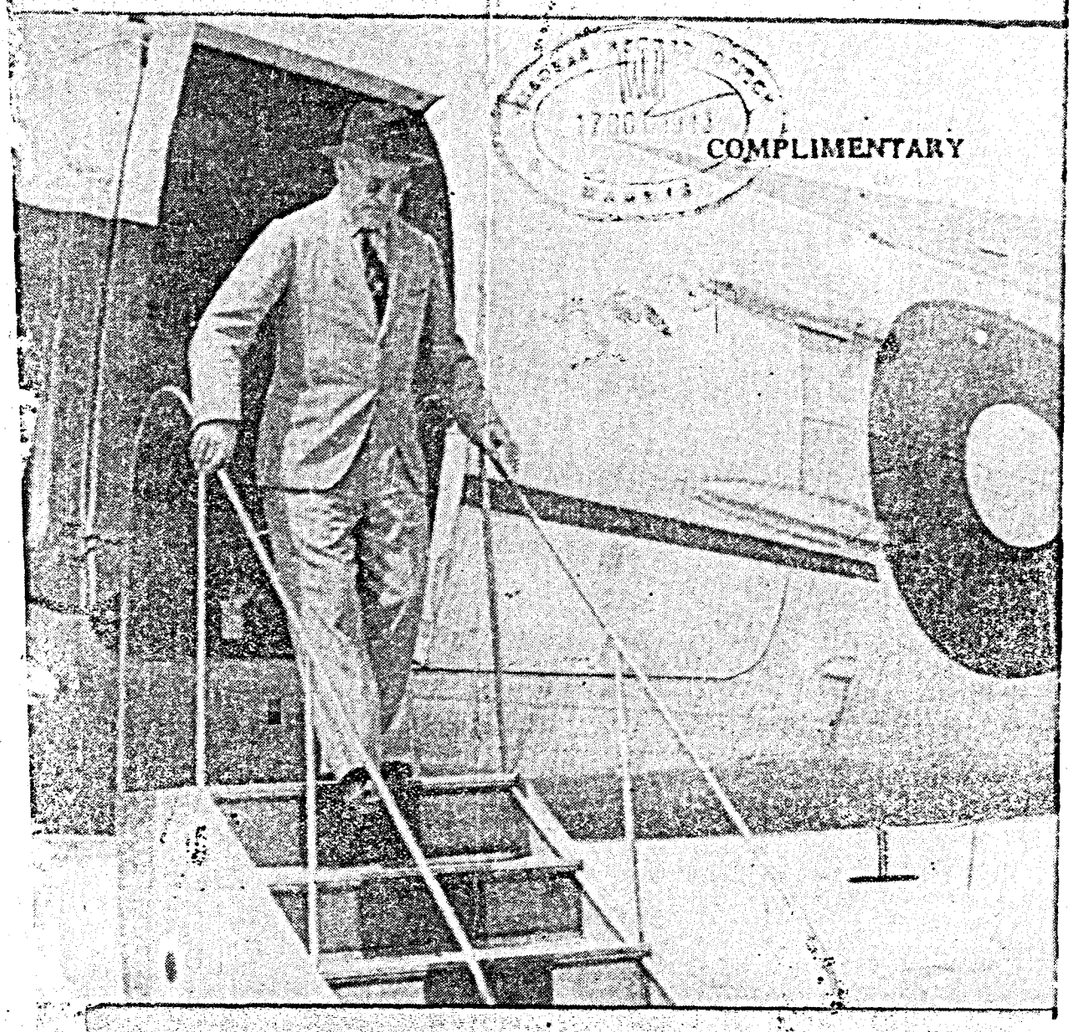
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ANNAS

VICEROY'S BROADCAST



General Sir Claude Auchinleck, Commander-in- hief in India (centre) with (L. to R.) Lt.-Gen. Sir William J. Slim, Lt.-Gen. C. W. Toovey, Lt.-Gen. R. M. M. Lockhart. and Lt.-Gen. Sir Geoffry A. P. Scoones.

Vol. 17 No. 163. INDIAN INFORMATION Oct. 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.

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.

Edited by Pothan Joseph, Principal Information Officer, Government of India.

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COVER PICTURE: Lord Wavell alighting from the plane at the Willingdon Air Station, Delhi.

FULL SELF-GOVERNMENT FOR INDIA

Viceroy on Britain's Policy

HIS EXCELLENCY the Viceroy, broadcasting from New Delhi on September 19, said:

After my recent discussions with His Majesty's Government in London, they authorised me to make the following announcement:

"As stated in the gracious Speech from the Throne at the opening of Parliament, His Majesty's Government are determined to do their utmost to promote, in conjunction with the leaders of Indian opinion, the early realisation of full self-government in India. During my visit to London they have discussed the steps to be taken.

"An announcement has already been made that elections to the Central and provincial Legislatures, so long postponed owing to the war, are to be held during the coming cold weather. Thereafter His Majesty's ministerial responsibility will be accepted by political leaders in all provinces.

"It is the intention of His Majesty's Government to convene as soon as possible a constitution-making body, and as a preliminary step they have authorised me to undertake, immediately after the elections, discussions with representatives of the Legislative Assemblies in the provinces to ascertain whether the proposals contained in the 1942 declaration are acceptable or whether some alternative or modified scheme is preferable.

"Discussions will also be undertaken with the representatives of the Indian States with a view to ascertaining in what way they can best take their part in the constitution-making body.

"His Majesty's Government are proceeding to the consideration of the content of the treaty which will require to be concluded between Great Britain and India.

"During these preparatory stages, the Government of India must be carried on and urgent economic and social problems must be dealt with.

"Furthermore, India has to play her full part in working out the new world order. His Majesty's Government have, therefore, further authorised me, as soon as the results of the provincial elections are published, to take steps to bring into being an Executive Council which will have the support of the main Indian parties."

That is the end of the announcement which His Majesty's Government have authorised me to make. It means a great deal. It means that His Majesty's Government are determined to go ahead with the task of bringing India to self-government at the earliest possible date.



Lord Wavell, on his return to Delhi from the U.K. recently, was received at the Willingdon Air Station by H. E. Sir John Colville and the Hon. Sir Sultan Ahmed, Member for Information and Broadcasting.

They have, as you can well imagine, a great number of most important and urgent problems on their hands, but despite all their preoccupations they have taken time, almost in their first days of office, to give attention to the Indian problem, as one of the first and most important. That fact is a measure of the earnest resolve of His Majesty's Government to help India to achieve early self-government.

The task of making and implementing a new constitution for India is a complex and difficult one, which will require goodwill, co-operation and patience on the part of all concerned.

We must first hold elections, so that the will of the Indian electorate may be known. It is not possible to undertake any major alteration of the franchise system. This would delay matters for at least two years. But we are doing our best to revise the existing electoral rolls efficiently.

After the elections, I propose to hold discussions with representatives of those elected, and of the Indian States, to determine the form which the constitution making body should take, its powers and procedure.

The draft declaration of 1942 proposed a method of setting up a constitution-making body, but His Majesty's Government recognise that, in view of the great issues involved and the delicacy of the minority problems, consultation with the people's representatives is necessary before the form of the constitution-making body is finally determined.

The Best Way

The above procedure seems to His Majesty's Government and myself the best way open to us to give India the opportunity of deciding her destiny.

We are well aware of the difficulties to be overcome, but we are determined to overcome them. I can certainly assure you that the Government and all sections of the British people are anxious to help India, which has given us so much help in winning this war. I, for my part, will do my best, in the service of the people of India, to help them to arrive at their goal, and I firmly believe that it can be done.

It is now for Indians to show that they have the wisdom, faith and courage to determine in what way they can best reconcile their differences and how their country can be governed by Indians for Indians.

GENERAL ELECTIONS IN INDIA

General elections for the Central and Provincial Legislatures are long overdue, and the Governor-General has decided, after consultation with His Majesty's Government and the Provincial Governors, that they must now be held as soon as possible, says a Press Note issued from the Viceroy's House, New Delhi. It adds:

The Central Assembly will, therefore, be left to expire on October 1, and the general election for that Chamber will be completed in time for the new members to take their seats at the Budget Session of 1946.

The electoral rolls for the Council of State are not ready, and the life of that Chamber will, therefore, be further extended to May 1, 1946, with a view to the holding of a general election as soon as may be after that date. In the circumstances, the Governor-General will not summon a session of either of the two Chambers this autumn.

Orders for the holding of general elections to the Provincial Assemblies will be issued in due course by the Governors.

COUNCIL OF STATE ELECTORAL RULES

The Gazette of India notifies certain amendments to the Council of State Electoral Rules. Their effect is:

(1) To increase the number of elected and nominated members by one each and thus to restore the total number of members to the figure—60—at which it stood up to the separation of Burma;

(2) To exclude Sind from the Bombay Non-Muhammadan constituency but to leave that constituency to return three members;

(3) To create a new Sind Non-Muhammadan constituency; and

(4) To allot the additional elected seat in rotation to the new Sind Non-Muhammadan constituency which will return a member at the next general election to the Council of State and at subsequent alternate general elections, and the existing Sind Muhammadan constituency which will return two members instead of one at the general elections at which the Muhammadan constituency does not return a member.

To the extent to which they provide for the exclusion of Sind from the Bombay Non-Muhammadan constituency the amendments give effect to one of the proposals included in a Resolution moved in the Council of State on February 22, 1945, by the Hon'ble Mr. G. S. Motilal.

The following messages have been exchanged between H. E. the Viceroy and Lord Linlithgow.

From H.E. the Viceroy.—Executive Council unanimously asked me to convey to you their admiration and gratitude for your leadership during the difficult war years and their thanks for the part you played in the war effort and the defence of India, and so in securing final victory

From Lord Linlithgow.—I shall be greatly obliged if Your Excellency will kindly convey to the Members of your Executive Council my sincere thanks for their kind and generous message. I recall with gratitude the constant support given me by my Council throughout the war period.

THE DECLARATION OF 1942 STANDS—

Mr. C. R. Attlee



"THE broad definition of British policy towards India, contained in the declaration of 1942, which had the support of all parties in this country, stands in all its fullness and purpose. This declaration envisaged the negotiations of a treaty between the British Government and the constitution-making body. The Government is giving immediate consideration to the contents of such a treaty," said Mr. C. R. Attlee, Prime Minister, in a broadcast on September 19.

Here is the full text of the Prime Minister's broadcast:

The King's speech at the opening of the new Parliament contained this passage: "In accordance with the promises already made to my Indian peoples, my Government will do their utmost to promote in conjunction with leaders of Indian opinion, early realisation of full self-government in India."

Immediately after assuming office the Government turned its attention to Indian affairs and invited the Viceroy to come home in order to review with him the whole situation, economic and political. These discussions have now concluded and the Viceroy has returned to India and has made an announcement of policy.

Cripps' Offer

You will remember that in 1942 the Coalition Government made a draft declaration for discussion with Indian leaders, commonly known as the Cripps' offer.

It was proposed that immediately upon cessation of hostilities steps should be taken to set up in India an elected body charged with the task of framing a new constitution for India.

Sir Stafford Cripps took that offer to India but it was unfortunately not accepted by leaders of Indian political parties; the Government is, however, acting in accordance with its spirit and intention.

The first step necessary is to get as soon as may be as democratic a representation of the Indian peoples as possible. War has in India, as in this country, prevented elections being held for a long time and the Central and Provincial Legislatures must now be renewed. Therefore, as is already been announced, elections will be held in India in the coming cold weather. Electoral rolls are being revised as completely as time permits and everything possible will be done to ensure free and fair elections.

The Viceroy has today made known our intention to follow their election by positive steps to set up a constituent assembly of Indian elected representatives, charged with the task of framing a new constitution. The Government has authorized Lord Wavell to undertake preliminary discussions with representatives of new Provincial Legislatures, as soon as they are elected, to ascertain whether the proposals of the Cripps offer are acceptable as they stand, or whether some alternative or modified scheme should be preferable. Discussions will also take place with representatives of Indian States.

The Government has further authorized the Viceroy as an interim measure to take steps after the elections to bring into being an Executive Council, having the support of the main Indian parties, in order that India may deal

herself with her own social and economic problems, and may take her full part in the working out of a new world order.

The broad definition of British policy towards India, contained in the declaration of 1942, which had the support of all parties in this country, stands in all its fullness and purpose. This declaration envisaged the negotiation of a treaty between the British Government and the constitution-making body. The Government is giving immediate consideration to the contents of such a treaty.

It can be said here that in that treaty we shall not seek to provide for anything incompatible with the interests of India. No one who has any acquaintance with Indian affairs will underestimate the difficulties which will have to be surmounted in the setting up and smooth operation of a constitution-making body. Still greater is the difficulty which will face the elected representatives of the Indian people in seeking to frame a constitution for a great continent containing more than 400,000,000 human beings.

Appeal For Unity

During the war Indian fighting men have in Europe, Africa and Asia played a splendid part in defeating the forces of tyranny and aggression. India has shared to the full with the rest of the United Nations the task of saving freedom and democracy. Victory came through unity and through the readiness of all to sink their differences in order to attain the supreme object, victory.

I would ask all Indians to follow this great example and to join together in a united effort to work out a constitution which the majority and minority communities will accept as a just and fair constitution, in which both the States and the Provinces can find their place. The British Government will do their utmost to give every assistance in their power, and India can be assured of the sympathy of the British people.

Censorship restrictions have been withdrawn in respect of telegrams to and from the United Kingdom, Eire, the United States of America and Empire countries with which telegraphic communication has been restored, said a Press Note issued by the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, on September 18.

INDIAN DELEGATION TO I.L.O. CONFERENCE

A Press communique issued by the Labour Department, Government of India, on September 8 said:

The Government of India have nominated the following Delegation for the forthcoming International Labour Conference meeting on October 15, 1945, at Paris:

Government Representatives:—Sir Samuel Runganadhan, High Commissioner for India, (Delegate and Leader); Mr. H. C. Prior, Secretary, Labour Department, (Delegate); M. D. R. Pradhan, Regional Director of Resettlement and Employment, (Adviser); Mr. D. G. Jadhav, Regional Labour Commissioner, Southern Zone, (Adviser); Musabib-i-Khas Bahadur Capt. Harish Chandra Dhanda, Commerce Minister, Holkar State, (Adviser); Mr. R. S. Mani, I.C.S., Secretary, Publications Department, High Commissioner's Office, London, (Adviser).

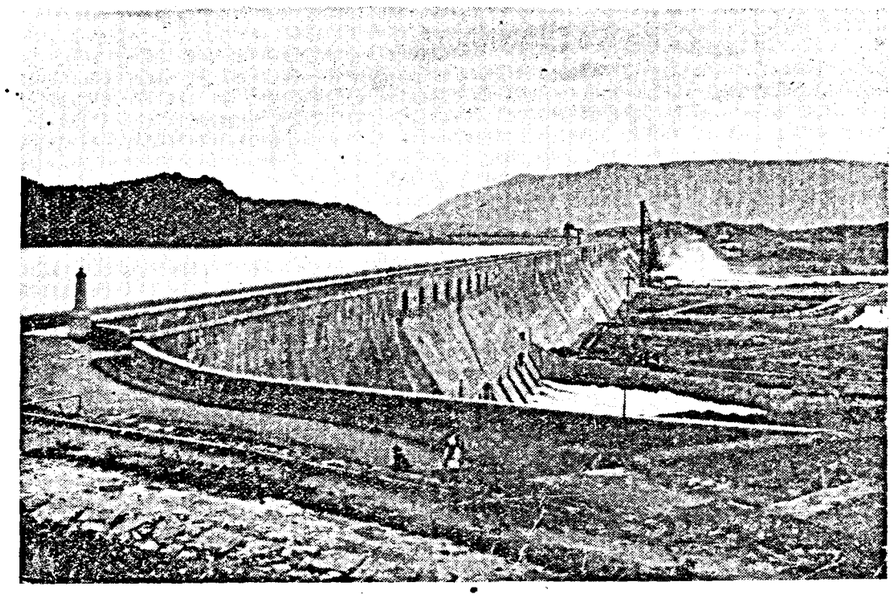
Employers' Representatives:—Mr. Lakshinivas Birla, (Delegate); Mr. David S. Erulkar, (Adviser); Mr. A. W. Taylor, (Adviser); Lala Kirpa Narain, (Adviser); Mr. S. P. Ogale, (Adviser); Mr. Ramlal Sonkar, (Adviser).

Workers' Representatives:—Mr. N. M. Joshi, (Delegate); Mr. S. S. Mirajkar, (Adviser); Mr. Abdul Momin, (Adviser); Mr. R. A. Khedgikar, (Adviser); Mr. P. R. K. Sharma, (Adviser); Mr. R. B. More (Adviser).

Nominations Explained

A member of the High Commissioner's Office will act as the Secretary to the Indian Delgation.

As a member of the International Organisation, India has undertaken to nominate non-Government delegates and advisers chosen in agreement with the industrial organisations, if such organisations exist, which are most representative of employers or workpeople, as the case may be, in their respective countries. The employers' representatives have been chosen in this manner as agreed recommendations were received. As regards employees, according to the decision taken last year of alternate representation between the Indian Federation of Labour and the All-India Trade Union Congress, the Government have nominated employees' representatives from the recommendations made by the All-India Trade Congress.



A view of the Mettur Dam, on the River Cauvery, 180 miles south-west of Madras. The reservoir formed by the dam is 33 miles long, 4 1/2 miles wide at its widest point and nearly 60 miles in extent.

MULTI-PURPOSE DEVELOPMENT OF DAMODAR VALLEY

Labour Member's Speech at Calcutta Conference

"THE project (harnessing the waters of the Domodar River) is a welcome one to the Government of India. It very clearly shows a fine prospect of the control of the River, a prospect of controlling floods, of securing a fine area for perennial irrigation with resultant insurance against famine and a much needed supply of power. I am sure it will be more than welcome to the Governments of Bengal and Bihar if they realise what the project will mean to them and their people."

Thus observed the Hon'ble Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Labour Member, Government of India, in his address to representatives of Bengal and Bihar Governments at a Conference held in Calcutta on August 23 to discuss the Preliminary Memorandum on the Damodar Valley Multi-purpose Project. The session lasted two days, and the Labour Member presided.

Here is the full text of Dr. Ambedkar's speech: "We are now meeting for the second time to discuss the project for harnessing the waters of the Damodar River. As you will recall, our first meeting in this connection took place on January 3, 1945. We then considered the Report of the Damodar River Flood Enquiry Committee appointed by the Government of Bengal in 1944.

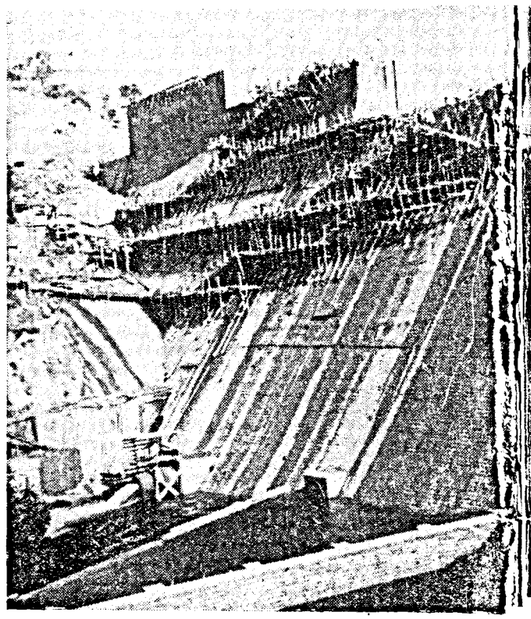
"The issue before us was whether we should be content with damming the river for the purpose of stopping the flood only or whether we should make it a multi-purpose project so as to cover generation of electricity and the supply of water for irrigation and navigation also. The consensus of opinion at that Conference was that we should go in for the latter. Accordingly, the Conference decided to take the next step, namely to create machinery for collecting the necessary data to draw up a multi-purpose scheme. On the part of the Government of India, I offered the fullest assistance of technical experts in carrying out this preliminary work.

"The experts have now drawn up, with the co-operation of the engineers from Bengal, a Preliminary Memorandum on the Unified Development of the Damodar River Valley. Copies of this Memorandum have already been in the hands of the Government of Bengal and Bihar.

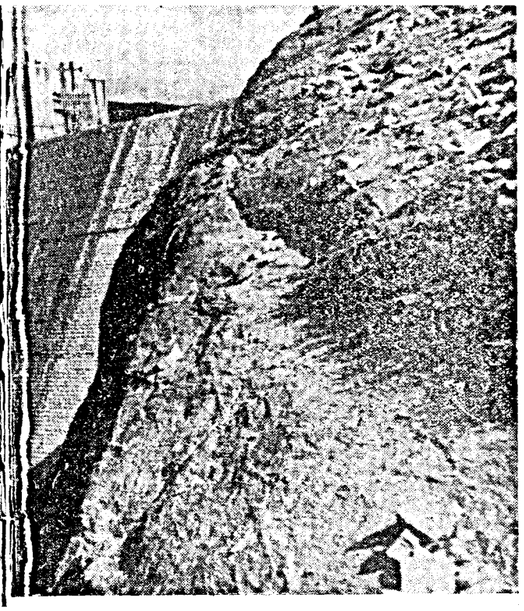
"With regard to this Memorandum, I feel it my duty to say, and I am sure in this I am voicing your sentiments, that we are grateful to Mr. Voordin for the preparation of this draft Memorandum and also to the ready co-operation which was offered to him by the engineering staff of the Bengal Government. Mr. Matthews, the Chairman of the Central Power Technical Board, has also give us the benefit of his advice, and at a later stage, I have no doubt, that we shall receive all the assistance from Mr. Khosla, the Chairman of the Waterways and Navigation Board.

"For the present we have before us now a very clear, a very comprehensive and a very essential survey of the full possibilities of the Damodar River Valley, accompanied by adequate data to enable us to take the next step with confidence.

"The reason why we have met today is to consider this Preliminary Memorandum and the points that arise out of it. These points are set in the agenda which is prepared for this meeting. The agenda contains a full list of matters arising out of the Preliminary Memorandum and which require immediate attention. As it has already been circulated to the Governments of Bengal and Bihar, it is unnecessary for me to go over it again. I shall, therefore, content myself with making two general observations. (1) with regard to matters of policy, and (2) with regard to questions of method and procedure



The Papanasam hydro-thermal electric system Grid which now covers all districts south of Thambaraparani, is 6 miles above the P.ganz dam with temporary monsoon spillway and gro



omtitutes the third major link in the Madras Madras. The dam, which is across the am Falls. The picture shows the rear face of h walls to guide the flow of monsoon water.

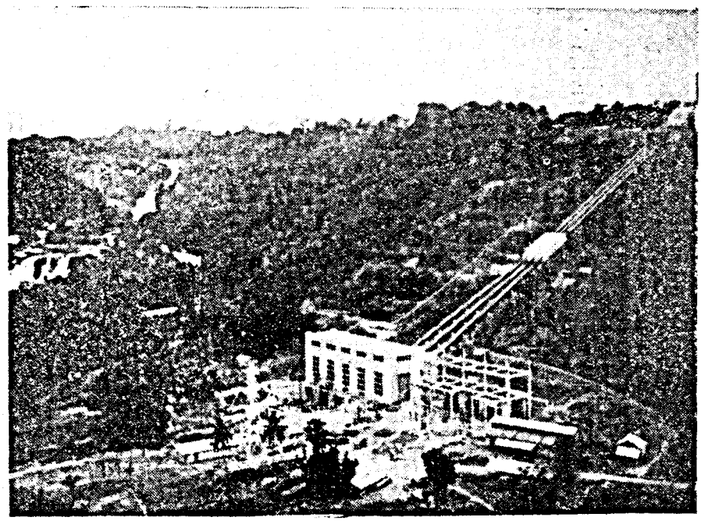
"Flood control is a matter of policy. I hope that there will be general agreement as to the desirability of providing that measure of flood protection as will ensure full safety to the vulnerable area of the Damodar Basin against even the most adverse combination of foreseeable natural circumstances. I am glad to say that the scheme drawn up in the Preliminary Memorandum does provide for that full measure of safety.

"The second matter of policy is the collective responsibility of the three Governments assembled here to put their shoulders to the task. I believe that there will be general agreement that the findings in the Preliminary Memorandum justify the three Governments in proceeding energetically with the development of the Damodar River Valley on the general lines indicated in the Memorandum.

"The project is a welcome one to the Government of India. It very clearly shows a fine prospect of the control of the river, a prospect of controlling floods, of securing a fine area for perennial irrigation with resultant insurance against famine and a much needed supply of power. I am sure it will be more than welcome to the Govemnments of Bengal and Bihar, if they realise what the project will mean to them and their people.

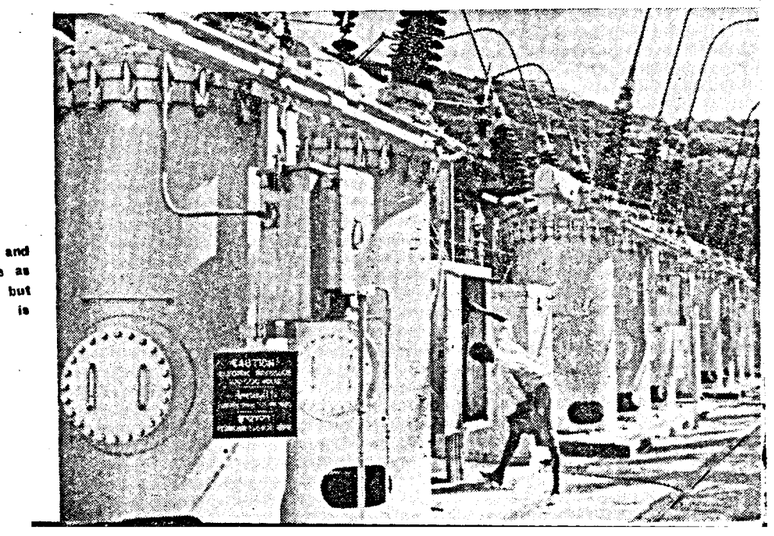
"In concrete terms, the project will give them (1) an aggregate controlled reservoir capacity of about 4,700,000 acre-feet, (2) sufficient water for perennial irrigation of about 760,000 acres besides water for navigation purposes, (3) electrical energy amounting to 300,000 kilowatts, and (4) it would serve to promote directly the welfare of 5 million people and indirectly of many more millions.

"Coming now to the question of methods and procedure, we have to decide upon the following points which I am placing before you



The Penstock and Power House of the Papanasam Hydro-electric Project.

These are switches and serve the same purpose as the domestic switch but the electric pressure is 100,000 volts.



in order of priority:—

(1) Selection of dam sites to be taken up first;

(2) Further detailed investigations as to the selected dam sites before construction can begin;

(3) The agency for such further preliminary investigations;

(4) The agency for designing and construction of dams;

(5) The creation of high grade administrative machinery to co-ordinate and push forward the vast amount of work, both technical and administrative, that will have to be done during the stages of investigations and construction that are to follow; and

(6) A series of surveys relating to the best utilisation of water and power that will be eventually available in the developed areas.

"I would like to emphasize the need for a quick decision on the points relating to method and procedure. The project is no doubt primarily for the establishment of safety and the development of a multi-purpose river basin project. But it cannot be forgotten that the project is a post-war employment project. As the war is now over on all fronts, we are faced with the problems of peace—one of which is to prevent unemployment which, with the sudden cancellation and the reduction of war employment and expenditure, is going to be one of the gravest problems in our domestic economy.

Central Government's Part

"From this point of view, the Damodar Valley Project is a matter of grave urgency, and it would be a criminal folly not to come to an early decision, without which it is not possible for us to proceed further in the matter. I, therefore, hope and trust that, with your co-operation, we should be able today to return with our decisions fully and firmly made.

"Before closing, let me tell you that the Government of India is very keen, very earnest and is prepared to play its full part in carrying through its project.

(1) The Government of India in conformity with their earlier declarations recognise their responsibility for doing all that they can to speed up the project on approved lines, and to this end will endeavour to the best of their ability. Though the form of the authority to carry out the project and the manner of setting it up is yet to be defined, the original view of the Government that such an authority should be set up remains unaltered.

(2) The Government of India is prepared to assume direct responsibility for securing the staff and organisation necessary to carry out all further preliminary investigation in such manner as will facilitate and expedite construction with such assistance as the two Provinces can render without any serious detriment to their post-war development works. The Government of India, however, realise the shortage of engineering manpower in Bengal and will endeavour to find the necessary staff by drawing upon the services, if found available, of a military unit and its equipment to assist in preliminary investigation. This will avoid drawing on the strained engineering resources of the Province at a larger extent than is necessary and will secure a most rapid supply of equipment.

(3) The Centre is prepared to advance, initially, the funds necessary for the further preliminary investigations undertaken by them which are necessary for the main project on the understanding that such preliminary expenses will be charged to the project if it materialises, and divided half and half between the Centre and the Province if it does not materialise.

"There is only one thing which the Government of India expects the Provinces to do. It expects the Provinces to bear in mind the absolute necessity of ensuring that the benefits of the project get ultimately right down to the grass roots, i.e. everyone living in the Valley and some of those in the vicinity, all have their share in the prosperity which the project should bring. This, in my view, is essential, and it is for this reason that we want the establishment of some agency early enough so that that agency can set about planning at once in the manner in which its essential and ultimate object can be secured."

CONFERENCE DISCUSSIONS

The Conference decided to proceed rapidly with further investigation and progress in regard to the Unified and Multi-purpose Damodar Valley Development Project.

It was agreed that the scheme should provide the maximum measure of flood protection that might be necessary against the most favourable combination of natural circumstances

Further investigation of possible dam sites on the Damodar River would be necessary before starting actual construction, and among the sites which required such investigation were Maithon, Aiyar and Sonalapur. The Conference discussed the technical aspects of the question and decided that the order of priority of investigation should be, Maithon first, Aiyar second and Sonalapur third; and that the Central Technical Power Board should prepare project reports for each of those dam sites—in the case of Sonalapur dealing in particular with possible effects on coal production.

Necessary Staff

The Central Government would try to secure staff, at the earliest possible opportunity, for the further detailed investigations required for such project reports. Meanwhile, however, investigations should be carried on by such staff as was immediately available.

The Conference agreed that the entire staff engaged on further investigation of dam sites should work under the technical direction of the Central Technical Power Board so that unified control of the preliminary operations could be ensured.

It was further decided to invite four engineers from the U.S.A. to advise on the design and construction of the first two dams to be built under the proposed unified scheme. These engineers would constitute a Technical Mission and should arrive, if possible, in India early next year. It was hoped that by that time the required data would be collected and available.

While the ultimate intention is to constitute a Damodar Valley Authority for the administration and carrying out of the Scheme, the Conference decided that, as an interim measure, the Central Government should appoint a high-ranking Administrative Officer to co-ordinate all preliminary action and rapidly to push through investigations connected with the proposed Project.

It was agreed that investigation should be undertaken simultaneously for the various other problems connected with the scheme. The Irrigation Departments of the Bengal and Bihar Governments, in consultation with the Central Irrigation, Waterways and Navigation Commission, should investigate the best methods of utilising the water made available for irrigation.

Other subjects to be investigated include the development of power demand, including the setting up of nursery stations, anti-erosion works, navigational, geological and the water supply aspects of the scheme and the lay-out of transmission lines.

The following representatives of the Central Government and the Government of Bengal and Bihar attended the Conference:—

Government of India:—Mr. H. C. Prior, Secretary, Labour Department; Mr. D. L. Mazumdar, Deputy Secretary, Labour Department; Mr. M. Ikramullah, Joint Secretary, Supply Department; Mr. H. M. Matthews, Chairman, Central Technical Power Board; Mr. W. L. Voordin, Hydro-Electric Member, Central Technical Power Board; Mr. C. Coates, Deputy Secretary, Supply Department; Mr. J. R. Harrison, Deputy Coal Commissioner.

Government of Bengal:—Mr. O. M. Martin, Adviser to H.E. the Governor, Communication and Works Department; Mr. R. L. Walker, Adviser to H.E. the Governor, Finance, Commerce, Labour and Industries Department; Mr. B. B. Sarkar, Secretary, Communication and Works Department; Rai Bahadur S. K. Gupta, Chief Engineer, Irrigation Department, West Bengal; Mr. Man Singh, Superintending Engineer on Special Duty, Damodar Scheme; Major M. Jafar, Director of Public Health and Mr. Aziz Ahmed, Joint Secretary, Post-War Reconstruction Department.

Government of Bihar:—Mr. S. M. Dhar, Development Commissioner; and Mr. W. G. Caine, Chief Engineer, Irrigation and Power.

PRELIMINARY MEMORANDUM

A series of reservoirs providing flood control, supply of water for irrigation, and a system of hydro-electric and thermal power stations interconnected by transmission lines—these are the main features of the Damodar Valley Multi-Purpose Project, outlined in the Preliminary Memorandum prepared by the Central Technical Power Board, in pursuance of a resolution adopted at the Conference, held last January, between the Central Government and the Governments of Bengal and Bihar. A rough estimate of the capital expenditure involved gives a figure of Rs. 55 crores, but this is merely to be taken as an indication of the order of expenditure likely to be incurred.

The Memorandum deals with past floods for which the Damodar River has an evil reputation, and discusses the "Design Flood" on which the outline plan is based. The general plan of development comprises the building of a system of eight dams and a barrage. Seven of these dams are for storage purposes and all eight of them would contain hydro-electric generating

plant. The aggregate controlled reservoir capacity would be about 4,700,000 acre-feet. Detailed studies indicate that the storage volume would be sufficient for all purposes. The amount of reservoir capacity, reserved for flood control purposes would reduce the maximum design flood to a flow of about 250,000 cusecs at Rhondia.

Under the proposed plan of development, it would be possible to undertake the perennial irrigation of about 760,000 acres, including the 186,000 acres at present partially irrigated.

The Memorandum further points out that the Project would make possible the development of a considerable amount of electric power. Studies indicate that the combined development should make available about 65,000 continuous kilowatts of primary hydro-electric power and additional amount of intermittent or seasonal power up to a further 65,000 kilowatts.

The Memorandum draws attention to the necessity of combining the hydro-electric plants which would contain about 20,000 kilowats of generating capacity, with some 150,000 kilowatts of thermal generating capacity in large modern units. After allowing for losses, the system would be capable of meeting a maximum demand approaching 300,000 kilowatts making available about 1,420 million kilowatt hours annually.

Water for Industrial Purposes

The provision of a regulated flow, says the Memorandum, would make practicable promising schemes of public water supply to communities in its vicinity. Apart from domestic water supply, the project should provide an ample supply of water for industrial purposes.

Financially, the Project as a whole is regarded as capable of standing on its own feet and providing an economic success without taking account of the large indirect benefits accruing to the region.

In view of the multi-purpose nature and the vast scope of the Project, it is felt that it should be constructed and operated under a single unified administration. The Memorandum accordingly recommends that the task of continuing the planning, designing, construction and operation of the dams, reservoirs, waterways, power houses and transmission lines should be entrusted to an authority with powers and duties carefully delineated by the three Governments. It is suggested that a detailed examination of the Tennesse Valley Act may be useful. "The Damodar Valley Authority," says the Memorandum, "could be an example in the multi-purpose development of a watershed for India as the T.V.A. has been for the U.S.A. Its value as a national defence agency would be great."

The Project will vitally affect and reorientate the lives of about 5 million persons living in the Damodar Valley (mostly following agricultural pursuits), and about 2 million persons living in urban areas.

Board's Recommendations

Recommending the Unified plan to the three Governments concerned, the Memorandum says: "The Project would provide an adequate measure of flood control at a cost representing a not unreasonable insurance premium. This premium would offset the incalculable loss in the form of destruction of life and property which has resulted in economic disaster to a community in the past, and which may well occur on a still graver scale in the future if measures are not taken to prevent it.

"The Project would make it possible to provide perennial irrigation over an area of three-quarters of a million acres, strategically centred in a part of India where the food production outlook is grave.

"The Project would make available a substantial amount of power at a low cost in a region well suited to become the centre of a great industrial development. The relative proximity of the power system to neighbouring industrial concentrations is conductive to a well co-ordinated system of power development in this part of India.

"The Project would make it possible to carry out important measures of social and economic rehabilitation which, if they were taken up individually, would be made much more costly and more difficult of attainment.

"The Project would, if adequate engineering forces are brought to bear without delay, provide a very substantial volume of productive work for many thousands of people. This would go some way to offset the fall in employment consequent upon the forthcoming reduction in war activity in India."

NO CHANGE IN SUGAR PRICES

The Government of India have decided that the ex-factory price of Indian factory made sugar and Khandsari sugar should continue unchanged at the existing level, said a Press Note issued by the Department of Food, Government of India, on September 24.

IRRIGATION RESEARCH IN INDIA

THE fifteenth meeting of the Research Committee of the Central Board of Irrigation concluded in Simla on August 3, under the chairmanship of Mr. F. H. Hutchinson, I.S.E., President of the Board for the current year. There was a large attendance of delegates from various Provinces, Indian States and Ceylon.

Welcoming the delegates, Mr. Hutchinson stressed the importance of the work being done by the Research Officers in India and stated that it was very desirable that the recommendations made by the Research Committee, from time to time, be brought to the notice of the engineer in the field, to ensure that the most economical methods of design and construction are employed in the large projects to be undertaken in the post-war period. He further stressed the necessity of publishing an historical account of the research work done in India in connection with waterways and general irrigation problems, a sphere in which a very large contribution to knowledge had been made in this country.

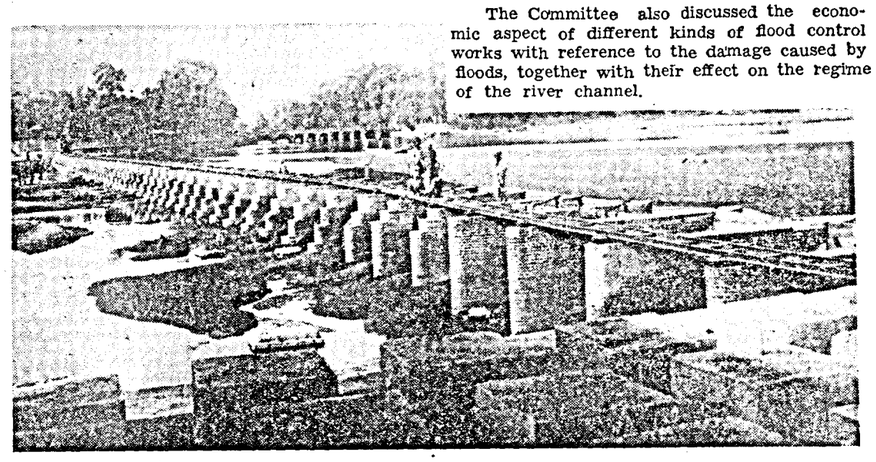
The Committee discussed the subject of "Regeneration and Absorption in Rivers." With the increasing utilisation for irrigation purposes of the supplies available in the rivers and the consequent complications in the division of available waters between different provinces and states on a river system this subject has come into prominence. The effect of glaciers in the snow-clad Himalayas on the waters available for irrigation and the possibilities of forecasting river supplies by snow surveys were discussed in a paper presented to the meeting by Rai Bahadur Kanwar Sain. The Committee undertook to make concrete proposals for countrywide investigations for estimating future river supplies from a study of rainfall, snow and glaciers data.

