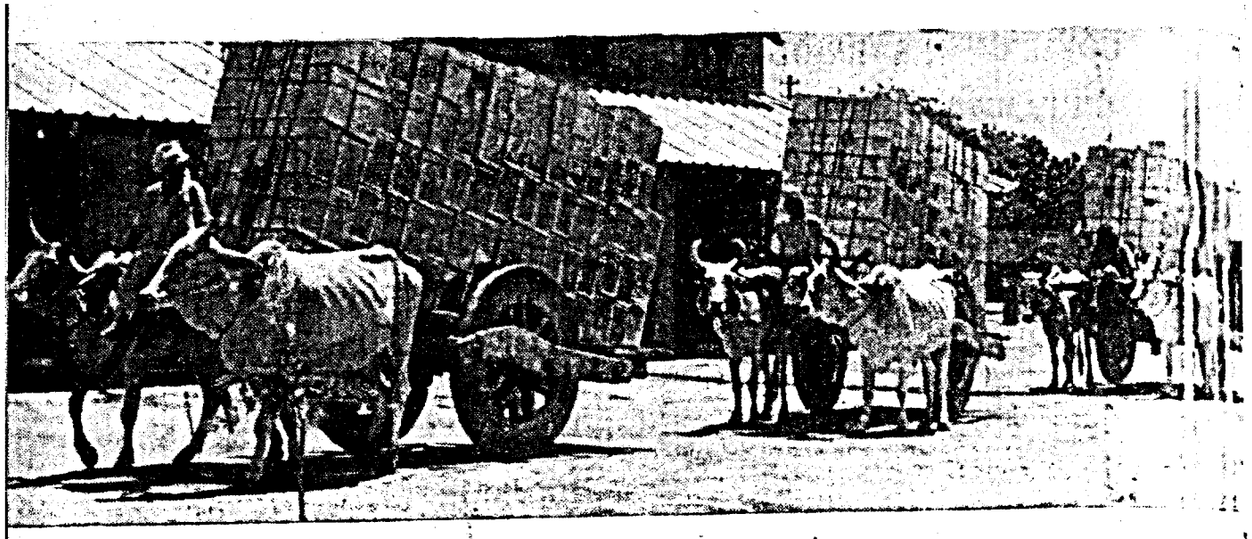
FOR PACKING "JARI" GOODS

A Press Note issued by the Industries and Civil Supplies Department, Government of India, on May 8 stated:

The Government of India have decided that the following concessions will be allowed in respect of packing of "jari" in paper:—

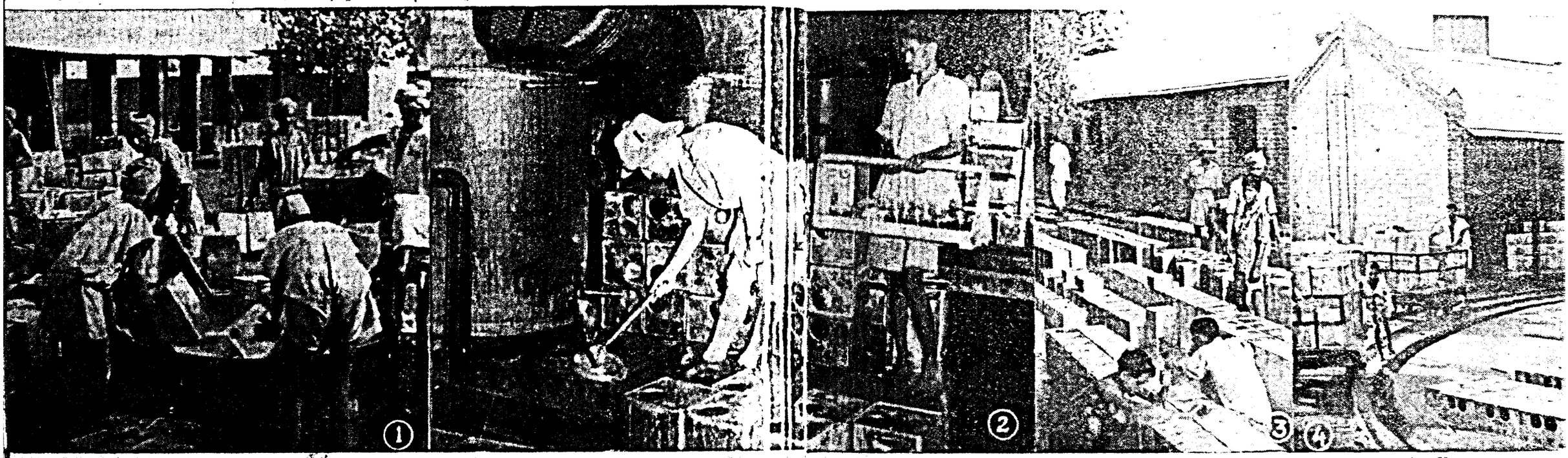
(a) 'Jari' goods other than borders may be packed in an inner sheet of tissue paper and an outer sheet of kraft or brown wrapping paper, provided that any sheet of paper used is of the minimum size necessary for that package. On the outer sheet of kraft or wrapping paper the manufacturers of 'Jari' goods concerned can print description of their goods, trade mark or any other particulars;

(b) In packing 'Jari' borders, the inner sheet as well as the outer sheet of such packing may be of tissue paper, provided the size of the sheet used is the minimum necessary for that packing. On the inner side of tissue paper, the description of goods, trade mark or any other particulars which the manufacturer may like to give can be printed.



The army in India has established a number of centres where ghee, an important item in the Indian soldiers' diet, is subjected to a purifying process and tested in laboratories before being distributed to the army. (Above) Cartload of empty tins for ghee arrive at a centre.

1. The empty tins are scoured with boiling water containing soda ash. (2) After the melting process the ghee is heated in huge iron containers. Six tins are filled and a sample then taken for the laboratory test which should represent the average density of the (3) and (4) The filled tins are sealed and then carried by trollies to the railway siding for distribution to army units.



PLANNED DEVELOPMENT OF VANASPATI INDUSTRY

TO overcome the existing shortage and to correct the deficiency of fat in the general diet, the Food Department of the Government of India has undertaken the planned development of the Vanaspati Industry, said a Press Note issued by the Food Department, Government of India.

It added: The plan envisages an immediate development doubling the existing capacity, and a post-war development to be considered by a committee, which is being appointed. The principle underlying the plan is regionalisation, consistent with the availability of groundnuts on the one hand and accessibility of markets on the other. For the capacity determined accordingly, the pending applications are being examined in consultation with Provincial Governments.

Government have received, however, several requests for assistance in erection of factories equipped with locally manufactured plant. In some instances erection is initiated with such resources as are available, and the Food Department is asked to assist in completing the factories. While the Food Department is anxious to secure speedy expansion of the industry it is convinced that indiscriminate erection of factories will be contrary to public interest.

It is therefore necessary that, before initiating erection or extension of factories, prior approval of the Food Department should be obtained. Unless this precaution is taken, release of controlled materials or machinery may be withheld by the Government of India on the ground that the proposed factory is not in accordance with orderly development of the industry.

IRON AND STEEL ORDER AMENDED

A notification published in today's Gazette of India amends the Iron and Steel (Control of Production and Distribution) Order, 1941, so as to allow free transaction between stockholders in India. The stockholders are no longer required to obtain a permit to acquire or dispose of Iron and Steel as between themselves, said a Press Note issued by the Supply Department, Government of India, on May 18.

POST-WAR PLANS FOR CIVIL AVIATION

Development Through Private Enterprise

IN November, 1944, the Government of India published the Second Report of the Reconstruction Committee of Council on Reconstruction Planning, said a Press Communique issued by the Posts and Air Department, Government of India, on May 24.

It added: The general policy of Government regarding civil aviation and the plans prepared for a system of trunk air services in India were indicated in the Report. The services planned provide for the operation of daily air services on a series of trunk routes radiating from the air ports of entry and exit at Karachi and Calcutta, supplemented by routes radiating from the Capital at Delhi and from Bombay and Madras.

The total mileage of the air routes planned exceeds 11,000 and the air services will be operated with aircraft with 12 to 20 passengers capacity and will carry both mails and freight in addition. This broad plan, which had been accepted by the Policy Committee on Posts and Aviation, has now been approved by Government.

Internal Trunk Air Services

It should be understood that this is a plan for the initial post-war period only and it is not the intention that there should be no further planning for either external air services or for additional internal air services. In fact, planning for the external air services of India is now in hand. Government are also confident that stimulated by the existence of internal trunk air services, there will undoubtedly come into existence, as a result of local or private initiative, a considerable number of feeder air services to serve local needs.

Plans have also been prepared and approved for the construction of the necessary aerodromes and connected buildings and for the organisation of the air routes. Plans are under preparation—and it is hoped to complete them soon—for the necessary works organisation, the telecommunications organisation, the headquarters organisation and the training institutions necessary to implement their air transport plan.