Another subject discussed at the meeting related to tube-wells, a large number of which are being installed all over the country in pursuance of the "Grow More Food" campaign. Methods of construction and maintenance of tube-wells, their optimum spacing in a grid system, and their effect on lowering the subsoil water table and thus relieve the waterlogging trouble which has followed canal irrigation in some parts of the country, were some of the questions discussed.

Flood Control Works

Progress was recorded on the investigations with regard to the science of flow in rivers and canals, and the Committee discussed various problems in connection with the design of irrigation channels and work thereof. Soil mechanics, lining of channels and materials for the construction of dams were some of the other subjects examined by the Research Committee.

The Committee also discussed the economic aspect of different kinds of flood control works with reference to the damage caused by floods, together with their effect on the regime of the river channel.



The Dadupur Dam in the Punjab.

SIR SULTAN AHMED ON PUBLICITY PROBLEMS

THE Hon'ble Sir Sultan Ahmed, Member for Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, addressing the Publicity Advisory Committee, which met in New Delhi, on September 13, stated:

This is a business meeting at which we place some of our main problems before you, explain what steps we have taken to meet them, and solicit your advice and assistance in dealing with them yet more fully and satisfactorily. It will not, however, be out of place if I make some reference to the momentous events which have lightened the horizon since we last met.

The war is won, in the East as well as in the West. That shadow, which for six long years has hung over every home of rich or poor in nearly every country in the world, has now been removed. We can say with truth that we have been delivered from the abyss, and we can thank God for it.

We can thank God, too, for the matchless courage and the steadfast determination of India's fighting men who, in the East and in the West, have stood between us and the triumph of evil. Many of their exploits are already known to you; when the history of the Burma campaign is made known, I believe that we shall still find cause for amazement that even these men, magnificent as we know them to be, could prevail over such adversity of circumstance.

Let us resolve that neither we nor any one in India, however pressing our problems, political, social or economic, shall ever be permitted to forget the price they paid and the debts we owe.

Future Action

The sudden change from war to peace has caught us all, I think, unawares. Even the most confirmed optimist hardly dared hope for the complete Japanese collapse so early. But that is not to say that we had not been planning ahead, and, indeed, I think we can claim that, in my Department, we were at least as well prepared for the transition as any one else.

I should like, if I may, to put before you some of the considerations which have influenced us in making those preparations. We shall discuss, later in the agenda, certain steps which we have already taken, but I think it will be worth while giving a little thought to the general principles underlying that action and other action which we may take in the future.

As you are aware, the Department itself and many of its executive branches have come into existence as a result of the war. Some, of course, such as the Bureau of Public Information and All-India Radio—two not inconsiderable organisations I may say—existed before the war, and their peacetime value is not open to question. But a very large number of our branches have been created to meet an obvious and immediate need in wartime and, if we are to determine their value or otherwise in peacetime, we must first determine the main object of Government publicity. There is additional value in this, in that at previous meetings of this Committee we have of necessity concentrated mainly on war problems and war requirements, and it is time that we now took a somewhat wider view.

Problems before India

India is now faced with the immense problem not only of reconversion from war to peace, but with the development and exploitation of her inherent capacity so that she may exercise her rightful influence in the councils of the world. There is nothing to be gained by blinking the fact that there is great leeway to be made up. We may go ahead and build our roads, electrify the countryside, establish flourishing industries, produce more and better crops, build schools and train teachers; but we shall both delay our progress and lose much of the value of our effort if we do not also make a heroic effort to explain to as many people as we can reach what the ultimate purpose is; what the steps are that we propose to take and what assistance we need from the public at large. Put in bald commercial language, we have to sell to the people at large something to which they are not yet accustomed and we must, therefore, advertise our wares and convince our clientele that those wares are good.

India is primarily an agricultural country and is likely to remain so for many years to come. This presents us with a double difficulty. The farmer all the world over is traditionally conservative at heart; he regards change with suspicion and needs full conviction before he will embark upon it. The farmer, too, not only lives in remote and inaccessible places, but he is one of the busiest and hardest worked man in the world. He has little leisure for entertainment and is, therefore, a difficult man to reach.

There are other difficulties we must face. Eightyfive per cent of our population are illiterate. We cannot reach them with the printed word, nor can we talk to them in technical or sophisticated language. Even among those who are literate there are 15 major languages. India, too, is a country with great differences of climate, custom and religion. It is no use explaining how to grow improved wheat in an area that produces nothing but jute, or how to drain off flood water in the Sind Desert.

These difficulties, and a hundred others, are well known to you, and my purpose in referring to them is not to impress you with the magnitude or the impracticability of the publicist's task. But there is one thing of which I would remind you, that here, at the Centre, and in the Provinces, there are bands of eager and sincere well-wishers of this country who have been tackling and, to a large extent, overcoming these difficulties during the last few years. That reflection suggests to me, as I hope it will to you, that if we mean to undertake these great tasks which lie ahead, we can do so with some confidence. We have at our disposal both the enthusiasm and the experience which will ensure success.

Reconstruction Committee Report

I don't know how many of you have studied the Second Report of the Reconstruction Committee of Council on Reconstruction Planning. That Report contains some specific recommendations in relation to publicity work which are well worth studying. I should like to quote a little to you of what they say on Instructional Propaganda and Rural Uplift.

"The experience of the war in India, and of other countries before the war, has shown the enormous power for good and evil that is inherent in well-organised propaganda under Government control. Directed towards good ends it is capable of completely changing the outlook of either an educated or an illiterate population in the space of a few years. It is perhaps most important in the case of the latter which cannot be reached by the written word and is incapable of selecting the good from the bad amongst the contrary currents of public opinion and casual information."

The Report goes on: "The object of such propaganda must be to prepare the ground for social and economic development, to educate the public in the broadest sense of the word and more especially to awake a desire for better things. It should include everything that comes under the heading of rural uplift or better living, hygiene, health, cleanliness, education of both boys and girls, improvement in agriculture, co-operation, the avoidance of litigation and debt, thrift and, in fact, all the public and private virtues. It can be utilised to give a degree of education, in the wider sense, to those who are illiterate, and to give some knowledge of both India and the world at large, to those whose horizon is normally that of their own village or district. It can also be utilised to combat communal feeling and dissension."

I venture to think that nobody will quarrel with those generous and inspiring objectives, and it is exactly this that we, in my Department, have been keeping in mind.

Provincial Activities

I do not wish to pursue at this moment the details of the machinery through which these objectives can be obtained. We shall have some opportunity to consider them during discussions on later items in the agenda. But there is one point, to which indeed the Report itself refers, on which I should like to say a few words.

It is quite clear that many of the matters on which publicity needs to be stimulated are not only the constitutional responsibility of Provincial Governments, but must also be tackled by the Provinces in their own way to meet their own special circumstances. How, then, it may be asked, does it fall to the Central Government to interest themselves in these Provincial activities? I am sure that all members of this Committee will recognise the propriety and the desirability of the Provincial Governments directing publicity about their own affairs in their own areas; it is not, and never has been, our wish or intention to infringe that authority in any degree.

But there are two points which cannot be overlooked in relation to post-war plans. One is that the Central Government's plans involve large financial contributions by the Centre to schemes of all-India character which will be put into operation in the Provinces. The other is that much of the work will depend upon research and co-ordination carried out by Departments of the Central Government. Since on both these counts executive co-ordination will be required, so also co-ordination of publicity will be required if we are to avoid producing mental confusion. I might add that, in relation to certain matters of all-India importance, I believe it will ultimately be found that, even in the Provinces, emphasis upon the all-India character rather than

upon the Provincial application may prove more valuable.

I have tried to give you, in a very few words, some insight into the way our minds have been working on the problem of the future of publicity. As I have already said, we shall have some opportunity later to discuss some of the practical implications, and I think I should make it clear I have been advocating no more than the acceptance of certain principles. Exactly how and by what machinery they can best be put into operation is another matter. This is a problem upon which we are also earnestly engaged, but since its solution must obviously depend upon many considerations outside the scope of our present deliberations I think we must agree to leave that particular matter on one side.

I should like now to give you, as has been done on previous occasions, a short account of the operations of the various branches of my Department since the Committee last met.

Main Themes

The main themes upon which we have been conducting organised campaigns in India are first security and war morale, secondly the anti-black market campaign, and thirdly "Spend Less and Save More." The first has, of course, been promptly dropped, with the end of the war, but the other two campaigns are still in force. With regard to them, our Advertising Branch has been carrying on most successful campaigns which you are likely to have noticed in the press. Following suggestions made at the last meeting in Bombay, the black market campaign has been furthered by a new series of six advertisements, and three more posters are shortly to be distributed. We have also launched a series of "Austerity" advertisements under the slogan: "Defeat Scarcity by Frugality."

Press comments on this campaign have been very favourable and several papers have supported our advertisements in the editorial columns. In addition, we have continued our "Spend Less and Save More" theme, and supported and popularised specific Government investment schemes, such as National Savings Certificates, Defence Loans and Prize Bonds, both by Press and poster advertisements.

Our Reconstruction Publicity campaign has also now reached the final stages of its preparation and press advertisements and broadsheets on post-war planning in the different fields of national life will be on view to you in the course of our meetings here.

At the last meeting, Mr. Bozman was able to tell you of our plans for a new Field Publicity Organisation. This new organisation came into existence on June 1 and although, as is inevitable in these times, there have been certain difficulties in obtaining equipment, many units are already in full operation.

Mobility is to be the essential quality of the new Field Publicity Units. They are designed to reach out to the most remote and inaccessible villages and their task is to enlighten and educate by the simplest and most appropriate methods our largely illiterate rural population. Modern agricultural methods, irrigation, cleanliness, hygiene, co-operation and thrift, in fact everything that will help to raise the standard of living in our villages, these will be the subjects on which these Units will seek to spread their messages of progress and enlightenment.

As we shall be discussing this subject fully later on, I do not propose now to give you a detailed account of the new organisation, except to say that all the Provincial Governments have accepted the new scheme with the exception of Bombay, and are vigorously engaged in bringing the Provincial Organisations into force; Bombay already had a parallel scheme of its own.

I wish to make reference to a misunderstanding which appears to be widespread. It is often stated that the new organisation is nothing but the National War Front in a change of dress. This is entirely incorrect. In fact the only similarity is that both are designed to operate in the country districts and to reach the illiterate villager. The basis of the National War Front was that it was a non-official organisation, looking to Government for such assistance, financial and otherwise, as might be forthcoming.

Wholly Official

The Field Publicity Organisation is wholly official, its operation is in the hands of Provincial Governments, and its finances are pre-determined on a joint agreement between the Centre and the Provinces. Every member of it is a Government servant and thus subject to all rules applicable to officials. We shall go into this matter in greater detail later on, but I do not wish any member of this Committee to remain under any misapprehension in this respect.

With regard to our films you will, as usual have an opportunity of seeing for yourself Information Films of India's productions, and you will be invited to offer your comments and suggestions. You will by now, I feel confident, have

appreciated the important work that has been going on in this field. Our production has not been quite so rapid as in previous years. This is due partly to difficulties we have experienced in obtaining technical staff and partly to our continued insistence upon the highest quality being achieved before we permit release.

In our post-war schemes for development it would, we think, be disastrous to ignore so potent an educative medium as the cinema. We are, therefore, considering schemes for the continuation of Information Films of India, with a special emphasis on the production and distribution of films for educational institutions. We are also considering how Government might help in stimulating higher cultural and technical standards in the whole film industry.

War Services Exhibition

The War Services Exhibition is now being wound up. I had hoped that some members of the Committee might have been able to go on from this meeting to see the Exhibition at Bhopal. It has, however, been necessary to cancel that engagement, and we now propose to give a farewell display in Delhi, probably in the first week of November.

In the three years history of this brilliantly successful enterprise it is estimated that no less than 14 million people visited the exhibition and, last year alone, it yielded over Rs. 45,000 in receipts from various sources. This exhibition, as well as the highly successful Railway Exhibition and Military pageant held in Delhi in March, demonstrated plainly the value and the possibilities of visual publicity in educating and enlightening the masses of the population.

We hope to make much wider use of this method in our post-war publicity by means of smaller exhibitions, which will have the object of educating the general public in the many and diverse post-war problems which are facing us. I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the untiring enthusiasm displayed by Wing-Commander Shaffi and his able associates, and my thanks for the energy and devotion with which they have invariably overcome all the vagaries of climate, transport and other factors to which they have been subject.

Since the last meeting, Begum Shah Nawaz and her staff have been continuing the invaluable and widespread activities of our Women's Section in all parts of the country. She and the Deputy Lady-in-Charge undertook extensive tours, particularly in Rajputana and in Bihar, and many gatherings of women were addressed. She has made a point of contacting the families of soldiers and explaining to them the tasks and achievements of the Indian Army in which their menfolk were playing their part. In her speeches she has also stimulated interest in post-war plans for education, domestic training, health and maternity services.

She and her staff have been busy collecting information on the employment of women in Central and Provincial Governments and in the Indian States. The writers of the Women's Section have issued leaflets and pamphlets on such subjects as the 'Women's War Effort,' 'Married Women's Careers,' 'Indian Women and the Franchise,' and have contributed articles to the new women's magazine *Onward*, which will shortly appear.

The Bureau of Public Information has been subjected to a far greater strain and to a much wider expansion in its activities during the war than most people imagine. Special services of all kinds for special objects have been demanded in almost unlimited numbers, and the Bureau has never refused. Additions to the staff have at no time kept pace with the increased burden, and each officer has readily taken more and more upon himself. Now we may hope to ease this strain somewhat and steps have already been taken to discontinue some services and to amalgamate others.

Post-War Role

But if we are thinking seriously of post-war development, the Bureau still has a big part to play with both internal and external services. Our requirements in this respect are now under close scrutiny.

The Information Bureau is in no sense a propaganda machine since its business is to present facts in an objective manner, and to function as a channel of communication with the Press and the public on all matters pertaining to Government activities. Further, it keeps the Government in touch with the reactions of the Press and the public to the activities of the various Departments of Government.

For a striking example of the value of the liaison work of the Bureau I would mention the Simla Conference. It was widely acknowledged, at the time of that Conference, that the liaison work done by the Bureau for Indian and other correspondents who had gathered there in numbers almost unprecedented in India, proved to be singularly successful.

I have no doubt that the Bureau under its distinguished new Principal, Mr. Pothan Joseph,

will carry on the work they have been doing of spreading information, maintaining friendly contacts, and serving as a constant aid to newspapers which, I note, are rapidly increasing in number and circulation in the country.

I come now to the Publications Division. There has been a tendency in the past to regard this as the centre of our external publicity. That this Division has scored remarkable success in that field is undisputed, but it is worth remembering that the Bureau, the Information Films of India and All-India Radio all play a prominent part in external publicity.

I should like also to enter a caveat against the mistaken view that external publicity consists of a one-way outward traffic. This is very far from the truth; and if we are aiming at better understanding between India and other world Powers, it is just as important to tell India about them as it is to tell them about India. With the end of the war this two-way stream of information acquires increased importance, indeed increased urgency, if we are to avoid some of the mistakes committed after the last World War. Only knowledge and understanding can help us to do that.

Magazines

We are due to discuss separately the general question of foreign publicity; at this point I would simply like to report on the progress of the magazines put out by the Publications Division. You heard at our last meeting of our multi-lingual magazine *Dunya*. This magazine has been markedly successful, and in addition to the issues in Roman-Urdu, Persian, Pushtu, Urdu and English, a Hindi edition has recently been produced. A counterpart to our Urdu magazine *Ajkal* has also appeared in Hindi.

For the Pushtu speaking people of the North-West Frontier a new magazine, *Zhwand* has been issued and the reports available so far are very favourable. Two new ventures in publicity have been started in the new magazines, *Perspective* and *Onward*. *Perspective* is planned to present to intelligent circles in America a balanced view of India based on expert factual articles, while *Onward*, which is being produced in co-operation with our Women's Section, is designed as a new magazine for Indian women. The Publications Division has also, during this period, launched a campaign to attract Indian advertisements to its pages, and the business side of the organisation has been remodelled on commercial lines.

Closely related at many points to the work of the Publications Division is that of the new Research and Reference Division. With the progress of Allied arms to Victory the end of the vital war activities of the Counter-Propaganda Directorate could be foreseen, and at the beginning of April steps were taken to meet the changing situation. A small beginning was made last winter with long-term research work on foreign affairs and foreign countries in what was then called the "Foreign Planning and Publicity Office."

The Research and Reference Division took over and reinforced the staff of the Foreign Planning and Publicity Office and is now engaged in research work on the projection of India to other nations and specially to her near neighbours. The first task of this new Division is to expand and intensify research work on the foreign countries of chief interest to India and investigate how our publicity can best be presented to them. The second task is to study aspects of Indian life, cultural, social and economic, so as to assemble a body of reliable material both for reference purposes and for the production of articles, pamphlets and scripts for foreign publicity.

The Research and Reference Division will produce much of the raw material for the Publications Division, for All-India Radio and for the Information Films of India, and also that required for dissemination by India's diplomatic and commercial representatives abroad. We shall have a further opportunity of discussing the subject of India's publicity at one of our later sessions.

Counter-Propaganda Directorate

I should like, at this stage, to pay a tribute to the work of the Counter-Propaganda Directorate. Much of what they did never reached the public eye or ear, or if it did the source remained obscure. But the day and night-long job of recording everything said by enemy propaganda, and of providing the right answer in a matter of hours for use on the radio, in the Press or elsewhere was no easy one.

I claim that the work was done with skill, judgment and expedition. In the dark days we falsified nothing but maintained a sober confidence; when the tide turned we neither gloated nor became hysterical, but let the facts speak for themselves. Here, I have no doubt, was a difficult job well done and I should like to express my appreciation to Mr. Watson and his colleagues.

I come finally to the largest of the organisations under my Department, that is All-India Radio.

Since the Committee met last, the Government of India have been devoting much attention and thought to their plans for the development of broadcasting in India. On this subject, we have not yet finalised our views but, during the last ten years or so, sufficient experience has been gained to indicate what the main lines of development are likely to be.

It is certain, for example, that if we wish to achieve a listening public in this country, commensurate with its size and population, we shall have, in the future, to take up the question of rural broadcasting very earnestly and also to assist, in so far as it legitimately lies within the province of the Government to do so, in the production and popularisation of cheap receiving sets, and I may say that the Planning and Development Department have set up a panel to investigate and report on this important question.

During the earlier part of this year, the Director-General of All-India Radio and two of the senior officers participated in the Commonwealth Broadcasting Conference held under the auspices of the B.B.C. in London. This gave them an opportunity of familiarising themselves with the broadcasting activities and plans of other countries in the Commonwealth and of considering various measures of co-operation both in the field of engineering and programmes, whereby the broadcasting organisations in the various Commonwealth countries could assist each other.

Source of Entertainment

During the war, the radio has played a very prominent part in the dissemination of news, in countering mendacious enemy propaganda and in stimulating public interest in the organisation of civil life under wartime strain and in post-war problems. In addition to rendering this service, the radio continued, during the war years, to be the biggest single organised source of entertainment for the various sections of the public and for the Forces in India and abroad.

During these years, the listening public in India, in common with the peoples of all other advanced and progressive countries, have discovered many new possibilities in radio as an instrument of entertainment, information and education and the expectations that the listeners have of radio stand today at a much higher level than they did ten years ago. The Department of Information and Broadcasting are at present actively engaged in considering how best All-India Radio can be developed to meet peacetime requirements and it is hoped that, in future years, the radio will grow in strength and will prove increasingly useful to the masses of this country. It is also hoped that the external broadcasts of All-India Radio which, next to the B.B.C., are the most extensive in the Commonwealth, will help India in stimulating and maintaining understanding and goodwill between herself and other nations both within the boundaries of Asia and beyond.

This brings me to the end of my survey of the Department's activities. I trust it has afforded you some insight into our problems and into the manner in which we are seeking to meet them. There are naturally many aspects of our work on which I have not been able to touch. But any questions which members may wish to put regarding individual branches of the Department will gladly be answered to the very best of our ability.

PAPER CONTROL (ECONOMY) ORDER, 1944

The Government of India in the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies have decided to allow the following further concessions to manufacturers of drugs and medicines under the Paper Control (Economy) Order, 1944:—

(1) Manufacturers of drugs and medicines may print and distribute folders instead of single leaflets giving information relating to composition, dosage, etc., of medicines provided the folder consists of not more than two sheets of the size of 7½"×5", and provided also the folders are distributed only to doctors.

(2) Enclosures giving information relating to dosage, etc., should be packed with medicines only where necessary and should not exceed a single sheet of 7½" × 5".

The Government of India have increased the maximum permissible size of invitation cards not in the form of a folder from 12 sq. inches, as hitherto, to 4½" × 3½".

Powers have now been taken by the Central Government to cancel the registration of a publisher. A publisher whose registration has been cancelled is prohibited from publishing any book.



The meeting of the Technical Training Scheme Advisory Committee.

CRAFTSMEN FOR POST-WAR INDUSTRY

National Apprenticeship Training Scheme Recommended

AN apprenticeship training scheme, planned and organised on a national basis and leading to a certificate of craftsmanship on the completion of training, has been recommended to the Central Government by the Technical Training Scheme Advisory Committee, at their meeting which concluded on August 8 at New Delhi under the chairmanship of Mr. S. Lall, Additional Secretary, Labour Department, Government of India.

The scheme is intended to ensure a steady flow of trained craftsmen into industry and to meet the industry's present and future needs. Before devising the plan, the Committee made a rapid survey of the number of technical personnel employed in private and Government Engineering workshops. This survey showed that, after allowing for the annual output of the existing factory apprenticeship schemes and industrial and trade schools in the provinces, a large number of skilled workers was still required by industries to maintain their present strength. In addition skilled workers will also be required to meet the expansion of existing industries and of the new industries that may be started in the post-war period.

Recognising that the best way of providing good craftsmen is through comprehensive and systematic apprenticeship, the Committee have advocated that the first part of the training should be given in specially designed centres to be run by Government, and the second in workshops engaged on production, thus co-ordinating training and production to the greatest possible degree.

The total duration of the training should be 3½ years, of which the trainees should spend the first two in a Government training centre

and the balance as apprentices in factories. While the training centre should provide practical training closely related to industrial practice, attention should also be paid to theoretical subjects.

The Committee recommended that, as a starting measure, steps should be taken to open one centre each in Bengal, Bombay, Madras, U.P., the Punjab, Bihar, Delhi and the Central Provinces. In all, they will provide a seating capacity of about 4,000 and the annual outturn from these centres will be about 2,000 craftsmen.

Regional Technical Committees

In each province or region there should be a Provincial or Regional Technical Committee to deal with the local administration of the scheme, to supervise training, to arrange for trade tests and to provide apprenticeship training to trainees who complete their training satisfactorily at the centre. These committees should consist of representatives of Central and Provincial Governments, private and Government industry, the workers, the Institution of Engineers and the Regional Inspector of Technical Training. Generally speaking, the scheme should be open to all who may wish to qualify themselves for industrial employment.

In view, however, of the fact that employers generally give preference to the sons and relatives of their workers, the Committee have recommended that up to a maximum of one-third of the candidates should be from amongst applicants who are the sons and relatives of employees of firms participating in the training scheme.

The age limit for admission to the training centre should be from 14 to 18 years. Boys admitted to the training centre should have studied up to a standard two years below the Matriculation or its equivalent. In the early stages it may be necessary to make relaxations in educational standards. The Committee also emphasised the importance of the physical fitness of the trainees.

Syllabuses of training have been drawn up by the Committee on the basis of the experience of wartime technical training schemes and in consultation with employers all over the country. The engineering trades have been divided into two groups, each group being concentrated around a "foundation trade." The intention is that there should be a basic training period of six months. It is proposed to impart training in 22 engineering trades. The Advisory Committee have recommended that the scheme should also include the textile, leather and printing trades.

An employer who takes part in the scheme will have the advantage of obtaining workmen who have been partially trained at the expense of Government. He is, therefore, required to provide apprenticeship training not only for those candidates who are admitted to a Government training centre from his factory, but also for an equal number of other candidates from the training centre. For the remaining trainees arrangements should be made in other factories with the help of Employers' Associations.

Provision has also been made in the scheme for general educational instruction during factory training, adequate hostel arrangements, stipends and factory clothing. The Committee recommend that there should be an apprenticeship agreement between the Central Government, the employer, the apprentice and his guardian.

Certificate of Craftsmanship

After the satisfactory completion of apprenticeship training, the trainees will be awarded a National Certificate of Craftsmanship by the National Council for Technical Education, which, the Committee hope, will be set up in pursuance of the recommendations made by the Central Advisory Board of Education. Provision has also been made in the scheme for training of instructors and the Committee have unanimously recommended the establishment of a special training centre for this purpose.

Thus the salient features of the scheme are: (1) It ensures close co-operation with employers and (2) it provides for the sharing of responsibility for training craftsmen between the training centre and the factory. It will serve as an important link between educational and pre-vocational institutions, on the one hand, and industry on the other. Since the report of the Central Advisory Board of Education specifies a two years course, after the Senior Basic School stage, for industrial and trade schools, and since these schools and the proposed training centres will come under the control of the National Council of Technical Education, it is obvious that industrial schools and training centres will be providing similar courses on parallel lines and they will both lead to the National Certificate of apprenticeship.

The Committee are of the view that, as the scheme attempts to impose a measure of control over apprenticeship, legislation may be necessary. This should, however, be on the basis of the recommendation of the Regional Committees.

WELFARE MEASURES FOR COAL-MINERS

THE Mines Welfare Advisory Committee, constituted under the Coal-mines Welfare Fund Ordinance, at their meeting held on August 4 at Dhanbad, decided to go ahead with the scheme for building housing estate for miners on a suitable site in Raniganj coalfields. A similar decision was taken at the last meeting regarding Jharia coalfields.

According to tentative plans circulated at the meeting, houses in the estate will be designed to provide living space of two rooms with front and back verandah, kitchen, washplace and courtyards for each family. The estate will be laid out to give a density not exceeding 20 houses to an acre so as to provide adequate amenities, open spaces, grass plots and play grounds.

It was suggested that as an alternative to the housing estate scheme, subsidies might be given from the Welfare Fund to colliery owners to improve existing housing arrangements in their respective collieries. It was, however, felt that the principle of granting a subvention from the fund would raise financial and administrative difficulties. Living in a township built from the finances of the Welfare Fund would have the psychological advantage of giving a sense of ownership to workers. The appointment of a town planner for planning coordinated development of coalfield areas was also sanctioned at the meeting.

Provision of Pithead Baths

The Committee further agreed to a scheme for the provision of pithead baths in collieries. The number of showers in each pithead bath will vary with the output of mine and water for baths. The baths will be provided at sufficient pressure to ensure that miners can get clean of coaldust. The memorandum placed before the Committee stated that the object of the pithead bath was to ensure that the miner went home clean after his day's work. "This must improve his self-respect, his standard of life and amenity of his home."

The Committee recommended that Government should impose a statutory obligation on colliery owners to provide baths and this scheme was suggested for such obligation. In the interim period *i.e.* before the imposition of statutory obligations, mine-owners will be asked to go ahead with the provision of baths, and some assistance may be given from the fund to those who complete it quicker. Ultimately, however, the obligation to provide baths would be that of mine-owners. The scheme has been drawn to provide initially the minimum that is required *i.e.* baths, lavatories, and waiting room. But it is hoped that, when conditions permit, other amenities like locker rooms, first aid rooms, canteens, or tea rooms may be associated with baths.

The Committee approved an anti-tuberculosis scheme for the Bengal coalfields. The scheme is of a long-term nature and is intended to be implemented in three stages. In the first stage *i.e.* 1945-46, it recommends the opening of tuberculosis clinics in coalfields. In the second stage is provides for a tuberculosis hospital for hospitalisation of advanced cases requiring indoor treatment. In the last stage *i.e.* 1947-48 it is proposed to construct a tuberculosis sanitorium for the province within the mining settlement. The Committee decided that steps should be taken to implement those aspects of the scheme which are immediately necessary.

Anti-Malaria Measures

Reviewing the work done by anti-malaria units in coalfields, Major-Gen. Covell, Director, Malaria Institute of India, stated that the area brought under larval control approximated to 90 sq. miles in the Jharia coalfields, and 70 sq. miles in the Raniganj coalfields. He said that DDT emulsion was among the medical stores which would be used for the prevention of malaria in collieries and he was going to make experimental use of DDT in some of the controlled areas starting at once. The Committee approved the permanent appointment of an Assistant Director under malaria institute for anti-malaria work in coalfields.

Earlier during the meeting it was resolved that steps should be taken to expedite the execution of schemes recommended by the Committee and to facilitate further progress. The chairman referred to the difficulty of obtaining architects to plan two main hospitals. As regards regional hospitals, maternity and child welfare centres and anti-malaria control buildings for which sanction had been obtained, the Committee decided to delegate authority to the Coal-mines Welfare Commissioner to undertake construction work in consultation with individual coalfields committees.

Mr. H. C. Prior, Secretary to the Government of India in the Labour Department presided over the meeting.

THE FUTURE OF THE ANDAMANS AND THE NICOBARS

Penal Settlement Abolished

THE Government of India have had under consideration the questions that will be involved in the eventual re-occupation of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. For the past three months a small staff of seven officers, with previous experience of the Islands, has been engaged in preparing plans and in collecting necessary stores, plant, machinery and other supplies required for our re-occupation of the Islands, and also in earmarking the necessary personnel to carry the plans into effect when the time comes, said a Press Note issued by the Home Department, Government of India, on September 1. It added:

The first major step taken by the Government of India is a decision to abolish the penal settlement. The effect of this decision is that plans are now being prepared for the Islands on a new basis, and it is hoped that these plans will result in considerable advances in the development of the resources of the Islands by free settlers in the years to come. The main lines of these proposed developments may be summarized under the following heads:—

(*a*) Timber production,

(*b*) Agricultural expansion, and

(*c*) Exploitation of the fishery resources of the Islands.

Plans have already been completed for trebling the pre-war production of timber by the Forest Department. The Andamans are one of the biggest sources of supply in India of high-grade hard woods and match logs ,and as stated above, it is intended to increase the scale of operation very largely indeed.

Agricultural Expansion

As regards (*b*)—Agricultural expansion, plans are well advanced for improving as rapidly as possible the existing agricultural production by means of improving the methods of cultivation by making proper use of fertilisers and by using improved quality of seed and fertilisers. A scheme for the production of hydrogenated coconut oil is also under examination with a view to utilising to the best advantage the resources of the Islands in this respect. Finally, plans for the expansion of the agricultural area in co-ordination with Forest Department work and for the introduction of new crops are under examination and it is hoped that an expert survey will be made at an early date after re-occupation.

As regards (*c*)—Exploitation of the fishery resources of the Islands—the possibility of establishing a Shark Liver Oil industry is being worked out in detail as it seems probable that there is wide scope for profitable activity in this developing Indian industry.

The above statement generally deals with the long-term plans, but the main emphasis in the work done has been on the immediate steps that will be required to be taken for the rapid relief and rehabilitation of the civil population of the Islands. From information received, it is known beyond any shadow of doubt that the civil population has suffered very heavily in the Japanese scheme of so-called co-prosperity. The civil population has been badly maltreated, subjected to forced labour, starved of adequate rations, and medical care, and deprived of any means of buying even the barest necessities of clothing and consumer goods of all kinds.

Food Distribution

Preparations have therefore been made for the immediate free distribution, on an adequate basis, of food and clothing to the whole population. The medical arrangements have been worked out to afford, as rapidly as possible, the most careful attention to the sick. It is known that many of the population are suffering from beri-beri and dysentery and every effort to deal with that situation effectively will be made. Many of the buildings have been damaged, destroyed and account, therefore, has been taken of the need for quick repairs or reconstruction.

Last, but not least, plans to put purchasing power in the hands of the community to enable them to purchase their immediate necessities of consumer goods and to begin the restoration of the economic life of the Islands have not been omitted. The Indian Red Cross has agreed to expend a sum of Rs. 2 lakhs on Red Cross relief, particularly to the women and children, and a Red Cross Unit will undertake this work at as early a stage as possible after our re-occupation.

To make sure that effective relief will not be delayed by inadequate means provision has been made for an experienced Civil Pioneer Unit to go with the re-occupation staff and sufficient motor transport and other equipment is being taken to ensure mobility of both men and supplies.

In short, it is hoped that the plans made and the preparations completed will result in the rapid restoration of normal conditions of life in this small outpost of India after 3½ years of enemy occupation.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR HAJ

Commonwealth Member's Broadcast

THAT the Government of India had this year arranged facilities for just over 9,000 Haj pilgrims, was announced by the Hon'ble Dr. N. B. Khare, Member for Commonwealth Relations, in a talk broadcast from A.I.R., Delhi on September 2. He added that this was the largest number that could be catered for in the conditions prevailing today.

Dr. Khare said: I wish to address a few words to my Muslim countrymen about the arrangements that the Government of India have been able to make for the Haj pilgrimage this year. Owing to the prevalence of war conditions in the Indian Ocean, facilities for the pilgrimage could not be provided in the years 1942 and 1943. Navigation on the Indian Ocean was no less risky even last year; but in response to the persistent demands of the Muslim public we did organise a pilgrimage. It was mainly through the personal intervention of His Excellency Lord Wavell that five ships, with the necessary escorts, could be secured, and that only about a month before the first sailings. Our difficulties, particularly about shipping, were so acute that we could just manage to provide facilities for only 5,000 pilgrims.

Wartime Conditions

It is not perhaps generally known that preparatory action for organising the Haj pilgrimage has to be taken well in advance of the Haj. Arrangements for the pilgrimage this year had thus to be initiated several months ago. The war with Japan was continuing with unabated fury and we could not anticipate the unforeseen developments which have fortunately for the world brought about the cessation of hostilities much earlier than was expected. Our preparations for this year's pilgrimage have therefore had to be made in wartime conditions and were well-nigh completed when the Japanese surrender came.

I hope the Muslim public will appreciate that within the few weeks left between the surrender and the first sailings it is simply not practicable to make any new arrangements for transporting a larger number of pilgrims to the Hedjaz. For one thing no additional ship can be had even now and the shipping shortage will continue to be acute for some months to come.

This year again our main handicaps have, therefore, been shortage of shipping as well as difficulties in the procurement of food and other articles necessary for the pilgrimage. We have been able to obtain only six ships. This will enable us to provide pilgrimage facilities for a little over 9,000 pilgrims. This is the largest number that could possibly be catered for in the circumstances of the year.

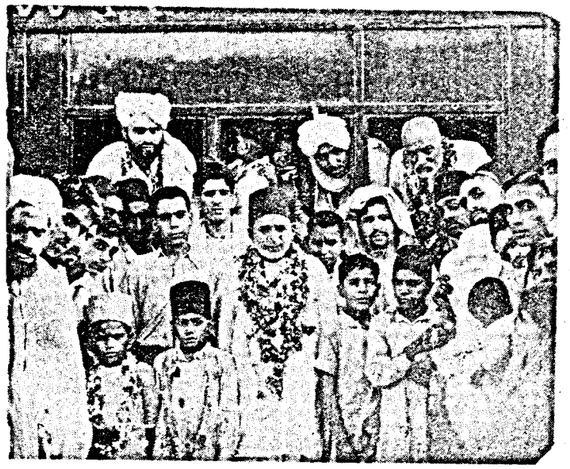
I have again explored the possibility of providing facilities for sailing not only from one port but also from Bombay at least. Very serious difficulties have come in the way and it has not been possible to obtain the local facilities for arranging some sailings from Bombay. Similar insuperable difficulties have also made it impossible for us to have some sailings from Calcutta. I hope the Muslim public will accept my assurance that it is with the utmost reluctance that we have been content with only Karachi as the port of embarkation.

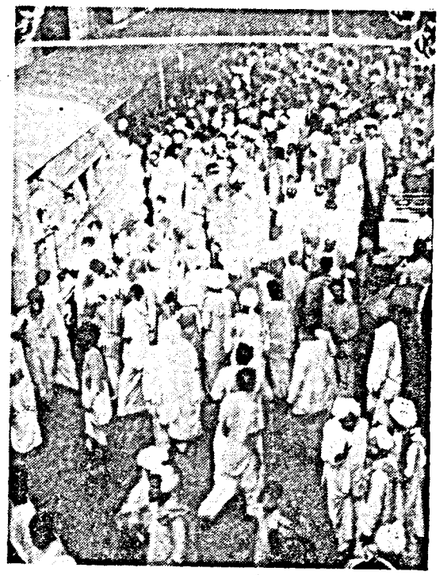
I have had complaints about lack of publicity. As all our preparations have had to be made under war conditions peacetime publicity was obviously not advisable so far. Pilgrims could not be left to their own resources to make their own arrangements and we have therefore followed the practice adopted last year of having all passages booked by the Central Government. I have had the matter carefully examined and you may take my word for it that any other arrangement would have caused endless inconvenience to the Hajis.

I may mention incidentally that this arrangement has cost the Government of India an extra Rs. 60,000. The 9,000 berths available on the ships have similarly had to be allocated to the various provinces according to quotas worked out on the basis of the average numbers of their pilgrims during the five pre-war years.

First Come First Served

With accommodation so limited we are also following the priority rule of first come first served. I would appeal to all to make a special note of the fact that only pilgrims who have received cards reserving passages for them should proceed to Karachi. No one who has not received such a reservation card should proceed to Karachi. We have been able to obtain accommodation for about double the number carried last year but this is the maximum that can be had. Any persons who proceed to the port without having received a reservation card would





(Above) Some of the Haj pilgrims who left Lahore for Karachi on September 18 by the special train arranged for their convenience by the Government of India. (Right). A section of the huge crowd at the station.

not only risk a great deal of personal suffering but would also cause confusion at the camp and considerable dislocation of the programme made for the orderly embarkation of the 9,000 pilgrims. I hope this mistake will be avoided this year.

Accommodation

I know that the *Musafirkhanas* at the port are out of date and quite inadequate for the accommodation of large numbers of pilgrims in anything like reasonable comfort. I have had schemes worked out for improvements in respect of accommodation and other amenities at the camps; but it will be appreciated that nothing could be done towards implementing these schemes during the war. Now that the war has ended I have every hope of initiating action immediately for implementing these schemes of improvement.