The Report of the Reconstruction Committee of Council referred to above stated that no decision had been taken as to the agency by which the air services of India will be established and operated. This question had been referred to the Policy Committee on which Provincial Governments, Indian States and prominent commercial bodies were represented and its views were obtained.

In the Budget Session of the Assembly, Government were pressed to announce their decision on this important issue. After careful consideration of all aspects of the question, Government have now arrived at a decision, and they consider it desirable to announce this decision in order to clear up any uncertainty in the public mind so that plans of development by private enterprise may not be impeded.

The policy of the Government of India is generally to promote the development and operation of air transport services, internal and external, by a limited number of sound and reliable private commercial organisations with their own capital and operated under normal commercial principles. In selected cases, Government wil take a financial interest, but not a controlling interest, in the Companies operating the air services and appoint a Director on the Board. This policy does not, however, rule out the operation, by the State itself, of any air transport service or services in particular cases and such operation may be by the Central Government, a Provincial Government or the Government of an Indian State.

Licensing Board

The operation of all air transport services will be subject to licenses granted by a Licensing Board constituted under the authority of Government, and without such a license no air transport service can be operated. Legal powers for this purpose have already been taken by Government by an amendment of the Indian Aircraft Act and it is hoped shortly to publish the Licensing Rules framed under the powers conferred by the Act.

The object of licensing is to ensure the safety and reliability of services, to eliminate uneconomic competition, to prevent the exploitation of the public, to conserve and utilise the national resources and effort for the optimum benefit of the country and to promote the development and expansion of air services on right lines and in the right direction. In fact, the object is to secure Order in the Air.

All licensed operating Companies will be placed under an obligation to admit, in any of their training schemes, members of all communities and the admission of such trainees will, subject to suitable candidates being available, be in accordance with the prescribed communal proportions. Operating Companies may be granted State assistance in specific cases, but such assistance will be entirely at the discretion of Government and on conditions to be laid down in each case.

Development of Air Transport

A complete scheme for this purpose will be drawn up in due course but it will be based on a system of target operating costs (which will not include a return on capital invested) and target revenue designed to reward the efficient operator who reduces costs and increases revenue by commercial enterprise and development of traffic.

The Government of India have entered into discussion with the Indian States in the light of the policy stated above and are confident that it will be possible to secure an agreement which will enable the policy to be implemented in practice in a spirit of friendly co-operation so as to secure a rapid and orderly development of air transport services—internal and external—for the benefit of India and its people as a whole.

CIVIL PASSAGE CONTROLLER

Many of the inquiries addressed to the Civil Passage Controller in the Defence Department of the Government of India are based on a misapprehension of the relative functions of his Simla and Bombay offices, said a Press Communique issued by the Defence Department, Government of India, on May 19.

It added: The Civil Passage Controller, Simla, is responsible for the allotment of priorities which are communicated to the applicants and also to the Assistant Civil Passage Controller, Bombay.

When shipping space becomes available, the Assistant Civil Passage Controller, Bombay, is responsible for advising travel agents, who are in constant touch with him, to call passengers down to the port of embarkation. In regard to probable date of sailing, therefore, persons to whom passage priority has been allotted should consult their travel agents.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SCHEDULED CASTE STUDENTS

WITH a view to improving the educational and economic condition of the scheduled castes, the Government of India have decided to give scholarships for the year 1945-46 to students belonging to these classes in British India who wish to pursue their studies in scientific and technological subjects beyond the Matriculation stage, said a Press Note issued by the Education, Health and Lands Department, Government of India, on May 2.

It added: Some of these scholarships are tenable in India and some in foreign countries. In the case of foreign scholarships, preference will be given to applicants who have completed a degree course at an Indian University.

Women Eligible

The amounts awarded will cover the entire cost of education, including the tuition fee and maintenance charges etc., admissible under the rules, and in the case of foreign scholarships, reasonable travelling expenses as well. The courses for which awards will be available are:—

(1) Intermediate with Science (2) B.Sc. (Pass or Honours) (3) M.Sc. (4) Engineering (5) Technology (6) Medical (7) Agriculture and (8) Teachers' Training.

Women students offering Arts subjects in the Intermediate and Graduate Courses will be eligible for the awards of scholarship provided they give an undertaking that they will pursue the teachers' training course at the end of their approved courses of study. If they do not fulfil this condition they will refund the amount of their scholarship.

Applications for the scholarships should be submitted in the prescribed form through the Head of the Institution attended or last attended by the candidate; in the case of candidates already enrolled in Colleges or Universities, through the Vice-Chancellor; and in all other cases through the Director of Public Instruction of the Province or the Superintendent of Education, and must reach the Secretary, Scheduled Caste Scholarship Board, c/o the Department of Education, Health and Lands, Government of India, Simla, not later than June 15, 1945.

REDUCING TRAVEL TROUBLES

How Passengers Can Help

WAR has brought to the Indian railways embarrassing increase in traffic, and this, together with the forced reduction in train services, has created problems both for the railways and for the travelling public. One of these, it is stated in the Railway Boar., is the cluttering up of compartments with luggage. Steps are being taken to see that passengers take into the carriages only such articles as are required for their use on the journey and can be placed under the seats.

At large stations all luggage entering the platforms is checked and, as far as possible, large packages are loaded in the luggage van. Special staff have been appointed for duty on platforms for this purpose. Surprise inspections of stations and trains by responsible officials are being intensified, but the small number of officers available is causing some difficulty.

The success of these measures, it is pointed out, will ultimately depend on the co-operation of the public. At present, it is stated, the problem is accentuated by the travelling public in some cases insisting on all their luggage accompanying them.

Problem of Overcrowding

Then there is the question of overcrowding. While train services have been reduced, there has been a heavy increase in the number of passengers. It is not possible at the present time to increase passenger services owing to coal shortage, the needs of the Armed Forces and the difficulty of constructing new coaching stock during war. The Railways are doing whatever they can to meet the situation.

Special checking staff have been appointed to prevent ticketless travellers taking up accommodation and inconveniencing legitimate passengers, but in these days of overcrowding the task of ticket examiners is very difficult. Special magistrates have been appointed on some railways.

A new Defence of India Rule has been promulgated to make police help available to railway servants in deterring people from travelling on the roofs, buffers and footboards of carriages. Orders have been issued that transfers of railway personnel should be made only after the most careful consideration and should be kept as low as administrative necessity permits.

Complaints of corruption received from the public are being carefully scrutinised and rigorous disciplinary action is taken wherever charges are proved. Responsible officials make surprise inspections, but here again the number of officers available is relatively small.

The authorities, it is emphasised, are anxious for the co-operation of the public, who can help by scrupulously refusing to tip corrupt employees and reporting them on the spot to senior station officials. With this end in view, many railways have put up notices at booking windows, parcel offices and goods sheds asking the public not to pay anything more than the charges shown on tickets or railway receipts, and have circularised Chambers of Commerce and Trade Associations asking for their help in putting down corruption

MR. L. S. AMERY'S SPEECH

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 779)

future greatness. Their actual final form was shaped in consultation between him and the leading members of both the main parties in the late coalition. They thus represent an agreed national offer on the part of this country to the people of India."

"We earnestly hope that our offer will meet with acceptance," Mr. Amery concluded. "It is the utmost that we ourselves can do pending Indian agreement upon the final constitutional settlement. We believe and hope however that if accepted, the co-operation of Indian statesmen in facing many practical and urgent issues of India's needs, may help to bring the day of agreement nearer.

"In any case, the acceptance of our offer opens up a wide field of opportunity for Indians to mould their country's destiny, to build up its prosperity at home and to indicate its importance in the world scheme of the future. India has played, thanks to the valour of her fighting men, a notable part in the world's struggle for freedom. She feels that both her past efforts and the developments which she envisages entitle her to equal pride of place both among the peoples of the British Commonwealth and among the great nations of the world. We share that desire and, so far as in us lies, are making our offer as a genuine contribution to that end. We are placing India's immediate future in Indian hands. It is for them to take and shape it."

MONITORING OF CIVIL TELEPHONE LINES

WITH the intensification of the war against Japan, India is assuming an ever increasing importance as an operational base. In order to ensure speedy victory with the minimum expense of Allied life and material, it is now more necessary than ever that no information regarding our plans and intentions should reach the enemy.

One of the most dangerous potential sources of leakage, especially in seaport towns, is the telephone because private conversations are liable to be overheard at all times by third persons.

Rule 17 of the Defence of India Rules gives powers to listen in to telephone calls and it is now proposed to make use of these powers. The public are therefore warned that their telephone conversations may be officially listened to and any person found guilty of a breach of security by careless talk or otherwise will be liable to prosecution and withdrawal of telephone facilities.

Appeal to Public

The public are earnestly requested, in their own interest and in the interests of our fighting forces to co-operate and assist by refraining from divulging any information over the telephone which might assist the enemy.