In the light of our experience last year we have, however, taken action to make all such temporary arrangements as may be feasible to minimise public inconvenience. Shamianas are being pitched for additional accommodaton; proper arrangements for water supply and lighting are also being made. A wholetime medical officer will be on duty at the camp. Additional staff is being detailed for assisting pilgrims for purposes of embarkation. Postal arrangements at the camp are also being made; and a well-organised enquiry office is being set up. Two senior Muslim officers, the Deputy Secretary and Haj Officer of our Department will also personally supervise the camp arrangements. Special action has also been taken to provide railway facilities for the journey to Karachi from all provinces.

An Assurance

It will be appreciated that with our best efforts it may not be possible to make conditions at the camp ideal but I hope the Muslim public will accept my assurance that we have not spared any pains and have done our best in the difficult circumstances of the year. May I also hope that pilgrims would make allowance for our difficulties and extend to our staff some forbearance in a spirit of co-operation? I may say that the programme made for this year was placed before the Standing Haj Committee and met with their approval.



An Indian laurel wood plantation in the United Provinces.

SOUND WORKING BASIS FOR INDIA'S FORESTRY

THE "efficiency of enumerations" of forests is the subject-matter of two Indian Forest Leaflets, Nos. 83 and 84, published by the Forest Research Institute and Colleges, Dehra Dun.

The subject of efficiency of enumerations was discussed at the Sixth Silvicultural Conference held in Dehra Dun in April 1945, where it was decided that examination of all existing data should be done to try and speed up and to make more accurate this work of estimating the remaining resources. In consequence the problems were investigated by Dr. A. L. Griffith, the Silviculturist, Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, and the first results of his investigations are incorporated in the pamphlets.

The pamphlets deal with (1) the problem of efficiency of enumeration, and (2) Madras tropical wet evergreen forest. They show that intensive and extensive enumerations of forests are not necessary and that partial sampling of five or ten per cent. is sufficient to give reasonably accurate estimates of the timber in the forest. The pamphlets contain a number of details describing the method of sampling and the work of computing the results.

Post-War Plans

The work of India's forests is controlled by working plans which fix the amount of timber which should be cut each year without depleting the forest resources. Before this can be done there must be available an exact or approximate estimate of how much timber is standing in the forest. The present war has made great inroads into the forests of India and has upset the whole of our estimates of how much timber we have. Consequently we have to start again, revising almost all the working plans of the country as soon as the war is over, so that the working of the forests may be put on a sound basis again.

In addition, post-war plans involve estimates of the timber of large areas of both Government and private forests, which have not hitherto been estimated. All this means very large-scale forest enumerations. These are costly and must be accurate, for on them is based the yield or the amount that may be cut each year. In other words, these enumerations are the basis of sound forest management. It is obvious, therefore, that these enumerations must be carried out with maximum efficiency and the minimum cost compatible with that efficiency.

The above leaflets are the beginning of a work which will be of the greatest use in immediate post-war Indian forestry in helping to find out quickly the extent of the ravages of the war on India's forests, and hence, to put forest working on a sound economic footing once again.

VEGETABLE TANNING MATERIALS

The fact that Indian vegetable tanning materials have a great commercial value, and are worthy of development on a large scale in India, has been fully shown in a series of leaflets published by the Indian Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun.

During the last war India was to manage to tan a vast number of hides by using indigenous material, such as babul bark, avaram bark and substitutes for these. At the end of the war wattle bark began to be imported, and in the succeeding years it gradually captured more and more trade in tanning materials partly because it had a higher tanning content, but also because it was of uniform quality, properly prepared for the tannery and attractively packed. Its price was also fairly constant.

When the present war commenced, the authorities prepared a stock pile of wattle bark and wattle extract, and all through the war shipping has been made available to allow its continued import. This was essential for the war needs, for keeping the Japanese out of India, and for helping the defeat of Germany. Notwithstanding this the demand for indigenous tanning bark has been high and could not be adequately met, and prices have risen to inordinate heights.

An extensive investigation of over 300 tanning materials has been made in the past at the Forest Research Institute, in the last war by the Board of Munitions, and since by the Madras and Bengal Tanning Research Institutes. The results of these investigations are incorporated in Leaflet No. 72 of the Forest Research Institute, and this gives data for all the important tanning materials, besides a large number of commercially unimportant ones. The commercially important ones, viz., avaram and babul barks myrobolans and wattle bark (which is grown to an extent in South India) are fully dealt with in Leaflets Nos. 73, 74, 75 and 76 respectively.

Commercial Advantage

It is a great advantage to be able to sell all parts of the plant which produce the tanning material and if it comes from a timber tree whose bark or fruit is a by-product, then, the tanning material has an added commercial advantage. The above-mentioned four vegetable tanning materials, apart from being valuable tanstuffs have also this advantage and are, therefore, worthy of being developed on a large scale in India; but they must be properly collected, graded and attractively prepared for the market. Comparatively little research is needed in this connection, and this new field affords good opportunity for well-organised commercial enterprise.

PRICES OF MACHINE TOOLS

By a notification in the *Gazette of India* the Central Government have withdrawn the restrictions imposed under the Machine Tool Control Order, 1941, regarding the maximum prices which could be charged by manufacturers or their agents and dealers for various types of machinery tools produced in India.

Henceforward, the sale of machine tools manufactured indigenously will be subject only to such restrictions as are imposed under the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance, 1943, as amended from time to time.

SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

Planning Committee's Recommendations

THE setting up of a central research organisation, to be called the National Research Council, authorised to initiate immediately a five-year programme of development of scientific and industrial research is recommended by the Industrial Research Planning Committee in its Report published on August 11.

The plan envisages the building and equipping of a national chemical and a national physical laboratory, certain specialised research institutes, and all-round strengthening of the existing research organisations and the training of a sufficient research personnel by the award of scholarships tenable in India and abroad. A network of research laboratories particularly to deal with local problems is recommended to be set up in all the Provinces and major States.

Five-year Programme

The Committee recommends a block grant of Rs. 6 crores by the Central Government to meet the capital and recurring expenditure for the setting up of the research organisation in the first five-year period and thereafter an annual grant of Rs. 1 crore for recurring expenditure and for expanding and carrying on the activities.

A statutory cess (one anna per Rs. 100 worth of industrial output) on industries (including Railways) is proposed to be levied on the completion of the five-year programme. This will yield approximately Rs. 1 crore. To avoid undesirable disparities in burdens on industries, the Committee has recommended that if and when the cess is levied on industries in British India Government should invite all Indian States to levy a corresponding cess on industries within their respective areas for use on research.

Among other recommendations made by the Committee are the setting up of a Grants Committee which will suggest a scheme of financial assistance to Indian universities and technical societies, a National Trust for Patents and a Board of Standards and Specifications.

The Industrial Research Planning Committee was appointed by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research in 1944 to make a comprehensive survey of the existing facilities for scientific and industrial research in India and report on necessary measures of co-ordination, control, direction and development of such research by various agencies and also on other steps necessary for the planning of such research in post-war India.

The personnel of the Committee was: Sir R. K. Shanmukham Chetty (Chairman), Dr. Sir Jnan Chandra Ghosh, Lt.-Col. S.S. Sokhey, Mr. Kesturbhai Lalbhai, Sir J. J. Ghandy, Prof. S. K. Mitra, Dr. K. A. Hamid, Prof. M. Qureshi, and Dr. Sir S. S. Bhatnagar (members).

Another Obstacle

The Committee in its report says that the present research activity in India does not represent even the bare minimum whether judged by international standards or the actual requirements of the country in her present state of industrial development. The need for research is felt not only to facilitate an adjustment to post-war conditions but also to promote the general cause of industrialisation at a time which will be rendered much more difficult by the forces of international competition.

The capacity of Indian industry to withstand international competition will depend materially on its vision and readiness to implement the latest results of research in a continual effort to improve its productive efficiency by economy in the use of raw materials, utilisation of by-products, reduced power cost and so on. Research will also play a decisive part in the development of new industries for which the opportunities remain imperfectly explored.

Industrial research, the Committee says, is still in its infancy. Besides the lack of an effective link between our principal research institutions and the industrial interests concerned, a further obstacle to the creation of a suitable research atmosphere has been created by the fact that while industry constitutes a Provincial subject, it is beyond the resources of most of the provinces to build up adequate research organisations to cater to the needs of local industries.

The institutes set up by the Government of India have remained much too centralised to meet the various regional needs. Moreover, industry, with some rare exceptions, has not become research-minded. Nor is there an effective liaison between industry and research organisation. There is also lack of inter-departmental co-ordination. Programmes of researches of various institutes concerned with industrial research are not framed by mutual consultation or according to any co-ordinated plan.

Recommendations

If scientific and industrial research is to make any headway in India in the immediate future, the Committee feels that Government must take the initiative in setting up a suitable machinery for the development of research along sound lines, strengthen the science departments of universities and existing research institutions and bring about an effective co-ordination amongst all the institutions.

To stimulate and direct scientific and industrial research on a planned and comprehensive basis, the Committee recommends that the Government of India should forthwith set up a central research organisation to be called the National Research Council. This organisation should consist of representatives of scientists, universities, industry, labour and administration. The Hon'ble Member in charge of Planning and Development should be its *ex officio* President.

The Council, which should be an autonomous body, should have a total membership of 60 made up of 20 scientists elected by the universities and recognised scientific associations. 15 members elected by recognised chambers of commerce and associations of manufacturers, five members elected by recognised trade unions and other labour organisations, and 20 members nominated by the Government of India of whom not more than 8 may be official. Of these, two should represent the railway administration.

Council's Functions

The functions of the Council will be as follows:

(i) To organise and maintain national laboratories.

(ii) To establish and maintain specialised research institutes.

(iii) To stimulate pure and applied research in universities by grants-in-aid and by the institution of scholarships and fellowships.

(iv) To provide for the immediate problem of the dearth of technical and research personnel by the inauguration of scholarships available in India and abroad.

(v) To stimulate and encourage research activities by Industry.

(vi) To co-ordinate research activities of all the existing research institutes and departments of Government and undertake planning of research programmes on a comprehensive basis.

(vii) To function as a National Trust for Patents.

(viii) To set up a Board of Standards and Specifications.

(ix) To function as a Clearing House, encourage deserving scientific and technical societies and foster the growth of new ones in appropriate lines.

Research Board

A small executive body to be called the Research Board will be responsible for the administration of the work of the Council. The Board will be in charge of all the research laboratories and institutions set up by the National Council and directors of these institutions will be under the control of the Board. It will also maintain closest contact with directors of laboratories engaged in industrial research under the administration of the other departments of the Central Government.

The Board will prepare comprehensive plans of research programmes and will take an active part in the establishment of research institutions by industries and distribute grants-in-aid to universities and other approved institutions with the help of the Grants Committee from funds specially allotted for the purpose.

The Committee recommends that the Council, given a bulk grant of Rs. 6 crores spread over five years, should make and carry out (i) the building and equipment of National Chemical and Physical laboratories, (ii) the building and equipment of certain specialised research institutes, (iii) giving grants-in-aid to universities for strengthening their research organisation, and (iv) training a sufficient research personnel by the award of sholarships tenable in India and abroad.

The establishment of a National Chemical and a National Physical Laboratory is recommended at an estimated cost of Rs. 40 lakhs each. It is further recommended that in the absence of industrial research associations in India (except for jute and tea) it is necessary

for the State to take the initiative for the establishment of a number of specialised laboratories to fulfil the object.

Nine new specialised institutes are recommended with an indication of the order of priority as follows: Institute of Food Technology; Metallurgical Institute; Fuel Research Institute; Glass and Silicate Research Institute; Oils and Paints Institute; Buildings and Roads Institute; Leather and Tanning Institute; Industrial Fermentation Institute and Electro-Chemical Institute.

These specialised research institutes will deal with problems of basic and specific research relating to their respective spheres. Provincial and State Research Councils may send problems for investigations to these institutes and it will be open to individual manufacturers to refer specific problems of immediate interest to industry to such laboratories on payment of scheduled fees or by the establishment of fellowships.

The Committee considers that universities constitute the foundation of all research and suggests the strengthening of scientific teaching and research work in Indian universities. As an essential part of the five-year plan, the Committee recommends that the National Research Council should make substantial grants to strengthen the scientific departments of the universities.

Grants to Universities

For this purpose the Grants Committee should make a survey of science and research departments of all the Indian universities and recommend to the National Council a scheme of financial assistance to the latter. Out of the bulk grant of Rs. 6 crores the Committee says a sum of about Rs. 2 crores should be set aside to give grants-in-aid to the 19 universities. Further, adequate engineering research sections should be built up and maintained in all the engineering colleges. Teachers in such colleges should be in contact with the engineering industries.

To man the various laboratories proposed to be set up and to keep alive the research work in the country the Committee recommends that 700 research workers should be trained in five years involving an estimated total expenditure of about Rs. 50 lakhs: 27 lakhs for foreign scholarships and rupees 23 lakhs for Indian scholarships. Industries should be encouraged to set up their own research associations on a corporate basis by exemption of research expenditure of firms from income-tax assessment.

A network of corresponding research organisations should be set up in Provinces and major States. It is recommended that research councils on the model of National Research Council composed of the representatives of scientists, industry and administration, should be set up in all the Provinces and major States.

A suitable method, the Committee recommends, for the exploitation of patents in respect of inventions made at either the national laboratories or universities and other research organisations should be evolved. A National Trust of Patents should be set up to hold and exploit all patents resulting from research financed by Government and those dedicated by individual scientists and by institutions, supported either by public funds or private endowments.

The setting up of a Board of Standards to draw up Indian standard specifications and the establishment of a Technological Institute on the lines of M.I.T. are recommended.

Industry and Research

The Committee emphasises that research can yield its best results only when it is backed by a comprehensive industrial plan. This will not only inspire enthusiasm among research workers but will serve the practical purpose of indicating an order of priority in the various lines of investigation. The Committee accordingly recommends that the National Research Council must work in close co-operation with the department of industrial planning so that industry and research will each stimulate the other.

The Committee further emphasises the organic relationship between the different categories of research, viz., agricultural, medical and industrial and welcomes the constitution of the Scientific Consultative Committee in the Department of Planning and Development as a body expected to secure the necessary co-ordination at a high level. The Committee, however, considers it necessary to examine the possibility of bringing all the research activities of the various Government departments under the administrative control of the Member for Planning and Development.

The Government of India have decided to purchase the Sara-Sirajganj Railway on October 1, 1946 and the required notice has been served on the Railway Company, said a Press Communique issued by the Railway Department (Railway Board).

UTILISATION OF ACTIVE PRINCIPLES OF "NIM"

Research in Laboratories of Industrial Council

THE active principles of *nim* have been isolated for the first time in crystalline form and used in a variety of potent pharmaceutical preparations for the treatment of obstinate skin affections, fevers, and several other chronic complaints.

The work was carried out in the chemical laboratories of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and by the use of a new process a series of crystalline and amorphous bitter constituents—designated nimbidin series—has been isolated in industrially workable quantities.

The physical and chemical characteristics of the new principles have been determined and extensive pharmacological tests have established their efficacy in the treatment of the various ailments for which *nim* has enjoyed a traditional reputation.

Liquors, emulsions, ointments, linaments, etc., have been prepared and clinically tested; they have been incorporated in toothpastes and gargling preparations. These findings are reported in a recent issue of the *Journal of Scientific and Industrial Research*. The article includes a complete scheme for the utilization of the active principles and by-products of *nim*.

Sodium Salts

Lonar Lake in the Buldana district of the Central Provinces has been known for long as a rich source of sodium salts, but its commercial exploitation has not been so far attempted.

A new process has now been worked out for the extraction of soda from the lake wastes and pilot plant trials have established its commercial feasibility. The starting material consists of the solid incrustations—*bushi* and *papri*—which appear on the shores of the Lake as whitish deposits during the summer months.

The recovery of soda is accomplished by a new process, called the temperature cycle process, which takes advantage of the large variation in the relative solubilities of sodium chloride and sodium carbonate with temperature. The process has been described with working details in a article appearing in the Journal.

India ranks with Soviet Russia as one of the very few countries with vast resources of chromite, a strategic mineral of considerable value. It finds use in a number of modern industries, including the production of ferro-chrome, stainless steel, refractories, chemicals for tanning, etc.

Chromite Resources

A comprehensive account of the chromite resources of India is given in a lengthy article appearing in the Journal which also includes a description of the mode of occurrence of the mineral, distribution, methods of mining, grading and marketing and its industrial uses.

The known reserves of high-grade ore are estimated at about 2 lakhs of tons; according to expert opinion this estimate is very conservative and intensive prospecting over wider areas is necessary to obtain reasonably accurate data.



Salt cisterns of the caustic soda department of a South India chemical plant which has produced large quantities of bleaching powder and caustic soda for Indian war industries.

Until recently chrome was being mined exclusively for export. During the past few years, however, approximately 1,000 tons of metal have been consumed annually, representing about 7 per cent of the total quantity mined, are being absorbed in the country, mainly in the production of chromium salts extensively used in the tanning industry and in the manufacture of protective coatings for the metal steel. A number of alloy steels contain chromium as an ingredient.

Low grade ore can be profitably employed in the manufacture of chromium industries which can be started in the post-war years and India will then take its place as a nation that not only produces chrome ore but also utilizes it in a widespread system of industries.

Industry and Agriculture

The development of agro-industries in the U.S.A. on no small measure due to the extensive research activities of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Instances of such developments are many and include penicillin, butylene glycol, industrial alcohol from wheat straw and the discovery of feed-by-products from soy production, lignin plastics, etc.

The Regional Laboratories of which the pioneer is the Peoria Laboratory is an example mainly devoted to the industrial utilization the so-called waste products of agriculture. At the present time no less than 100 trained research workers are engaged in over 150 projects directly connected with the war effort. An article in the issue of the Journal gives a brief account of the work, organization and scope of these laboratories.

Among other articles of interest are the one dealing with gammexane, a powerful insecticide, and another dealing with the Captain Cook Graving Dock of Sydney, the largest single engineering project of Australia in recent years.

The editorial deals with the organization of science in the U.S.S.R. under the aegis of the Academy of Sciences.

PRICES OF BRISTOL BOARDS

By an amendment of the Paper (Prices of Paper) Control Order, 1944, the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies, Government of India, have fixed the wholesale ceiling prices of imported white and coloured Bristol boards at 3 annas 7 pies per lb. and 12 annas 6 pies per lb. respectively.

AMARELO 5: AN IMPROVED CIGARETTE-TOBACCO

INDIA is one of the leading tobacco-growing countries in the world and extensively grows cigarette-tobacco which is an important money crop. A high class cigarette-tobacco variety should give high acre-yields of cured leaf possessing a bright lemon yellow colour, a good body, texture, flavour and burning qualities and low nicotine content. Top grade bright leaf fetches a higher premium than the poorer grades. At present Harrison's Special, an American variety, is the one that is almost exclusively grown in all the cigarette-tobacco-growing tracts in India.

As a result of research work carried out at the Tobacco Research Sub-station (located at Guntur) of the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, a promising cigarette-tobacco variety, Amarelo 5, has been produced. It is a selection from Amarelo which is a little known variety useful for flue-curing.

Higher Economic Returns

In the extensive trials that have been conducted, Amarelo 5 has been immensely successful both in the experimental areas as well as in the cultivators' fields and has proved superior to Harrison's Special. Compared to Harrison's Special, it matures earlier, gives higher acre-yields of cured leaf of good quality, cures several hours earlier, resulting in economy of coal required for the curing process, and produces 20 per cent. more top-grade high-priced leaf.

It has proved itself uniformly highly successful in such widely separated places as Hyderabad, Cuttack and Pusa, thus showing its high degree of adaptability. It does well even in heavier soils which are considered unsuitable for growing Harrison's Special. Amarelo 5 thus easily secures higher economic returns than Harrison's Special. The variety is now ready for release to growers.

The 22nd session of the Indian Historical Records Commission will be held at Peshawar on October 29, 1945, and the days following, said a Press Note issued by the Education, Health and Lands Department, Government of India.

STEEL IMPORTS: IMPROVED SUPPLY POSITION

A Press Note issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on August 25 stated:

In view of the slightly improved supply position in the U.K. of certain steel items for which import licences are being issued at present by the Controller of Steel Imports, the Government of India have decided to issue licences for these items more freely than in the past. Importers who had not so far been eligible for a licence because they had not been regular importers in the past may also apply for import licences according to instructions set out below:

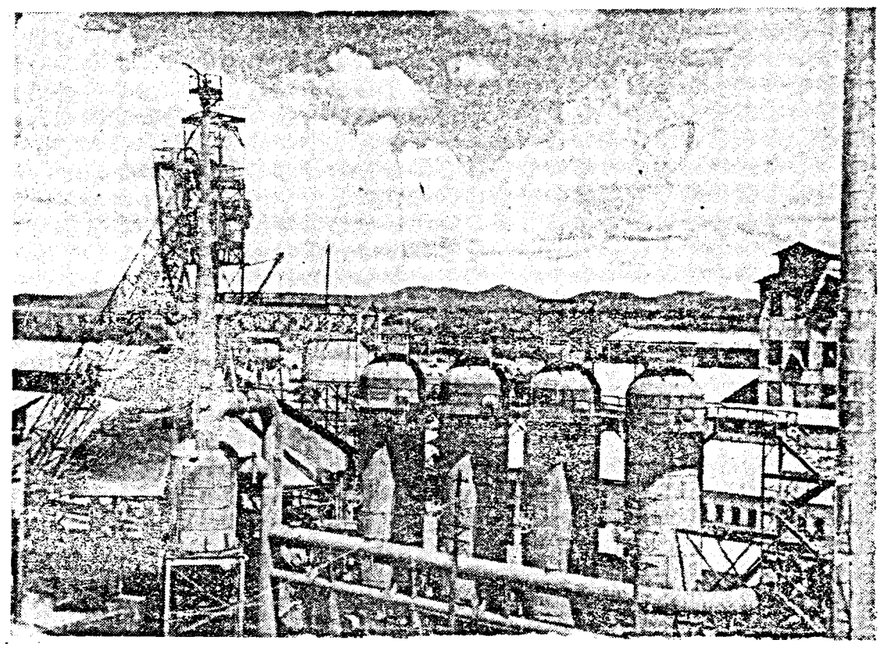
(i) Applications should be made to the Controller of Steel Imports, 100 Clive Street, Calcutta on form No. WSB.27A.

(ii) Evidence that manufacturers overseas are prepared to export the quantity for which application is made must be attached to the form. This should be in the shape of the original letter or telegram (together with a typed copy) from the manufacturers or suppliers. The original will be returned to the firm and copy retained by the Controller of Steel Imports.

Ordinarily, only one licence will be issued for one item in one quarter.

Items for which licences will be issued under this arrangement by the Controller of Steel Imports are:

Iron and Steel Wood Screws, roofing bolts and nuts, galvanised roofing screws, rose head nails, light hand tacks, blue cut tacks, shoe tacks, tigles, panel pins, bifurcated and tinmen rivets, stitching wire, telescopic flush pipes, iron and steel valves, steel conduits, wire netting, wire mesh, wire chains, wire linking fencing, chains, forged steel bells for the cement industry, horse and bullock shoe nails, boot protectors and washers (including spring washers).



The Mysore Iron and Steel Works.

The supply of certain items such as panel pins, horse and bullock shoe nails and boot protectors, is very limited at present and an import licence cannot be issued simply on the basis of past imports unless the applicant gives definite proof of the availability of the goods for export from the U.K.

Grant of Licences

The grant of licences for all the steel items mentioned above is limited by the quotas allowed to India from time to time and it may not, therefore, be possible to issue licences in every case for the full quantity asked for or even for a portion of it.

No licence will be issued by the Controller of Steel Imports for any items which are being produced in India and for which the Government of India is maintaining stock for re-distribution to actual users, unless he is satisfied that stocks available are not suitable for any particular demand.

Import licences for materials mentioned above can be issued for import from Australia, South Africa and other sterling countries also, provided the applicant can produce evidence of the availability of material for export to India.

DISTRIBUTION OF STEEL FROM CIVIL QUOTA

With effect from August 25, the steel quotas at present administered by the Civil Steel Licensing Authority through issue of licences under the Iron and Steel (Control of Production and Distribution) Order, 1941, will be administered by the Iron and Steel Controller through the issue of written orders, said a Press Note issued by the Supply Department, Government of India on August 24.

It added: Sub-quota holders will, however, continue to issue licences against their existing sub-quotas. Licences issued by the Civil Steel Licensing Authority before August 25 shall not be invalidated by this change in the procedure. Persons requiring steel from the Civil Steel quota should in future make their applications in the usual licence application form ISC-2 (Revised) to the appropriate Regional Deputy Iron and Steel Controller in Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Cawnpore, Lahore or Karachi according to the area in which the steel is required.

FUTURE OF WARTIME INDUSTRIES

A Press Note issued by the Supply Department, Government of India, on August 14, stated:

There is some natural anxiety among producers and manufacturers that the end of the war and the cancellation of orders for war supplies may mean the end of the assistance which they have had from Government in obtaining materials and other resources, and with transport, for the production of war supplies.

The Government of India wish, therefore, to reassure producers and manufacturers that, so long as the various controls remain in force, they will endeavour to give assistance for the production of civil supplies in the same way as previously of war supplies, by provisioning and allocating essential materials, such as coal, steel, cement and timber, procuring capital equipment and tools, obtaining transport priority etc.

Assistance to Continue

The Government have instructed the Directorates in the Department of Supply that such assistance must continue, for the restoration of industry, its conversion from war to peace, and for its expansion. Producers and manufacturers should, therefore, apply to the appropriate Directorate for the assistance they require, in order to get their shares in the allocation of available materials etc.

For the procurement of stores to meet the post-war Government requirements, the policy of the Government is to make the greatest possible use of indigenous production, and particularly of those industries which have, under the influence of war needs, achieved production conforming to acceptable standards and specifications.

While commodities paid for from the public purse must in general be the best that can be produced at the price, it is the aim of the Government to establish continuity of procurement from industries which maintain a consistent performance, and which pay attention to new modifications and development. To this end Government will assist with technologists and training, where welcomed, or in procuring technical knowledge and assistance.

VICEROY CONGRATULATES DELHI PROVINCE

"Outstanding Success" in Small Savings Competition

"I congratulate Delhi Province on its outstanding success in the Small Savings Competition. The saving in small amounts of a sum of nearly one crore is a very remarkable achievement, which shows both the good sense and patriotism of the people of Delhi, and the energy and ability of the Savings Committee who have been so ably supported by Rai Bahadur Nathu Ram Sethi and Mr. Le Bailly.

"The practice of saving is of great social and economic importance and the work of the Committee in encouraging this habit is most valuable. I am very glad to hear of the movement to form Savings Groups in all villages. I congratulate the Committee and wish them further success in the future. I have now great pleasure in presenting these shields to the Chief Commissioner."

Delhi's All-India Record

Thus said H.E. the Viceroy presenting three shields to the Delhi Province, in connection with its outstanding success in the Small Savings Campaign, at a function held in the Viceroy's House, New Delhi, on August 20. The shields were received by Mr. A. V. Askwith, then Chief Commissioner of Delhi on behalf of the Delhi Savings Committee.

Mr. Askwith introduced to H.E. the Viceroy 26 members of the Committee—officers of the Central Government and the Provincial Administration and prominent non-officials of Delhi—who were mainly responsible for the success of the Delhi campaign.

In order to encourage the Small Savings Movement, H.E. the Viceroy was pleased to offer for competition four gold shields.

The first was the "All-India Shield," to be awarded to the Province, State, or Centrally Administered Area which attained the highest monthly average of collection per head of the population throughout 1944-45. The target for each of these units was fixed at an average monthly saving of 3½ annas per head of the population. This shield has been won by Delhi with the highest monthly average of 13.94 annas per head—about 4 times the target set. In terms of money, the target for this area was Rs. 24,09,000, while actual investments in National Savings Certificates amounted to Rs. 95,97,000.



Three shields were presented by H.E. the Viceroy to Delhi Province for its outstanding success in the Small Savings Campaign. Here, Mr. A. V. Askwith, then Chief Commissioner of Delhi, receives one of the shields from His Excellency.

The second shield was to be competed for by the Centrally Administered Areas. Here, too, Delhi's record is the highest, Bangalore Civil and Military Station and the Rajkot Civil Station closely following as the second and the third, respectively with 12.72 and 11.1 annas per head of the population.

The third shield, to be competed for exclusively by the States, has been won by Porbandar State, with an average of 6.79 annas per head. Faridkot and Khairpur were second and third with an average of 4.66 and 4.33 annas respectively.

The fourth shield, confined to the Provinces, was carried off by Sind, with an average savings of 2.92 annas per head of the population, closely followed by Bombay (2.35 annas) and the Punjab (1.67 annas).

In addition to the above four gold shields offered by H.E. the Viceroy, the Hon'ble the Finance Member, Government of India, offered a silver shield for the highest monthly average attained by any area whether Province, State or Centrally Administered, during each month

of 1944-45. This shield has been won by Delhi three times over—in June, August and September, 1944, with an average of 10.42, 17.80 and 36.40 annas, respectively, per head of the population. Other winners were:

April 1944: Coorg.
May: Baluchistan.
July: Wankaner.
October: Kishangarh.
November: Faridkot.
December: Cambay.
January, 1945: Porbandar.
February: Wankaner.
March: Central India (Adm. Area).

Objects of Movement

In requesting H.E. the Viceroy to present the shields, Col. Daly, National Savings Commissioner, after pointing out that the National Savings Movement was inaugurated towards the end of 1943, said that the object of the movement was two-fold—sociological and financial. The first was to encourage the poorer classes to save regularly, however small the sum might be, and to invest the savings wisely, "thus becoming partners with the State in the national wealth and enabling the standard of living to be raised." The second object was "to aid the various financial controls in combating the temporary inflation which is inevitable during, and for some time after, a war".

A skeleton official organisation, stated the Savings Commissioner, was built up at the Centre and in the Provinces and, aided by a large number of voluntary workers, was operating the Small Savings Scheme devised to encourage investment in National Savings Certificates. "Provincial Governments and State *Durbars* were invited to co-operate in working this scheme and have responded with such good effect that today it is functioning throughout the whole of India."

How Target is Computed

Explaining the details connected with the shields and Delhi's record, the National Savings Commissioner indicated how the target was computed.

"The target at which the Small Savings Scheme aims," he said, "is an average monthly investment in National Savings Certificates of 3½ annas per head of the population. Every administration was called upon to endeavour to attain this target and, if possible, to surpass it."

"The Small Savings Scheme," stated the Savings Commissioner, in conclusion, "is already well established and the benefits it will

(*Continued on Page* 399)

EXCESS PROFITS TAX

A Press Note issued by the Finance Department, Government of India, stated:

There appears to be some misapprehension regarding the treatment of investments in Government Securities for computation of capital employed in business for purposes of assessment of Excess Profits Tax.

In computing for Excess Profits Tax purposes the capital employed in a business during a chargeable accounting period Rule 3 of Schedule II to the Act requires, in the case of business other than banking businesses, insurance businesses or businesses consisting wholly or mainly in the holding of or dealing in investments, the exclusion of investments and of monies not required for the purpose of the business.

In deciding what monies are required for the purposes of a business, regard will be paid to any increased stocks carried, increased debts owing by the business modified by considerations of any increase in debts owing to it and to the amount of any existing or pending liabilities in respect of taxation, dividends, etc.

Investments

In the application of the Rule, Excess Profits Tax Officers have been instructed as follows:

(1) Investments in Treasury Bills have to be treated on the same basis as bank deposits and other monies capable of ready realisation;

(2) Defence Bonds and other Government securities must be considered from the point of view of whether the investment is likely to be of a permanent or a temporary character. If in fact and intention the investment is clearly the merely temporary investment for a limited period of monies subsequently employed in the business, such investments will be treated as capital employed in the business;

(3) Defence Bonds and other Government securities purchased with money from the realisation of investments previously excluded from excess profits tax capital should, however, in general be excluded, and;

(4) Defence Bonds and other Government securities purchased with borrowed money should also be excluded.

CONTROL OF CAPITAL ISSUES SCHEME

IN the period covering the year 1944 and the first quarter of 1945, the total number of applications for consent to capital issues on which orders were passed, under the Control of Capital Issues Scheme, was 3,009 (2,331 consents and 678 refusals). Out of this total, 1,196 related to proposals classified as industrial (958 consents and 238 refusals). Of these, 1,100 were "immediate," that is to say, schemes which, it was claimed, could be put into operation even during the continuance of war conditions, while 96 were "long-range" schemes, which in nearly all cases meant that their execution must await supplies of imported machinery that would not be obtainable until after the war.

Consent orders were given in 864 out of the 1,100 "immediate" cases and in all but two of the long-range cases, the total amounts of capital allowed to be issued being Rs. 36.57 crores and Rs. 45.31 crores respectively. The average for each immediate issue allowed was about Rs. 4 lakhs and for each long-range issue about Rs. 48 lakhs.

Refusals: Main Reason

A fairly large number of industrial schemes propounded as immediate had to be refused, mainly because giving effect to them at the present juncture would tend to aggravate wartime pressure on materials and services in short supply, including coal and transport.

Of the 864 successful applications in respect of immediate industrial schemes, 362 were for initial issues by new companies while 502 were for further issues by old companies. The amounts of the approved issues were initial issues Rs. 16.05 crores and further issues Rs. 20.52 crores. The principal industries contributing to the further issues were the cement and heavy chemicals industries, spinning and weaving mills, distilleries and food preservation industries.

Taking applications for initial and further issues together, it is found that the industries for each of which consent orders covering a total exceeding Rs. 1 crore were granted in the period were: chemicals (including pharmaceuticals and medicines), Rs. 508 lakhs (151 cases); engineering of all kinds, Rs. 380 lakhs (109 cases); spinning and weaving mills, Rs. 375 lakhs (56 cases); cement works Rs. 344 lakhs: (one company only); mining and quarrying, Rs. 309 lakhs (65 cases); sugar factories, Rs. 249 lakhs (19 cases); breweries and distilleries, Rs. 172 lakhs (9 cases); film production, Rs. 110 lakhs (13 cases); public utilities (electricity), Rs. 106 lakhs (51 cases); and food preservation and dehydration, Rs. 102 lakhs (24 cases).

These 10 groups account for more than half the total number of issues allowed in this category and nearly three-quarters of the total amount of money involved. Smaller figures cover an equally wide range of activities, the leaders being oil mills, timber industries, potteries, and glass works and paper and strawboard manufacture.

Long-Range Industrial Cases

During the period under review orders were passed on 96 long-range industrial cases; in all but two cases, consent was given to the issue of capital. In these cases there was little or no danger of increasing pressure on supplies and services vital in wartime. The ground for refusal in the two cases was that the industry concerned was entirely new to India and the promoters had not shown that they had carried research and enquiries far enough to justify them in appealing to the public for money.

The 94 successful applications involved issues of capital totalling Rs. 45.31 crores. Of these, 64 cases, representing no less than 87 per cent. of the capital, fall under eight heads, namely, spinning and weaving mills, Rs. 854 lakhs (26 cases); general engineering, Rs. 777 lakhs (14 cases); automobile manufacture, Rs. 712 lakhs (2 cases); cement works, Rs. 600 lakhs (3 cases); paper mills, Rs. 529 lakhs (8 cases); sugar, Rs. 210 lakhs (7 cases); heavy chemicals, Rs. 183 lakhs (3 cases) and fertilizers, Rs. 100 lakhs (one case).

Several of these industries are already well-established in India but the setting up of others will fill lacunæ in India's economic set-up, especially the manufacture of automobiles, heavy chemicals and fertilizers. The "engineering" head also covers new electrical enterprises, such as the manufacture of radios and air-conditioning machines. The smaller items include another new enterprise in the form of the manufacture of plastics.

Concerns, whether old or new, relating to well-established industries, such as spinning and weaving, cement works, paper mills and sugar manufacture, account for nearly one-half the total capital to be raised. It is to this group that the further issues, amounting to about one-third of the whole, are confined.

During the last quarter of 1944 and the first quarter of 1945, 654 applications relating to

enterprises not classified as industrial were disposed of by the Examiner of Capital Issues. Consent orders were passed in 462 cases, while 292 applications were refused. Of the 462 consented cases, 452 were immediate issues (total capital Rs. 18.73 crores) and 10 long-range proposals (total capital Rs. 4.22 crores). All the refusals related to "immediate" proposals.

These non-industrial issues are classified as Agricultural, Financial, Trade and Transport and Other Services.

Consent orders under the head "Agriculture" numbered 47, of which 29 covering Rs. 144 lakhs were initial issues by new companies and 18 covering Rs. 86 lakhs were further issues by existing companies. Of the total of Rs. 230 lakhs, Rs. 113 lakhs went to plantations, Rs. 72 lakhs to agriculture, Rs. 11 lakhs to cattle and horse breeding and Rs. 34 lakhs to dairies.

Trade and Transport

The principal items under the head Financial were banking and insurance. There were 52 consents and 59 refusals under the first of these two heads; the aggregate amount allowed was Rs. 726 lakhs, of which Rs. 548 lakhs represented initial issues. Under the head insurance, there were 11 consent orders, value being Rs. 67 lakhs—all further issues. Twenty-five proposals, aggregating Rs. 328 lakhs—mostly initial issues—were refused.

Under Trade and Transport the two principal items were trading concerns with 155 consent orders covering Rs. 161 lakhs and 39 refusal orders for Rs. 204 lakhs; and motor bus services, with 75 consent orders covering Rs. 264 lakhs and only 6 refusals. The guiding principle in passing consent orders in the last group was the policy of Government to encourage the amalgamation of existing small owners into companies of economically workable size.

"Other Services"

Under "Other Services," the main items were cinema houses (19 consent orders for Rs. 114 lakhs) and advertising concerns (21 consent orders for Rs. 22 lakhs).

As already indicated, there were 10 consent orders in respect of long-range schemes. To these should be added 6 consent orders of a similar nature passed in the earlier months of 1944. Of these 16 cases covering a total of Rs. 769 lakhs, four steamship companies represented Rs. 439 lakhs, two countrycraft and inland navigation cases Rs. 200 lakhs and two housebuilding societies Rs. 55 lakhs.

GOODS (CONTROL OVER MOVEMENT) ORDER, 1945

A Press Note issued by the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies, Government of India, on August 27 stated:

By a notification published in the *Gazette of India* under sub-rule (2) of rule 81 of the Defence of India Rules, no person shall transport or cause to be transported or offer for transport from any place in British India to certain specified stations in Baluchistan, tea, cotton piecegoods, glass and glassware, silk yarn and manufactures of all sorts, including silk hosiery, woollen manufactures, bicycles, motor tyres and tubes, drugs and medicines, canned or bottled provisions, leather manufactures, motor parts and accessories, imitation gold and silver thread and sugar, except under a permit granted by the Revenue Commissioner and Export Trade Controller in Baluchistan or by an officer authorised by him in this behalf. The restriction will not apply to such goods which form part of the personal luggage of a *bona fide* traveller, and to certain other exceptions.