It is not possible to lay down exactly what topics should be avoided, and reliance must largely be placed on the good sense of the individual. The following are the subjects which should be particularly avoided:—

(a) Locations, past, present or future of convoys or any naval, military or air force units and detachments.

(b) Description of naval, military or air force armaments or equipment of any sort.

(c) Identifications, real or supposed, of units, formations etc.

(d) Plans or intentions connected with future operations whether known, rumoured or supposed.

(e) Communications, such as the use, condition or probable extension of roads railways, docks, airfields etc.

(f) In general, and especially, any activity connected with the Fighting Services which seems unusual or abnormal.

Except in so far as it amounts to a breach of security, information obtained by such listening in will be treated as secret.

DELHI-AKYAB 'PHONE LINK

It is now possible to telephone to Delhi from Akyab—a distance of 1,100 miles as the crow flies. That this is due to a remarkable achievement by the Indian Signal Corps, writes a S.E.A.C. Observer.

Signalmen of the 15th Indian Corps, the only Indian corps signallers in the world, have just completed the final 30-mile link of this mammoth line.

Starting on the last lap of the journey from six miles north of Rathedaung on the Mayu river they began to cut a jeep track through the jungle to carry the heavy drums of cable. After two days the signalmen had progressed only a mile so, for the sake of speed, they discarded their jeeps and carted the drums in a rough jungle "wheelbarrow."

Twice their country boats capsized under them as they crossed chaungs varying from 600 yards in width to ten yards, but they struggled ashore and plodded on with their immense loads of cable.

Fifty-five Indian signalmen under the command of a British Major spent three weeks on the final stages of this back-breaking journey. They suffered cruel disappointments on the way. On one occasion, no sooner was the cable laid than fires started by villagers to clear high-growing grass, burned through the cable.

"TRAVEL YOU MUST" AFTER THE WAR

The slogan "Travel you must" would replace the slogan "Travel only when you must" after the war, observed Sir Edward Benthall, Member for War Transport, Government of India, opening the first meeting of the Tourist Traffic Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. John Sargent in New Delhi on May 3.

Sir Edward said that the scheme for the development of tourist traffic had two aspects—the utilitarian and the cultural. It would be the duty of the transport authorities to provide good service by road and by rail.

The utilitarian aspect was to examine whether it would be possible to build up a valuable income for India from foreign tourist traffic. From the cultural point of view, it was desirable to show foreigners the best things in Indian life, past and present, and to show India to the Indians so that from the story of the past they might draw fresh inspiration for the future.

PRICES FIXED FOR CIGARETTES, WINES AND LIQUORS AND ARTIFICIAL SILK FABRICS

THE Government of India in the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies have, by notifications issued under the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance, regulated the sale of Croydon Super Magnum cigarettes, imported wines and liquors, Indian-made beers, toilet articles, electric bulbs etc. The notifications are:

•

Cigarettes

The maximum retail prices chargeable by a dealer in respect of Croydon Super Magnum cigarettes manufactured by Messrs. James Hilton and Sons Ltd., Bombay, have been fixed at annas - 5 - per packet of 10 cigarettes and Rs. 1-12 for a vacuum packed tin of 50 cigarettes.

•

Liquors

The prices of imported wines and liquors, *e.g.*, whisky, brandy, gin, Australian beer, etc., have been revised with effect from May 1, 1945.

The maximum retail prices that may be charged by a dealer or producer in respect of all Indian-made beers have also been fixed. The maximum retail price that may be charged to a consumer is fixed at Rs. 1-8-0 per quart bottle and Rs. 1-1-0 per pint bottle. The maximum price at hotels, bars and restaurants, inclusive of service and other charges, is fixed at Rs. 2|- per quart bottle and Rs. 1-6-0 per pint bottle.

These prices are the maximum limits but if in any province the Provincial Government fixes lower prices under any other law, the lower prices so fixed shall prevail in the areas under the jurisdiction of the Provincial Government.

The Government of India have authorised all dealers in wines, spirits and beers to refuse to sell a bottle of wine, spirit or beer bottled in India, to any person who does not give a similar empty bottle, unless he pays annas six as the price of the bottle or deposits that sum with the dealer to be refunded to him when the bottle is returned.

•

Toilet Articles

The wholesale and retail prices of a few imported toilet articles have been reduced, the revised up-country retailer's issue prices being: Philip Texture Cream (large) Rs. 2-14-0; Gibb's S. R. Tooth Paste (3 oz.) Rs. 1-5-0 and Gibb's S. R. Tooth Paste (2 oz.) Rs. 0-15-0.

•

Electric Bulbs

With effect from May 1, 1945, the Government of India have revised downwards the maximum prices of the various types of electric bulbs, imported from outside or manufactured in India, *e.g.*, Cosmos, Crompton, Mazda, Osram, Philips, etc.

•

Artificial Silk Fabrics

The Government of India have sanctioned the addition to the *ex*-mill price of Indian-made artificial silk fabrics, of a sum representing Rs. 0-1-6 per rupee of that price in the case of a wholesale transaction, and Rs. 0-3-6 per rupee of that price in the case of a retail transaction; provided that where the seller has paid octroi or any other local tax, he may also recover the amount thereof, or, as the case may be, the proportionate part thereof.

Retail price means the price chargeable when the article is sold to a consumer, and wholesale price means the price chargeable in other cases.

All producers and dealers in Indian-made artificial silk fabrics have been directed to mark, in the prescribed manner, with the ex-mill price and retail selling price thereof, every piece of such fabric intended or exposed for sale. Every producer shall mark in letters and figures not less than half an inch in height on each end of every piece of such fabric produced by him, his sale price thereof per yard, the trade number or the name of the particular fabric, and his own name. He shall also similarly mark on one long border of such piece, on every yard, the retail selling price per yard. Where no such markings have been made by the producer, the dealer shall paste on, or attach to every piece, a label showing his sale price thereof per yard. Compliance with this provision shall be made within a period of 15 days from the publication of the Notification.

The prices marked by producers or dealers are not to exceed the limits permitted by or under the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance, 1943.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 827)

POSITION OF INDIANS IN CEYLON

THERE was an Indian population of 672,196 —438,937 workers and 233,259 dependents —on the estates in Ceylon at the close of 1943, according to the annual reports for 1943 of the Representative and the Agent of the Government of India in Ceylon.

A statutory minimum wage rate operates in the island, but in April, 1943, certain changes were made in the system of computation which caused a net loss to the wage bill of approximately Rs. 23,00,000 per annum. Estates are required by law to provide education for their workers' children, but the education imparted in estate schools is generally of a low standard.

During the year the Government maintained 68 hospitals and 118 dispensaries in the estate medical districts, and in addition there were 99 estate hospitals and 735 estate dispensaries. These were generally efficient and did satisfactory work.

Estates are generally alive to the necessity of providing improved accommodation for their labour, but war conditions have come in the way.

Basic Weekly Ration

The general basic weekly ration in the island was 2½ measures (one measure is about four cigarette tins full) for a male worker over 14 doing heavy manual work, but some estates were able to supplement this with 1½ measures of non-rationed cereals. For the greater part of the year only a quarter of the ration was issued in the form of rice, the rest being wheat, wheat flour and ragi. The Indian labourer appears to have stood up well to the revolutionary change in his dietary, for, in the words of the Controller of Labour, "despite food difficulties and the rise in the cost of living, he has worked cheerfully and as hard as previously."

That migrant Indian labour in Ceylon is increasingly tending to become stabilised and resident is noticed by Major C. St. J. Orde Browne, Labour Adviser to the Colonial Office, who comments on the hardship involved on the worker in his being obliged to leave his home when he is discharged. He advocates the gradual provision by Government of houses constituting villages for labourers and recommends a changeover from estate to State management of education, public health and welfare measures.

The year 1943 was noteworthy for the appointment in Ceylon of the first Representative of the Government of India, Mr. M. S. Aney. This followed the Ceylon Government's appointment of Sir Baron Jayatilaka as their representative in India in December 1942. The main purpose of this exchange of envoys was to improve the relations between the two countries, to secure better understanding and the easier settlement of any problems that arose.

The year, however, showed no progress towards the settlement of the main differences outstanding between the two countries, and particularly of the problem relating to the status and rights of Indians in Ceylon. Towards the end of 1942, the Ceylon Government had requested the Government of India to permit the recruitment of additional labour to work on rubber estates, this labour being subject to compulsory repatriation later. The Government of India could not agree to this stipulation and put forward a draft settlement of principles which they suggested might be agreed upon as forming the basis of the solution of the Indo-Ceylon problem after the war, so that the emigration of labour from India to Ceylon now for war industries might become possible. This was rejected by the Ceylon Government.

During the year, in response to an invitation from the British Government, the Ceylon Ministry submitted a scheme of constitutional reforms to the Colonial Office. On behalf of the Government of India, Mr. Aney made a representation to the Governor requesting that the joint Report on Indo-Ceylon relations of September, 1941, should not be treated as forming any guide for the determination of the status of Indians in the new constitutional scheme,

Shortage of Consumer Goods

Shortage of consumer goods remained acute and prices showed a steady rise throughout the year. Ceylon became more and more dependent on supplies from India, who could not, however, supply consumer goods in as large quantities as Ceylon might have wished, because of the shortage in India itself and her obligation to provision other countries in Asia and Africa. Exports from India were subjected to strict quota restrictions.

Trade in Indian imports into Ceylon is largely in Indian hands. The volume of business handled by Indian traders decreased as a result of the quota restrictions; but it suffered much more by the various control measures imposed by

the Government of Ceylon. The latter began to make purchases direct in the Indian market and, where articles were imported by merchants, they were requisitioned at port and retailed to consumers. The Government of Ceylon justified these measures by pleading emergency conditions and the need for equitable distribution and the prevention of black markets. Indian merchants, however, maintained that these measures were part of a concerted plan to oust Indian trade from the island.

Shortage of Cloth

There was a great shortage of cloth in Ceylon which is more or less entirely dependent on Indian textile. Exports from India were necessarily subjected to quota restrictions, but the Government of India had under consideration ways of controlling export prices and of checking traffic in export licences, in order to assist the Government of Ceylon in enforcing price control in the island.

The ban imposed by the Government in 1939 on the emigration of unskilled workers from India to Ceylon continued to be in force, but was subject to the modification that unskilled Indian workers who were in Ceylon on or after September 1, 1942, were allowed to move freely between the two countries. This enabled Indian labourers in Ceylon to pay their occasional visits to India for domestic and religious reasons. Further individual exemptions were granted to a small number of unskilled labourers in cases where hardship due to separation of the members of a family was involved.

IMPORTERS OF CONSUMER GOODS

The Government of India have amended the rule regarding information to be furnished to the Controller General of Civil Supplies in respect of imported consumer goods included in the Schedule to the Consumer Goods (Control of Distribution) Order 1944.

Henceforth every importer of a scheduled article is required, within one week from the date of his receiving intimation of the despatch of a consignment from any place outside India, to furnish to the Controller General of Civil Supplies a description and quantity of the scheduled articles and how he proposes to dispose of them on arrival, and the expected date and place of arrival of the consignment in India.

INDO-AFGHAN FRIENDSHIP

IN connection with the recent visit to India of the Afghan Military Mission the following messages have been exchanged between His Royal Highness Sardar Ghazi Shah Mahmud Khan, Commander-in-Chief and War Minister, Afghanistan, and H. E. General Sir Claude Auchinleck, Commander-in-Chief, India:

H. R. H. Sardar Ghazi Shah Mahmud Khan wrote:—

"I offer my thanks to Your Excellency and to all the Military and Civil authorities of the Government of India for the invitation extended to the Royal Afghan Army's Military Mission headed by 'Alikader Shuja'atmaab Firqa Mishar Awwal (Lt.-General) Muhammad Umar Khan, Chief of the General Staff to visit India, and for the cordiality with which the Military Mission was received by the Military and Civil authorities of the Government of India during its visit and particularly for the hospitality personally shown to its members by Your Excellency, gestures for which I am most grateful.

"'Alikader Shuja'at-hamrah Firqa Mishra Awwal (Lt.-General) Muhammad Umar Khan explained to me the cordial and friendly sentiments which Your Excellency cherishes towards my country and the Royal Afghan Army. I highly appreciate Your Excellency's good feelings and I trust that the friendly relations which fortunately exist between the countries of Afghanistan and India will become stronger.

"With friendly regards."

C.-in-C's Reply

H. E. General Sir Claude Auchinleck replied:—

"It was most kind of Your Royal Highness to write and express your gratitude for the reception extended to the Military Mission of the Royal Afghan Army during their visit to India.

"The Civil authorities of the Government of India as well as the Armed Forces under my command were delighted to have an opportunity of welcoming the Mission to India and of showing them something of the war effort of this country.

"It was a great pleasure for me to be able to welcome Lt.-General Muhammad Umar Khan and Brigadier Muhammad Arif Khan and the other Officers of the Mission to my house. I am sure that the visit of the Mission will have done much to strengthen the already friendly relations between Afghanistan and India."

INDIAN ECONOMY IN 1942-43

Review of Production and Foreign Trade Trends

A phenomenal rise in the prices of agricultural commodities; an increase in the area under all the important crops except cotton; adoption of a series of measures to control the prices and distribution of wheat; expanding demand for industrial products; industry more fully geared to war effort; higher industrial profits than in any previous year since 1928; a rapid expansion of the volume of currency in circulation and a phenomenal rise in the general level of prices; a sharp decline in the volume of foreign trade, the value of both exports and imports declining and increased favourable balance of trade in private merchandise.

These were the outstanding features of India's economy in 1942-43, according to the "Review of the Trade of India" for that year, issued by the Economic Adviser to the Government of India and published on May 7, 1945. A brief account of its observations and conclusions is given below.

World Economic Conditions

As regards world economic conditions scarcity permeated all branches of the economic system. The increase in defence expenditure reduced the physical volume of goods available for civil consumption and simultaneously increased the volume of purchasing power in the hands of consumers. Except in countries where the surplus purchasing power could be drawn off through taxation, borrowing, or rationing, the prices of consumer goods registered a sharp advance and the interaction of prices and costs gave rise to an inflationary spiral. The extent of the rise in prices varied in different countries; but the year witnessed a marked accentuation of the inflationary process in most of the democratic countries.

In India, the phenomenal rise in the prices of agricultural commodities was an outstanding feature of the year. The index for agricultural commodities nearly doubled by the end of March, 1943, as compared with March, 1942. The rise in prices was greater in the case of agricultural commodities than in the case of manufactured articles, the former rising by 98 per cent. in 1942-43 as against a rise of 40 per cent. in the case of the latter.

The depressing influences on raw cotton in the previous year were gradually removed by new favourable factors which arose in 1942-43 and which changed the entire outlook for the commodity. By the first quarter of 1943, the cotton market developed a pronounced bullish tendency, caused by favourable news from all fronts, boom in the prices of yarn and cloth, increase in mill activity, scarcity of certain staple varieties and speculation.

To sustain raw jute prices, the Government of Bengal had decided compulsorily to restrict the acreage under jute in 1941 to one-third of that sown in 1940; the restriction was continued in 1942 and 1943, the quotas fixed for these two seasons being five-eighths and one-half respectively of the area sown in 1940. The depression in raw jute began to lift gradually from September 1942; from January, 1943, onwards the market developed a firm tone.

The glut in oilseeds market witnessed in 1940-41 disappeared in 1941-42 when it was found that the available supplies were inadequate to satisfy all demands. Prices of oilseeds registered a sharp advance in the latter year and advanced further in 1942-43. As a result of the low prices in 1940-41 and the "Grow More Food" campaign, production was switched over from oilseeds. There was thus a substantial curtailment in the output of the principal seeds in 1941-42; and supplies in 1942-43, though larger, were not too plentiful.

Foodgrains Situation

There was an increase in the production of wheat but there was also an increasing demand and a shortage was experienced all over the country. From April, 1942, the Central and Provincial Governments adopted a series of measures to control the prices and distribution of wheat.

The food crisis which developed in India in 1942-43 was due in no small measure to the deterioration in the rice situation which set in after the fall of Burma. Certain other causes also contributed to this deterioration. In spite of the various measures taken by Government, the food crisis deepened in its intensity in the latter months of 1942. By the end of March, 1943, the position in Bengal became very critical.

The general level of industrial profits during 1942 was substantially higher than in the preceding year or any other year since 1928. The chain index for that year showed a rise of 25 per cent. as compared with 1941 and of 69 per cent. as compared with the base year

1928. With the exception of sugar and coal, all other industries declared higher profits than in the preceding year.

The production of cotton piecegoods, jute manufactures, paper and coal showed a marked decline during the year. In the case of the first three industries, the decline was mainly due to coal shortage and labour difficulties.

The general industrial situation, however, was characterised by a greatly increased demand for manufactured articles of all kinds, both because of the intensified war effort of the country and the expansion of civilian purchasing power. This must have inevitably brought about a substantial increase in the output of several other industries which were comparatively free from the difficulties mentioned above.

Supply Department's Orders

The total value of orders placed by the Supply Department amounted to Rs. 256 crores, as compared with Rs. 184 crores in the previous year. In addition, the Indian Ordnance factories turned out munitions worth Rs. 20.2 crores.

The productive capacity of many industries was greatly extended and several products which were wholly imported before the war were now being manufactured in India. The manufacture of a number of special steels was being planned for the first time. It is expected that at the end of the war India would be able to meet a considerable proportion of her demands for tool steel, taps, dies and small tools from domestic production. The use of plastics was developed.