Contravention of any of the provisions of this Order will render forfeiture to the Government of the goods without prejudice to any other sentence which a court might pass.

CAPITAL ISSUES: AN EXEMPTION

A Press Note issued by the Finance Department, Government of India, on August 21, stated:

On a review of the operations of Capital issue control since it was introduced rather over two years ago, the Government of India have decided to grant an exemption in favour of any issue by a company other than a banking or insurace concern for an amount which, taken with the amount of any other issue made by the same company within the preceding twelve months, makes a total not exceeding Rs. one lakh.

Where the issue is one of shares or the like these amounts will be calculated by adding to the nominal value of the shares any additional sum such as premium or entrance fee which has to be paid by the subscriber. The general exemption order has been revised so as to include this exemption and at the same time to cut two existing exemptions which the new one makes otiose and one which has become inoperative by lapse of time.

MEETING OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

THE Public Accounts Committee commenced its sittings on August 13, and examined the Appropriation Accounts of the Railway for 1943-44. The Revenue Receipts for the year under review amounted to Rs. 185¼ crores and the Working Expenses (including contribution to the Depreciation Reserve Fund and interest on capital at charge) to Rs. 134¼ crores leaving a surplus of Rs. 51 crores—the highest figure so far reached in the history of Indian Railways. Out of this a surplus sum of Rs. 37¾ crores was paid to General Revenues and the amount of Rs. 13¼ crores was transferred to the Railway Reserve Fund.

The Committee reviewed, *inter alia*, the working of the grain shops which were first opened by the Railways in 1942-43 to provide their employees with food at a reasonable price. At the close of the year under review the number of grain shops was about 600 and the number of ration card holders 8,00,000. Sales during the year amounted to Rs. 11 crores.

The Committee also considered the question of corruption on railways and inquired as to the steps so far taken and intended to be taken to check it. They will formulate their conclusions on the subject at a later date.

Railway Accounts

On August 14, the Committee concluded its examination of the Railway Appropriation Accounts.

At the end of the year under review, the capital at charge of the Indian State Railways stood at Rs. 781 crores, the amount in the Depreciation Fund and the Railway Reserve Fund being Rs. 92 crores and Rs. 22¾ crores respectively.

During the year under review, the number of passengers carried was 778 million, the average number of miles each passenger was carried being 40.4. Corresponding figures for goods traffic were 127 million tons and 221 miles.

The Committee, on August 15, examined the Appropriation Accounts for 1943-44 for which the Finance Department is responsible.

Among the interesting facts contained in the documents before the Committee were that, during the year under review, 12½ crores tolas of silver was used for coinage and the net profit from the circulation of quaternary coins during the year was Rs. 8 crores.

The Mints and the Currency Notes Press had been kept working to capacity, the latter having supplied substantial quantities of notes to the Ceylon and Iraq Governments, the Hyderabad State and the East African Currency Board.

At its sitting on August 20, the Committee examined the Appropriation Accounts for the year 1943-44 for which the Departments of Education, Health and Lands, and Commonwealth Relations are responsible.

Shortage of Quinine

The Committee learnt that the quantity of quinine sulphate in stock with the Government of India on March 31, 1944 was 171,000 lbs. as against 189,000 lbs. at the close of the previous year. The pre-war annual demand for quinine in India was about 210,000 lbs. and Indian production was now about 90000 lbs. per annum. In order to relieve the shortage of quinine, Government had started a scheme for the short-term cultivation of cinchona in Bengal and Madras according to the Russian method. 3,400 acres have been planted under this scheme uptill now and another 1,100 acres would be planted during the course of the current year. The first yield of quinine from this plantation would be obtained towards the end of 1946.

During 1943-44 arrangements were made for a census of evacuees to India from war zones such as Malaya and Burma. It is estimated that about 4½ lakhs evacuees entered India as a result of the war.

The expenditure on Indian evacuees, for whose maintenance alone the Government of India is responsible, amounted during 1943-44 to Rs. 2,93 lakhs.

Income-Tax

The Committee, on August 21, examined the Appropriation Accounts for the year 1943-44 of the Central Board of Revenue and the Commerce Department.

The mainstay of central finance which, before the war, used to be the revenue from Customs is now Income-tax, the net yield from which during the year under review was Rs. 109½ crores (excluding payments to provinces) against Rs. 16½ crores in 1939-40. The importance of Customs revenue has dwindled during the war period, the revenue from this source in 1943-44 being only Rs. 26½ crores compared to about Rs. 46 crores in 1939-40.

A source of income which has increased considerably in importance is Central Excise Duties which yielded Rs. 25 crores in the year under review against only Rs. 6½ crores five years previously.

The balance at the end of 1943-44 at the credit of the War Risks Insurance Funds stood at just under Rs. 16 crores each. An appropriation has been made out of these funds of Rs. 16 crores for payments of compensation on account of the Bombay Explosion.

Broadcasting

On August 22 the Committee examined the Appropriation Accounts for which the Home Department and the Department of Information and Broadcasting are responsible.

The extent to which broadcasting has become popular in this country is illustrated by the fact that the income to Government from licence fees in 1943-44 was Rs. 19½ lakhs compared to Rs. 83,000 in 1930-31.

The income from Customs Duty on radio sets also increased steadily from Rs. 56,000 in 1930-31 to Rs. 32 lakhs in 1942-43 but dropped sharply to Rs. 11½ lakhs in 1943-44 due to a falling off of imports on account of the war.

The total number of licence holders in British India on March 31, 1944 was 1,80,660 compared to 1,66,123 a year previously. The combined circulation of the five radio journals issued by All-India Radio had also gone up by about a thousand and was 66,150 in March, 1944.

The Committee reviewed the working of many of the schemes introduced by the Information and Broadcasting Department during the war. They were informed that many of the schemes whose utility had ceased with the termination of the war would be wound up, but others which could perform useful functions in times of peace would be continued.

Public Works

The Geological Survey of India, the Central Public Works Department and the Department of Stationery and Printing were the chief subjects discussed by the Committee at its meeting on August 29, when it examined the Appropriation Accounts of the year 1943-44 for which the Labour Department is responsible.

The extent of the increase in the work of the Central Public Works Department can be judged from the fact that, while in the last pre-war year the total cost of the works executed by that Department was Rs. 121 lakhs, the corresponding figure for 1943-44 was Rs. 26 crores. The number of P.W.D. Divisions has been increased from 17 to 59, but establishment has not increased in the same proportion as the work. The percentage of the cost of the establishment to the value of the works executed, which was 15.6 in 1938-39, was only 3.99 in 1943-44.

The total capital outlay on New Delhi till the end of 1943-44 amounted to Rs. 1,893 lakhs.

Examination Concluded

The Committee at their meeting on August 31, concluded their examination of the entire body of Government accounts for the year 1943-44.

The main business before the Committee was the examination of expenditure incurred by the Bengal Government on behalf of the Centre in pursuance of the policy of denial, on refugees and evacuees and on the construction of Defence works. They had before them a detailed memorandum on the subject prepared by the Auditor General.

The Military Accounts Committee also held a meeting at which they signed their Report.

PRICES OF NEW AUSTIN CARS

A Press Note issued by the War Transport Department, Government of India, on August 14 stated:

It was stated in a recent Press Note that the price of Austin 10 H.P. cars which are being distributed by the Government of India had not been finally fixed but might be expected to be about Rs. 5,750. The price of the car, without a spare tyre and tube, has now been fixed at Rs. 6,000; transportation charges (including insurance during transit), from the centre of distribution to the premises of the dealer or sub-dealer, will be charged in addition.

By a notification published in the *Gazette of India*, dated September 29, the Government of India have cancelled the Agar Control Order, 1942, which was introduced to ensure that available supplies of Agar were used only for bacteriological purposes.

The Control has been in existence for over 3 years and with the cessation of hostilities the necessity for its continuance no longer exists.

PLANNING BETTER DIETS

HAS the war affected some parts of India more seriously than others and is it possible, by an appropriate food policy, to correct the situation? What have been the effects of food scarcity created by the war on the standards of consumption of the people? In particular, what has been the effect of the war on the consumption standards of the vulnerable sections of the community, expectant or nursing mothers and children?

These are some of the questions which Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao, Planning Adviser in the Central Food Department, seeks to answer through enquiries now in progress in Provinces and States which it is hoped will give some idea of the effect of the war on food consumption standards. Proposals will then be considered to deal with food distribution, production and imports to redress regional and class inequalities and meeting the requirements of the "vulnerable" classes. From an analysis of pre-war figures it appears that the areas in greatest need of attention are the southern and eastern regions of the country.

Food And Vitamins

Fortification of Indian foods and the manufacture of vitamins in India were the subjects discussed at a meeting of the Vitamin Technology Committee of the Technical Panel of the Food Department at its meeting held in New Delhi recently. That edible oils and vanaspati should be fortified with carotene or vitamin A depending upon the availability of material, that wherever there are big *ghee* heating centres, fortification with requisite amounts of vitamin A and D should be adopted, and that *atta* should be fortified with calcium carbonate, are among some of the recommendations made.

The Committee agreed that, since it would not be practicable to fortify rice at present, other methods of providing vitamins and calcium to the rice-eating population should be introduced, e.g., in *dal* and other accessory food preparations.

Food Yeast Plant

As the establishment of a food yeast plant was under the consideration of the Government of India, it was agreed that regional feeding trials with yeast should be carried out in residential institutions.

Finally, the Committee recommended to the Food Department that a mission of three officers of high standing and with the necessary background of experience in vitamins and allied subjects should be sent overseas to work out details about the establishment of a vitamin manufacturing industry in India. It was agreed that steps would first have to be taken by the Government to buy the processes of vitamin manufacture from foreign firms and have their co-operation on a royalty or other suitable basis before the deputation is sent.

Standards for Foodstuffs

That a Food Standards Section should form an integral part of an Institute of Food Technology, when set up, is the recommendation made by the Food Standards Sub-Committee of the Technical Panel of the Food Department at its meeting held in New Delhi recently.

It was recommended that an officer be appointed whose functions, *inter alia*, would be to appraise the various steps taken in different departments on the application of food standards on more scientific lines than has been done hitherto, to collect information of existing local and Provincial specifications and regulations under food laws, to make commendations about food standards where sufficient information is available, and to indicate lines of future progress.

It was agreed that the work now being carried out in the Food Department for the establishment of tasting panel techniques suitable for application to Indian processed foodstuffs, should be continued as a help to the progressive development of a food industry in India. As a means of keeping constant check upon quality, it was considered desirable that a start should be made in the application of these techniques wherever practicable in the present food inspection system and by food processing concerns.

The war having come to an end, plans are now being worked out for the switch-over of dehydration from war to peacetime production.

Conversion of dehydration factories to other uses was discussed at a recent meeting of the Dehydration Committee of the Technical Panel of the Food Department. One of the suggestions made was that dehydration might be applied with advantage to articles like copra, fruits and nuts, slaughterhouse waste including blood, fish, etc.

A committee was appointed to report on the utility of existing dehydration factories with

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DEVELOPMENT OF SUGAR INDUSTRY

THE decision that it should have an All-India Sugar Technological Institute of its own and that this institute should be linked with its own Agricultural Research Station, both being run under the Committee's direct control, was taken by the Indian Central Sugar Committee at meetings of the Committee and its sub-committees held at New Delhi from August 11 to 18, under the chairmanship of Mr. H. H. Stewart, Vice-Chairman, Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. A special sub-committee was set up with Sir T. S. Venkatraman, as the convener to consider immediately the question of a suitable location for the combined Institute and the Agricultural Research Station and to make recommendations.

Khandsari Sugar

The Committee also decided to undertake an immediate survey of the causes of excessive fuel consumption in the majority of the Indian sugar factories to make them self-supporting in fuel requirements by the use of bagasse only as has been done in the case of Java factories as well as in the case of a few factories in India.

The scheme of research on the improvement of Khandsari sugar at the Research and Testing Station, Bilari, United Provinces, was extended for one year with a special provision for confirming on a semi-commercial scale in the holdings of private farmers dealing with khandsari sugar some of the improvements recommended by the station.

Sugar Candy Scheme

The Committee were informed that, under the sugar candy scheme financed by it, there had been evolved a new method of crystallisation which would make it possible to produce candy on a commercial scale in future. On the information placed before it, the Committee felt justified in recommending the practice of first year ratoons and decided to finance schemes for working out practical cultural and manurial schedules for growing good one year ratoon crops.

A joint meeting of the Panel on Sugar, Alcohol and Food Yeast (constituted by the Government of India with Sir Shri Ram as its President) and the Agricultural Research Sub-Committee of the Indian Central Sugarcane Committee was held on August 14, when important points relating to the possibility of developing early and late ripening varieties of sugarcane and of increasing the yield of cane per acre and the recovery of sugar from cane were discussed.

INDIAN WOOLLEN GOODS (CONTROL) ORDER

A Press Note issued by the Industries and Civil Supplies Department on September 29, states:

Under the Indian Woollen Goods (Control) Order, 1945, the Government of India have now issued detailed instructions to be observed by manufacturers of Indian woollen goods other than controlled woollen goods, regulating the types, makings, specifications and *ex*-mill prices for the various kinds of woollen weaving yarns, woven and knitted goods.

These instructions lay down the various counts of yarns from which the goods should be manufactured, the quantities of yarn to be utilised in them, and the maximum admissible fabrication costs.

The maximum retail prices which dealers may charge in respect of Indian woollen goods, including weaving yarns and knitted goods falling under various categories, have been notified. All Indian woollen goods not manufactured and marked according to these directions must be disposed of within three months.

PLANNING BETTER DIETS

(*Continued from Page* 379)

reference to localities in which they were situated and the raw materials available for dehydration, as well as the efficiency of the existing dehydrators and the economics of the processes involved.

The Committee also recommended investigation on different dehydration methods to be applied to various food products such as fruits, fish and vegetables. It favoured the establishment of a permanent dried fruit industry on sound economic and scientific lines in India in the light of present researches which are being carried out.

FUTURE EXPANSION OF VANASPATI INDUSTRY

TO ensure an ordered development of the vanaspati industry in India consistent with the demand for vegetable oil and the supply of machinery and raw materials, the Government of India have appointed a committee to plan the future expansion of the industry.

The committee will, *inter alia*, consider what further expansion is justified by deficiencies which are not met by milk *ghee* and edible oils, in what areas expansion should proceed in order to secure economic production and maximum benefits to consumers, how it should be phased with due regard to normal demand for vanaspati and the availability of manufacturing plants, what further steps should be taken to standardize production, whether protection is necessary to prevent unfair competition from established concerns, how the demand for technical personnel should be met, what assistance would be necessary from Government for orderly development of the industry and maintenance of high quality production, should the industry produce for the export markets, and to what extent efficient plants can be manufactured in India and if Government can render any assistance in this connection.

Personnel of Committee

The Chairman and Secretary of the committee will be the Vegetable Oil Products Controller for India and the Director of Purchase of the Food Department respectively. Other members will be: a representative of the Education, Health and Lands Department of the Government of India and one representative each of the Bombay, Madras and Punjab Governments, Drs. B. C. Guha and V. K. R. V. Rao of the Central Food Department, Mr. Pettit of Hindustan Vanaspati Manufacturing Co., Rai Bahadur Mahanarain of Ganesh Flour Mills Co., Dr. D. Y. Athawale of Harcourt Butler Technical Institute, Cawnpore, Dewan Kamakhya Datta Ram, Lucknow, and Rai Bahadur Harishchandra, Delhi. The last two will look after the consumers' interests.

For the immediate needs of the country the Government of India are reported to have already decided to establish 27 factories with a total annual production of 105,000 tons.

That hydrogenated vegetable oils provide a substitute for *ghee* in certain respects is recognised by the Hydrogenated Oils Committee of the Technical Panel of the Food Department.

It was pointed out, however, that while some work has been done on the nutritional value of hydrogenated vegetable oils a great deal more is necessary. A recommendation has, therefore, been made that researches be encouraged on the nutritional value of hydrogenated vegetable oils compared with vegetable oils and *ghee*, particularly on the effect of long-range feeding of hydrogenated vegetable oil on the growth and well-being of animals, on the relative utilisation of important vitamins and minerals when vanaspati is fed and on the stability of vitamins in fortified hydrogenated vegetable oils.

In order to facilitate detection of adulteration of pure *ghee* with vanaspati which is practised on an extensive scale, it is recommended that further work should be done on the use of sesame oil, starch etc., for admixture with vanaspati manufactured in the country.

PROCUREMENT OF FOOD

Whether any modification was necessary in the present organisation of the Command Co-ordination Committees and what improvements could be effected in the method of procurement of fresh food for military and civilian requirements, were among the questions discussed at the meeting of the All-India Co-ordination Committee held in New Delhi on August 10 under the chairmanship of the Food Secretary, Government of India.

It was generally agreed that Command Co-ordination Committees should continue to function under the more active direction of the All-India Co-ordination Committee. A suggestion was made that necessary steps should be taken from now to enable civil authorities to take over in the immediate post-war period the functions performed by these Committees, to facilitate the transition from war to peacetime conditions. It was decided to refer questions of methods of procurement, prices and functions of the Co-ordination Committees to Provincial Governments and the Committees themselves.

Among those who attended the meeting were the Quartermaster General, representatives of the War, Education, Health and Lands, Political and Finance Departments of the Central Government, and by special invitation the Regional Food Commissioners of the Government of India.

PRICES OF EVEREADY BATTERY CELLS, WATCHES AND CHEMICAL REAGENTS FIXED

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 Eveready battery cells, imported chemical reagents, watches and watch materials, Indian-made crockery and glassware, imported crockery and glassware, raw silk and men's suits. The notifications are:

Eveready Battery Cells

The maximum wholesale and retail selling prices chargeable by a manufacturer or dealer in respect of Eveready battery cells Nos. 712 and 703 have been fixed at As. 4-6 and As. 14-6 respectively when delivered at Bombay, Calcutta, Karachi, Madras, Cochin or Delhi; and at As. 5 and As. 15 respectively when delivered elsewhere.

*

Chemical Reagents

The Controller General of Civil Supplies has, for the purpose of determining the maximum price chargeable by a dealer in respect of any of the imported chemical reagents specified in the Schedule appended to the notification published in the *Gazette of India*, dated August 4, sanctioned an addition to the landed cost of a sum representing 20 per cent of landed cost where the sale is made by the dealer who imported it; 50 per cent of the landed cost where the sale is made by a wholesale dealer other than the importer and 80 per cent of the landed cost where the sale is made by a retail dealer. These maximum prices are inclusive of packing charges if any. For the purpose of this notification a chemical reagent means a chemical of a high standard of purity sold in the original packing of the manufacturer and intended for analytical purposes and other chemical research work in laboratories and does not include chemicals of British Pharmacopoeia specifications required for medical purposes.

*

Watches and Watch Materials

Sanctioned additions to landed cost for determining the maximum wholesale and retail selling prices of watches and clocks, watch bracelets, watchmakers' and jewellers' tools and watch materials have been revised with effect from September 1, by the Controller General of Civil Supplies in supersession of all previous notifications issued in this connection. New sanctioned additions to landed cost for determining retail selling prices are: watches, the invoice price of which is more than 100 Frs., 50 per cent of landed cost; other watches, 80 per cent of landed cost; cheap bracelets, landed cost of which is less than As. 12 each, 150 per cent of landed cost; all other bracelets 80 per cent of landed cost; watchmakers' and jewellers' tools 100 per cent of landed cost; standard parts of watches of Westend, Favre-Leuba, Zenith, Omega, Tissot and Cyma makes 100 per cent of landed cost; all other parts 200 per cent of landed cost.

*

Indian-made Crockery

For the purpose of determining the maximum retail prices of Indian-made crockery, glassware tumblers and glassware other than tumblers, the Controller General of Civil Supplies has sanctioned an addition to the price at which the producer sold these articles, of a sum representing 60 per cent, 60 per cent and 100 per cent, respectively, of the producer's price in each case. When the article is sold to another dealer, the maximum wholesale prices are to be calculated by adding to the price at which the producer sold these articles a sum representing 28 per cent, 28 per cent and 50 per cent respectively of the producer's price in each case. If the article is sold or delivered at a place situated beyond 100 miles of the place of manufacture, the seller may also add an amount equivalent to the actual freight incurred by him subject to a maximum of 10 per cent of the maximum retail price.

*

Imported Crockery

Superseding the previous notifications issued in this connection, the Controller General of Civil Supplies has, for the purpose of determining the maximum retail prices of imported plain white crockery, decorated crockery, bone chinaware, glassware plain tumblers and glassware other than tumblers, sanctioned additions to the landed cost of these articles of a sum representing 75 per cent, 100 per cent, 125 per cent, 60 per cent and 100 per cent, respectively of the landed cost in each case. When the article is sold to another dealer, the maximum wholesale prices shall be determined by adding to the landed cost of a sum representing 40 per cent, 50 per cent, 70 per cent, 28 per cent and 50 per cent respectively of the landed cost in each case. If the article is sold or delivered at a place situated beyond 100 miles of Bombay, Karachi, Madras or Calcutta the seller may also add an amount equivalent to the actual freight incurred by him subject to a maximum of 10 per cent of the landed cost.

For purposes of marking with sale price and exhibition of price list, the Controller General of Civil Supplies has included glassware also, along with crockery, in the items mentioned in an earlier notification issued in this connection.

*

Raw Silk

The maximum selling prices chargeable by a producer or dealer in respect of filature raw silk of the trade descriptions international "C" "D" "E" and "F", "G" and "H" produced in Madras Presidency, Mysore State, and Bengal Province were recently fixed by the Central Government at Rs. 40-8, Rs. 40, Rs. 39-8, Rs. 39, Rs. 38-8, Rs. 38 and Rs. 37-8 respectively per lb. ex-filature and Rs. 44, Rs. 43-8, Rs. 43, Rs. 42-8, Rs. 42, Rs. 41-8, and Rs. 41 respectively per lb. in other cases. These maximum prices have now been made applicable to filature raw silk of the same trade description produced in Kashmir State also.

The Controller General of Civil Supplies has, in the case of a wholesale transaction in Indian-made artificial silk fabrics, sanctioned the addition, to the ex-mill price, of one anna per rupee of that price. Formerly, the sanctioned addition was As. 1-6 per rupee.

In the case of a retail transaction the sanctioned addition remains unaltered, i.e., As. 3-6 per rupee of the ex-mill price.

*

Ready-made Suits

Making charges for men's lounge suits consisting of trousers, waist-coat and single-breasted coat and also for men's coats, trousers and waistcoats separately, which may be charged in addition to the cost of the material by dealers who sell ready-made garments or who make and sell garments to order, have now been revised downward.

Some of the revised making charges permissible to such dealers are: For men's woollen lounge suit consisting of trousers, waistcoat and single-breasted coat Rs. 30, Rs. 40 (B. Class), Rs. 80 (A Class); for palmbeach, silk or half-wool half-silk men's lounge suit of three pieces as above, Rs. 20, Rs. 35 (B Class) Rs. 60 (A Class); for cotton lounge suit of three pieces as above or lounge suit of any other material not included in the foregoing categories Rs. 10, Rs. 20 (B Class), Rs. 30 (A Class).

For woollen *sherwani* or *achkhan* the making charges are Rs. 24, Rs. 33 (B Class) Rs. 70 (A Class); for palmbeach, silk or half-wool half-silk *sherwani* or *achkhan* Rs. 18, Rs. 30 (B Class), Rs. 52 (A Class); and for cotton *sherwani* or *achkhan* Rs. 8, Rs. 17, (B Class), Rs. 25 (A Class).

For cotton shirts the charges are Re. 1, Rs. 2-8 (B Class), Rs. 4 (A Class). For shirts with half sleeves the charges shall be reduced by 12½ per cent; for each separate collar the making charges shall be 12½ per cent of the maximum making charges for a shirt.

The making charges specified above mean the amount which a dealer may add to the cost of the material in order to determine the maximum retail price of the finished garment and they include the cost of the labour employed in making the garment, the cost of lining, buttons and such material as is used in the making of the garment other than the principal cloth out of which the garment is made.

COMMERCIAL TRANSPORT MOTOR VEHICLES

The Government of India have issued the "Commercially Imported Transport Motor Vehicles Control Order, 1945," in the *Gazette of India* dated August 11, 1945, to control the sale and distribution of transport motor vehicles that will be imported commercially into this country after the coming into force of this Order.

When the transport motor vehicles are received they will be distributed by the importers (distributors) under control through dealers and sub-dealers to be appointed by them for specified areas. The maximum retail price of the transport motor vehicles will be fixed by the Central Government.

In view of the acute shortage of transport motor vehicles, it is proposed to issue these only to essential users. Persons desiring to purchase these transport motor vehicles when available should apply to the Provincial Motor Transport Controller concerned.



General Sir Claude Auchinleck, who visited Burma recently, inspected officers and men of two divisions. The C.-in-C. is here seen talking to Havildar Mom Raj, of a Punjab Regiment.

C.-IN-C.'S BURMA TOUR

TROOPS who fought to victory in Burma have been visited by the Commander-in-Chief in India, General Sir Claude Auchinleck, in the course of a four-day tour of Burma. The Commander-in-Chief inspected many units and decorated British and Indian officers, V.C.O.s and other ranks for gallantry.

At one point of his tour, Gen. Auchinleck was near the scene of the fighting in the Pegu Yomas area and saw Jap prisoners of war.

One of the most remarkable units which the C.-in-C. visited was an I.E.M.E. workshop designed to become airborne at short notice. Guns and vehicles are quickly and easily repaired by this workshop on jeeps, which on one occasion repaired and launched a ship, writes an Army Observer

Indian sappers working on the first Bailey suspension bridge to be built by the army in Burma were also visited by Gen. Auchinleck. One of the officers he met during his tour was his nephew, Major F. Jackson, R. E.

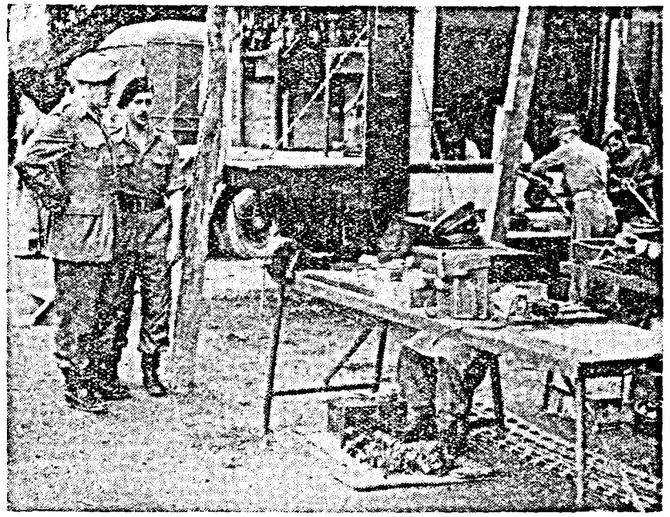
The Commander-in-Chief renewed old friendships when he met members of his own battalion of the 1st Punjab Regiment. He was their guest overnight and took the salute at a march past.

Addressing the men His Excellency said they had made the name of their regiment famous, as had other men of the regiment in Italy. They had been in many actions in Burma and he knew that if called upon in the future they would continue to uphold the name of their regiment.

At one divisional-headquarters Gen. Auchinleck spoke to two members of the Women's Auxiliary Service (Burma), Lieut. (Mrs.) Pert and Sjt. Flintoff. With their canteen these women had travelled with the division from Kohima.



The Commander-in-Chief inspecting Muleteers.



The only mobile workshop of its kind, carried on jeeps and trailers, is being shown to the C.-in-C. by the designer, Major J. F. C. Stevens, R.E.M.E.

FIRST INDIAN SERVICEWOMAN TO VISIT U. K.



Second Officer Kalyani Sen

FIRST Indian Servicewoman to visit the United Kingdom is Second Officer Kalyani Sen, of the Women's Royal Indian Naval Services.

With Chief Officer Margaret Cooper and Second Officer Phyllis Cunningham she went there at the invitation of the Admiralty to make a comparative study of training and administration in the Women's Royal Naval Service.

In an interview with an R.I.N. Observer at Calcutta, Second Officer Sen said they had had an extremely interesting and instructive stay in the United Kingdom, during which an extensive tour of W.R.N.S. establishments was made. She spoke with warm appreciation of the great hospitality shown them by everyone, especially the members of the W.R.N.S. and A.T.S. whose guests they were.

Second Officer Sen broadcast from the B.B.C. in English and Bengali, attended an investiture at Buckingham Palace, and was a guest of the High Commissioner for India when he entertained the party of Indian industrialists in London. She represented the Women's Royal Indian Naval Service at the annual gathering of the W.R.N.S. Association, which was also attended by Canadian, Dutch and Norwegian Servicewomen.

Before her marriage, Second Officer Sen was Miss Kalyani Gupta, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. N. Gupta of Lahore. She was educated at Kinnaird College and Government College, Lahore. Having obtained her M.A. in English literature from the Punjab University in 1938, she was studying for the M.A. degree in Political Science when, in October 1939, she married Captain (now Lieut.-Colonel) L. P. Sen of the Baluch Regiment.

In 1943 she joined the W.A.C.(I), in which her mother, who holds the rank of Chief Commander, is also serving.

D.F.C. FOR R.I.A.F. PILOT

For leadership, courage and determination in the recent Arakan campaign, a Royal Indian Air Force pilot, Flying Officer B. N. Surendra, has been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross by the King-Emperor.

"This officer," says the citation, "has taken part in a large number of operational sorties of a varied nature. He has achieved some excellent results when flying on tactical reconnaissances and has obtained valuable information, often in adverse weather, of Japanese troop concentrations and movements in dense jungle.

"In smoke-laying and target-marking operations, Flying Officer Surendra's skilful navigation has largely contributed to the successes achieved. In addition, he has inflicted considerable damage on the enemy's rivercraft and lines of communication. At all times this officer's leadership, courage and determination have been worthy of the highest praise."

Flying Officer Surendra was a pilot in a R.I.A.F. Hurribomber Squadron which played an important role in the victorious Arakan campaign of 1944-45. He was noted in his Squadron for his remarkably keen eyesight, invaluable for reconnaissance work.

Flying Officer Surendra comes from Berlie Street, Richmond Town, Bangalore Cantt. He has spent the greater part of his life in Bangalore being educated at St. Joseph's European High School and St. Joseph's College.

A WARRIOR'S "THANK YOU"



Men of the Royal Fusiliers examine a kukri presented by the Fifth Royal Gurkha Rifles to their battalion.

KUKRI PRESENTED TO ROYAL FUSILIERS

ONE November day in 1943 a bren-gunner of the Royal Fusiliers lay in a ditch at Mozzagrogna, Sangro battle village, shouting: "Run, Johnny, run!". He fired bursts to cover the withdrawal of a battalion of 5th Royal Gurkha Rifles.

The fusilier's platoon also had been ordered to withdraw. They refused until the last Gurkha had reached safety.

Gurkhas never forget a battle comrade. So, at an Italian parade ground they recently presented the Royal Fusiliers with a *kukri* sheathed in a silver scabbard.

Before the two battalions drawn up on parade at Perugia, Subedar-Major Ichche Gurung, M.C., of Ghandrung, Nepal, handed the *kukri* to R.S.M. R. Russell, of Crowthorne, Berkshire, England. It was a warrior's "Thank you" from one part of the Empire to another.

The *kukri*, with its exquisite silver and royal blue decorated scabbard, was made at the regimental centre at Abbottabad by craftsmen whose skill has been inherited for centuries. It will find a final resting place at the depot of the Royal Fusiliers at Hounslow, London.

Near the *kukri* at Hounslow will be a marble memorial stone on which is engraved the regimental crests of the Royal Fusiliers and the 5th Royal Gurkha Rifles, commemorating the many men who fell fighting together in the bloody streets of Mozzagrogna.

Thus will live for all time the memory of the Empire soldiers of the Eighth Indian Division.

ITALIAN ART EXPERT'S TRIBUTE TO INDIAN SOLDIERS

Signor Cesore Fasola, Italian art authority and librarian of the Uffizi Gallery, Florence, has given a generous reminder of the part which Indian soldiers played in saving Italian art treasures during the Allies' advance on Florence.

In a booklet, "The Florence Galleries and the War", he describes how men of the Eighth Indian Division drove the Germans out of the sector where the pictures were stored and then posted sentries over the art treasures.

"One Indian officer, Lt.-Col. M. K. U. Nayar, displayed an uncommon knowledge of Italian art," Signor Fasola remarks.

KING GEORGE'S FUND FOR SAILORS

The following contributions have been received in H.E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund for King George's Fund for Sailors:—

Rs. 5,000 from H.H. the Maharaja of Travancore; Rs. 5,000 from the Hyderabad War Purposes Fund; Rs. 2,000 from H.H. the Maharao Raja of Bundi; and Rs. 1,000 each from the Pudukkottai Darbar and the Rajputana War Purposes Fund.

The gifts have been greatly appreciated by H.E. the Viceroy.

JUNGLE GRADUATION CEREMONY

A strange graduation ceremony was recently seen at Saharanpur by members of the Defence Consultative Committee. As they watched, machineguns chattered, 25-pounder shells screamed overhead and mortar bombs crumped down.

Graduates were men of the 39th Indian Division, who had completed two months' intensive jungle training. Their graduation took the form of a battle inoculation in which the co-ordinated use of various weapons was demonstrated.

The Committee members went into the jungle to see every phase of the rigorous training by which men who had passed the recruit stage at regimental centres were prepared for the fight against the Japs.

Jungle Warfare

Training in this Division follows a new design, writes an Army Observer. It is linked with realism and is kept up-to-date by a commander who knows as much as anybody about jungle warfare. He is Maj.-Gen. D. A. Lentaigne, who succeeded to the command of the Chindits on the death of Maj.-Gen. Wingate.

Barrack square methods are left behind. Instead of the loud word of command the sound of a bird will set rifles firing, the call of an animal will start a patrol moving silently through the jungle.

Initiative is developed. Men are suddenly faced with a tactical situation requiring an immediate decision. Targets are provocative. Men are confronted with fleeting figures in the undergrowth at which they must shoot quickly and accurately.

The men become hardened to fire. With Bren gun bullets tearing at the earth within six feet of their trench, more bullets whistling over their heads, and ammonal charges exploding a few feet away, they must maintain their own fire on the targets which show for a split second ahead of them.



Lance-Naik Bhanbagta Gurung, V.C.

GURKHA V.C. TO BE DECORATED BY KING

ANOTHER Indian V.C. winner, Rifleman (now Lance-Naik) Bhanbagta Gurung, 2nd Gurkha Rifles, is shortly going to the U.K. to receive his medal from the King. Two other Indian soldiers who have been similarly decorated are Sepoy Kamal Ram, 8th Punjab Regiment, and Sepoy Namdeo Jadhao, 5th Mahratta Light Infantry.

This 23-year-old Gurkha, who recently rejoined his battalion after leave in Nepal, told an Army Observer that he came to know of the award from the runner of a recruiting centre who had been specially sent for this purpose.

Quiet and unassuming, Lance-Naik Bhanbagta Gurung reluctantly explained how alone he had overcome five Jap positions in the

(*Continued on Page* 394)

TREATMENT OF INDIAN ARMY PERSONNEL WHO JOINED ENEMY

THE Government of India have decided to treat with mercy and generosity the rank and file of those soldiers who yielded to pressure and who were so misguided as to join the forces raised by the enemy. But they will allow the law to take its course and will try by Court Martial the leaders and those who were guilty of particularly heinous crimes, said a Press Communique issued by the Public Relations Directorate, G.H.Q., on August 27.

The offence of going over to the enemy and fighting against his former comrades is the most serious offence that a soldier can commit. It is punishable with death by the laws of almost all countries, and those who have committed this offence and been recaptured can claim no rights as belligerents or prisoners of war.

The Government of India feel, however, that allowance must be made for the circumstances in which the rank and file found themselves placed after their capture. From that date they were in no position to learn the truth of the progress of the war or to hear any news but false and propagandist Japanese or German reports.

Misled by Enemy Propaganda

Some of them were misled by this propaganda or gave way to pressure or the desire for better treatment and joined the enemy with no motives beyond an immediate improvement in their living conditions. Those men, therefore, who seem to have been merely misguided—and they are the majority—will be treated with clemency.

There can, of course, be no question of retaining in the Indian Army anyone who has violated the soldier's code and betrayed his companions. Men of this category will, therefore, be discharged but, as an act of grace, they will be given leave with pay for 42 days, and will not be required to refund the allowances paid to their families during the time they were in enemy pay and in enemy hands.

This will be the treatment of the majority of those who joined the enemy. There remain a number to whom, if the facts against them are proved to be true, it would be wrong to extend the same measure of clemency. Among them are some who are alleged to have killed their former comrades, or to have been responsible for the capture or torture of Allied soldiers, and some leaders who appear to have consciously embraced the Japanese or German cause.

Trials to be Public

For these men there can be no alternative but to allow trial by Court Martial to proceed. They will be allowed to choose counsel to represent them, and the trials will *not* be held *in camera*.

In addition to these two classes there are at present a considerable number whose cases require further examination before they can be classified, and who will be retained in military custody pending this examination.

It is well to remember that the behaviour of all these men makes more glorious by contrast the courage and endurance of those brave soldiers, the great majority of the prisoners of war, who stayed true to their salt and stubbornly resisted the efforts of the enemy to undermine their fidelity.

AN EXPLANATION

A Press Communique issued on August 28 stated:

The Government of India wish to make it clear that this communique refers only to those against whom it is necessary to take some disciplinary action, either by dismissal from the Army, in the less serious cases, or by trial by court-martial in the case of the leaders and those who are alleged to have committed particularly heinous crimes.

Naturally, those who joined the enemy in response to directions from Delhi by radio and air-dropped pamphlets, with the sole object of escaping to our lines or of sabotaging the movement from within, will be regarded as recovered P.O.W., retained in the Army and treated with the special consideration to which their initiative, courage and loyalty entitle them.

CIVILIAN PASSAGES TO U. K.

A Press Note issued by the Defence Department, Government of India, on August 23, stated:

The number of civilians to leave India in July was 1,488. This total represented all in the five higher priority categories who were capable of being embarked in the time available between the fixture of the steamers and the dates of embarkation. Exceptions were a number of invalids who could not be suitably accommodated.

The remainder was drawn from category six, from key leave nominations and from those readily available as substitutes to take the place of last minute cancellations. The number of fresh registrations in July was 878 and, exclusive of key leave personnel and their families, the total awaiting passages on August 1 was 1,500.

These figures are encouraging but liable to mislead in that a considerable proportion originated as part of the allocation for June, who, as a result of delays to shipping, did not actually sail until July.

Effect of Demobilisation

There has been no improvement in the availability for passengers wishing to leave the U.K. for India.