Machine tools were being made in larger quantities and in better qualities. New chemical plants were coming into production and further development was contemplated. Under the stimulus of war demand, both raw silk and silk weaving industries made considerable progress. Considerable expansion in tyre production was in hand; rubber production was also increased.

Trend of Foreign Trade

Trading conditions were generally less favourable than in the preceding year. The volume of foreign trade showed a sharp decline. The value of exports of private merchandise from British India declined from Rs. 238 crores in 1941-42 to Rs. 188 crores in 1942-43, while the value of imports declined from Rs. 173 crores to Rs. 110 crores.

The exports of the principal groups of commodities, with a few exceptions like cotton manufactures, decreased considerably as compared with the preceding year, the largest reductions being under jute manufactures and raw cotton. Exports of jute manufactures were adversely affected. Tea also recorded a substantial decline.

Owing to the severe shortage of foodgrains in the country, exports of grain, pulse and flour were rigidly controlled. Shipments of raw jute, which had recovered to some extent in 1941-42 as compared with 1940-41, dwindled again in 1942-43. Among other articles whose exports showed a marked reduction were hides and skins, metals, gums, resins and lac, coal, other non-metallic mining products, rubber, raw wool, fruits and vegetables, provisions and oilman's stores, oils (vegetables, mineral and animal) and a majority of manufactured articles with important exceptions like cotton, silk and a few other textile fabrics.

The cessation of Japanese competition, however, gave a great fillip to cotton manufactures, the exports of which increased from Rs. 36 crores in 1941-42 to Rs. 46 crores in 1942-43. The other important exceptions to the general declining tendency of exports were haberdashery and millinery, silk, silk manufactures, spices, sugar, fish, fodder, bran and pollard, wax, oilseeds and oilcakes.

Import Trade

The import trade in respect of all important groups of commodities suffered heavily. Imports of cotton yarn and manufactures registered a considerable decline. Imports of machinery were also reduced and those of chemicals, drugs and medicines also declined. The one important exception to the general trend was raw cotton, the imports of which showed an increase.

Comparing the figures for 1942-43 with those for 1938-39, it is observed that imports of manufactured articles declined from Rs. 92.7 crores in the pre-war year to Rs. 49.6 crores in 1942-43. Imports of raw materials on the other hand increased from Rs. 33.2 crores to Rs. 51.9 crores. Exports of raw materials, which used to figure largely in India's export trade in the past, fell off considerably in recent years and were valued at Rs. 42.7 crores in 1942-43 as against Rs. 73.3 crores in 1938-39.

These changes in the composition of India's trade can be attributed to several factors, but they are at least partly explained by the progressive trend of the country's industrial economy.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 823)

NEW TECHNIQUE FOR EXTRACTING RUBBER

A new technique for the extraction of rubber from *Cryptostegia grandiflora,* which has assumed considerable importance as a secondary source of rubber, has been worked out in the laboratories of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

The quantitative extraction of rubber from harvested, partially dried twigs of *Cryptostegia grandiflora* proved somewhat difficult and held up its commercial exploitation. It was necessary to develop either a modified tapping technique involving decapitation of shoots and collection of "plugs", or a process in which the entire plant or the harvested shoots were suitably treated to release their rubber. Modified tapping methods proved cumbersome and uneconomical. Investigations undertaken in the Research Laboratories have led to the development of a more convenient and economical process for the extraction of rubber from the plant on a commercial scale. The details of the process are fully described in an article appearing in a recent issue of the *Journal of Scientific and Industrial Research.*

Fertilizers

A variety of valuable chemicals ranging from harmones to fertilizers can be recovered from slaughter house wastes. So far the products of the slaughter house have never been utilised in this country, though considerable quantities of fine chemicals and commercial products which are derived from carcases and offals of the slaughter house are imported.

In the abattoirs of Europe and America a large number of drugs and fine chemicals are recovered from slaughter house wastes. An article in the Journal describes the scope of manufacturing these products in India and in a chart the variety and the number of products that can be produced is shown.

In another article appearing in the Journal the available information on the phosphate resources of India is summarised.

The Tennessee Valley Authority, which is described in a separate illustrated article, it is stated, has given the lead in the exploitation and utilization of phosphatic minerals. The article suggests that there are immense possibilities for developing the phosphates industry in India. A beginning, it is pointed out, should be made with the study of the Indian resources and the possibility of development of suitable processes of treatment and concentration.

A plea for the establishment of a Central Board of Standards for India is made in another article. The working of Standards Institutions in Europe and America is reviewed and the essential features of the organisation for India are discussed.

TRAINING IN FORESTRY

To supplement the available facilities provided at the Indian Forest College at Dehra Dun for the training of Forest Officers, the Government of India have arranged to depute a certain number of students nominated by the Provincial Governments to the Edinburgh University for a degree in Forestry, said a Press Note issued by the Education, Health and Lands Department, Government of India, on May 19.

It added: In addition, it is proposed to select for the same degree two candidates to be sent to Edinburgh this year on behalf of the Central Government. The whole cost of their training will be borne by the Central Government.

The Edinburgh course in Forestry is ordinarily of three years' duration but if a student selected holds a second class B.Sc. Honours degree in two subjects out of Chemistry, Botany and Geology (with two other subjects taken in the intermediate) from any of the approved Universities, he would be able to obtain the degree in two years. Applications from persons, who should not be more than 24 years old on July 1, 1945, should reach the Education, Health and Lands Department on or before June 5, 1945.

INDIAN ECONOMY IN 1942-43

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 822)

The balance of trade in private merchandise in favour of India increased to Rs. 84.31 crores in 1942-43 as compared with Rs. 80.02 crores in the preceding year. The increase as compared with pre-war figure of Rs. 17.38 crores (1938-39) was Rs. 66.93 crores. These figures do not include the value of stores exported abroad for Defence purposes or the value of imports on this account.

The quantum of import trade suffered a relatively greater reduction during 1942-43 than that of the export trade, the reduction being 49 per cent. in the case of the former and 33 per cent in the case of the latter as compared with the preceding year.

MARCH OF SCIENCE IN WARTIME

It will take some time before all that science has accomplished during the war gets known to the public. There are, however, several inventions and discoveries which are of such outstanding importance to society as a whole, apart from their use in war, that they have already come before the public eye even during wartime.

Perhaps the most fascinating invention of the war is the application of radio to the location of enemy planes and submarines. This great triumph of British enterprise and American production methods popularly known as radio-location of Radar enabled Britain to put up a magnificent resistance to the onslaught by German aeroplanes and pilotless planes in the period of the blitz and later. It is rightly acclaimed that the credit of winning the Battle of Britain should go to the scientists who perfected and operated the Radar.

By Sir S. S. Bhatnagar, Director, Scientific and Industrial Research

A Broadcast from A.I.R., Delhi, on May 21.

It is an interesting coincidence that at the time when the British scientific men were active in developing large scale use of the Radar, the I.C.I. and their scientists were engaged on producing an extraordinary plastic material which is now well known as 'polythene'. Polythene is a polymer of ethylene and is composed of a large number of ethylene units, five hundred or more, chemically linked together under the influence of extremely high pressure, some heat and a catalyst.

Uses of "Silicone"

This product has outstanding electrical properties, great toughness and flexibility coupled with lightness and extreme water resistance. It has found immediate uses in telephone, telegraph and submarine cables and more especially in high frequency electric circuits. But for this discovery the large scale use of Radar for aeroplane detection which is rightly acclaimed as having saved Britain during the worst days of the war, could not have been developed so successfully.

Another plastic material which bids for supremacy and which is also a war baby is popularly known as "Silicone". This resin is obtained by the replacement of certain carbon atems by those of the element silicon in compounds usually employed in the laboratory for polymer formation. The element silicon most abundantly occurs in combination with oxygen as sand.

The plastic "Silicone" is used chiefly as an insulating varnish and bids fair to revolutionise the electrical industry. Merely treating the surface of cotton, paper or glass with it, leaves a water repellent film which can withstand washing, dry cleaning and considerable abrasion.