August departures for the U.K. will present a disappointing total; some recovery is expected in September but it will do little more than restore the August deficiency.

Recent events in the war with Japan have made the position more difficult of assessment than ever. It is quite definite that the repatriation of released prisoners of war and internees will constitute the first call upon shipping.

The intention of His Majesty's Government to accelerate demobilisation foreshadows a continued heavy demand for passages for service personnel. It is not unreasonable to suppose, but, of course, at this stage it is entirely a supposition, that there will be a corresponding increase in shipping requirements for that purpose, for their subsequent maintenance and for supporting urgent relief measures in the liberated territories.

If it should transpire, and here again this is a conjecture, that the needs of the Fighting Services in the East permit of some reduction in the flow of reinforcements from the U.K. such surplus accommodation as may result will, it is hoped, allow progress to be made with the movement to India of separated wives, families and fiancees. The number on the waiting list is approaching 2,000.

On July 20, the Hon'ble the Defence Member announced publicly the removal of a restriction which had required applicants for passages to U.K. to make their application not more than three months in advance of their date of readiness to embark.

Shipping Position

It is again emphasised that with shipping prospects poor though uncertain, it is most desirable that all who plan to leave India for U.K. between now and the end of next year should apply, without delay, to the Civil Passage Controller, Defence Department, Government of India, New Delhi. Only when there has been a full response to this invitation will it be possible for Government to furnish a reliable estimate of shipping requirements.

It will have to be realised that with the shipping outlook so poor there is little prospect of special provision being made for the larger numbers who prefer to travel in spring. If registrations show a tendency to overcrowd these months transfers to earlier or later dates will be inevitable.

It is necessary, too, to repeat that the Government of India does not provide shipping, but, through the Civil Passage Controller, allots priorities. These determine the sequence in which accommodation will be allotted in such ships as may subsequently become available.

CENTRAL ADVISORY BOARD OF EDUCATION

The following have been renominated by the Governor-General-in-Council as members of the Central Advisory Board of Education in India for a period of three years, with effect from the dates shown against their names:

Gaganvihari L. Mehta, Esq., M.A., (from June 6, 1945).

P. F. S. Warren, Esq., B.A. (Cantab.), A.M.I.C.E., M.I.E. (Ind.), (from June 6, 1945).

Sardar Bahadur Ujjal Singh, M.A., M.L.A. (Punjab), (from November 20, 1945).

EAST BENGAL AND THE FUTURE

"IN this world war the young men of East Bengal have been quick to offer themselves for service in all the arms and services in which they were wanted. I am told that no less than 1,60,000 men of this part of Bengal have enlisted in this war in the fighting services, in the merchant navy and in the Civil Pioneer Force—and I believe that their record has been an honourable and a creditable one. The total number recruited from East Bengal is about three-quarters of the total from Bengal as a whole." This was the tribute paid by the Rt. Hon. R. G. Casey, Governor, now on leave in the U.K., to East Bengal's contribution to the country's war effort in a recent broadcast from A.I.R., Dacca.

Here is the full text of the broadcast:

Let me speak to you of East Bengal—of which this city of Dacca is the principal centre of population and of which the University is the main seat of learning and intellectual advancement.

I do not use "East Bengal" as a term of art—it is no longer, I think, a precise description of any distinct geographical or political region—but we all know broadly what it now signifies—the districts of Dacca, Mymensingh, Chittagong, Noakhali and Tippera and the Chittagong hill tracts—all east of the great rivers Brahmaputra and the Ganges,—along with Bakarganj and Faridpur as part of that river system.

Contradictory Descriptions

Before I became Governor of this Province, I had heard of East Bengal—but heard of it, I regret to say, in terms of its being a "problem area"—that it was deficit in foodstuffs, that it had the name of being highly communal, that its communications were poor. Afterwards I heard another description of it. It was pictured to me as a land watered and refreshed by the great rivers—young and vital in comparison with the older lands of West Bengal— rich in its soil and in the vigour and adventurousness of its people.

And now I would like to give you a sketch at least of East Bengal in which the high lights and the low are fairly represented and balanced.

What is the population of East Bengal? What is the quantity and make-up of its people? I find that the area contains certainly no less than 25 million souls—a vast number—and that this great concourse is made up of about 18½ million Muslims and about 6½ million Hindus together with about ½ million "others". East Bengal may, therefore, be held to be a stronghold of Islam in Bengal—but at the same time it also has a vigorous and highly developed Hindu culture.

If it is broadly true—as I believe it to be—that East Bengal is deficit in foodstuffs—how does this come about? I set myself the task of discovering what you do with your great areas of fertile land, and I find that, as well as foodstuffs, you produce probably rather more than half of all the jute of Bengal; this means nearly half of all the jute in the world—because Bengal grows nearly 90 per cent. of the world's jute.

Jute is an essential fibre that is still, in spite of the competition of substitutes, far and away the most important basis for the bags and sacks that enable the world's rice and wheat and wool and other essential commodities to be conveniently handled and conveyed. It is an interesting fact that, but for Bengal's capacity to produce jute, the world's wheat and wool and many other such commodities would cost the world's consumers appreciably more than they now do.

Seafaring Traditions

Besides producing jute and rice, East Bengal produces nearly half of Bengal's total production of sugarcane, over a third of her oilseeds, and a sixth of the tobacco grown in Bengal.

So the people are primarily agriculturists—tillers of the soil. But the people of East Bengal are also of an adventurous habit of mind. At least two districts (Chittagong and Noakhali) have been well known for generations as the birth-place of a great race of seafaring men—men born of families who have had the tradition of seamanship in their blood and who have in their thousands, roamed the oceans of the world in all the many capacities that the business of seafaring entails.

In this world war, the young men of East Bengal have been quick to offer themselves for service in all the arms and services in which they were wanted. I am told that no less than 1,60,000 men of this part of Bengal have enlisted in this war in the fighting services, in the merchant navy, and in the Civil Pioneer Force—and I believe that their record has been an honourable and a creditable one. The total number recruited from East Bengal is about three quarters of the total from Bengal as a whole.

And what of this city of Dacca itself, the principal city of East Bengal, and the second city in this Province?

Dacca has for a generation been the seat of a large University. Dacca University was the first, or one of the first, of its type in India and the model for many later Indian universities. It is a unitary teaching University, and largely residential, amply housed in spacious buildings, many of which were prepared for the old Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam.

Has the University fulfilled all the hopes of its founders? We can at least say that it has many achievements to its credit. For example, it has developed in many directions since its foundation and has established many new departments of study, including those of Politics, Statistics, and, recently, Biology and Botany. In particular, the institution of a faculty of Agriculture is a very important step, full of promise for the future. The University has had the services of many eminent scientists and scholars some of whom have achieved an international reputation. Also its Arts departments, its collection of manuscripts and its library are considerable achievements.

Agricultural Research

Dacca University is, therefore, a very important part of the life and development of East Bengal. It will well repay us to do all that each of us can do to ensure its continued progress.

What else has Dacca to contribute to the well-being of Bengal as a whole? As those of you who live here know, a considerable part of the agricultural research of this Province is conducted quite close by—at the Agricultural Research Institute and the Central Research Farm.

I am one of those who believe that agricultural research is only in its infancy in Bengal, and I hope and believe that the present research activities that are conducted here will pale into insignificance before what will be done here in the future. We have but touched the fringe of agricultural research, which has such a close bearing on the welfare of the many millions of people in Bengal who depend on agriculture for a living.

It was well said in the Report of the Royal Commission on Agriculture in India that "the basis of all agricultural progress is experiment. However efficient the organisation which is built up for demonstration and propaganda, unless that organisation is based on research, it is merely a house built on sand."

In the field of medicine East Bengal has hitherto had to be content with medical schools. The Government is now hoping to secure the establishment of a Medical College at Dacca and has under active consideration the means whereby this can be achieved.

Communications

Earlier to-night, I referred to what I believe to be a fact—that the communications of East Bengal are poor. There is, of course, a season of the year when the waters have risen and the communications by water with East Bengal villages, though slow, are easier and more widespread than anywhere else in the Province.

But in the dry season good roads are very few and very far between; and in the intervals when the waters are rising or falling much of the country is impassable either by boat or by wheeled traffic. This is a matter that is capable of improvement by the Government of this Province. What is being done or is in contemplation in this regard? I take this public opportunity to tell you.

As you may be aware, one of the substantial matters of post-war reconstruction, at the joint hands of the Government of India and of the Provinces, is the creation of a network of roads throughout India—great national highways and various forms of roads of lesser degree and importance.

Road Development

So far as it is possible to sketch out for you what is contemplated I may tell you that, apart from the improvement and construction of village roads, we aim to construct about 3,000 miles of all-weather roads in East Bengal. These will be made up of about 1,000 miles of national and Provincial highways and about 2,000 miles of district roads. Two great national highways—one from Calcutta to Chittagong and the other from Calcutta to Assam—will form the framework of the post-war road system in this part of Bengal.

I would expect the fruition of these plans to have a great and beneficial influence on your lives and those of your children.

Looking ahead into the future I believe that even bolder and more far-reaching plans than these can come within our vision. Those who know the history of East Bengal have learnt to fear and respect the destructive power of its mighty rivers: yet there are men who, emboldened by experience elsewhere in the world, have already conceived the possibility of moderating and directing some of these great rivers by vast works of control built upon their upper reaches. If such plans should mature, Northern and Central Bengal would be the principal beneficiaries, but the restoration of the old Brahmaputra river through the District of Mymensingh would also come within the scope of such plans.

I make no promises, and indeed the development and execution of plans such as these would in any case take up the best part of a lifetime: they would require years of preparation and scrutiny by the best and most experienced brains that the world can provide—but it is no longer possible to dismiss such a conception as visionary, and work is now going on towards collecting the basic data on which such a project could be judged.

Looking at the potentialities that the future holds, I am moved to say to the people of this province, "lift up your hearts"—our aspiration is not just materialism—a mere grasping after wealth and physical achievement. In the unending task of exploring, comprehending and remoulding our physical environment I see high advenutre and an enrichment of the human spirit.

Now, seeing the goal of our pilgrimage before us, let us return to our caravan, let us turn to severely practical details and see how far we are equipped for our journey.

I think it is not too much to say that, on present prospects, it will be the scarcity of technical personnel rather than the lack of money that will be the limiting factor in determining our rate of advance in the immediate post-war years—the factor that will decide the volume of constructive developmental works that we will be able to undertake.

The Future

I would expect this greatly increased demand for technically and professionally trained men to make itself felt for at least 10 years after the end of the war—and, it may well be, for much longer than that.

During the post-war years of which I am speaking there will be places waiting for men well-trained in all the technical and practical professions and occupations. It will be a question of jobs looking for men and not the old horror of men looking for jobs. This will be the case all over the world—and perhaps in India in particular—and, within India, I would say perhaps in Bengal in particular.

But let us not forget the height of our aim and the size of our tasks: let us remember that only the best that we can give will be equal to them—vision in conception, skill, patience and infinite painstaking in planning, thoroughness, adaptability, determination and integrity in execution—all these demand quality and not merely qualifications.

Hard and Solid Work

Is there not a lesson in all this for the Universities in Bengal—for the great Universities of Calcutta and Dacca—and for those whose privilege it is to be the leaders of thought and the pattern of character and conduct?

Indeed, I believe that there is a lesson for all of us in it. To keep our place—and I hope greatly to advance on it—we must set ourselves (not only Government and the Universities, but all of us) increasingly high standards. Otherwise Bengal will lag behind. These standards must be those which we are determined to achieve—not just agreeable ideals to which we pay lip service, but real objects for which we are ready to work hard and continuously.

The fruits of this world are not going to drop into our laps, least of all in Bengal, like manna from the skies. They can be had only by paying for them with hard and solid work. I have said this before to the people of Bengal, and I believe that it bears repetition.

Government's Responsibilities

I began by speaking of East Bengal and to that subject I will return. Let me recall what I had heard about East Bengal before I came here as Governor—a "Problem area" deficit in foodstuffs, with the name of being highly communal, and with poor communications—and let me weigh these matters against the responsibilities of the Bengal Government.

The Bengal Government is trying its best to put within your reach the great benefits of modern science and teaching as applied to agriculture. It is up to you to grasp them and to apply them to your fields.

The Bengal Government is giving you—and hopes increasingly to give you—a fair share of all the productive work that they undertake. It is up to you to see that the material prosperity, which I hope will follow, is not corroded by

distrust of your neighbour and intolerance of his faith.

The Bengal Government hopes to give you such a system of roads as, a few years ago, we would not have dared to imagine possible. It is up to you to see that the wider and speedier contacts which they will make possible are enterprisingly developed in the shape of honest, well-organised trade and of progressive outlooks on public affairs.

In short, I believe that the Government can provide the means to progress. But it is up to you to make proper use of those means.

If it is true in any sense that this is a "problem area" its problems are a challenge to us all. I have spoken of some of the ways in which we can attack the physical problems. I believe that if we approach them in that spirit of high adventure and resolute perseverance which alone can lead to success, we shall find that therein lies the answer to the problems which trouble us as between man and man and as between man and his environment.

East Bengal has great traditions of which it is rightly proud. It is in the hands of the people of East Bengal—that is you—whether those traditions shall become merely a matter of history and half-forgotten sentiment, or whether they shall be carried on and enriched. Let us with goodwill and confidence, set about creating the heritage of Bengal's youth—a heritage of happiness and plenty—in which each shall have his share, both of the fruits and of the responsibilities.

GURKHA V.C. DECORATED

(*Continued from Page* 388)

face of machine-gun fire and killed eight of the enemy in quick succession. He emerged unscathed from this action which was decisive in capturing his company's objective.

L|Nk. Bhanbagta Gurung is a friend of Jem. Gaje Ghale, 5th Royal Gurkha Rifles, who won his V.C. in the Chin Hills in May, 1943. Their respective villages in Nepal are only two miles apart.

He took part in the first Wingate expedition. Among the many awards won by his battalion in Burma are one V.C., one D.S.O., one M.B.E., five I.O.Ms., seven M.C.s; 12 I.D.S.Ms and 12 M.Ms.

TELLING AMERICA ABOUT INDIA'S WAR EFFORT

American audiences from New York to Seattle have been given a new insight into the prowess and achievements of the Indian fighting services as a result of a nine-months' stay in the United States which has recently been completed by Col. K. S. Himatsinhji, a veteran of the Indian Army.

Col. Himatsinhji was attached to the Agency-General for India at Washington. He was formerly Assistant Military Attache, then First Secretary, at the British Embassy in Tokyo.

Audiences ranging from high school students to university faculties were told by Col. Himatsinhji of India's war effort.

"The general effect has been considerable and the newspaper space accorded much higher than the usual coverage for interesting visitors," says an official report of the tour. "Col. Himatsinhji created an impression of honesty and sincerity; we have not had a single unfavourable report, nor one of qualified praise."

A lecture agency offered Col. Himatsinhji a coast-to-coast contract and a university asked him to give a course of lectures.

CENSORS DELETED ONE WORD IN 860

Not long ago, at a meeting of journalists in Madras, India was described as a "vast beleaguered city living within the high walls of military and other censorships. Only those news items which escape the whims and fancies of the censor trickle out of the shores of the country."

The records of the Chief Military Press Censor, through whose offices all inward and outward press messages pass, show that the total cuts made from January 1 to August 15 of this year in cutward messages amount to 6,691 words out of a total wordage of 3,075,882, or .214 per cent. Of these cuts, 95 per cent. were made at the request of S.E.A.C. censors on the sole grounds of military security.

During the same period 11,772 words were deleted from inward messages out of a total of 12,800,256, a percentage of .009.

INDIA'S TRADE WITH CANADA IN 1944

Considerable Expansion

FROM the latest particulars available of Indo-Canadian trade, it is seen that the total of this trade for 1944 was valued at 202,672,000 dollars, an increase of 51,006,000 dollars over 1943 and of 13,442,000 dollars over the previous all-time high figure of 189,230,000 dollars recorded in 1942. Imports into Canada from British India, amounting to 27,878,000 dollars, were 10,788,000 dollars greater than 1943, while exports from Canada to this country, valued at 174,794,000 dollars recorded an increase of 40,218,000 dollars over the previous year.

Imports from British India during 1944 comprised 1.6 per cent. of the total Canadian imports, the largest percentage recorded in the war years and a considerable increase over 1943 when the percentage was only 1 per cent. India's share of Canada's exports in that year also showed an increase, making up 5.1 per cent. of the total Canadian domestic exports as compared with 4.5 per cent. in 1943. However, the 1944 figure was still below that of 1942 when India's share of Canada's total exports was 7.1 per cent.

Increased Shipments to India

British India ranked third in Canada's foreign trade during 1944, being exceeded only by the United States and the United Kingdom. Canadian imports from New Zealand were considerably reduced during 1944 and, as a result, India reached the third position as a source of Canada's imports. Changing war conditions during the year led to lower Canadian exports to Egypt and increased shipments to India. As a customer for Canadian products and goods, India ranked third in 1944, after the United States and the United Kingdom.

Canada's total imports from British India during 1944 showed an increase of 6,532,000 dollars over the previous high figures recorded in 1942 (21,346,000 dollars). As compared with 1938, a pre-war year, the increase was 19,697,000 dollars. The steady wartime increase in Canadian imports from India, which was interrupted in 1943, due to lack of shipping facilities, was resumed in 1944.

Although tea and jute products continued to be the main imports from India, improved shipping facilities from the East during the year resulted in increased quantities of these products being imported. Shipments of other regular items of import from India were also greater and, in addition, many articles of Indian origin were brought to Canada again after an absence of well over a year. Indian peanuts were imported in large quantities during 1944 for the first time since 1942, when the Canadian Government placed a ban on the import of these nuts. Indian raw cotton and kapok were other articles in this same category. Imports of rugs and manganese oxide also greatly increased. On the other hand, Indian vegetable oils showed a further decrease and were practically negligible during 1944.

Main Import Items

The main items of import from India during 1944, together with the percentage of the total imports that they accounted for were as: jute and jute products 12,722,737 dollars (46.0 per cent.), tea 9,462,816 dollars (34.2 per cent.), nuts 2,119,996 dollars (7.5 per cent.), manganese oxide 1,221,047 dollars (4.3 per cent.), furs, hides and leather 636,600 dollars (2.2 per cent.) and carpets and rugs 364,444 dollars (1.2 per cent.). Other main items of lesser value and percentage were chrome ore, raw cotton, lac, coir and coir products, kapok, wool and tanning materials.

Canadian exports to British India during 1944 showed an increase of 6,910,000 dollars over the previous record year of 1942 (167,884,000 dollars) largely in mechanical transport and parts, locomotive, textile products, non-ferrous metals and products, food products, and wood products and paper.

Exports of products in the general grouping "Iron and its Products" were valued at 125,945,968 dollars in 1944 as compared with 106,931,548 dollars in the previous year. The most important items in this group were motor vehicles and parts. Motor vehicles units shipped during the year increased in number from 41,634 to 55,455. Exports of pigs, ingots, blooms and billets of iron, including ferro-silicon and ferro-manganese alloys, increased in tonnage. The tonnage of rolling mill products also showed a considerable increase in 1944, due to substantial shipments of railway rails. Machinery exports increased moderately. Exports of Canadian built locomotives for use on Indian railways continued in 1944 and totalled 114 in number.

The export of non-ferrous metals and their products showed a further increase in 1944, the leading item in the group being "Copper and its Products." Copper ingots, bars, billets, rods, sheets, tubing and wire made up the copper shipments. Exports of electrical apparatus more than doubled in value during 1944. Storage batteries, radio and wireless apparatus, dynamos, generators and motors were the chief items in this group. Shipments of aluminium and aluminium products registered a substantial increase during the year and were valued at 726,425 dollars.

Food Products

Total Canadian food products exported to India during 1944 were valued at over 4,000,000 dollars, over twice as great as in the previous year. For the first time since 1939 Canadian wheat was shipped to India and exports of canned fish were also specially large. Shipments of processed milk products were somewhat smaller and were largely composed of evaporated milk. Exports of oatmeal and rolled oats increased moderately, while those of canned meat were considerably less. In addition, there were sizable shipments during the year of pickles, sauces and catsups, canned vegetables, prepared cereal foods and other miscellaneous vegetable and animal food products.

Canadian wood and paper products were exported to India in increasingly large quantities during 1944. Newsprint paper continued to be the leading item of export and shipments of this product were more than double that of 1943. Wood pulp was exported to India during the year in appreciable quantities and shipments of book paper also recorded large increases.

EXPORT OF PEPPER

The Government of India have decided to allow the export by the trade of up to 3,000 tons of black pepper from India to the Middle East and Africa. All parties who hold Import Permits or Essentiality Certificates should approach the Export Trade Controllers, Madras, Bombay and Karachi for export licences which will be issued at once.

Export Trade Controllers will also allow exports to countries, where Imports Licences or Essentiality Certificates are not issued, on evidence of firm orders.

INDO-AUSTRALIAN TRADE

Post-War Prospects

"As compared with the pre-war years, the value of exports from India to Australia in five years recorded a seven-fold increase. This phenomenal increase was due almost entirely to the elimination of competitors brought about by the war. The commodities in which the increase occurred were those which India was in a position to supply and which could not be obtained from other sources. The most spectacular increase took place in the exports of cotton textiles." Thus observes the Indian Trade Commissioner in Australia, in the course of a report to the Commerce Department on the prospects of post-war trade between India and Australia.

Before the war, the export trade from India to Australia was about £3,000,000. In the first year of the war, i.e. in 1939-40, this figure was more than doubled. In 1940-41 a further improvement of nearly 20 per cent. was recorded, to be followed by a rise of over 50 per cent. in 1941-42 and another 40 per cent. increase in 1942-43. There was a further rise of 30 per cent. in 1943-44. Thus in the first five years of the war, the value of exports from India to Australia increased seven-fold.

Similarly, the value of Australia's exports to India also increased. In 1938-39, it amounted to over £1,500,000 as against under £1,000,000 in 1936-37. This improvement has been maintained during the war period. The value of this trade progressively increased and amounted to £7,800,000 in 1943-44, which represents a five-fold increase over 1938-39.

Cotton Textiles

Examining the post-war prospects for India's export trade the report deals in the first instance with those commodities which were the main items of this trade before the war. In its opinion the pre-war position of raw cotton—America and India sharing the Australian market equally—would be restored after the end of the war. But it is not very sanguine about the prospects of India maintaining her wartime gains in Australia in respect of cotton textiles.

"As soon as normal conditions are restored and cotton textiles are on offer from other sources," it says, "exports from India are likely to register a very sharp decline," which will, however, be mitigated to some extent by the fact that, in all probability, Japan will not be in a position to participate in this trade.

The demand for jute bags can be expected to expand to the pre-war level. Indian coffee will have serious competitors, the relative proportions of imports from the different producing countries being mainly determined by the price factor. As N.E.I. will re-enter the market in the post-war period the demand for Indian tea is likely to be greatly reduced.

Oilseeds

India is the sole supplier of linseed and other oilseeds to the Australian market and there is little risk of losing the market unless Indian prices become competitively too high. There is a bright future for trade in floor coverings, if exporters take measures to study the special needs of the Australian market. The pre-war position is likely to be restored in respect of mats. Post-war prospects for Indian tobacco in the Australian market are not bright. Sports goods from Sialkot have made a good impression and are bound to sell readily after the war.

India has virtually a monopoly in respect of shellac, myrobalans, curry powder, goat skin and goat hair and mica; if a system of grading is introduced, there is a possibility of a substantial increase in the Australian offtake.

In addition to the commodities mentioned above, observes the report, a demand has grown up in Australia during the war for a variety of other types of manufactured goods from India. These are: Artware, wearing apparel, electric appliances, glassware, crockery, cutlery and hardware, toys, umbrellas, art silk, silk, surgical instruments, buttons, paper and paste board and rubber manufactures.

New Lines of Business

Regarding the prospects of retaining the market in these goods in the post-war period, the report states: "India must adopt modern and up-to-date methods of manufacture if goods produced in India are to sell in this market. If modern machinery is installed in Indian factories and the most efficient methods of production are employed, the comparatively lower cost of Indian goods may be expected to turn the balance in favour of the Indian product. Till such time as this change-over has become fully effective India cannot hope to sell her manufactured goods, apart from certain types, in Australia and New Zealand in competition with products manufactured elsewhere."

After dealing in detail with the industrial development of Australia during the war, the report makes the following interesting observations regarding the prospects of India importing capital goods from Australia:

"Australia is in a position to offer machinery for processing raw wool, for the manufacture and processing of various types of food; for manufacture of paper, hardware, plastics, plywood and straw products, perfumery, toilet requisites, buttons, toys, bicycles, furniture, electric wires and cables, leather goods, mining, shipping and engineering, oil milling, chrome electro-plating and electrical switchgear and accessories. Australia is also in a position to export agricultural machinery, road making machinery and appliances and railway equipment. In addition, machinery for the manufacture of paints and varnishes is made to specifications and plant and equipment for the production of chemicals, rubber manufactures, sports requisites, fishing requisites, and drugs and medicines can be made to order if required."

EXPORT OF CARDAMOMS

A Press Note issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on August 14 stated:

The Government of India have decided to liberalise the exports of cardamoms from India during the current year and have accordingly fixed a quantity of 900 tons to be exported from the ports of Bombay and Madras. To this quantity will be added any utilised balances of the last year.

Licences will be issued by the Export Trade Controllers to those parties who shipped cardamoms during the three years ending March 31, 1939, to any destinations during that period. The quotas will be administered on a yearly basis and export allowed within the individual quota limit to any permissible destination.

The special allotments made to cardamom growers already will not be affected.

NEW INDIAN TRADE COMMISSIONER IN ALEXANDRIA

Mr. J. A. Rahim, I.C.S., Deputy Secretary, Supply Department, has been appointed Indian Government Trade Commissioner, Alexandria to succeed Mr. I. Majid.

POSTAL SERVICE TO EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

Here are some of the latest notifications issued by the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, Government of India:

France

Private trade with and despatch of goods and commodities to France is subject to the existing export, import and financial controls and regulations at both ends. The letter mail service is available under conditions already mentioned from time to time. Parcel post service to France is also now available. The rates of postage for parcel post are as follows:

Not over 3 lbs.	Rs. 2 6 0
Not over 7 lbs.	Rs. 3 14 0
Not over 11 lbs.	Rs. 5 2 0

The routing will be through the United Kingdom.

In addition, all parcels other than non-commercial parcels addressed to individuals require special authorisation for import into France from the French authorities. Non-commercial parcels addressed to individuals do not require any such authorisation.

Other conditions will be the same as are applicable to foreign parcels in general.

*

Foreign Telegrams

Under Indian Censorship Regulations the use of abbreviated telegraphic addresses is not permitted in foreign telegrams, either in the address or as the signature (*i.e.*, sender's name which forms the last words of a telegram). This restriction applies to both incoming and outgoing foreign telegrams. Firms and individuals who exchange telegrams with places outside India would, therefore, avoid delay to telegrams by advising their correspondents of the existing restrictions in India and the necessity for using a full and easily-recognised address, together with the full name of the firm or the surname of the sender as the signature of the telegram.

*

Mail Services Extended

The following extensions have been made in the postal services to countries in Europe:—

Bulgaria: The maximum limit of weight for letters, printed and commercial papers is raised to 4 lb. 6 oz.

Finland: The maximum limit of weight for letters and printed and commercial papers is raised to 4 lb. 6 oz. The sample post service is also restored, subject to the maximum limit of 1 lb. and the conditions laid down in the Post and Telegraph Guide for the transmission of the articles by the foreign sample post.

Denmark, France and Luxemburg: The sample post is restored subject to the same conditions as for Finland.

Holland: The weight limit for letters is raised to 8 oz. Printed and commercial papers up to the same weight limit may also now be sent.

Italy: Letters weighing up to 2 oz. on purely personal matters may now be sent to the Provinces of Fiume, Gorizia, Trieste and Pola.

Norway: The sample post service is restored. The weight limit is one lb. Other conditions for sample post service are normal.

Rumania: The weight limit for letters, packets and printed and commercial papers is raised to the normal limit of 4 lb. 6 oz.

Surface mail service with Sweden is now available. All categories of correspondence are admissible.

The sample post service to Belgium is now available. The conditions will be as in clauses 180 to 184 of the Post and Telegraph Guide.

The sample post service to the Channel Islands is now available under the pre-war conditions.

*

Denmark and Yugoslavia

Air mail articles for Denmark and Yugoslavia are now accepted by post offices in India subject to the same restrictions as are applicable to surface mails for those countries. Such articles for Denmark will be carried by air to England, and thence onwards by surface route. Articles for Yugoslavia will, however, be carried by air for part of the route even beyond England.

The air mail articles for Denmark and Yugoslavia should bear the superscription "India-England". The rates of air mail fee will be as follows:

For letters and packets: Rs. 1-2 per half oz. or part thereof, in addition to ordinary postage.

For postcards: 8 annas per postcard, inclusive of ordinary postage.

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

Italy

Private and commercial telegrams in plain English or French, or in any one of the authorised commercial codes, are now admitted to and from Italy with the exception of the provinces of Fiume, Gorizia, Pola, Trieste and Zara.

Commercial telegrams are restricted to those ascertaining facts and exchanging information.

*

Poland

Air mail articles for Poland are now accepted by post offices in India, subject to the same restrictions as are applicable to surface mails for that country.

The air mail articles for Poland should bear the superscription "India-U.K.-Sweden". The rates of air mail fee will be:

For letters and packets: Rs. 1-8 per half oz. or part thereof in addition to ordinary postage.

For postcards: 10 annas per postcard, inclusive of ordinary postage.

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

*

Cyprus

Civilian Air Letter Service from India will also now be available to Cyprus, at the same rates and under the same conditions as are applicable to civilian air letters for other countries.

MORE TIMBER FOR CIVIL MARKET

As a result of diversions of military demands secured by the Hydari Mission, it will be possible during 1946, to release 5,00,000 tons of timber for civil use, of which about 2,00,000 tons will be available to the civil market, the balance being allotted for certain Government and semi-Government civil uses, says a Press Note issued by the Industries and Civil Supplies Department, Government of India.

It added: In order to safeguard against profiteering and to enable timber to reach places where it is most needed, measures are being taken (i) to introduce price control over timber; and (ii) to facilitate and control movement of timber with the help of the Timber Transport Advisory Committees.

WORK OF BOTANICAL SURVEY

"BOTH Government departments and the commercial public showed great keenness in the crude drugs of vegetable origin regarding their availability and quality," says the Report of the Botanical Survey of India for 1944-45. In the Pharmacognostic Laboratory recently built up under the auspices of a Calcutta firm, a number of drugs have been studied and the results published in scientific journals.

Mr. Bal, being a member of the Indian Pharmacopoeial List Committee of the Government of India, carried out the pharmacognosy of a large number of Indian medicinal plants that are to be listed in the Indian Pharmacopoeial List, during the latter part of the year. A large number of economic enquiries relating to Pharmacopoeial drugs, insecticides, rubber-yielding plants, plants used in perfumery trade and the like, were given to Government and the public. Numerous economic products were identified for official and non-official parties. The economic herbarium and the gallery received the necessary attention.

Floristic study in the field was again kept in abeyance on account of the war. A large number of specimens were, however, brought from the field for the herbarium by the Superintendent, Royal Botanic Garden, Sibpur, who made tours in the Darjeeling district on behalf of the Government of Bengal. Both the Superintendent, Royal Botanic Garden, and the Curator of the herbarium published papers in scientific journals.

SMALL SAVINGS CAMPAIGN

(*Continued from Page* 374)

ultimately bring to the public can scarcely be over-estimated; but to ensure continuous expansion of the habit of regular savings, the immediate and urgent task is to forge ahead with the formation of 'Savings Groups' in every village and every ward of the cities. The workers in those areas in which the greatest energy is displayed to this end will be the most likely to have the honour of winning the further shields, which Your Excellency has been pleased to offer for competition, during the current financial year."

HONORARY SURGEON TO THE KING



Col. Mani Shankar Joshi

COLONEL MANI SHANKAR JOSHI, F.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., I.M.S., (I.A.M.C.) has been appointed an Honorary Surgeon to the King. Aged 55, Col. Joshi was born at Bombay where he received his medical training at the Grant Medical College; he later studied at St. Bartholomew's, London, qualifying as a surgical specialist.

He joined the army in England in 1915 and during the last war served with Indian hospitals, field ambulances and hospital ships, writes an Army Observer. Returning to India in 1919, Col. Joshi saw service on the North-West Frontier.

After a short period at the Indian Military Hospital, Ambala, and at the X-ray Institute, Dehra Dun, Col. Joshi went in 1922 to Constantinople with the army of occupation. Back in India the following year, he was appointed second in command of the Indian Military Hospital at Abbottabad and then saw two years' service in Waziristan.

In 1927 and 1928 he commanded the I.M.H. at Multan and in 1929 became an F.R.C.S. at the R.A.M.C. College, London. Col. Joshi returned to India the following year to take charge of the hospital at Delhi Cantonment.

After service in Burma during 1931 and 1932, Col. Joshi commanded a hospital in Meerut. He was also at the Alipore I.M.H., Calcutta, for three years from 1934.

In 1941 Col. Joshi served with the Paiforce. Two years later he took up his present appointment of Assistant Director of Medical Services, Rawalpindi District.

While in France Col. Joshi had numerous narrow escapes. He was buried several times by shell fire and has had both hands broken. He was decorated, in 1935, with the Order of St. John of Jerusalem.

WAR GRATUITIES EXEMPT FROM INCOME-TAX

War gratuities payable to service personnel will not be subject to British or Indian income-tax in India and legislation to this effect is already being prepared.

This announcement made at G.H.Q. (India) corrects a statement in a letter recently published by a prominent newspaper in India.

The letter, signed "A.I.R.O.," said that in spite of the assurance given by Sir John Anderson as Chancellor of the Exchequer the writer had suffered, in India, a cut on account of income-tax and surcharged to the extent of one-fifth of his gratuity.

The writer appears to be referring to the gratuity paid to an officer of the Army in India Reserve of Officers. This gratuity, distinct from war gratuity, is due to officers of the A.I.R.O. under their terms and conditions of service and is subject to ordinary income-tax law.

The Government of India have appointed Dr. Bani Kanta Kakati, M.A., Ph.D., Professor of Cotton College, Gauhati, who is the nominee of the Government of Assam, on the Research and Publication Committee of the Indian Historical Records Commission, as an Associate Member for a term of five years with effect from May 24, 1945.



Miss Ursula Violet Graham Bower, M.B.E., known as the "Queen of the Nagas," was married in Shillong to Lt.-Col. Frederick Nicholson Betts of the 2nd Punjab Regiment attached to the V Force. Two members of Mrs. Betts' Naga bodyguard also attended the wedding in their traditional costumes.

NAGA "QUEEN" WEDS "V" FORCE COLONEL

ONE of the most romantic stories of the war, which Hollywood might describe as an epic of love and adventure in the jungle, comes to light with the wedding at Shillong of Miss Ursula Violet Graham Bower, M.B.E., who has become known as the "Queen of the Nagas", to Lieut.-Col. Frederick Nicholson Betts, 2nd Punjab Regiment, attached "V" Force.

For many months during 1943 and 1944 at a time when events in Burma were shrouded in mystery and the Japs were in full occupation, Miss Graham Bower, living in a rough *basha* on a solitary hilltop, two days' march from the nearest township at Haflong, organised Naga tribesmen against the Japs, establishing a network of observation posts which gave the 14th Army one of its most valuable intelligence sources.

"V" Force, the half-guerilla, half-scouting corps of soldier-adventurers, exploited much of the information which Miss Graham Bower's Naga intelligence service was able to produce, writes an Army Observer. Lt.-Col. Betts was one of the officers who contacted her to compare notes on the under-cover war with the Japs which she and he were separately waging.

Wedding Ceremony

Miss Graham Bower is the daughter of the late Commander J. E. Bower, D.S.O., R.M., and Mrs. E. W. Paterson, of Leigh Hall, Cricklade, Wilts. Lt.-Col. Betts is the son of Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Betts, of Winchester; before the war he was a coffee planter in the Nilgiri Hills, South India.

Two members of Miss Graham Bower's Naga bodyguard attended the wedding in their traditional costumes, complete with spears. Fifty officers of "V" Force were present, accompanied by the Governor of Assam, Sir Andrew Clow, and Lady Clow.

The bride cut the wedding cake with a sword captured from a Jap officer.

Most dramatic of the many stories told about Miss Graham Bower concerns a day when the Japs were reported to be only 15 miles away from her headquarters. Ignoring advice that she should withdraw she remarked: "Send 30 more rifles; meanwhile I'm going forward to find out what's happening."

She did—and brought back information which, received by wireless at 14th Army H.Q., proved to be of vital importance.

VICTORY AWARDS TO V.C.O.s

The promotion of ten Viceroy's Commissioned Officers from Honorary Lieutenant to Honorary Captain and the grant of honorary commissions as lieutenants to 40 others are announced in the *Gazette of India.*

These "victory" promotions and grants by the Viceroy are to subedar-majors and risaldar-majors of famous Indian Army regiments and various corps and arms of the service.

Among those promoted to Honorary Captains are Risaldar-Major and Honorary Lieutenant Raghbir Singh, Sardar Bahadur, M.B.E., O.B.I., I.D.S.M., Royal Deccan Horse, who is A.D.C. to the Viceroy, and Risaldar-Major and Honorary Lieutenant Nur Muhammad Khan, Sardar Bahadur, O.B.I., Skinner's Horse, A.D.C. to the Governor of Bengal.

Subedar-Major Bhairo Singh, Sardar Bahadur, O.B.I., 1st Punjab Regt., A.D.C. to the Commander-in-Chief in India, Gen. Sir Claude Auchinleck, is granted an honorary commission as lieutenant.

Honorary commissions in the Indian Army, which are usually granted for long and meritorious service are highly-prized awards and carry substantial monetary benefits. An honorary commission as a lieutenant carries with it pay of Rs. 400 a month and double the ordinary retiring pension. Promotion to Honorary Captain entitles the recipient to a pay of Rs. 500 a month.

RECORDING INDIA'S MILITARY ACHIEVEMENTS

Historical Section Set Up

A COMBINED Inter-Service Historical Section has been set up under the War Department, India, says an announcement at G.H.Q. Its task will be to prepare a comprehensive history of the military achievements of India in World War II.

The Section will record the part played by Indian troops and their comrades-in-arms on the battlefields of Europe, Africa and Asia and the development of India's fighting services and her potential for war. This work will require considerable time as records have to be collected and examined and the completed history must be detailed and scrupulously accurate.

Publications

It is hoped meanwhile to produce, as soon as collection and verification of data will permit:

(a) A pictorial record and brief connected narrative of Indian valour, endeavour and achievement on land, sea, in the air and in the homeland;

(b) A short popular history which will also be of value to the Services and sufficiently informative and analytical to guide the planning of India's future defence;

(c) Monographs on the development and activities of all the departments of the Services, which will provide material for detailed specialist study;

(d) Tactical studies of selected battles and actions for the training of leaders.

The Section needs trained historians to help with its work and translators to make the story available to as many as possible. Personal authenticated records are required of battles and engagements, particularly of those in Malaya and the Far East in 1941 and 1942.

The Section's address is: Historical Section (India), War Department, New Delhi.

MORVI RULER'S VICTORY GIFT

H.H. the Maharaja of Morvi has made a gift of Rs. 1,00,000 to H.M. the King-Emperor in commemoration of Victory. His Majesty, after thanking His Highness, has expressed the wish that the money should be kept in the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund for expenditure in India.



KOTAH RULER VISITS PAIFORCE

THE Maharaja of Kotah, accompanied by Col. Pirthwi Singh, commading the Kotah State Forces, and his private secretary, Lieut.-Col. Dalel Singh, recently inspected the Kotah Infantry serving in Paiforce.

On arrival at the Kotah Infantry lines, where the officers and V.C.O.s of the regiment presented *nazranas* to their ruler, the Maharaja visited the unit's temple and the recreation rooms where he spoke informally to his *jawans*, writes an Army observer. Next day the Kotah Infantry held a ceremonial parade at the end of which the Maharaja addressed the troops in Urdu.

"All officers have spoken very highly of you," he said. "I hope you will always perform your duties efficiently and earn the admiration of everyone.

"Do not worry about your families in India. I am looking after them and will continue to do so."

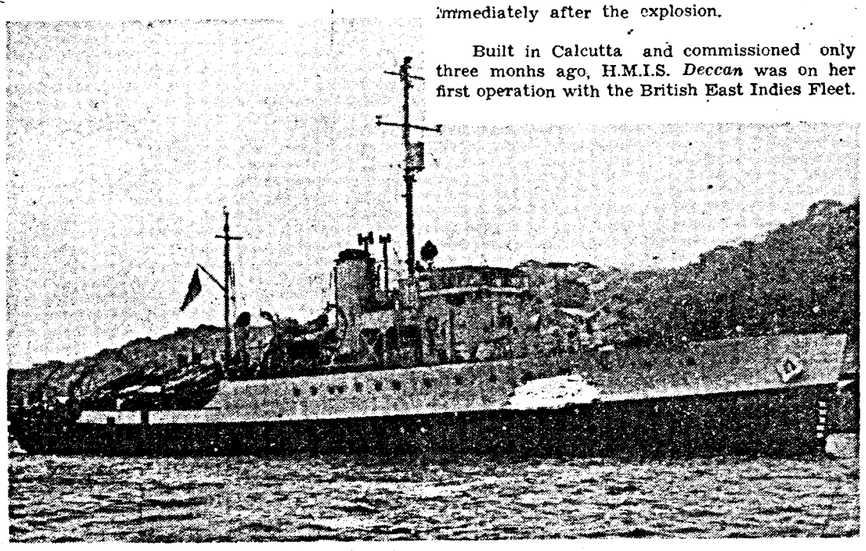
On the following morning the *jawans* held an inter-company athletic meeting and a field-firing demonstration. That evening, the Maharaja of Kotah was entertained at a party, which was attended by Sir Raedar Bullard, British Ambassador in Iran, the Soviet and Chinese ambassadors, prominent Iranian officials and officers of the Kotah Infantry and Paiforce.

H.H. the Maharaja of Kotah recently visited the Paiforce. Picture shows Paiforce officers receiving His Highness at the Baghdad airport.

Government and Press telegrams to and from Shanghai are now admitted at the rates shown in current edition of the Posts and Telegraph Guide, subject to censorship regulations in force.



Lieut. A. V. Baker, R.I.N. (Below) H.M.I.S. Punjab.



H.M.I.S. PUNJAB RESCUES CREW OF MINESWEEPER

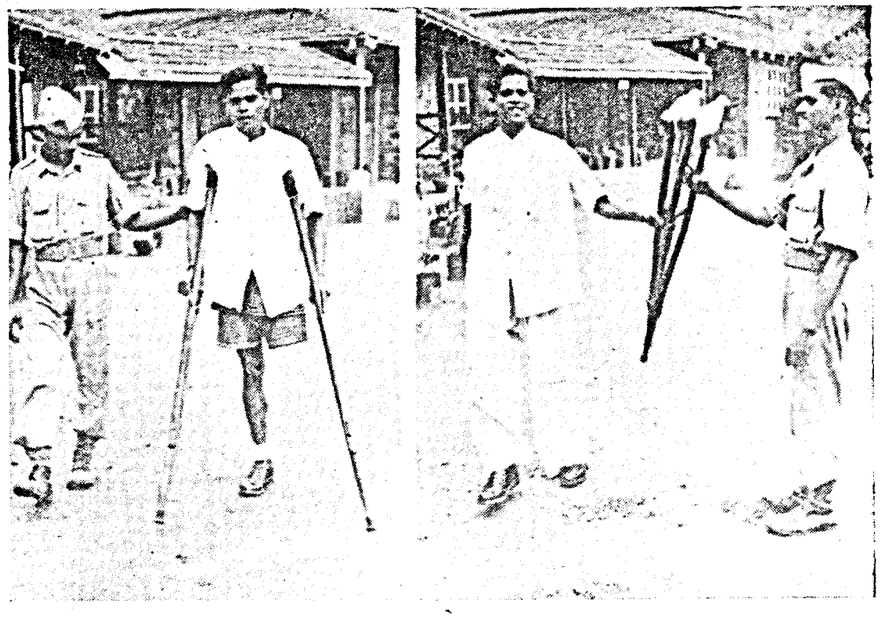
MANOEUVRING alongside a burning minesweeper, the officers and ratings of H.M.I.S. *Punjab* Lieutenant A. V. Baker R.I.N.) fought the fire until orders were given to abandon the crippled ship. Casting off, H.M.I.S. *Punjab* took aboard the crew of the minesweeper and stood by as she was sunk of the British East Indies Fleet.

The incident occurred during recent minesweeping operations off the Malay coast, which coincided with heavy air strikes against the Japanese in the East Indies. H.M.I.S. *Punjab* was one of the Royal Indian Navy dan-layers (*i.e.* marking vessels) working with a Royal Navy minesweeping flotilla.

After striking a mine, one of the minesweepers caught fire below decks. Lieutenant Baker took his ship alongside, manned the hoses and attempted to extinguish the flames. After half an hour, however, the ship had to be abandoned, and H.M.I.S. *Punjab* cast off, taking the survivors with her.

H.M.I.S. *Deccan* (Lieut.-Commander C. J. Mohan, R.I.N.R.) was close enough to the explosion to pick up one of the minesweeper's gunners, blown 50 yards from his ship into the sea. Another man was rescued from the water immediately after the explosion.

Built in Calcutta and commissioned only three monhs ago, H.M.I.S. *Deccan* was on her first operation with the British East Indies Fleet.



Limbs for the limbless: A happy moment for this disabled soldier photographed before and after treatment at the Artificial Limb Centre. Happy—to discard his crutches and the services of the orderly—free to walk again.

ARTIFICIAL LIMB CENTRE AT KIRKEE

NO longer is there cause for despair when the Indian soldier is deprived of an arm or a leg in battle. He is sent to the Artificial Limb Centre (India) Kirkee, which is equipped with modern appliances and methods, under the directorship of Lt.-Col. A. M. CHAUDHURI, O.B.E., I.M.S.

Here the patient is given a course of limb-strengthening exercises under medical supervision before being measured and fitted for new limbs which will restore him as near as is humanly possible to his former physical perfection.

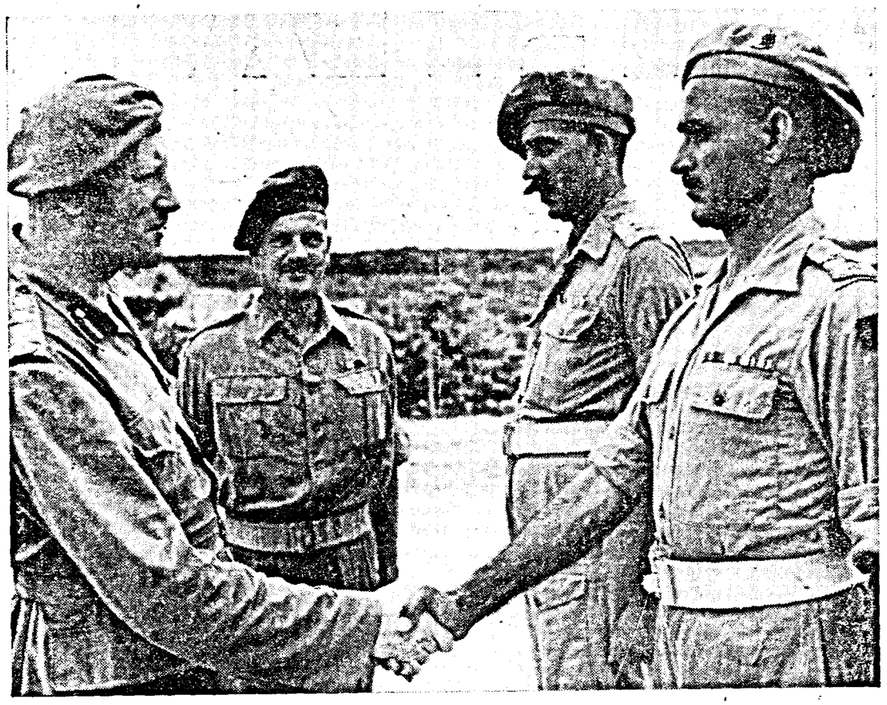
The artificial limbs are made from Kashmir willow by Indian craftsmen and are designed to last for more than seven years—given reasonable care. Maintenance, repairs and replacements are available at the Centre.

The Centre was opened by Col. Chaudhuri in 1938 at Sialkot and was moved to its present location near Poona in June 1945. The Director, a Fellow of the R.C.S., studied in Vienna before the war and for six months in 1938 attended St. Mary's Hospital, Rochampton, London, studying the manufacture and fitting of artificial limbs.

NURSING CADETS

Members of the Auxiliary Nursing Service will in future be known as "Nursing Cadets" instead of "Nursing Auxiliaries," says an announcement by the Director-General, Indian Medical Services at G.H.Q. (India).

Nursing cadets will continue to enjoy messing, accommodation, travel, social amenities and other existing privileges. They will wear white shoulder straps in addition to grading stripes or service bars earned for approved service.



General Sir Claude Auchinleck, C.-in-C., shaking hands with Subedar Baghwan Singh (Rohtak, Punjab) of the Jat Regiment, when His Excellency visited Burma recently.

Vol. 17 No. 170. INDIAN INFORMATION Oct. 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.

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.

Edited by Pothan Joseph, Principal Information Officer, Government of India.

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COVER PICTURE: H.E. the Viceroy talking to Rifleman Bhanbhagta Gurung, V.C., during his recent visit to the Second Gurkha Regimental Centre, Dehra Dun.



Sir J. P. Srivastava addressing the Central Food Advisory Council which met in New Delhi on September 13.

SIR J. P. SRIVASTAVA ON PLANNING OF INDIA'S FOOD ECONOMY IN POST-WAR PERIOD

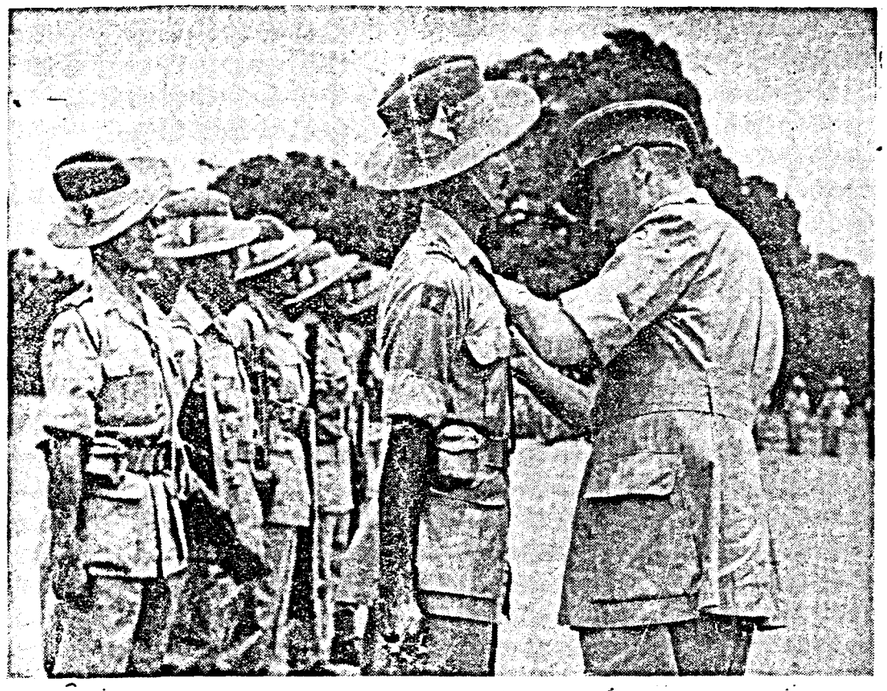
"I am contemplating the setting up of a Committee, similar to the Foodgrains Policy Committee, composed of representatives of Provinces, States, producers, consumers and traders, to examine the whole question of relaxation of controls and to formulate a programme of action which can be the basis of Government policy in the immediate post-war period," declared the Hon'ble Sir J. P. Srivastava, Food Member, Government of India, opening a three-day session of the Central Food Advisory Council in New Delhi on September 13.

The Food Member cautioned against an "early relaxation of food control measures as the food situation in India in 1946 will need the utmost vigilance on the part of the several administrations."

Here is the full text of Sir J. P. Srivastava's speech:

"Since we met last in February this year, the war has come to a successful end, and victory has come to the Allied Forces. Tributes have been paid from all over the world to the valour of the Indian Army and the mighty contribution it has made to the Allied victory. We are proud of the part our soldiers, sailors, and airmen have played in this war, and I am sure that you will all agree with me in paying tributes of admiration and gratitude to those sons of our soil who have saved our land from invasion and the ravages of war.

"I am sure you realise the part which the Food Department has played in feeding our fighting men and also in holding the home food front. With the termination of the war, new problems have arisen which the Food Department has to tackle in conjunction with other Departments of the Government. As I have told you before, I have always regarded the Food Department as the guardian and servant of the people's interests, and I am particularly grateful to you, non-official members of this Council, for the guidance and co-operation you have been giving me and my Department in the carrying out of my onerous duties. I am sure you will continue to give me the same



Maj.-Gen. Briggs decorating an officer of the Mohindra Dal Regiment (Nepalese Contingent) at a farewell parade held recently near Ranchi.

NEPALESE CONTINGENT TO LEAVE INDIA

WITH their task accomplished far beyond the bounds of contract, the Nepalese Contingent, forces of the independent Kingdom of Nepal, are to be withdrawn from India and Burma. By the middle of October all the units will have returned to Nepal.

The Nepalese Contingent—eight regiments of infantry and a pioneer battalion—are troops from the regular army of Nepal. They were lent to the British Government by the Maharaja of Nepal shortly after the outbreak of war.

A smiling face, a bush hat and a *kukri*—these have been the notable features of these staunch comrades of the Indian Army in the Burma defeat of the Japanese, writes an Army Observer. Blood brothers of the Gurkhas, who also come from Nepal, the Contingent did duty under their own officers and retained their national insignia and badges of rank.

The agreement between the British and Nepalese Governments regarding the Nepal forces required only that they did garrison duty in India. But when the Japanese began their "invade India" plan the Maharaja of Nepal waived this condition and, in the Burma campaign, the men from Nepal took a prominent part, serving at both Mandalay and Rangoon.

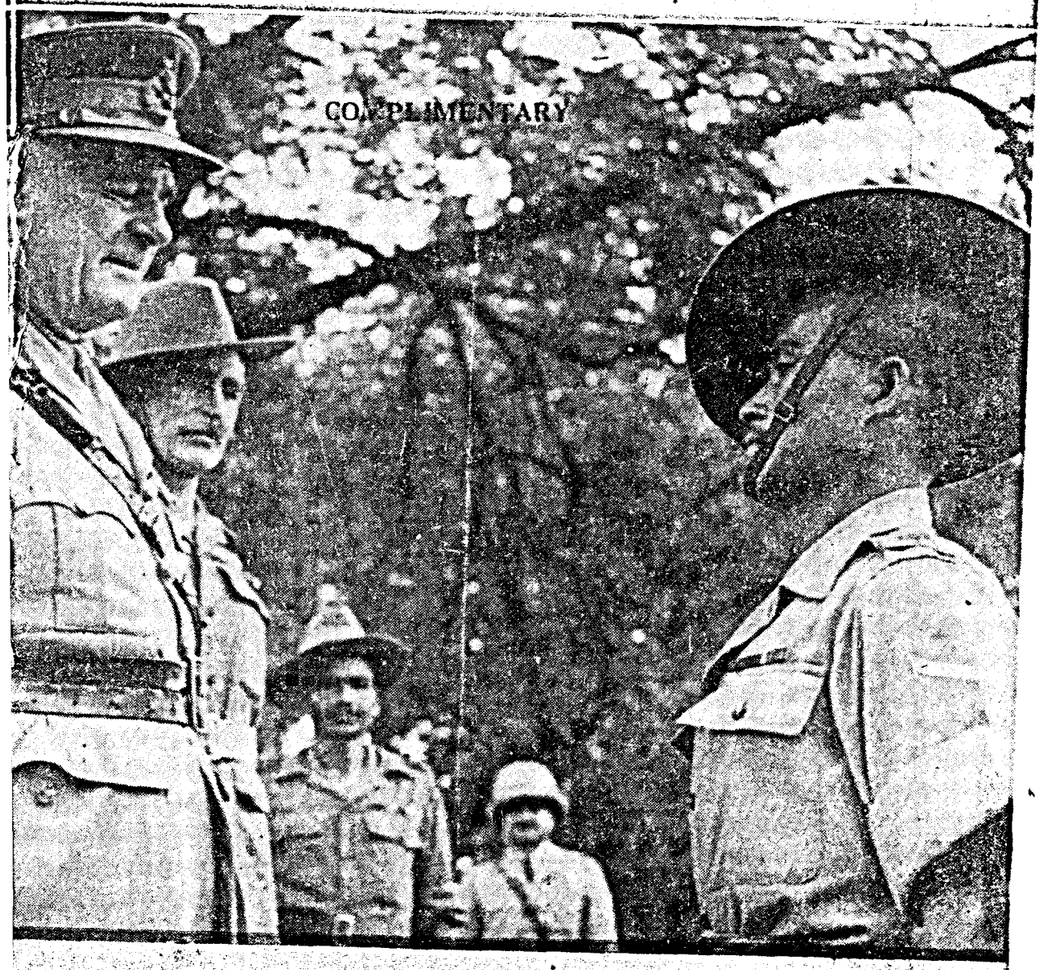
Military feats of considerable distinction were performed by the units; the Mohindra Dal Regiment completed 1,200 miles of active patrolling, the Kali Bahadur Regiment fought near Imphal and the Shere Regiment took part in the vital Kohima siege.

The pioneer battalion helped to make the Ledo Road. Other units have been employed on the North-West Frontier and one of them was in the Tocchi Valley operations.

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INDIAN INFORMATION

COMPLIMENTARY



No. 170 Oct. 15, 1945. Fortnightly by the Information Officer, Government of India.

PRICE 4 ANNAS

U. S. HONOURS LORD WAVELL AND GEN. AUCHINLECK



Pandit H. N. Kunzru (left) discusses a point with Mr. B. R. Sen, officiating Food Secretary.

co-operation, and help me to tide the country over the transition period and build up a food economy in the post-war period which will make impossible a repetition of the type of experiences we have had during this war.

Food Planning

"The two main problems on which we would like the guidance of the Central Advisory Council, as you will see from the agenda circulated with relevant departmental memoranda, are food planning and food controls. During the November session of the Assembly, in my speech in the course of the food debate, I dwelt on the Indian food problem in the post-war period and pointed out that, in a sense, the food problem had always been with us inasmuch as the country had not had, even in the past, sufficient food to enable every one of its citizens to get the minimum necessary quantity; in fact, a large majority of the population had not been having a balanced diet, and even such supplies as were available had not been distributed equitably from the point of view of the greater needs of vulnerable classes like expectant and nursing mothers and chidren.

"In addition, our requirements had been increasing with the continuous increase in population. I, therefore, stated that the food requirements of the people must be studied and plans drawn up, so that, in post-war India at least, our people could look forward to having more food, better food and balanced food. I promised to set up a Food Planning Section in the Department to study the whole question and to put forward proposals for a planned development of the food economy in India. In pursuance of this promise, I am glad to say, a Planning Section has already been set up in the Food Department.

"Our Planning Adviser is Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao, a young economist who, by his valuable contributions to Indian economics, has already made his mark in India. In the memorandum circulated, the lines on which the Planning Section is conducting its enquiries have been set forth in some detail. There are both short-range and long-range objectives of food planning. Our short-range objective is to secure, by the correct use of the available resources, the most rapid improvement possible for the feeding of the people generally, and of the vulnerable sections of the community in particular; our long-range objective is to plan the production and distribution of food in accordance with the country's future needs so as to enable all classes to obtain a full and balanced diet. The enquiries which have been undertaken will serve both the short-range and the long-range objectives.

"I hope that, as a result of these enquiries and investigations, supplemented by any criticisms and suggestions that the Central Food Advisory Council may have to make, the Planning Adviser will be able to give us as accurate an idea as possible of the prevalent standards of food consumption and nutritional conditions in different parts of the country, with special reference to the vulnerable classes and low income groups, of the steps already taken by different Provincial Governments to tackle the problem of under-nutrition and malnutrition, and of the effects of war on the standards of food consumption in different regions and by different classes; and, finally that he will be in a position to make concrete proposals for a planned food economy which will help us towards attaining our ultimate objective.

Development of Food Industries

"There is one aspect of food planning, falling outside the scope of the Planning Adviser's enquiries, which requires our earnest attention at this stage, namely, the planning and development of industries. That food industries can help the conservation of seasonal surpluses for their economic disposal throughout the year and that food industries have a definite place in the improvement of the diet of our country, can hardly be questioned. During the war, the Food Department have had to undertake food processing on a scale and with a range of items unknown in the country before.

"The questions that now arise are: which of the industries developed in wartime should be helped to continue in the post-war period, what new industries should be encouraged, and for what new industries should the Government of India themselves or the Provincial Governments take responsibility? The departmental ideas on these questions have been set forth in the memorandum circulated to the members.

"I would welcome constructive suggestions and criticisms on the subject so that we may be able to frame a policy which will be in the best interests of the country.

"The second and the more urgent problem to which we must immediately address ourselves is the future of food controls in the country. Speculation in the matter has already found expression in the Press, and I find that my friend Sir Madhorao Deshpande has sent in a resolution, which he wishes to move, asking for the abolition or relaxation of the existing controls so that *by the end of* 1945 *at the latest* trade will be free and unrestricted as it was before the war.

"As continued public speculation in the matter is likely to have an unsettling effect on food administration in the country, it is desirable that the Government of India should decide on their general policy in the matter for the longest period for which conditions can be foreseen at the moment, say until the end of 1946, and announce the same in as clear and definite terms as possible, and as soon as possible. Your views would be most helpful in formulating our policy. May I pose the question in this way? Do we foresee, in the immediate future, such conditions in the country as will make it unnecessary for the essentials of the present controls to continue?

Import of Rice and Wheat

"The main factors which led to the breakdown of food administration in the country in 1943, as you will remember, were the cessation both of the import of rice from Burma and of the possibility of the free import of wheat from overseas, the incapacity of the trade functioning in conditions of scarcity to bring about equitable distribution of available supplies, and the shortage of transport within the country which no longer admitted of cross-movements, a device used in normal times to bring about parity of prices.

"The present control over the food situation in the country has been achieved by ceaseless endeavour during the last two years on the part of the Central Government and the Provincial Governments. Should we risk a return of those chaotic conditions by relaxing or abolishing controls before we have established a common plan of action agreed between the Centre, the Provinces and the States with reference to the actual conditions which are likely to prevail in the immediate future? So far as I can see, the conditions which led to the introduction of the Basic Plan with its attendant controls will have to continue without any material change at least till the end of 1946.

"The world food situation in 1946 is not likely to be less difficult than in 1945. The devastated countries in Europe will need food in large quantities from outside. While there is a prospect of rice being available for export from Burma and other Far Eastern countries like Siam and Indo-China in 1946, the quantities offered for export, so far as our present information goes, are likely to be small, compared with those in pre-war times; and, in any case, there will be other countries which, owing to the devastation caused by the war or their normal dependence on imports from these areas, will be strong claimants along with India to whatever is available for export.

Burma Rice

"May I say, in this connection, that I shall spare no effort to see that India's natural claims on Burma rice are put forward with utmost vigour and emphasis? I shall try my level best to secure as much Burma rice as possible, but the decision is not in the hands of the Government of India; and it will be only prudent to plan on the basis of a smaller quota than we would like for the immediate future. Again, it must be within your knowledge that the monsoon has not been quite satisfactory this year in the north-eastern region, particularly in Western Bengal, Northern Bihar and some districts of Orissa. The outturn of rice in 1945-46 in this region, it is therefore feared, will be below normal.

"In these circumstances, the food situation in India in 1946 will need the utmost vigilance on the part of the administrations. In my view, therefore, the present controls with regard to procurement, distribution, movement, prices and rationing can, therefore, be relaxed in 1946 only at the risk of a serious breakdown.

"I may mention here that the Famine Enquiry Commission have examined this question in some detail in their Final Report. I am



Begum Shah Nawaz, Mr. F. I. Rahimtoola and other members of the Food Advisory Council.

sorry that it has not been possible to make copies of that Report available to you before this meeting, but you will be interested to know that the Commission have expressed the view that the Food Department should continue its administration along with the various controls as at present during the first stage of the transition period, which will begin when substantial imports of rice are available from Burma. It is, however, not our intention to follow a static policy in the matter. I am aware of the keen desire on the part of sections of the public for the termination of these controls and I shall not have them maintained for one minute longer than they are absolutely necessary.

"But controls cannot just be swiched on and off lightly. There will have to be an orderly and co-ordinated policy of relaxation, and care must be taken at every stage to see that no repetition of the chaotic conditions of 1943 is allowed to occur. In this matter, it is essential to carry Provincial Governments with Central policy. I am, therefore, contemplating the setting up of a Committee, similar to the Foodgrains Policy Committee, composed of representatiives of Provinces, States, producers, consumers, and traders, to examine the whole question of relaxation of controls and to formulate a programme of action which can be the basis of Government policy in the immediate post-war period.

"You will see, gentlemen, that the problems we are to discuss at this meeting are of far-reaching importance from the point of view both of the immediate transition period and of post-war food policy. I would, therefore, request you to give me your valued advice and co-operation in dealing with these questions."

Vegetables and Milk

The Council, at its session on September 14, discussed food planning and the future of economic controls.

Speaking on food planning, the Hon'ble Pandit Kunzru emphasised the importance of an increased production of vegetables and milk and felt that the necessary data for a short-term plan already existed.

Sir R. K. Shanmugham Chetty stressed the need to utilise the services of the economic departments of the various Indian Universities in the nutritional surveys undertaken by the Department, and favoured the establishment of licensed warehouses throughout the country.

The Council then adopted the following resolution:

"This Council welcomes the interest which the Food Department is taking in the planning of India's food economy in the post-war period with a view to securing an adequate and balanced diet for all the citizens of the country and with special reference to the need of the vulnerable classes. It trusts that the enquiry initiated in connection with the formulation of policy for the achievement of this object will be carried out expeditiously and concrete proposals placed before the country as early as possible.

"The Council further suggests that the problem of short-range planning should be dealt with immediately in the light of the information already available which provides a good basis for this purpose."

Economic Controls

The Council discussed at length the question of the relaxation of economic controls and unanimously adopted the following resolution:

"This Council is of the view that conditions which necessitated the imposition of economic controls have not materially altered with the cessation of hostilities and that, under present conditions, it will be inadvisable to withdraw controls over procurement, supply, distribution, movement and prices. The Committee, therefore, recommends that controls should continue, subject to review from time to time, with a view to their relaxation or abolition as soon as circumstances permit."

At its meeting on September 15 the Council stressed the importance of securing an adequate quota of rice imports from Burma and unanimously adopted the following resolution:

"This Council records the fact that, while the production of rice in this country is short of her minimum requirements, as it is by at least a million and half tons in a normal year, no system of control or distribution can prevent the occurrence of a widespread famine in a year of subnormal production or deaths on a large scale. The Council takes a serious view of the situation which is likely to arise in 1946 and the Government of India should, therefore, urgently impress on H.M.G. their grave responsibilty in this matter, which can only be discharged by recognising India's claim to a full share in the world surplus of rice on a very high priority basis and by supplying that share as early as possible in 1946 as part of India's total foodgrains import requirements."

Pandit H. N. Kunzru, in moving the resolution, dwelt at length on the tragedy of the Bengal famine in 1943 which was responsible for more deaths than war casualties in many countries. That situation should not be allowed to recur and India's claim would have to be



Ploughing a field for paddy cultivation.

treated on a basis of high priority. Pandit Kunzru sounded a note of warning that, should the gloomy anticipations of a partial failure of the rice crop in parts of north-eastern India be realised, the food situation in the country might become difficult. The utmost pressure, therefore, he said, must be applied on H.M.G. so that they might not fail us this time.

The Council then discussed the development of food industries and adopted the following resolution:

"This Council recognises the importance of processed food industries in the economy of the country and recommends that the development made during the war should be maintained and improved in the interests of conservation of foodstuffs, general nutrition, and industrialisation of the country."

Grow More Food Campaign

At the afternoon session of the Council on September 15, the Memorandum issued by the Agriculture Department of the Government of India on the progress of the Grow More Food Campaign was considered.

Many valuable and constructive suggestions about the future were made by the Committee. In the course of the discussions it emerged that the Ammonium Sulphate plant was expected to be installed by the end of 1947. Steps were being taken to expedite the transport of bones to the factories and to push forward the work of distribution of compost. The tractors ordered in 1944 had recently been received and 370 of those ordered in 1945 are expected by the middle of 1946. There was an increase of seven million acres under rice and nearly three-quarter million acres under wheat, apart from large increases under *jowar* and *bajra*. The Grow More Food Campaign is for the present sanctioned up to 1947, but will have to be continued in the post-war period. The Central Government is trying to push on the schemes in co-ordination with Provincial Governments. A committee is suggesting how suitable prices may be fixed for agricultural produce. The scheme may be made effective. The question of giving protection to landless labourers was also considered.

Mr. Mir Akbar Khan moved the following resolution:

"This Council recommends that all necessary measures be adopted by all Provincial and State Governments to promote Village Grain Banks and to entrust the co-operative organisation with the marketing of agricultural produce.

(*continued on page 423*)

REMOVAL OF HIGH ACIDITY IN GHEE

A simple process for the removal of free fatty acids in *ghee* has been worked out under the auspices of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research at the Imperial Dairy Research Institute, Bangalore. Apart from the method being simple, it involves no new or extra equipment from that in use in the *ghee* trade. There will be some loss of *ghee* due to removal of the acid fraction and during processing, but the resultant product will be wholesome and should fetch a better price than the original high acid *ghee*.

Whereas fresh *ghee* contains very little free fatty acids (0.5 per cent or less) and has good keeping quality and nutritive value, *ghee* made under improper conditions begins to deteriorate rapidly giving rise to free fatty acids (containing anything from 2.5 per cent to 12 per cent oleic acid). Such *ghee* is not good for health.

The new process is as follows: *Ghee* is melted at about 70 degrees C. and then finely powdered good quality lime (preferably shell lime) is sprinkled on it at the rate of 3 per cent of the total quantity of *ghee* taken. This quantity will suffice for *ghee* containing free fatty acids up to 10 per cent oleic acid. The mixture is well stirred, raised rapidly to 108 degrees C. and allowed to cool. When the *ghee* is cooled to about 60 degrees C. it is filtered by passing it through a filter cloth or flannel. Filtration through ordinary blotting paper gives a clearer filtrate but it may require a little suction.

Refined Ghee

On refining, the colour of the *ghee* and its keeping quality are markedly improved. The refined *ghee* may contain about 0.1 per cent of oleic acid but can be stored for a considerable period without fear of any rapid rise in the acid value. The taste is also improved; but if the original *ghee* is old it will have to be blended with 10-20 per cent fresh *ghee* to give a proper aroma.

The lime treatment suggested above is effective against deterioration due to high acidity only, but for other reasons this treatment will not be of much use.

It is expected that the use of solid absorbents like lime or magnesia will be found suitable in refining other fats and oils, animal or vegetable, where similar problems are encountered.

DEVELOPMENT OF INDIA'S MINERAL RESOURCES

Expansion of Geological Survey

DETAILS are now available of the Central Government's scheme to expand the Geological Survey of India to enable it to undertake extensive exploration of the country's mineral and water resources, and thus assist post-war plans for industrial and economic development.

The primary function of the Survey is the preparation of a geological map which provides the basis for all other geological work. Equal importance will now be given to mineral development and economic geology. Under the scheme now planned, the functions of the Survey will cover: (*a*) preparation of geological maps, (*b*) economic geology, (*c*) engineering geology and water supply, (*d*) geophysical work and (*e*) dissemination of information.

For these purposes the existing Mapping Circles will be adequately increased, and two new Circles, one for Mineral Develoment, and the other for Engineering Geology will also be added. The Mineral Development Circle will consist of officers who have specialised in the study of certain minerals such as coal, mica, manganese, clays, gypsum, etc. and those in the Engineering Geology Circle will be specialists in the geological investigation of dam-sites, water supply or any geological problems relating to engineering.

Expansion Scheme

If the Department has to perform these diverse functions, expansion in the strength of the Survey is inevitable. The cadre of the geological officers, which was hardly 30 during prewar days, will, under the expansion scheme, be raised to 125 as soon as possible. This figure is only the present target and it may be necessary to increase the strength further.

Besides, the required complement of geophysicists, mining engineers, chemists, etc. will also be provided as rapidly as possible. As an immediate step, additional staff comprising seven Superintending Geologists, 18 Geologists and 45 Assistant Geologists has been sanctioned bringing the cadre strength to 96. A more rapid increase is not feasible having regard to the dearth of qualified Geologists and the difficulty of giving adequate training to a large number of recruits.

All possible sources of recruitment in India and foreign countries are being explored and the sanctioned posts will be filled at an early date. An Italian Geophysicist has already joined the Survey and attempts are being made to obtain a second competent Geophysicist and a Petroleum Geologist from abroad.

The field activities of the Geological Survey can be adequately completed only if there are available suitable laboratories, a scientific library, a museum, a drawing office, and adequate facilities for chemical mineralogical, petrological and palaeontological work. Plans will be prepared for their extension and modification so as to bring them into line with the expanded activities of the Survey.

Plan Not Final

The advice of the Survey will be available to Provincial Governments, Indian States, commercial bodies and the public.

It is pointed out that the expansion plan chalked out may not necessarily be final. As the activities and influence of the Geological Survey extend, it is expected that the value of its work will be more widely appreciated, and demands on its services will increase. Its ultimate aim is the more efficient use of geological knowledge, not only in industry and engineering, but in all branches of the social structure.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN 1944

Six hundred and fifty-eight industrial stoppages involving 5,50,015 workers occurred in British India during 1944, as against 716 stoppages involving 5,25,088 workers during the previous year.

The total number of man-days lost was 34,47,300 as compared with 23,42,287 in 1943.

There were 24 stoppages involving 5,000 or more but less than 10,000 workers and three involving more than 10,000 workers. There were seven stoppages each resulting in a loss of man-days exceeding 100,000. Three of these stoppages involved less than 5,000 workers.

Textile (cotton, silk, woollen and jute) mills accounted for 28 per cent. of the stoppages, 52 per cent. of the workers involved and 70 per cent. of the loss in man-days. In 422 stoppages or 64 per cent. the demands related mainly to wages or bonus. The number of stoppages in which the workers were wholly or partially successful was 294 or approximately 46 per cent. of the total number of stoppages for which results are known and which ended during the year.

DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL HIGHWAYS

Sir Arthur Griffin's Address to Roads Congress Council

"I AM glad to be able to inform you", said the Hon'ble Sir Arthur Griffin, then acting Member for War Transport, in his inaugural address at the session of the Council of the Indian Roads Congress held in Delhi on September 20, "that Government have now sent to Provincial Governments proposals for the National Highway Scheme, in which Delhi is inevitably one of the most important focal points with five National Highways radiating from it.

"In the development and improvement of National Highways on the approaches to Delhi, there should be reasonable provision on modern lines for segregation of various forms of traffic, including, probably, cycle tracks, and for these approaches to be connected together with a circular road or series of by-passes, all part of thoughtful town-planning.

"Without, therefore, pampering Delhi, it would seem to be possible to undertake valuable advance pilot work, and I think I am safe in going so far as to say that any proposals from the Delhi Administration on the lines suggested by your President for this pilot or pioneer work will have sympathetic consideration".

Here is the full text of his speech:



Sir Arthur Griffin.

It is a great privilege to have been asked to inaugurate this session of the Indian Roads Congress Council. I am glad for several reasons that, during my short term of office as H.M., War Transport, the opportunity has been accorded to me to associate myself, in some small way, with this very authoritative body on road engineering and at a time when we stand on the threshold of great road development which fact, of itself, emphasises the importance of this meeting and of the work which lies ahead of you.

I am a railway man—railway man of over 34 years standing and you may perhaps be a little suspicious of me, as indeed I incline towards embarrassment myself in addressing a meeting of road experts. But I persuade myself that despite the background of road and rail disputes or disagreements of the past, it may after all be regarded as a happy augury that when you are about to become immersed in great road projects a Railwayman should stand before you and wish you success not only in your immediate deliberations but in your work of progress to follow.

First, I would say a few words about the problem of road-rail competition and, though I recognise you are builders of roads, you are probably interested in the use to which they are to be put. We have worked hard to remove the suspicions and antagonism which have surrounded this problem; we have endeavoured to lay the plans of future co-operation and co-ordination of these two forms of transport, *both* equally essential for the economic well-being of the country.

Let me briefly summarise what we have to do. Detailed reasons and arguments have been given publicly many times. The historic background you know only too well; the generation of transport monopoly with the Railways, the introduction of the motor vehicle and the era of unhealthy competition which ensued, not only, be it noted, between the two forms of transport but amongst road operators themselves and which resulted in unsatisfactory and unreliable road services and uneconomic operation of the Railways.