Powerful Insecticide

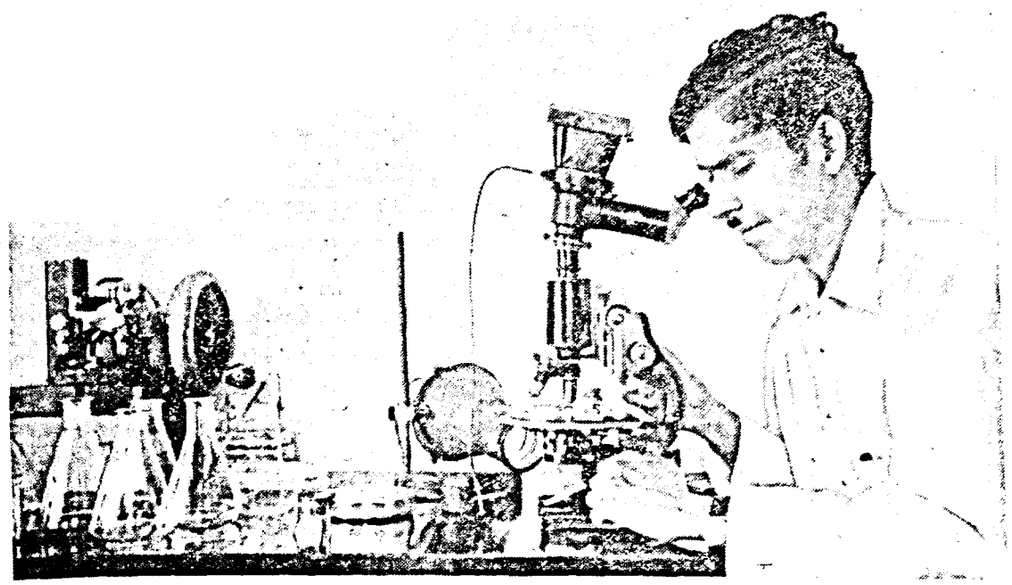
Ceramic insulators treated with this varnish are used in aircraft radios as they are not made conducting by the deposition of moisture on them. Silicone oils stay fluids even at very low temperature and are still usable up to 400 to 500 degrees Fahrenheit. Again, made into rubberlike materials, silicones are proving valuable as in super-chargers and searchlights, where their heat resistance enables them to perform heavy duty under which other materials break down.

The Japanese war particularly in the tropical jungles created a demand for a powerful insecticide to protect the troops against the mosquito and the lice. This led to the production on a large scale of the famous product DDT and some other products of a similar nature such as Gammexane and Phenoxetol.

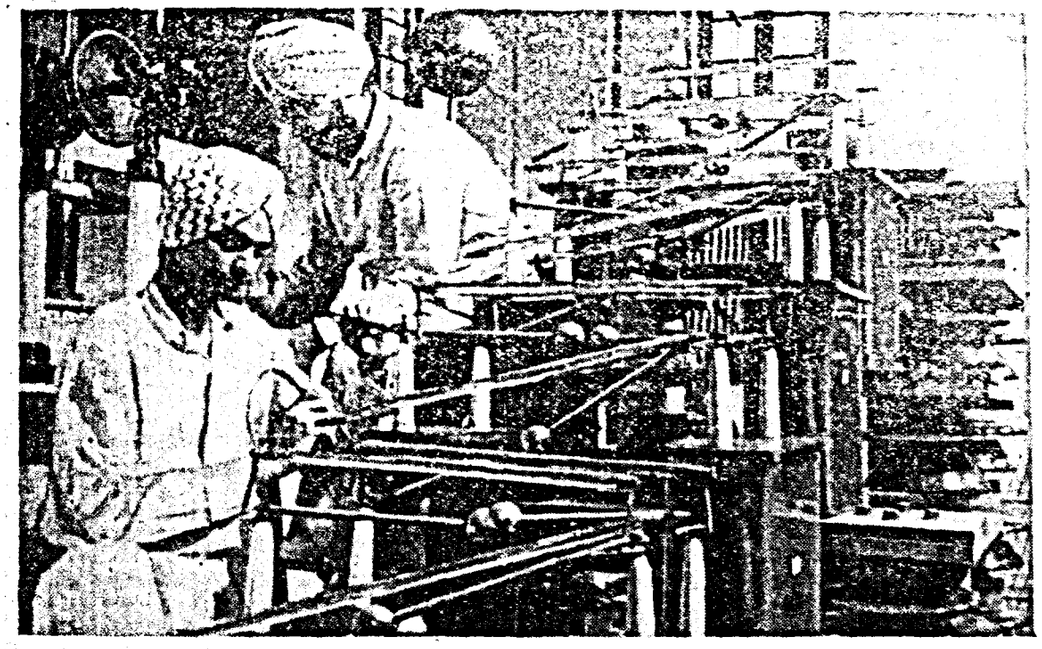
The discovery of DDT is an interesting story of the fruitful combination of fundamental knowledge of dye-stuff chemistry and the new research techniques in the biological laboratories. The first full scale application of DDT in a war section was reported in 1943 when in Naples a whole population of a million and a quarter people were threatened destruction by the typhus epidemic. A dusting powder containing ten per cent. DDT was successfully employed against the louse and the epidemic was brought under control within three weeks.

Shirts impregnated with DDT are now issued to the army in Europe which protect the wearer against lice for at least two months even after three or four launderings. The successful fight against the mosquito is an epic of achievement. DDT is already used in conjunction with pyrethrum in anti-mosquito sprays.

Another method of fighting the mosquito is by the use of DDT in paraffin oils on the stagnant waters and marshes which are the usual breeding grounds. In combination with coumarin resins DDT has proved a potent fly-killer and its further uses in paints and varnishes are likely to be on the increase.



A research student of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, at work on the activated sludge process for the disposal of sewage. Some bacteria and protozoa of special value for this purpose have been discovered. (Below) The high tension laboratory at the Institute which is valuable for testing electrical apparatus, particularly insulators and circuit breakers.



In the Hunter Memorial Lecture, Dr. R. Slade, the I.C.I. Research Controller described on March 8, 1945, a new insecticide which has been named Gammexane. This new insecticide which is expected to be even more potent than DDT is one of the isomers of benzene hexachloride—a compound made by the aditive chlorination of benzene in the presence of light. Gammexane or 666 as it is popularly called has already captured the imagination of scientific workers and one expects great benefits to the tropical countries by the large scale production of this material.

Mention must be made here of the outstanding discovery of the anti-bacterial action of certain moulds which has culminated in the production of the wonder drug, penicillin. The drug has affected miraculous cures in cases of blood poisoning and pneumonia and all sorts of staphylococci infections. Penicillin is unique among anti-bacterial substances as it is more or less free from any toxic effects. Its large scale production following its discovery by Fleming and Florey in England has been mostly in America and is a real triumph of biological and chemical research.

More Potent Drugs

In the category of promising anti-bacterials may be mentioned the work on phenexetol conducted by the Department of Pharmaceutics at the College of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. This substance is the monophenyl ether phenoxy ethyl alcohol.

In bacteriostatic and bactericidal tests, it was found to be weakest against staphylococci, better against straptococci and strongest against pseudomana, pyocynania, a gram-negative organism which is the cause of blue pus in wounds. This organism is unaffected even by penicillin and resists the action of sulphonamides, the acredine compounds and the quarternary ammonium compounds. Phenoxetol has yielded excellent clinical results as an ingredient of penicillin cream. Recent announcements show that another product synthidine has been found to be even better than penicillin and one hopes to hear of still more potent drugs in the field.

No scientist worth his name will boast of the numerous weapons of destruction which have been invented during the war. If one does mention them as achievements, it is because of the great potentialities they have in being able to promote better standards of living in the future and of their obvious usefulness in the more peaceful occupations of the human kind. It is quite possible that pilotless planes may be used in peacetime for quick transport purposes. It is possible that the element of danger involved in such a method of transport may one day be even less than in conveyances piloted by erring human beings. The V 2 may perhaps be harnessed for new scientific conquests on this earth and even on planets. Poisons of the most virulent types may help in destroying insect pests and wild beasts and help us forward towards better agriculture and better forestry.

The new metal alloys of beryllium magnesium and aluminium have already provided ways and means of reducing weight of machinery and vehicles and increase the facilities of transport. We were at no time in the world's history nearer success in utilising the energy of the atom than at this time and when the results of these achievements are made known, they will revolutionise methods of storing and using new sources of energy.

New Outlook

Great as the achievements of science are in the fields described above and in such other fields as operational research, new building technique, and new methods of housing, transport and preservation of food, there is no doubt that the greatest achievement of science, during the war which will be remembered by posterity is the creation of an entirely new outlook on science by Society.

The scientist is now definitely acknowledged as a man who seeks to organise the relations between nature and his fellow human beings and to give them power to control nature. In order to achieve this, co-ordination of all sciences has to be attempted on the largest possible scale.

The men of science in the future must necessarily understand to control public affairs. At the same time the ordinary citizen and the civil servants must be given an insight into scientific matters. Just as State activities such as post office, railways and trade and industry must be organised, so must science be organised. There must be a flow of ideas and products in a continuous manner as without such a process the present civilisation which is essentially based on applied science will become rapidly out-of-date, antiquated and inefficient. Such an organisation of science does not contemplate the idea of research made-to-order but a genuine attempt by the State and the people to give science a chance.

No planning and development by any Government of the world will henceforth be undertaken without the fullest consultation and

active participation of the scientist. The understanding of science must be the spinal column of our educational system. Professor Harold Laski says:

"We must shape the minds of the post-war generations in such a way that administration, at the highest level, can be undertaken by men with a knowledge of scientific methods, instead of treating such men, in the Civil Service, as clerks with special qualifications. Many of our great scientists could hold their own with the best of the Permanent Secretaries of the Treasury".