Good may come out of evil and one result of the war was that a halt was temporarily called to this undesirable state of affairs. Looking ahead it was realised that the best interests of the country demanded more detailed regulation and more effective co-ordination of the activities of the road operators and the Railways in order to provide the community with the best and cheapest general transport on all routes and without the past tendency towards excessive concentration in certain areas at the expense of the undeveloped areas.

After consultation with the Transport Advisory Council, when the unanimous opinion was expressed that co-ordination of road and rail transport was essential in some form in the public interest, a code of principle and practice in relation to motor transport has been prepared and we hope in the near future to discuss this again with the T.A.C. and to secure a large measure of agreement. The belief was that co-ordination could only be achieved, firstly, by the amalgamation of small road interests and secondly by Railway association in some fashion with these larger units.

Financial Association

It has been argued that association or agreement should be possible without financial association, but past experience in this and other countries has shown that this is insufficient and that much more can be achieved by discussion at a table where community of interests exists. But there is another important factor. It seems at times to be thought that the co-ordination being worked for implies that road interests alone are being called upon to make sacrifices for the common good.

We do not expect the road interests to capitulate to the Railways; there are mutual sacrifices, and the contribution of the Railways will be serious in extent. Loss of much in the way of passenger receipts must be faced by the Railways and they have also accepted the fact that short distance goods traffic on the roads should be unrestricted.

The Railways still have, however, their statutory obligation, subject to certain provisos, to carry anything that offers. With efficient operation and effective co-ordination there should be reasonable profit in the operation of motor transport—more than reasonable profit would be at the expense ultimately of the country. If there is this profit, there is every reason for the railways participating financially and having some set-off to the losses they will undoubtedly suffer.

The alternatives are clear, either the Railways would be forced to adjust upwards the rates for such traffic as must perforce go by rail and thereby probably upset the economic state of the country or they become a burden on the general taxpayer. With financial participation and all that flows from it and with agreement between the Railways and the Roads services in respect of traffic, rates and fares and general conveniences and an effective method of securing adherence to the agreements so made, there is every reason to look forward to the public having the best the two forms of transport can offer.

No Coercion

I would explain that the Railway director with such joint companies (and he may serve on more than one board) will not be there to coerce the company into action solely in the interests of the Railways. He will be charged with the duty of watching the interests of the Railway and therefore the taxpayer as *shareholder* in the company and in assisting in the economic development of the areas served. Co-ordination between the Railways and the various companies may probably be secured by a joint committee representative of the road and rail interests for each company or for groups of companies.

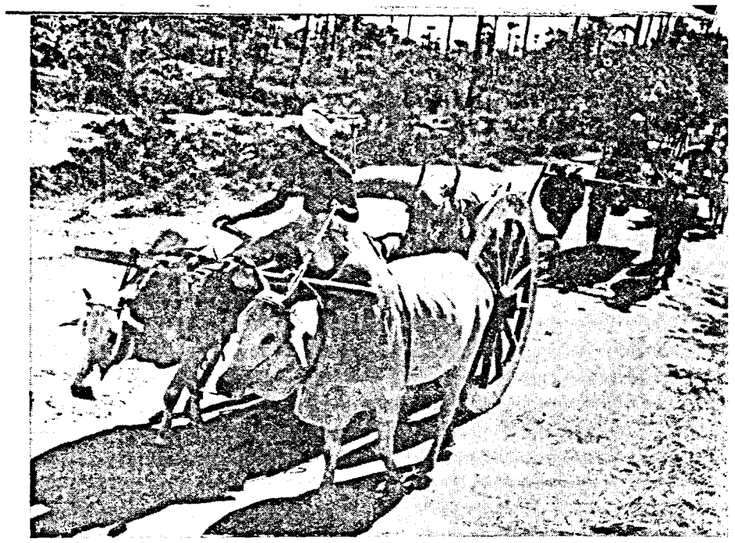
In spite of constitutional difficulties, the assistance of most Provincial Governments has furthered the formation of road-rail companies which shall be operating in many parts of the country in the near future.

And now may I deal with items more closely connected with your work.

New Main Roads

It is now nearly eleven years since the first meeting of the Indian Roads Congress was held but, in that period, we have had six years of war which has arrested development more particularly in respect of district and village roads. As a set-off to this, however, India finds herself the richer by many hundreds of miles of new and improved main roads constructed for military purposes. During these years, this Congress has grown in strength and has survived the war in full vigour which will be a great factor to assuring that, in due course, the country obtains full value for the money to be spent on road development.

As an engineer I appreciate only too well the great difficulties with which you are faced, but we have confidence and high hopes that you will provide a greatly extended modern system of roads at reasonable cost. Unfortunately, India, so far as the average person thinks about these things, seems to expect you to do this and, at the same time, cater for the bullock cart without restriction of load and with the present width or type of tyres. I imagine in



The bullock cart is second only to the modern steel tracked vehicle in its destructive effect on the cheaper and lighter road surfaces.

its own way that the bullock cart is second only to the modern steel tracked vehicle in its destructive effect on the lighter and cheaper road surfaces. As I see it, the bullock cart can be satisfactorily catered for only by really durable and, therefore, relatively costly road surfaces such as cement concrete and its continued unregulated use does not fit in with low cost roads.

You seem to be faced with this problem at every stage, on the district and village roads, where carts predominate, to main highways where segregation is financially impracticable and dual purpose surface is necessary. The problem has to be tackled, however, if a reasonably cheap expansion is to take place and if subsequent maintenance is not to be prohibitive.

My interest as an engineer must not lead me on to discuss your technical problem, there is little indeed that I could contribute, but we look to this Congress, through its Council and various Committees, vigorously to work towards the solution of the problems which still may baffle you. Therefore on the eve of great expansion, it is wise that there should be full-scale pilot or pioneer work in restricted areas going on ahead of the main expansion so that the lessons learnt may be of immediate value to the greater work to follow.

I feel, therefore, that your President's proposal that pilot development should be carried out in Delhi has very much to commend it. Starting from the primary roads on which the prosperity of the agriculturist depends, Delhi is a self-contained unit of manageable dimensions within which to attempt as soon as possible the maximum improvement of district and village roads. The work done and the experience gained should, with due allowance for variations of rainfall and soil conditions, be beneficial to others.

At the other end of the scale, I am glad to be able to inform you that Government have now sent to Provincial Governments proposals for the National Highway Scheme, in which Delhi is inevitably one of the most important focal points with five National Highways radiating from it.

In the development and improvement of National Highways on the approaches to Delhi, there should be reasonable provision on modern lines for segregation of various forms of traffic including, probably, cycle tracks; and for these approaches to be connected together with a circular road or series of by-passes, all part of thoughtful town-planning.

Without, therefore, pampering Delhi, it would seem to be possible to undertake valuable advance pilot work, and I think I am safe in going so far as to say that any proposals from the Delhi Administration on the lines suggested by your President for this pilot or pioneer work will have sympathetic consideration.

Gentlemen, I must not detain you longer from getting down to your heavy agenda, but once again I sincerely wish you success in your deliberations and in the great work you have in hand. I have much pleasure in declaring open this session of the Council of the Indian Roads Congress.



Mr. A. W. H. Dean.

Mr. A. W. H. Dean on Modern Road Construction

Addressing the Indian Roads Council, Mr. A.W. H. Dean, Chief Engineer, Central Public Works Department, and President of the Indian Roads Congress, said:

At this, the first meeting of this Council since the termination of hostilities with both Germany and Japan, I feel we must express our feelings of profound thankfulness that the war is over and that we engineers can turn to the beneficent and constructive activities of peace. We must acknowledge the great debt of gratitude we civilians owe to the fighting services of India, the British Commonwealth and our valued Allies, and to the vast co-ordinated effort, much of it engineer planned and directed, of all the allied peoples which has made possible the marshalling of overwhelming resources, on a scale never before thought possible, for the prosecution of the war to a successful conclusion.

In turning from war to peace it is most important to ensure that we use all the resources of manpower available. For this, planning is vital. Agriculture claims considerably less than the full available working time of the villagers and I feel sure there is a large field for the organisation of villagers into workers co-operatives for work on improvements to their villages and its communications in the slack season.

A further source of manpower which requires organisation to bring it to useful work is that of the men available on demobilisation from the Armed Forces and from the wartime factories. Most of these are available and anxious to obtain regular full-time employment on Public Works.

With this organisation of manpower must be coupled a systematic use of the tools and plant accumulated in India for war purposes. Above all, it is necessary that these resources should be directed by men with a full and up-to-date knowledge of the science and technology now available. Only thus will it be possible for the dreams of the many "planners" of vast schemes of improvement to eventuate in practical realities.

In planning, the stage has now been reached when we must pass from generalities and produce actual designs with detailed drawings and specifications and with an estimate of requirements in labour, plant and materials so that actual work can start whenever this is decided upon as necessary. So far, it seems to me, there is very little that has reached this stage. The fundamental reason for this appears to me to be a lack of policy stated in terms of finance. As a result, financial sanctioning authorities are timid and demand a firm statement of work expenditure anticipated before they will sanction the surveying and designing staff without which this statement cannot be prepared.

Allocation of Responsibility

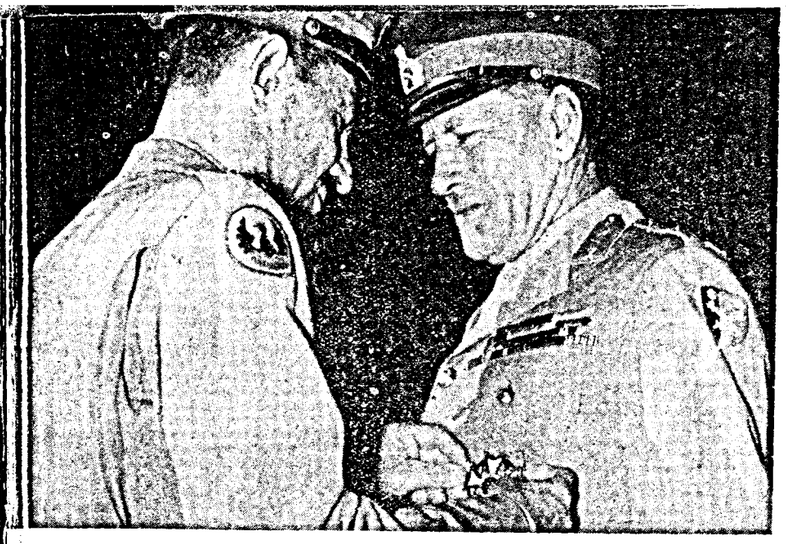
A further difficulty is a decision on the allocation of responsibility, between Province and Province, State and Province and above all between Centre and Province or State. Such difficulties have held up for years such joint schemes as the Tunghabadra, only now being commenced, and, if rumour is right, still not without friction, although fully worked out technically many years ago.

The Damodar Valley Authority shows that in India, as in the U.S.A., co-ordination between diverse authorities for the execution of a large engineering project of common interest may well be attained through the good offices of the Centre much more rapidly than by the slow process of direct negotiation between the Provinces. In a leader on August 30 the *London Times* commented on this and pointed the moral that an increasing association of the Centre with activities hitherto considered exclusively Provincial is essential if rapid progress in the development of India is to be attained.

As road engineers, we, too, have our Inter-District and inter-Provincial problems. It is no longer of great value to develop a road system in a district that radiates from its largest town and,



H.E. Lord Wavell receiving the Legion of Merit from Lieut.-Gen. R. A. Wheeler.



The Legion of Merit being presented to Gen. Auchinleck.

U. S. HONOURS LORD WAVELL AND GENERAL AUCHINLECK

AMERICA paid a handsome tribute to India and the Indian Army on September 22. It did so by presenting to Field Marshal Lord Wavell, the Soldier-Viceroy, and General Sir Claude Auchinleck, India's Commander-in-Chief, the Legion of Merit in the highest degree —that of Chief Commander. It is one of the greatest honours that the United States can confer on non-Americans.

The presentation ceremony, simple but impressive, was framed by guards of honour drawn from the American, Indian and British Armies, representing a battle comradeship in many theatres, but especially in South-East Asia. As an imposing background was the cream and white sandstone of the Viceroy's House and the twin buildings of the Imperial Secretariat.

There was a large gathering of distinguished guests when the Viceroy, Commander-in-Chief and Lieut.-Gen. R. A. Wheeler, Commander of the United States Forces in the India-Burma theatre, arrived to acknowledge salutes before inspecting the guards of honour.

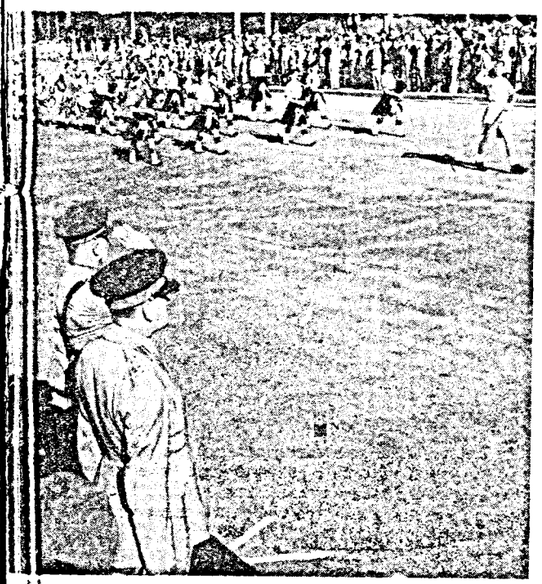
The presentations were then made by Gen. Wheeler, on behalf of the President of the United States, before an American Colour party.

(*Continued on page 467*)

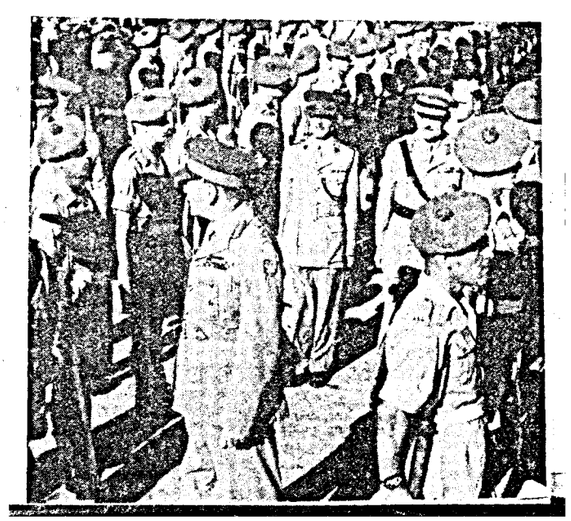




(Above) Gen. Auchinleck (left), the Viceroy and Lieut.-Gen. Wheeler. (Left) The Viceroy inspects a detachment of 4/9th Gurkha Rifles who formed a Guard of Honour.



(Above) The Viceroy takes the salute at the March Past. On his right is the C.-in-C. (Right) The C.-in-C. inspects the 1st Bn. Royal Scots Fusiliers Guard of Honour.



The construction of a short length, a few miles of a road with dual carriage ways segregating traffic in opposite directions. This might take the form of a river side boulevard coupled with an embankment and lead to a water supply barrage across the Jumna combined with a new bridge.

The construction of one or two fly-over crossings possible to carry a proposed road from the Delhi University area to New Delhi via Qarol Bagh over the Grand Trunk Road and the Rohtak Road.

The construction or modification of one or two round-abouts so as to provide for pedestrian crossings, cycle tracks and the separation of slow and fast moving traffic.

The construction of a short length of road to National Highway standard with segregation, possibly at different levels, of motor and bullock cart traffic.

All this must seem very parochial to this audience but my point is that Delhi is an ideal proving ground for new ideas. And that in road construction we have now arrived at the stage where nothing short of actual construction of full-scale examples of the various devices developed in Europe and America will enable engineers and traffic experts to determine their value in increasing the safety and efficiency of road transport under Indian conditions. Delhi as the seat of the Central Government and Legislatures is visited by legislators, administrators and engineers from all over India. It is fairly conveniently situated for access by rail, road and air. Thus it seems the obvious place for a comprehensive programme of such demonstrations.

Co-operative Labour Units

A further large-scale trial that I would wish to see undertaken in Delhi is that of Co-operative Labour Units. A good deal of rather vague instruction has issued on the desirability of assisting the re-settlement of demobilised soldiers and of war production factory workers by organising such units. There is much to commend the idea and the expected corollary that it will lead to the general improvement in the standard of living of the general labourer is much to be desired both on humanitarian grounds and as the best way of ensuring an expanding market for India's industrial production.

But it is very much a new departure and I feel sure that engineers in the Provinces and States would greatly appreciate the setting up of model units in Delhi complete with the necessary staff, tools and plant and housing and actually put to work on a job. Not only would officials profit by this but so also would progressive contractors whose only hope of continuing effectively the practice of their profession is to adopt for their work the same standards of payment and provision of amenities hoping, by careful attention to details of organisation, to obtain a profit.

A further line of enquiry is to examine methods of financing road improvement and construction. For this a detailed statistical enquiry is needed. There is in urban development, under various Improvement Trusts, an assumption that what is known as "betterment" can be made, at least in part, to pay for the construction of new thoroughfares through congested slum areas. Various methods of assessing this are in vogue and it is generally accepted that some increase in land values does occur when a new wide street is constructed to plots on the frontage of an adjacent to the new street. Shops and business premises are constructed to new designs and with improved accommodation which earn increased rents sufficient to pay for their construction and also enhance the value of the plots. This enhancement of the land values is assessed and in part at least goes to the authority financing the main work of improvement.

Rural Roads

I personally am of the opinion that the construction of a road of improved traffic capacity to a village and through a rural area similarly increases the value of the agricultural land in its vicinity, and I feel that this increase in values should be assessed to and some part of it taken to finance the road construction.

Other experienced engineers however hold a different view and assure me that in the case of valuable agricultural land it is often correctly claimed by the owners and cultivators that the road brings them no benefit and that the land actually taken for the road represents a loss to the community which is in no way off set by any financial benefit from improved communications.

I feel that this is a matter that needs careful statistical investigation which may well be carried out in Delhi Province.

I hope that with these few ideas, read with Mr. Ormerod's Memorandum, the Council will be able to put forward proposals to assist in the planning and development first of Delhi Province and then of India on a broad basis of generally improved conditions for the inhabitants and in particular of safer and better communications.

The Government of India have fixed a specific retail sale price of Rs. 48 per dozen for K.L.G. spark plugs for motor vehicles, said a Press Note issued by the War Transport Department, Government of India, on October 11.

TASK BEFORE RAILWAYS

Sir Arthur Griffin's Message

A tribute to the travelling public for the patience and forbearance with which they have endured the discomforts of wartime rail travel is paid by Sir Arthur Griffin, then Acting Member for War Transport, in a message to Indian railwaymen on the end of the war.

Conveying the thanks and appreciation of Government for what railwaymen have done through these hard years, Sir Arthur Griffin says that their burden has been heavy and continuous and they have had to struggle to carry this load with inadequate resources. In doing so a high degree of initiative and efficiency has been demanded, much hard labour has been entailed and the Railways have not failed in their great task.

The message adds: "The end of that burden, however, is not yet, as the demands on the resources of the Railways, now fortunately being augmented in increasing quantity, will continue for some time to come, as India must still function as a base; and when the military load does ease there will be the civil demand to be met more completely than has been possible during the war but with the same efficiency.

Debt to Public

"We should not forget that Government and railwaymen owe a debt also to the public for having, with relatively so little general complaint, endured the difficulties, discomforts, inconveniences and restrictions which have been the natural corollary to the immense demand for transport in support of the armies and the war effort generally. Now we shall have to labour hard to maintain and improve the efficiency of railway operation and, as soon as conditions permit, to restore in steadily increasing measure the services and conveniences we are due to render and which the public of the country rightly expects.

"The high standard attained in war years will be equally necessary in the days of peace to follow.

"Whilst, therefore, all railwaymen can justifiably look back with satisfaction and pride on the part they have played in the efforts of the war years, which received special recognition in the recent speech of H.E. the Viceroy, they will, I am convinced, face the future with a firm resolve to afford still better service in the days to come."

DO YOU KNOW THAT—

There are 7,200 railway stations throughout India.

More than 40,000 separate items of stores —ranging from a pin to a boiler—are required for running the railways.

Over a million wagonloads of coal were transported in 1944-45.

What must be the smallest hydro-electric plant in the world has been put up at Barog Station on the Kalka-Simla railway.

The North Western Railway serves an area more than three times that of Great Britain.

Country Craft Route Scheme

A Press Note issued by the War Transport Department, Government of India, on September 7, stated:

The Government of India have decided that the "Route Scheme" for the control of country craft on the West Coast, which was introduced during the 1944-45 season, will not be enforced in the forthcoming sailing season.

The scheme was successful in bringing about an appreciable increase in the tonnage of cargo carried during 1944-45 over the previous year's traffic, but, with the cessation of hostilities, the demands for military movements, which had absorbed a considerable percentage of country craft capacity in the last season, are expected to be greatly reduced and it is felt that users of country craft will in future, be able to make their own arrangements for transport through reliable agents and brokers.

Priority control will, however, be exercised by the Controller of Indian Shipping, if required, in the interests of essential movements.

CENTRAL FOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL

(*Continued from page 412*)

To achieve this end, full advantage should be taken of the present food control measures."

This was accepted by a majority, it being agreed that the Central Government would forward the recommendation to the Provincial and State Governments for suitable action in areas where the co-operative organisation was strong enough to be entrusted with the work.

FINAL REPORT OF THE FAMINE INQUIRY COMMISSION

THE State should recognise its ultimate responsibility to provide food for all. Within the last 100 years, the Government in India have accepted the duty to prevent widespread death from famine, but the further obligation of taking every possible step not only to prevent starvation, but to improve nutrition and create a healthy and vigorous population has not yet been fully recognised and accepted.

This is the main principle affirmed by the Famine Inquiry Commission in their Final Report released to the Press on September 18.

The first part of the Report, entitled "Report on Bengal," published in May 1945, had dealt with the Bengal famine in its different aspects. The Final Report surveys the food problem of India as a whole and suggests the lines of a food policy designed to prevent famines in future and to improve the diet of the people for a better standard of health.

Short-Term Aspect

Dealing with the short-term aspects of the Indian food problem, the Report states that, before the war, India was not self-sufficient in cereals; a small exportable surplus of wheat was offset by large imports of rice. Certain Provinces, mainly the Punjab, C.P. and Berar, Sind. Orissa and Assam, were net exporters of cereals while others, Bengal, Bihar, U.P., Madras, Bombay and N.-W.F.P. were net importers. The available statistical information relating to the size of these surpluses and deficits is set forth. The Report describes the effects of the loss of imports from Burma and seasonal conditions on the supply position in 1943 and explains the food problems which faced Provincial and Indian States administration and the measures taken to deal with them.

The Commission do not consider the results achieved by the "Grow More Food" campaign during the two years 1942-44 to have been spectacular, as the main requisites for a large increase in agricultural production were absent, namely, an improved water supply and an increase in the supply and use of manures and fertilizers. The need to lay down a clear agricultural policy and provide administrative machinery for its execution is emphasised, and it is recommended that the "Grow More Food" campaign should be continued with undiminished vigour.

Reviewing the system of procurement and distribution in force in different Provinces of India and the special problems presented by certain aspects of the prevailing system, the Commission express the view that the only satisfactory system of procurement and distribution is that of complete monopoly and recommend that administrations should aim at the introduction of complete monopoly schemes, but hold that such schemes are not a practical proposition in Bengal, Bihar and the permanently settled areas of Orissa and Assam, and in areas enjoying an assured surplus, schemes of full monopoly are unnecessary.

The Report emphasises the need for adequate grain storage accommodation and recommends that all administrations which stock grain on any considerable scale should entrust their storage problems to fully qualified technical staff.

On the problem of the quality of foodgrains, the view is that it cannot be completely solved until there is in each Province a reliable agency competent to test and inspect all foodgrains under the control of the Government.

The Governments are recommended to requisition stocks from large producers and traders where grains are held back in the hope of higher prices.

On the general level of prices of foodgrains in India, the Commission's view is that they are high compared with the world level, but so long as supply of consumer goods does not become more plentiful and cheaper, and imports of rice are not once again available, the present policy to hold prices at about their present levels is the correct course to follow.

Relaxation of Food Controls

The Report emphasises the need for accurate statistics of acreage and yield of crops, and makes suggestions for improvement in methods both in the temporary-settled and permanently-settled Provinces.

The Commission consider that India is still in need of imports owing to the growth of population, a higher per capita consumption by the poorer classes of population and the requirements of Defence Services, and emphasises the need to build a Central reserve of 500,000 tons of foodgrains from imported wheat.

The return to normal conditions, states the Report, must be a gradual, regulated and co-ordinated process, otherwise the chaotic price and supply conditions which prevailed in many parts of the country in 1942-43 might recur.

The organisation of food administration during the transition period should be designed, not with a view to securing the most expeditious return to pre-war conditions, but that it can evolve into a system of regulation of prices in normal times. The Commission visualise the transition period as commencing with the arrival of the first shipments of rice from Burma in appreciable quantities. Its duration will depend on a number of factors, the more important of which are the following:

First, the imports of rice from Burma should increase until they can bridge the gap between production and consumption in India.

Secondly, transport conditions in India should return to normal, that is, the need for restrictions on movement of rail, steamer and coastal shipping should disappear.

Thirdly, the present world shortage of food as well as shipping should no longer exist; and,

Fourthly, demobilisation should have been completed.

It is clear, therefore, that the process is bound to take several years.

Its probable duration is unpredictable, but it may last until 1951-52. During the first stage of this period, it should be possible to secure the diminution and eventual elimination of wide price disparities existing in different parts of the country. The Commission consider that a price level of 240 per cent. of the average of the 5 years ending 1938-39 broadly represents the target price level to be pursued, at the end of the first stage of the transition period.

Concurrently with a reduction of prices, more stringent forms of food controls, such as total procurement, levy schemes (including rationing in rural areas) and other systems of monopoly purchases from the producer should be withdrawn. In the opinion of the Commission, by the end of the first stage of the transition, the functions performed by the Central Government would continue to be performed without any alteration.

The Basic Plan would continue to be in operation, trade would be operating under a licence, procurement schemes would be based on purchases from the local trade and only the large cities would be subject to rationing. In general, local food administration in all parts of India would present characteristics of food administration in the Punjab at present.

During the second stage of transition the main problem would be the co-ordinated removal of cordons round Provinces and States and the re-transfer of responsibility for distribution of supplies from Government agencies to the trade. Effective methods to prevent the price level from falling below a pre-determined minimum should be perfected at this time, and, during this stage, the price level should not exceed 240 per cent. of the pre-war level nor fall below 180 per cent. of the pre-war level.

A special need for regional co-ordination will arise in the circumstances of the transition period and the establishment of Regional Food Councils consisting of representatives of the Governments of the Provinces and Indian States is recommended. Their function would be to advise Provincial and State administrations on the steps to be taken to secure the co-ordinated removal of cordons, the maintenance of supplies through inter-provincial and State-wise trade, the execution of a common price policy and the fulfilment of the All-India Basic Plan.

The establishment of a permanent and recognised machinery for the co-ordination of the food administration at the Centre as well as in the Provinces and States is stressed. This permanent organisation might be an All-India Food Council, as the common organisation for the co-ordination of the activities of Governments in framing and executing a common food policy for the country.

The existing organisation of the Food Department, states the Report, will have to continue during the period to perform functions substantially of the same character as that at present. In due course it might be convenient to constitute a single Department of Food and Agriculture, whose functions would be limited to these two subjects only.

Problem of Population

After analysing the various factors concerned with the growth of population, the Commission suggest that the population might reach 500 millions in 20 or 25 years time and are of the opinion that whatever success in increasing food production can be achieved, an ultimate decrease in the rate of population is not only desirable but necessary. One way of reducing numbers, the Commission observe, is by emigration.

"Within the Commonwealth and the Empire there are regions which are sparsely populated and need additional population for development.

The war has emphasised the need for mutual assistance among all peoples within the Commonwealth and the Empire and we look forward to the day not only when India will be a self-governing and equal partner in the Commonwealth, but also when her sons, who have fought beside other peoples of the Commonwealth and Empire in the cause of freedom in the present war, and their descendants, will be able to emigrate as colonists, entitled to the full rights of citizenship, to these sparsely populated areas."

The most effective means of reducing numbers is, of course, family limitation. At present a deliberate State policy with the objective of encouraging the practice of birth control among the mass of the population is impracticable. But the State can legitimately take steps, through the medium of health services, which will have the effect of encouraging family limitation. Knowledge of birth-control could be imparted through maternity and child welfare centres, by women doctors, to women whose health would be endangered by further or excessive child-bearing, and also to women who seek advice because of a reasonable desire to "space" their children.

While the Commission recognise the serious population situation, the primary problem, in their opinion, is the under-development of agricultural and industrial resources. Despite the magnitude of the task, the Commission consider it possible to produce not only enough food to meet the needs of the growing population at subsistence level but enough to effect an improvement in the people's diet.

Problem of Nutrition

The Commission admit the existence of much ill-health, disease and mortality in India due to malnutrition. Diseases caused by or associated with insufficiency of some food factors are of common occurrence. It is estimated that 30 per cent. of the population in normal times do not get enough to eat while the diet of a large proportion of the rest is unbalanced. Improvement of nutrition, therefore, must form an essential part of the public health programmes in India. A well balanced and satisfactory diet is, however, beyond the means of large sections of the people, and an improvement in the diet of the people cannot be achieved without a great increase in the production of protective foods and a simultaneous increase in the purchasing power of the people.

The Commission refer to fish as a food of high nutritive value, being equivalent to meat in protein content and a source of certain vitamins and mineral salts, and observe that, in a country like India, in which the per capita intake of meat and milk is very small, fish has special importance as a supplement to ill-balanced cereal diets. At the present time the supply of fish is totally inadequate: the development of sea, estuarine and inland fisheries is one of the most promising means of improving the diet of the people.

The Commission recommend an increase of 200 to 250 per cent of fats and oils on nutritional grounds. On the question of milk, the Commission consider that there is no immediate prospect of an increase in production to such an extent that it can be a regular article of diet consumed in adequate quantities by the poorer classes in the greater part of India.

The Commission discuss the place of potatoes, sweet potatoes, tapioca and plantains in the agricultural economy of the country. They observe that, in view of the serious pressure on land, it is essential that the most profitable use should be made of land resources. One method of furthering this end would be increased production of these crops which give larger returns of food energy or calories per unit area than cereals, thereby releasing land for the production of other foods, notably protective foods.

Agricultural Prices

The Commission consider the maintenance of agricultural prices at a level fair both to the producer and the consumer as a factor of fundamental importance in post-war agricultural economy. The evolution of a scheme of regulation of prices must be based on a full examination of all aspects of the complex problem. A sub-committee of the Policy Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries is already considering (*a*) the principles on which producers' prices should be fixed, and, (*b*) the means by which such prices can be made effective and an assured market provided. The Commission, therefore, confine themselves to stressing the lessons to be drawn from measures taken during the war to control the food situation in India, viz.

(*i*) More than four acres out of every five are cultivated with food crops, and the area under wheat and rice is nearly one half of the area under all food crops. The hard core of the problem of agricultural prices is, therefore, the stabilisation of rice and wheat prices.

(*ii*) During the transition period after the war, minimum and maximum prices should be fixed and maintained for wheat and rice even if it is found that the prices of other commodities cannot be so regulated. During this period, the essential requisites for price control viz. control of imports, the existence of buffer stocks and an organisation for making purchases and sales in the market should all be in existence.

The Commission point out that the programme of rural economic development which has to be undertaken in the immediate post-war period will encounter special difficulties in permanently settled areas. As owing to its financial and administrative implications, replacement of the permanently settled estate system by the ryotwari system will take time, powers should be taken by Government to supervise and control the management of such estates with a view to ensure that the system functions properly as long as it continues.

Under-Employment

The most important of all rural economic problems is under-employment. Its solution is to be found in a combination of the following among other measures:

(*a*) intensive farming involving the adoption of various measures for increasing yields such as irrigation, manuring, improved seeds, mixed farming, etc.,

(*b*) cottage industries such as handloom weaving,

(*c*) agro-industry as in Walachandnagar in the Bombay Presidency,

(*d*) Organisation of village works through panchayats with powers to raise money by taxation and with grants in aid from public revenue,

(*e*) migration from over-populated to under-populated rural areas and,

(*f*) large-scale industry with development of hydro-electric power.

The future development of agriculture in the case of small and medium farmers depends, in considerable measure, according to the Commission, on the organisation of these classes into multi-purpose village co-operative societies with unlimited liability, and the federation of such societies into multi-purpose co-operative unions with limited liability.

The organisation of multi-purpose co-operative societies and unions on a large scale is a tremendous task. The Commission, therefore, recommend that a beginning should be made by carrying out a survey of economic and social conditions in selected areas in each Province and by preparing on the basis of such a survey a plan of the improvements to be carried out by the joint efforts of a multi-purpose co-operative organisation and Government agency.

For the purpose of securing co-ordination of policy and administration in the field of development in the Provinces, the Commission make the following recommendations:

(*a*) The establishment of a Development Committee of the Cabinet.

(*b*) The establishment of a Development Board consisting of Secretaries to Government in the Development Departments, together with the Secretary of the Finance Department.

(*c*) The co-ordination of all district development activities under a single administrative head, the District Officer.

Emphasising the need for a new spirit and a new determination, the Commission observe: "India does not lack the material resources necessary for advancement and prosperity, but these can be developed only by the efforts of human beings—by the governments and people of India—and success depends on the spirit which sustains the country in the tremendous task with which it is faced. In the past apathy and defeatism have been all too prevalent. Doubts have been expressed whether the basic, economic and social problems are soluble at all. Poverty and hunger have been too often accepted as part of the nature of things and much of the countryside may almost be described as a rural slum where the hopelessness engendered by slum conditions prevails. Such an attitude of mind, on the part of either rulers or ruled, is incompatible with progress. Without vision and faith in the future little can be achieved."

In a Minute, Mr. Afzal Husain emphasises the importance of tubers in the food economy of India, and Sir Manilal Nanavati deals with the necessity for an early abolition of the permanent settlement in his separate minute of dissent.

GOVERNMENT'S RESOLUTION

A Press communique issued by the Food Department, Government of India, on September 18, said:

The Famine Inquiry Commission, under the Chairmanship of Sir John Woodhead, was constituted by the Governor-General in Council under Ordinance No. XXVIII of 1944 to investigate and report to the Central Government upon the causes of the food shortage and subsequent epidemics in India, and to make recommenda-

tions 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.

The Commission were instructed, in the first instance, to direct their attention to the Province of Bengal and to make a report in relation to that province in advance of the final report. The 'Report on Bengal' was published in May. The Final Report now released for publication deals with the food problem in India as a whole and makes recommendations on the objectives of post-war food policy and the measures necessary to attain them. It stresses that the problems of food supply and nutrition must at all times be a primary concern of Government.

The Government of India consider that the Report is a comprehensive and valuable account of the Indian food problem in relation to the agricultural and economic development of the country. The Commission's recommendations will receive the most detailed consideraton by the Government of India.

The Government of India desire to record their great appreciation of the services rendered by the Chairman and Members of the Famine Inquiry Commission in the execution of their difficult and complicated task.

SIR CLARENCE BIRD

Sir Clarence Bird, Regional Food Commissioner, North-Western Region, has been appointed Special Officer in the Central Food Department to implement the recommendations of the Famine Commission Report. His duties *inter alia* will be to co-ordinate the activities of the several Departments of the Government of India as well as of various Provincial Governments in the light of the recommendations made in the Final Report of the Famine Commission.

Causes of Sugar Shortage

THAT a rapid development of the sugar eating habit was one of the main causes of the present sugar shortage in the country was the view expressed by the Sugar Controller for India, addressing a meeting of his Sugar Advisory Committee held in Delhi on September 10.

Correcting popular misapprehensions that the military demand and exports of sugar were responsible for the shortage, the Controller revealed that the current demand of the Defence Services was 81,000 tons and total exports amounted to 18,000 tons. On the other hand rationing of sugar in several towns had added to the country's sugar demand, for the Government had to maintain sufficient stocks to "honour" its ration.

Regarding estimates of the country's demand, the Sugar Controller felt that an increase of 50 per cent on the present production was necessary. He described the steps taken in various Provinces to increase sugar production, as a result of which it was hoped that production this year would amount to about 11 lakh tons as against last year's 9.7 lakh tons.

Sugar and Gur Controls

The working of the Sugar and *Gur* controls, the prices of sugar and sugarcane for the season 1945-46, measures to improve the production of khandsari sugar, the quality, prices and distribution of confectionery and also special sugars and the supply of bulk stores to the various factories were also discussed.

The Committee recommended that the prices of sugar and sugarcane should remain at the present level and that some control over producers of khandsari sugar should be exercised to help in its procurement. In the matter of confectionery it was agreed that the only justification for the allotment of special sugar quotas to factories was the establishment of a national industry to meet a likely demand for the product, and it was decided to appoint a sub-committee of technical experts to evolve a practical definition of quality.

On the subject of special sugars, such as sugar cubes and sugar icings, owing to a divergence of opinion, no recommendation was made about methods of exercising control. The Committee recommended a ban on the production of crushed sugar and did not consider that any change in the present systems of allotment of bulk stores like sulphur, coal, steel, etc., to sugar factories was necessary.

ASSISTANCE TO SUGAR FACTORIES

AS a result of ensuring timely supplies of various stores to sugar factories in India by the Central Food Department and the Sugar Controller for India, no serious difficulty has been experienced by the factories in the matter of their store supplies. The position in respect of some of the stores is reported to be as follows:

Sulphur.—As the shipping position is still difficult, the sulphur requirements of sugar factories for the season 1945-46 are being arranged by the Central Food Department. It is estimated that not more than 5,000 tons of refined sulphur will be required for the manufacture of sugar during the next season. The above quantity has been reserved and will be supplied to sugar factories, as and when required.

Coal Allotment

Coal.—The Indian Sugar Mills Association which has been entrusted with the work of allotment of coal to sugar factories has recommended 55,000 tons for the crushing season 1945-46. This recommendation includes the requirements of auxiliary industries such as lime factories supplying lime to sugar mills for tramways, etc. and is being scrutinized by the Director, Imperial Institute of Sugar Technology, Cawnpore, who is the Technical Adviser of the Food Department. It is pointed out, however, that the supply position is still uncertain and factories will have to economise on their coal consumption as far as possible.

Steel and Cement

Steel.—The steel quota for the sugar industry has now been taken over by the Central Food Department. The general policy in regard to allotment of steel to factories which are to be set up as a result of recommendations of the Sugar Panel, or have been allowed to be erected by the Food Department, is under review.

Cement.—No difficulties are at present being experienced in the supply of cement. It is, however, pointed out that the Sugar Controller is willing to assist any factory which is unable to procure its reasonable requirements in cement or other miscellaneous stores like fire-bricks, sleepers, diesel oil, etc.