Whether the scientist likes it or not, he will be called upon to play an important part in the administration of a civilisation which is based on applied sciences.

Position of Science in Society

Perhaps the most outstanding example of the position of science in society is given in a report submitted by Professor P. Kapitza, the celebrated Russian Physicist to the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences. The following significant sentence occurs in this report:

"In our socialist country science occupies a special place. Of course it is well known and commonly accepted in the other countries too, that science plays a great role in the development of the culture and technology of the country. But in our country science is recognised as one of the essential mainstays of the development of culture and is accorded a leading position in the development of our technology and national economy. For this reason the organisation of science in our country must have a more purposeful character than that to be found in other countries where it is rather accidental and spontaneous. The connection between science and life must be close and more complete."

Private Enterprise

That this idea has caught like wild fire is evident from the fact that even a country like the U.S.A. firmly entrenched in the belief that private enterprise is best for applied science and industry, created an office of Science and Research Development under the State during the War and its activities in a lightly modified form will continue after the war. England, her dominions, and India have created departments or offices for scientific and industrial research in close conjunction with plans for post-war reconstruction. These activities will continue to be on the up-grade until science finds its rightful place in the nation-building activities of the State in all its phases.

A. R. Olpin of the U.S.A. has recently made the statement:

"During the war many physicists are learning for the first time that there is as much thrill and satisfaction in applying physical truths as in discovering them".

Some of us in this country who have obtained their initiation in applied research during the present war have had similar experiences. The interesting thing is that even the hard boiled industrialists are now beginning to realise the value of pure research. This happy collaboration between pure and applied research is indeed another great achievement which will have far reaching effects on human progress.

ARTIFICIAL SILK FABRICS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 813)

All dealers in artificial silk fabrics have been directed to submit to the Controller General of Civil Supplies, 1st Marine Street, Kalbadevi, Bombay 2, so as to reach him before May 25, 1945, declarations of stocks of Indian-made artificial silk fabrics in their possession on April 25, 1945, in the prescribed form showing the quantity held in respect of each quality and the premises where the stocks are kept.

The Government of India have sanctioned the addition to the landed cost of imported artificial silk yarn of a sum representing 7½ per cent. of the landed cost where the yarn is sold by the dealer who imported it and 15 per cent. of such landed cost in any other case. But where such article is sold and delivered at a place other than a port, the seller may also add to the landed cost thereof the amount of the octroi or other local cess paid in respect of such article and the amount of the freight paid for carrying the article from the port to the place of delivery.

This amount of freight is not to exceed the amount which would be incurred for carrying such article from the nearest port to the place where it is delivered by the means of communication ordinarily employed for such purposes.

DEATH OF MAJOR MERAJ-UD-DIN



Major Meraj-ud-Din.

WITH the death on active service in Burma of Major Meraj-ud-Din, 1st Punjab Regiment, the Indian Army has lost a well-loved, efficient soldier and a sincere unofficial ambassador.

Major Meraj-ud-Din, whose home was in Peshawar, leaves a widow and two daughters. His younger brother, an officer in the R.I.A.F., was killed in operations over Burma a few months ago.

Born in November, 1911, Major Meraj-ud-Din joined the Indian Army in February 1933, and fulfilled many varied and important regimental and staff duties.

Last year, during a tour of Great Britain and the United States, he played a leading role in raising even higher the prestige of the Indian Army. He was chosen to go with the deputation which visited Italy, Great Britain and the United States and in lectures, broadcasts and newspaper articles he was able to give a first-hand picture of the tremendous part the Indian Army was playing in the Allied war effort.

Before rejoining, in Burma, the battalion of which he was second-in-command, Major Meraj-ud-Din acted as personal assistant to Lord Munster during his special mission to study conditions under which the troops lived and fought in the Indo-Burma theatre of war.

After an initial period in the Army spent in regimental duties Major Meraj-ud-Din was appointed staff captain to 254 Indian Armoured Brigade in March, 1941, and served in that capacity until he went to the Staff College, Quetta, in January, 1943. Subsequently he was appointed Brigade Major at H.Q., Jhelum area, and in September, 1943, he became Brigade Major in an Indian Infantry Brigade.

In March last year he was temporarily attached to the Directorate of Public Relations, G.H.Q.(I) before being sent with the deputation overseas.

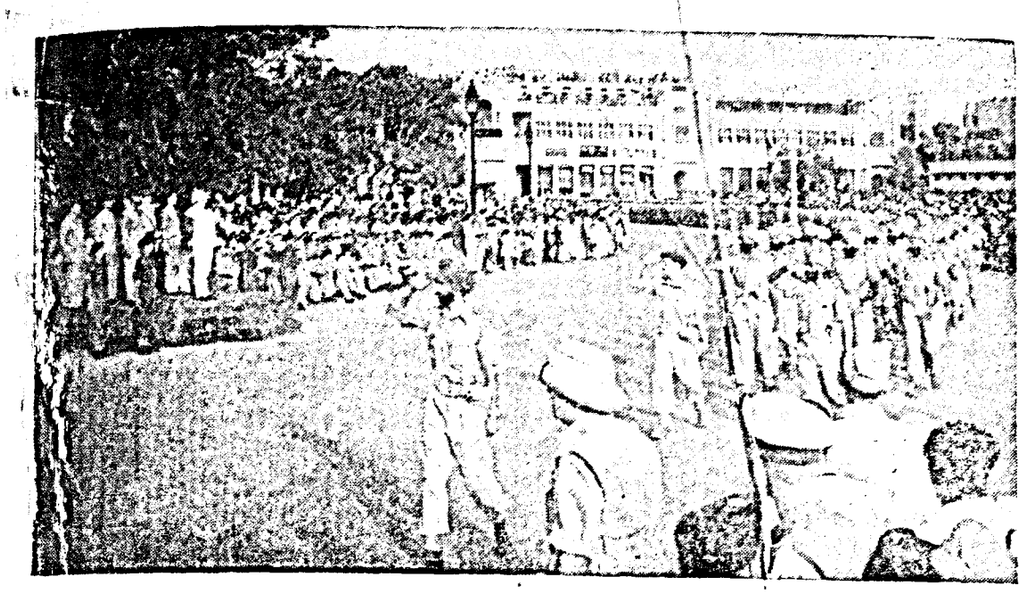
Son of Khan Bahadur Sadu-ud-Din Khan, retired judicial commissioner of the North-West Frontier Province, Major Meraj-ud-Din was educated at the Islamia College, Peshawar, where he was an outstanding football player, representing the college for three years. He was an excellent rifle shot and only the day before his death he killed a Jap sniper at 500 yards range.

WOMEN WELFARE WORKERS ARRIVE IN INDIA

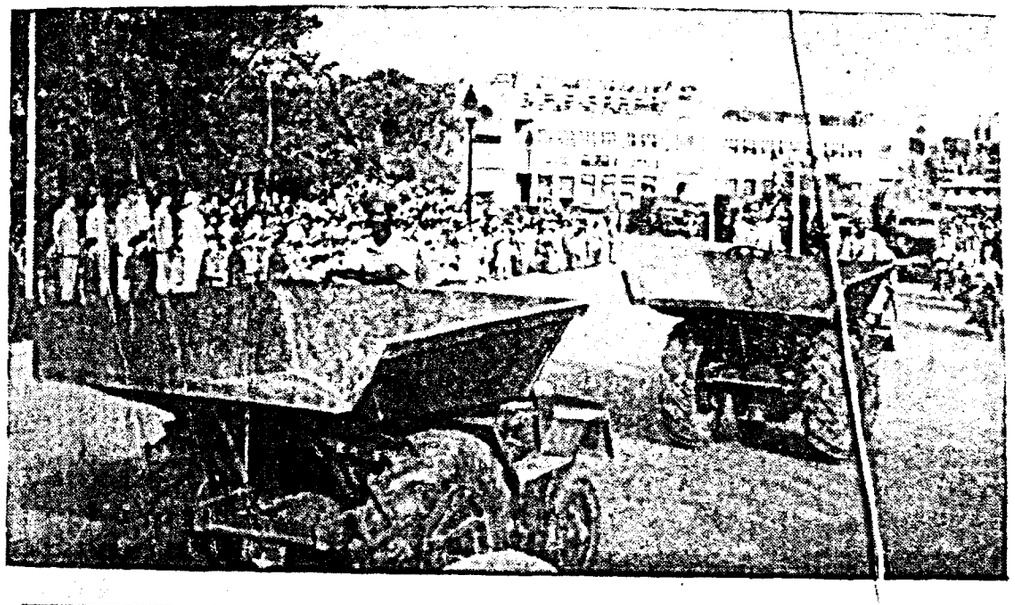
Experienced welfare workers—all women—of the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Help Society have arrived in India at the request of the Government of India and the War Office. Working with Army welfare officers in 15 stations they will deal with servicemen's problems.

The unit, many of whom have given up jobs in the United Kingdom to volunteer for this work, is led by Major W. T. Henry, late Royal Artillery, the Society's Director of Overseas Service, and Miss Edith Gowans, who was decorated for welfare work in Siberia during the last war. Speed will be the keynote of their work, writes an Indian Army Observer.

Such matters as housing, re-establishment of business and other personal problems will be the concern of these welfare workers who will have captain's status in the Army. With them are full details of the Ministry of Town and Country Planning's scheme—housing being perhaps the foremost worry of servicemen abroad.



VICTORY PARADE IN DELHI—H. E. Sir John Colville, then Acting Viceroy, taking the salute at the march past of the mechanized columns provided by K.G.V.O.'s, Bengal Sappers and Miners Group, Indian Engineers. (Below) Two dumpers of the mechanized column which took part in the parade.



Issued fortnightly by J. Natarajan, Principal Information Officer, Government of India. Printed in India by E. G. Tilt (General Manager) at The Civil & Military Gazette, Ltd., Lahore: Communications for the Editor should be addressed to the Bureau of Public Information, Government of India, Lahore, and not to the Printers.

Regd. No. L-5060.

AFTER VICTORY IN ITALY



Indian soldiers at a rest camp in Italy gathe around Peace notices in the camp and exchange greetings. (Above) Men of the 5th Royal Mahrattas who fought in the Italian campaign say good-bye to their friends as they begin the first stage of the journey home.



[illegible] 000.00

NAIK GIAN SINGH

Firing his tommy gun and hurling grenades Naik Gian Singh, 15th Punjab Regiment, a Jat Sikh of Sahabpur village, Jullundur district, Punjab, made two lone charges against the Japs astride the Kamye-Myingyan road in Burma, captured an anti-tank gun singlehanded and killed many of the enemy. He has been awarded the Victoria Cross, the Indian Army's 24th of this war.

As all water points in this area were within a Jap position it was essential that the enemy be dislodged. The attack on the first objective was successful but when a Punjab platoon was ordered to assault a nearby village it came under very heavy fire.

Nk. Gian Singh, in command of the leading section of the platoon, ordered machine-gunners to cover him as, firing his tommy gun, he rushed the enemy fox-holes. He was met by a hail of lead and wounded in the arm but he continued to advance hurling grenades.

He killed several Japs including four in one enemy main weapon pit. By this time our tanks had moved up and came under fire from enemy anti-tank guns. Nk. Gian Singh, in spite of his wounds, again rushed forward and annihilated a Jap anti-tank gun's crew, capturing the weapon singlehanded.

He then led his section down a lane of cactus hedges clearing all enemy positions. About 20 Jap bodies were found in this area, the majority of whom fell to Nk. Gian Singh and his men.

After renewed action the Punjabi company reformed to take enemy positions to the rear. It was at this stage that Nk. Gian Singh was ordered to the regimental aid post but, in spite of his wounds, requested permission to continue leading his section until the whole action had been completed. Permission was granted.

"There is no doubt that these acts of supreme gallantry saved Nk. Gian Singh's platoon many casualties and enabled the whole operation to be carried out successfully with severe loss to the enemy," says the citation.

NAIK FAZAL DIN

Run through the chest by a Jap officer's sword, Naik Fazal Din, 10th Baluch Regiment, a Punjabi Mussalman of Hussainpur village, Hoshiarpur district, Punjab, seized the weapon as his opponent withdrew it and killed the Jap with it. Despite his terrible wound he accounted for two more of the enemy, staggered to his platoon headquarters to make his report and died shortly afterwards.

He has been posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross, the 25th to be won by the Indian Army during this war.

Nk. Fazal Din was leading his platoon in a company attack on an enemy position near Meiktila in Burma. Heavy machine-gun fire and grenades greeted the section as they reached the bunkers defending the area but Nk. Fazal Din personally attacked the nearest bunker and silenced it.

"Supreme Devotion to Duty"

Suddenly six Japs commanded by two officers appeared. A Baluch bren gunner shot one officer and another Jap but, as his ammunition had by then run out, he was himself killed. Nk. Fazal Din, in going to his assistance, received the sword of the second Jap officer in his chest.

After killing this officer Nk. Fazal Din slew another Jap and then, running to the help of one of his sepoys, despatched a third enemy. Waving the captured sword he continued to encourage his men but when he reached platoon headquarters he collapsed, dying soon after at the regimental aid post.

"Naik Fazal Din's action was seen by almost the whole platoon who, undoubtedly inspired by his great gallantry and taking advantage of the bewilderment created among the enemy by the loss of their leaders, continued the attack and annihilated the garrison which numbered 55," says the citation.

"Such supreme devotion to duty even when fatally wounded, and his presence of mind and outstanding courage has seldom been equalled and reflects the unquenchable spirit of a singularly brave and gallant N.C.O."

HAVILDAR UMRAO SINGH

For his "magnificent bravery" when his gun position was repeatedly attacked by two companies of Japs in the Kaladan Valley of the Arakan last December, Havildar Umrao Singh has won the first V.C. to be awarded to the Indian Artillery in this war and the 26th to the Indian Army as a whole.

Hav. Umrao Singh, who was serving with a mountain battery, is an Ahir, of Palrah village, Jhajjar tehsil, Rohtak district.

The first Jap attack against the position was prefaced by heavy fire from 75 mm guns and mortars which lasted 1½ hours. When the attack came, says the citation, Hav. Umrao Singh so inspired his detachment with his personal example and encouragement to fight and defend the gun that they were able to beat off the attack with loss to the enemy.

Resolute Action

Though twice wounded by grenades in the first attack he held off a second enemy attack by skilful control of the detachment's small arms fire and by manning the bren gun against Japs who had got to within five yards. Again the enemy were beaten off with heavy loss.

The third and fourth attacks were also beaten off by the resolute action of the havildar, but by this time all the gun detachment save two were killed or wounded.

When the final attack came, the other gun having been overrun and all ammunition expended, Hav. Umrao Singh seized a gun bearer (a heavy tool) and closed with the enemy in furious hand-to-hand fighting. He was seen to strike down three Japs in desperate efforts to save his gun till he was overwhelmed and knocked senseless.

Six hours later, when a counter-attack restored the position, he was found in an exhausted state beside his gun, almost unrecognisable with seven severe head wounds. Ten dead Japs were around him.

"By his personal example and magnificent bravery," concludes the citation, "Hav. Umrao Singh set a supreme example of gallantry and devotion to duty. When recovered, his gun was fit for firing and was in action and firing later the same day."

V.C. HERO'S VILLAGE HEARS THE GOOD NEWS

News of the award of the Victoria Cross to Havildar Umrao Singh, of the Indian Artillery, was received with great excitement by the little village of Palrah, in the Rohtak district of the Punjab, where he was born.

I was the first to break the news, writes an Indian Army Observer. To do so I drove from New Delhi on a series of roads which, after leaving the main Rohtak road, gradually deteriorated until, three miles before Palrah, I was faced with a bumpy drive over a vague bullock cart track which wound through sunbaked scrubland.

I found the home of this 25-year-old hero standing off the village "square". The narrow lane leading to it, flanked by simple mudhouses, was soon jammed with villagers who had come to congratulate the havildar's family.

Modest Hero

Umrao Singh is a modest hero, for although he was home on leave recently before rejoining his regiment, having recovered from his wounds, I was told he had given no hint of the gallant action in which he won his V.C. He had talked little of his exploits in Burma, being content to enjoy to the full the simple pleasures of the Indian village life he left more than five years ago.

Neighbours crowded into the courtyard of his home as I talked to the brothers and sisters of Umrao Singh. They had come to express their pride in the honour which the gallant havildar had brought to Palrah.

The press in the lane grew as my news was carried to outlying parts of the village. In the courtyard, somewhat overwhelmed but obviously delighted by the news, stood the family group. It was incomplete, for the father died some years ago, and Umrao Singh's mother was visiting relations in a village some miles distant.

But there were Duli Chand, delight for his brother's honour showing in a broad smile, and Basanti and Sarwarni, two married sisters who were on a short visit to their home. Two shy young sisters—Dankaur and Dharmbai—were also present, a little bewildered by it all.

They pointed out to me the household goods and belongings of their brother....calves, grain bins, a straw cutter, a pitchfork. Some day Umrao Singh will return to them. It is safe to say that when he does there will be a grand *tamasha* for Palrah's modest V.C.

VICEROY'S WAR PURPOSES FUND

Contributions amounting to Rs. 8,45,560 during March, 1945, have brought the total of H. E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund to Rs. 11,72,36,361 while the payments in the same month amounting to Rs. 6,19,284 raised the total of payments to Rs. 10,16,49,249 leaving a balance in hand of Rs. 1,55,87,112 of which about Rs. 1 1¼ crores represented unearmarked money.