Control Over Manufacture of Confectionery

How the opportunity afforded to some sugar factories to build up a useful industry in wartime has been misused for making abnormal profits within a short period, is revealed in a Report of the Sugar Controller for India.

During the current year, a maximum limit of 10,000 tons of sugar was allotted to factories manufacturing confectionery or special sugar. Quotas originally allotted for this purpose had to be reduced in the case of some factories as they continued to manufacture a poor quality of confectionery. In some cases, even those factories which were capable of manufacturing goods of quality converted a portion of their sugar quota into articles of a type which could be used as substitutes for ordinary sugar and were sold at exorbitant prices.

A proposal is under consideration to exercise stricter control over factories in this matter. In the event of their persistence in manufacturing poor quality goods in spite of their capacity to produce better varieties, their sugar quotas are liable to be cancelled.

PORT COMMITTEES OF EXPORT ADVISORY COUNCIL

The personnel of local Port Committees of the Export Advisory Council has been suitably enlarged in order that local problems might be adequately discussed with the Export Trade Controller concerned.

Additional members have been appointed to the local Committees to represent the following interests:

Madras: Muslim Chamber of Commerce.

Bombay: The East India Cotton Association, the Bombay Government, the Africa and Overseas' Shippers' Association, the Indian Merchants' Chamber and the Indian Exporters' Association.

Calcutta: Bengal National Chamber of Commerce.

Karachi: Indian Merchants' Association and Karachi Muslim Chamber of Commerce.

Those members of the Export Advisory Council who are residing at the respective ports have been appointed as ex-officio members of the Committee.

PROCUREMENT AND DISTRIBUTION OF PIECEGOODS IN BENGAL

AN Ordinance to enable a Bengal Textiles Association to be set up for the purpose of procurement and wholesale distribution of piecegoods in Bengal has been promulgated by the Governor-General.

The Ordinance is the result of an agreement reached during discussions in Calcutta in August between Sir Akbar Hydari, Mr. Krishna Raj, Mr. Thakersey, Chairman of the Textile Control Board, Mr. Vellodi and the Bengal Government, Chambers of Commerce and others for the amelioration of the cloth position and to bring all interests concerned under one co-operating organisation.

Following this agreement the Central Government have arranged to release in addition a stock of 10,500 bales of cloth to Bengal to give rationing a fair start.

Textile Association

The Ordinance provides for the Bengal Textiles Association to function as a trading corporation with a Board of Control of nine members and an Executive Committee of 26 members; and to raise subscriptions from constituent members of the Association according to the prescribed scale.

The Association will be under the general control of the Bengal Government and can be dissolved by a notification under the Ordinance with three months' notice.

Membership of the Association is open to all wholesale dealers who were engaged during any one year between January 1, 1940, and December 31, 1944, in wholesale business of piecegoods in Calcutta, who can prove having purchased "otherwise than directly from manufacturers" and sold wholesale in Calcutta a quantity of piecegoods not less than the prescribed minimum.

Membership is also open to present "authorised dealers" if certified to have discharged their obligations.

The minimum subscription, upon acceptance, is Rs. 15,000 but those who can prove higher turnovers are eligible to a maximum subscription of Rs. 60,000.

The Ordinance provides that the Board of Control including the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman, will be appointed by the Central Government. The Executive Committee will be formed of 17 other members in addition to the nine members of the Board of Control who will be chosen as follows:—

By appointment of the Central Government —not more than three;

By nomination of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, the Muslim Chamber of Commerce and the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce—two members each;

With regard to the other eight members, it has been provided that initially for a prescribed period, but for not less than three months, they will be nominated, two by the Marwari Chamber; two by the Indian Chamber and four by the Central Government. At the end of this period it is provided that these seats will be filled by election by members of the Association but two shall be members of the Marwari Chamber and two of the Indian Chamber.

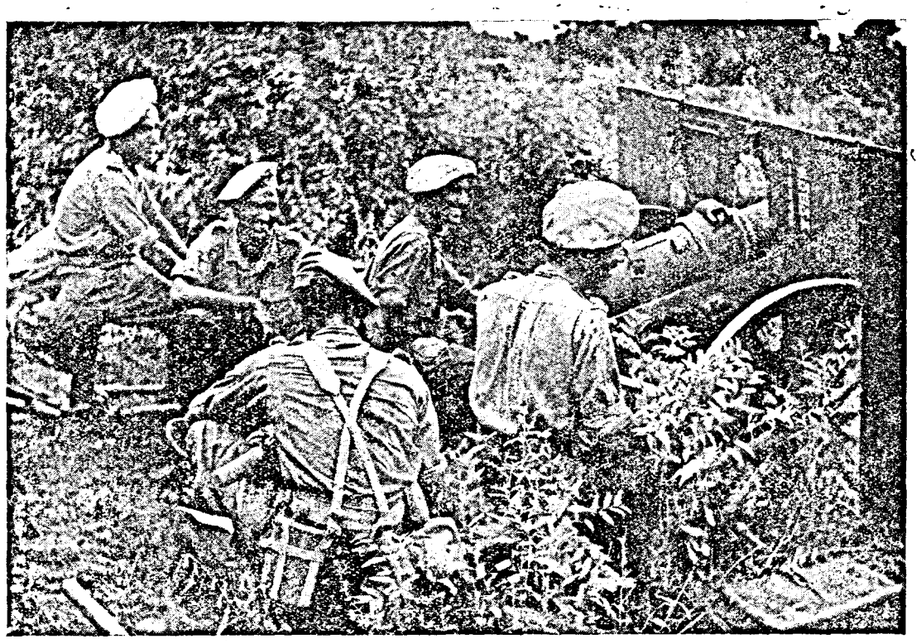
The office-bearers will not be entitled to any remuneration for their services from the Funds of the Association except allowances such as travelling or conveyance allowances as may be prescribed.

Powers have been taken under the Ordinance to frame rules for the purpose of regulating the procedure for the proper maintenance of accounts, inspection and to prescribe various limits mentioned in the Ordinance.

At a Press Conference in Calcutta last month, during the visit of Sir Akbar Hydari, Mr. Kasturbai Lalbai, Member of the Cotton Textile Control Board, explained how the formation of the Association would do away with the "vagaries" of individual merchants and one of the most important functions of the Association would be to maintain a proper record of arrivals of cloth to Bengal and to check despatches to different centres.

The Association will work against the background of existing price controls and will meet its working expenses from the profit margin allowed to wholesale dealers.

The Ordinance has been promulgated by the Central Authority at the request of the Bengal Government as trading corporations are outside the power of the Provincial Legislature. However, by a separate order under Section 124 of the Constitution Act, the Government of India, with the consent of the Bengal Government, are entrusting all powers under the Ordinance to the latter, subject to general control of the Government of India.



Indian gunners of a Mountain Battery on the Burma Front.

"FORGOTTEN FRONT" MEN SURPRISED THE WORLD

SINCE the heroic retreat into India in 1942, Burma has been the "forgotten front" of the war. The world press has devoted no more than an occasional obscure paragraph to the dramatic struggle which was waged in the formidable jungles and forbidding mountains during the ensuing three years.

Then one day in early May, 1945, newspaper readers in Allied countries throughout the world learned with a start that most of Burma had been re-conquered, that the Japanese had suffered a major disaster and that Rangoon had been liberated. Recalling vaguely those brief despatches which had cryptically reported the recapture of Tiddim, Myitkyina or some other unpronounceable place-name they were puzzled.

The world suddenly learned of a brilliant Allied victory in a battle which it was unaware had even been fought. And yet when historians sit down to record for posterity the story of World War II, they undoubtedly will include the Burma campaign among the "greatest battles" of the Far East.

The battle for Burma was no mere sideshow in the war against Japan. It was a battle waged in the worst fighting country in the world. It was won by "impossible strategy." And its significance in the over-all picture of the war against Japs is immeasurable.

This was the battle that secured India against invasion. This was the battle that opened an overland route to China—a route that may well have saved China from total disaster. This was the battle in which the Japanese suffered their first major defeat in the Far East.

And it was in the battle of Burma that the most daring concept of air power yet conceived was given a trial—and proven. It gave air power a revolutionary role, for in Burma entire divisions were moved by air and a whole army



During the Burma campaign the inhabitants of the borders of India and Burma helped the British and Indian forces and acted as guides to their patrols. They proved themselves excellent snipers.

was supplied almost exclusively by air. Never before had such an ambitious scheme of air transport and supply been attempted. Indeed, never before had it been considered feasible.

Still another inspiring feature of this "forgotten battle:" it was a perfect example of coalition warfare. This was a battle waged by the United Nations in more than name. Side by side British and Indians, Chinese and Americans, East and West Africans and Burmese fought in the "green hell" of the Burma jungle. These men of many countries literally fought, ate, slept and toiled shoulder to shoulder. One without the others could never have achieved the victory which they won together. Yet it is fair to add that over 75 per cent of the men who reconquered Burma were Indians and Gurkhas of the Indian Army.

Broad Strategy

To appreciate fully the magnitude of the victory achieved, one must understand that in one respect the battle of Burma was also the battle for China. The entire strategy of the Burma campaign hinged on one primary objective—the opening of an overland supply route to rejuvenate the beleaguered armies which had withstood the Japanese for six harrowing years in China. Even at the risk of disaster to their own forces, the Allied commanders who planned and directed this campaign never lost sight of that goal.

The broad strategy and objectives of the Burma campaign were decided upon in the autumn of 1943 of the Quebec Conference. It was then that Lord Louis Mountbatten was appointed Supreme Allied Commander of the South East Asia Command.

Plans were drafted for an overland route to China from India to replace the Burma road. Before the route could be completed the Japs must be driven from northern Burma. That meant a major campaign and Mountbatten was well aware that the Japanese in Burma could not be beaten within the necessary time limit if the Allies relied on the orthodox methods of supply and movement. So an ambitious scheme was conceived whereby many of the troops would be moved and most of them supplied by air.

There were more than a few sceptics who insisted, "It can't be done." And some pointed to earlier experiences to substantiate their argument that a division could be maintained in the field by air for no more than three days. Mountbatten and his commanders intended to maintain not a division but an army, and not for a few days but for weeks on end. This was the job assigned to the Eastern Air Command under the direction of the American Lieut.-General George E. Stratemeyer. All American and Royal Air Force units thus came under a single joint command.

Strategy Explained

The general strategy of the campaign which was launched in the last days of 1943 briefly was this:

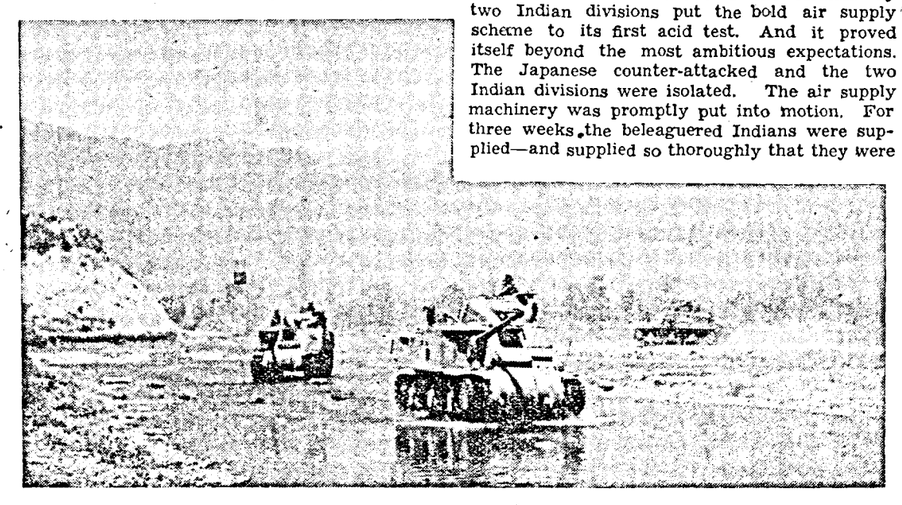
General Joseph Stilwell, with a force of several thousand American combat troops, known as the "Marauders," and two Chinese divisions, was to slash a route from Ledo in India's Assam Province to Myitkyina and then to Lashio to join with the old Burma Road. Success of this drive through malarial and virtually impenetrable jungle depended on two things: First, the bulk of the Japanese armies in Burma had to be occupied elsewhere, since it was obvious that Stilwell's relatively small army could not cope with the main Japanese forces. Secondly, the line of communications to the Japanese troops, which would oppose Stilwell's gruelling march must be severed.

To accomplish this second objective—severing Jap communications—an Indian division—the late Maj.-General Wingate's "Chindits"—got behind the Japanese lines, most of them being carried in by transport planes. They succeeded in cutting for long periods the railroad and road leading to the Japanese.

The other task—occupying the bulk of the Japanese armies elsewhere—was far bigger and more complex. This job fell to the Fourteenth Army under the command of General Sir William J. Slim, who had a private score to settle with the Japs since he was among those who marched out of Burma in the debacle of 1942. Slim is a daring general and had long been an advocate of air supply for combat troops.

Almost simultaneously, towards the end of 1943, General Stilwell's forces pushed off from Ledo in the north on their heart-breaking task and Gen. Slim's Fourteenth Army launched an attack in the south from Bengal into the Arakan seaboard of Burma. Slim's aim was to persuade the Japanese to commit their armies to a major campaign along the 700 mile long India-Burma border which was then roughly the battle-front.

The tentative thrust into the Arakan by two Indian divisions put the bold air supply scheme to its first acid test. And it proved itself beyond the most ambitious expectations. The Japanese counter-attacked and the two Indian divisions were isolated. The air supply machinery was promptly put into motion. For three weeks the beleaguered Indians were supplied—and supplied so thoroughly that they were



Tanks cross a stream before going into action on the Imphal front.

able to aid in a counter-attack which routed the Japanese and dealt them their first major defeat in the Far East at the hands of the British. This battle cost the Japanese more than 10,000 killed.

The Japanese, undeterred by this setback, prepared to launch a large-scale offensive further north into Assam. This was to be a decisive action in the battle for Burma, for the Japanese were intent on cutting the railroad along the Brahmaputra Valley carrying supplies to General Stilwell's road-building army and serving the airports from which American planes flew supplies to China over the "Hump." They had even bolder ideas in planning this offensive. They hoped to isolate and annihilate the Fourteenth Army and sweep into India to conquer the country.

Gen. Slim, through his intelligence organisation was aware of the Japanese plans. Had he chosen, he could have launched an offensive himself. But he knew that to do this he would have to fight on the worst possible ground and under the worst possible conditions, and his line of communications would be tenuous in this appalling terrain. He chose rather to accept the risk and allow the Japanese to attack, thereby giving them the forbidding terrain and exiguous line of communications.

The Japanese attacked across the Assam border on March 16, 1944, and the most critical battle of the Far Eastern war ensued. The Japanese achieved several important initial successes. They isolated thousands of British and Indian troops at the big bases of Imphal and Kohima inside the Indian frontier. And they advanced to positions from where they seriously threatened the railroad and supply line to Gen. Stilwell's army, which even then was slashing its way through the jungle towards Myitkyina.

Air Supply

So critical did the situation become that Stilwell proposed that he should send one of his divisions back to protect his supply line. This would have ended the campaign to open an overland route to China almost before it had got under way. In short, the Allies would have accepted defeat on one of their primary objectives in Burma. Gen. Slim told Stilwell to continue his drive to Myitkyina and guaranteed him that his line of supply would never be cut for more than ten days.

Air supply once again saved the day. The British and Indian divisions which had been isolated by the sweeping Japanese advance into Assam were supplied for weeks exclusively by air. Guns, ammunition, food, clothing and medicine all were flown into them under fire of Japanese guns. And the wounded were carried out. Fanatically the Japanese hurled wave after wave of attackers against the beleaguered garrisons but the British and Indians held fast. Reinforcements were flown in.

Then when the fury of the Japanese attacks had subsided, the British and Indians counter-attacked. First the garrison at Kohima broke out and smashed a Japanese division. And then the garrison at Imphal struck. The Japanese were caught in a wedge. Gen. Slim called it a "hammer and anvil" attack. Troops moving down from the north formed the "hammer" and troops attacking from the south formed the "anvil." The Japs were in the middle. Another Japanese division disintegrated and fled.

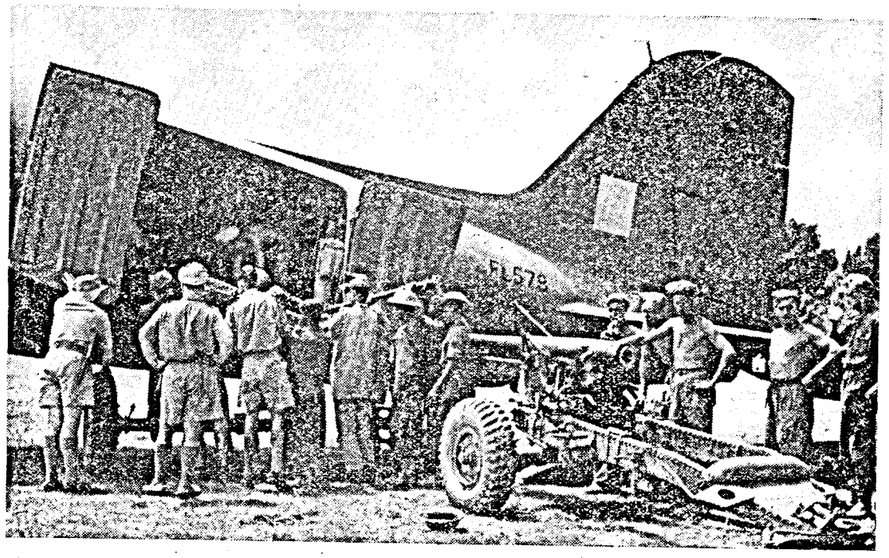
Fate of Jap Empire

With typical fanaticism the Japanese attempted one final attack. The Japanese Army commander declared in his order calling for this assault: "The fate of the Empire depends on the result of this battle. Imphal will be taken at all costs." The commander of the division leading the attack passed the message on to his troops and added grimly: "You will take Imphal but the division will be annihilated." Imphal was not taken but the division was virtually annihilated.

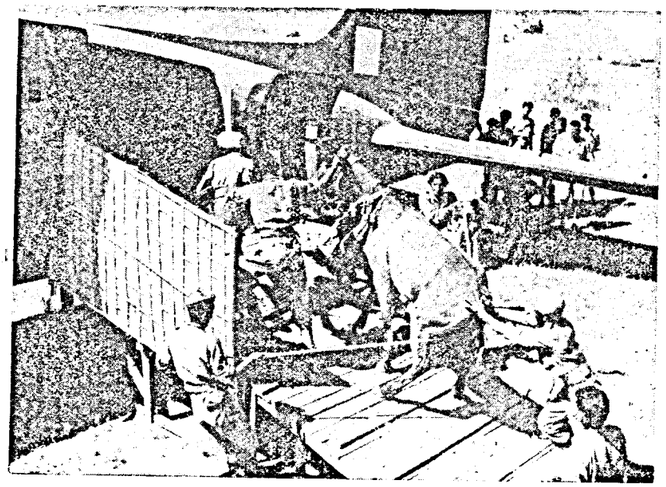
Only then did the Japanese accept defeat. Desperately they attempted to withdraw the remnants of their shattered army.

The monsoon——nemesis of the reckless—had broken and rain poured down from the skies turning jungle tracks into quagmires. The Japs hoped to withdraw behind the Chindwin river and there reorganise for a new attack in the autumn. They were sure that they would be secure through the monsoon. But they calculated not with the daring and tenacity of their adversaries. Never before had an army attempted to fight through the monsoon. But Gen. Slim and his Fourteenth Army already had accomplished many things that never before had been done. Thus it was that two divisions went in pursuit of the Japanese through the torrential rains.

Gen. Stilwell's forces, meantime, had reached Myitkyina, in North Burma, in an audacious flanking attack, but the American "Marauders" who spearheaded this fighting trek through the jungle were weakened by disease and exhaustion when they reached their goal. The Americans and Chinese seized the airfield at Myitkyina but they were unable to capture the town. However, reinforcements immediately were flown in—air transport and supply again playing a decisive role—and Myitkyina fell after a 78-day siege.



R.A.F. and American crew of Troop Carrier Command, under Brigadier-General Old, moved the Fifth Indian Division by air from the Arakan to the Imphal Front. Indian and British troops, jeeps, guns, mules, food and ammunition were transported hundreds of miles in a couple of hours and shortly after the troops were in contact with the enemy on the new front. Picture shows heavy guns being loaded into a transport.



This mule was rather reluctant but was eventually persuaded to enter the plane.



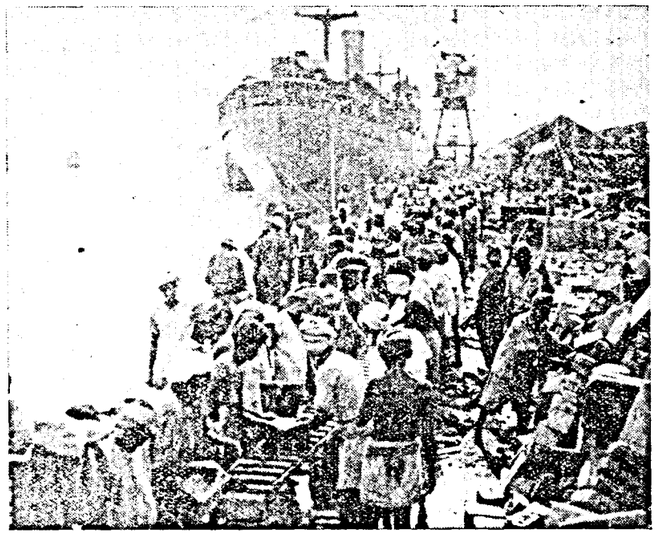
Indian troops advance along the road from Toungoo to Mawchi, Burma.

The pursuit of the main Japanese forces across the Chindwin river continued and by the end of the monsoon late in 1944 Gen. Slim was ready to launch another offensive to seize Mandalay in Central Burma, and at the same time destroy the Japanese armies.

It was in this phase of the campaign that air power played its most spectacular role. The entire Fourteenth Army which moved across the Chindwin river to smash the Japanese new line on the Irrawaddy river was supplied almost exclusively by air. In almost every operation battalions, brigades and divisions were moved with a speed that left the Japanese in a constant state of bewilderment and consternation.

320-Mile March

It was also in this phase of the campaign that Gen. Slim devised a brilliant if hazardous plan calculated to deal the Japanese a fatal blow. He sent an entire corps secretly on a 320-mile march down the valley of the Chindwin river to get behind the main Japanese positions and isolate the bulk of the enemy forces along the Irrawaddy. Success of the bold scheme depended on secrecy and deception.



Recapture of Rangoon-Indian workmen carrying water on the Rangoon dock.

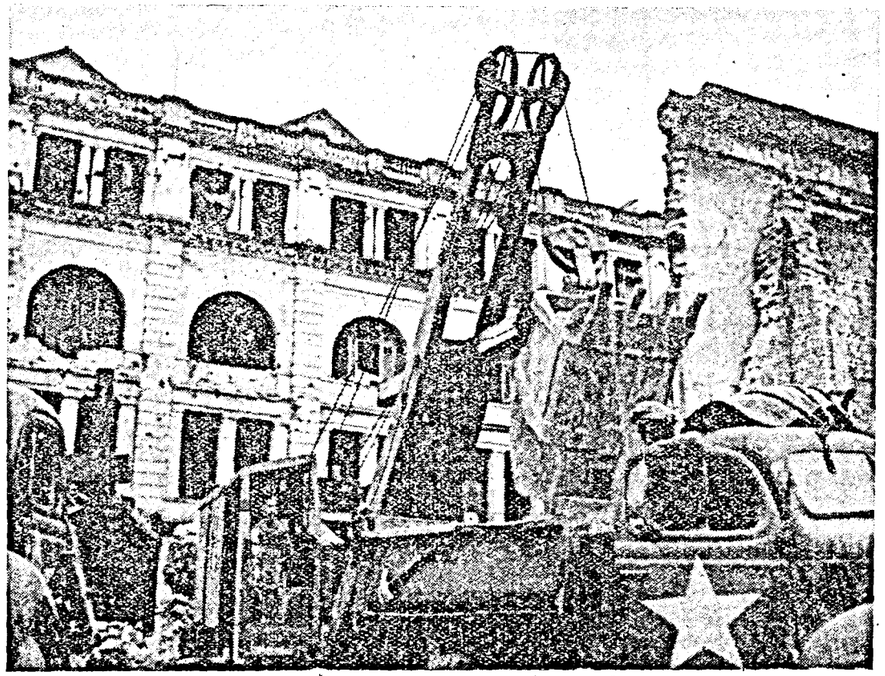
The Japs had to be persuaded that the major threat was against Mandalay, whereas actually the greatest danger was several hundred miles away approaching from the rear. The enemy blithely took the bait. He concentrated his main forces for a show-down battle around Mandalay. He even drew troops from the north to meet this threat. This, incidentally, enabled the Americans and Chinese to reach Lashio and complete the overland route to China.

Drive on Rangoon

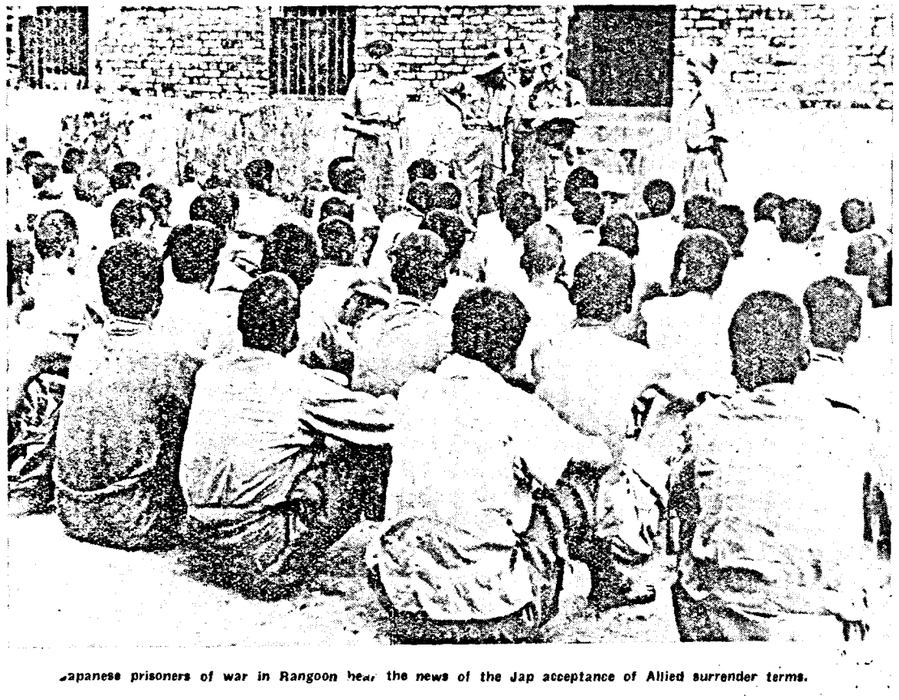
The trap began closing late in February. The Japanese suddenly found an entire corps menacing them from the rear. They made the discovery too late, for the British and Indian troops—supplied and reinforced by air—already had cut the line of communications at Meiktila to the Japanese forces defending Mandalay. The Japanese were thrown into complete confusion, unable to cope with the double threat Mandalay fell in savage fighting—the same kind of fighting that characterized this entire campaign.

After one last fierce desperate attempt to avert total disaster the decimated and shattered Japanese armies began a withdrawal to the south which soon became a rout. They fought fanatically to check the Allied drive on Rangoon. But they no longer were able to make a serious, organised stand. They summoned every available soldier—including the entire garrison from Rangoon—in a vain attempt to check the British and Indians at Pegu—about 50 miles north of Rangoon.

This was in late April, 1945. The monsoon was close at hand; just as the Indian division racing for Rangoon reached Pegu torrential rain burst. But the Indians refused to stop. Infantrymen bayoneted their way through the Japanese attempting to block the way. And when they were almost within sight of the Burmese capital, on May 3, 1945, the exhausted,



Royal Engineers attached to an R.I.A.S.C. Tipper Coy. use a crane to clear the debris in a street in Rangoon.



Japanese prisoners of war in Rangoon hear the news of the Jap acceptance of Allied surrender terms.

hungry and rain-soaked Indians received the news that sea-borne troops landing from the south had captured Rangoon unopposed. Indian paratroopers, in the first parachute operation in Asia, had blasted out the last few remaining Japs.

A Brilliant Victory

The battle for Burma thus ended in a brilliant victory for Allied arms. Burma was virtually liberated. The overland lifeline to China had been completed. The Japanese armies had suffered a defeat from which they could not soon recover. At least 100,000 Japs had been killed and perhaps twice the number put out of action permanently. Jap fanaticism was expressed in the fact that just over 1,000 prisoners were taken in the whole campaign—about one prisoner for every hundred killed.

It was a victory of which the United Nations might well be proud. For it was won with the sweat and blood of men of many countries, overcoming insurmountable obstacles in a brilliantly executed campaign which applied modern technique to jungle warfare and set a precedent for the strategy of tomorrow.

INDIAN ARMY'S PART IN BURMA CAMPAIGN

WITH the surrender of the Japanese, the predominant part played by the Indian Army in the reconquest of Burma can be revealed in figures for the first time.

Of just over one million troops, representing nine countries, under A.L.F.S.E.A. Command on June 1, 1945, well over 700,000 were provided by the Indian Army. British numbered more than 183,000 (including officers and other ranks serving with the Indian Army and other forces), and there were 77,000 West Africans, 49,000 East Africans, 18,000 Americans and 10,000 troops of the Burma Army.

Of the 27 V.Cs. won in the Burma campaign 20 were won by officers and men of the Indian Army.

The United States made a substantial contribution to the air war in Burma, providing at least half of the troop and supply transport at one time. On June 1, 1945, there were 23,000



Gen. Sir Claude Auchinleck, during his recent visit to Burma, presented the Military Medal to L/Duff Baboo Singh.

American Air Force personnel, approximately 50,000 R.A.F. and 9,500 R.I.A.F. under S.E.A.C.

It can now also be disclosed that 210,000 Indian troops were overseas at the end of the European war. These troops were in Africa, Italy, Iraq and Iran, where they guarded the supply route to Russia.

Latest Figures

The latest figures available, therefore, indicate that almost a million Indian troops were engaged in ousting the Japanese from Burma or were overseas following service in the war against Germany and Italy. This figure accounts for half the Indian Army.

Of the remaining million Indian troops, nearly 290,000, their training completed, were ready in India for use with our striking forces. Another 120,000 were engaged as static defence forces (including 62,000 on the North-West Frontier). The remainder were either in training, attending specialist schools, or assigned to general establishments on June 1 this year.

Lt.-Gen. Stopford's Tribute to Indian Troops

Lieut.-Gen. Sir Montague Stopford, commanding the 12th Army, the Empire's youngest army, has paid tribute to Indian formations which helped to trap and annihilate large Jap forces in the Pegu Yomas.

"Since the formation of the 12th Army," said Gen. Stopford in an interview, "more than 20,000 Japanese have been killed in Burma and 1,340 taken prisoner.

"During those weeks, troops had to fight under extremely difficult conditions, both of weather and terrain. Operations have been conducted on a front of 80 miles and over hundreds of square miles of country flooded by the monsoon rain.

"In the opening phases of the 'break-out' battle, units of the 7th, 17th, 19th and 20th Indian Divisions supported by the 255th Indian Tank Brigade were fighting ceaselessly day and night, but the enthusiasm, determination and endurance of the troops was so great that they overcame these conditions."

The formation of the 12th Army was announced on May 28, 1945. The headquarters consisted chiefly of the staff of the 33rd Indian Corps, which Gen. Stopford commanded, with certain additions from the 14th Army and Hq., A.L.F.S.E.A.

WAR SECRETARY LEAVES FOR U. K.

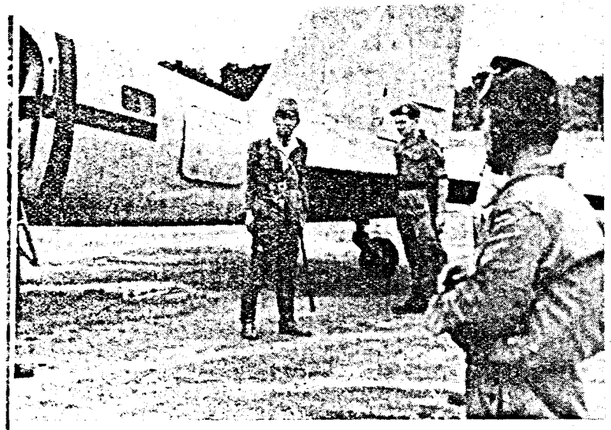
Mr. Jack Lawson, Secretary of State for War, left New Delhi by air on October 3 for the United Kingdom on the completion of his tour of British servicemen in India and South-East Asia Commands.

The Viceroy and Lady Wavell and the Commander-in-Chief in India, Gen. Sir Claude Auchinleck, were at the airfield to bid goodbye to Mr. Lawson, who had been their guest during his short stay in Delhi.

Since he arrived at Karachi on September 14, Mr. Lawson has done a lightning tour of British units in India, followed by visits to troops in Rangoon, Hongkong, Singapore and Kandy.

He arrived in Delhi on September 30 for discussions with the Viceroy and Commander-in-Chief and heads of departments concerned with the special problems of release and repatriation.

SURRENDER SCENES IN BURMA

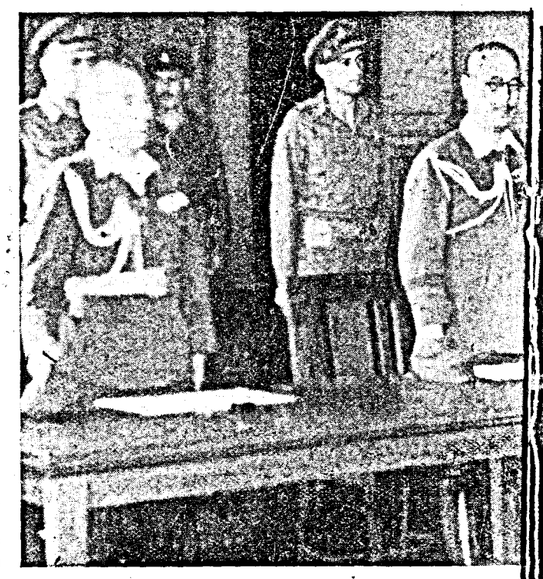


Jap Generals landed at Mingaladon airstrip, Rangoon, to surrender their Southern Army. (Below) Lieut.-Gen. Takazo Numata, Chief of Staff, Southern Army, meets Maj.-Gen. W. S. Symes, C.O.C., South Burma.



Among the Allied representatives at the Jap surrender ceremony were (L. to R., front row) Capt. F. S. Habeker, U.S. Navy; Maj.-Gen. Feng Yee, China; Mr. M. E. Dening, Political Affairs, S.A.C.S.E.A.; Rear-Admiral W. R. Patterson, R.N., East Indies Fleet; Lt.-Gen. F. A M. Browning, representing the Supreme Allied Commander, S.E.A. (Lord Louis Mountbatten); A Senior R.A.F. Officer, Maj.-Gen. Denning, Deputy Chief, P.A.O., S.E.A.C. and Air Vice-Marshal A. T. Cole, Royal Australian Air Force.



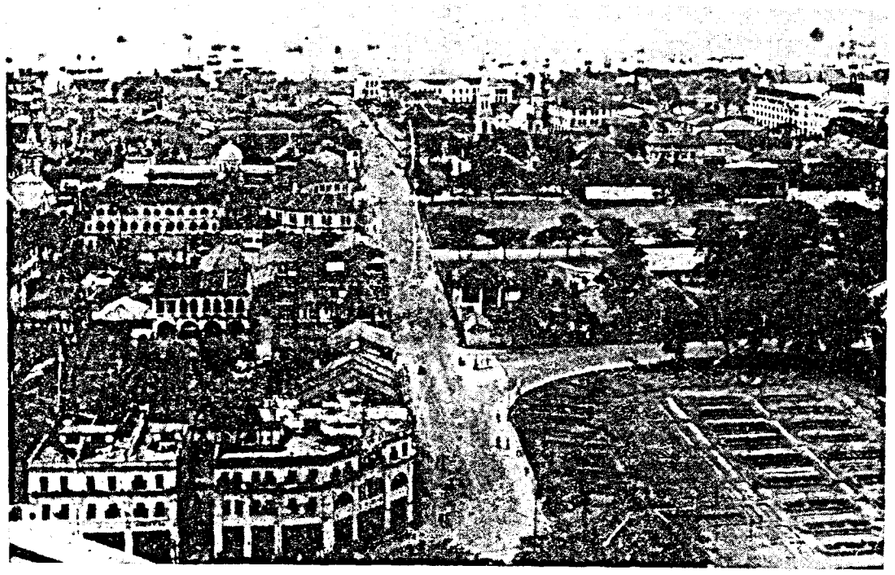




Lt.-Gen. Numata (second from right), Rear- Staff, Southern Army, and Lt.-Col. Morio Tom ballroom of Government House, Rangoon, wait Lieut.-Gen. Numata signs

Admiral Kaigye Chudo (left), Deputy Chief of ya Staff Officer, stand at near attention in the ing for the entry of the Allied leaders. (Right) he surrender terms.





Singapore as it was when the Fifth Indian Division marched in.

THE "FIGHTING FIFTH" WERE FIRST IN SINGAPORE

TROOPS of one of the toughest formations of this war—the 5th Indian Division, commanded by Maj.-Gen. E. C. Mansergh, O.B.E., M.C., were the first troops into Singapore.

Few Allied divisions have had more campaigning than the "Fighting Fifth" since it was mobilised in India in 1939. The Division has fought in Eritrea, Abyssinia, the Western Desert and Burma.

It went into action against the Japs for the first time in Arakan in November, 1943, under the command of Maj-Gen. D. F. W. Warren, who was later lost in an air accident. The divisional flash—"A ball of fire on a black square"—became a familiar sight on the hills and plains of Arakan and none respected it more than the enemy's 55th Division which was rough-housed at Maungdaw and on the Mayu Range by the tough Indian and British troops of the "Fighting Fifth".

In March, 1944, the entire Division was flown to Dimapur and Imphal to help stem the Jap advance, writes an Army Observer. The Division fought hard, and when the Japs fell back before our hammerblows it chased them down the tortuous mountain road to Tiddim, Fort White and Kalemyo.

Two months' rest in Assam and the Division marched again into Burma, finishing off by air and road at Meiktila where it arrived just after the town was captured by armoured units of the 17th Indian Division. The two divisions then leap-frogged down the road towards Rangoon.

By April 26 the "Fighting Fifth", only 130 miles from Rangoon, gave the lead to the 17th which linked up with the 15th Indian Corps north of Rangoon.

The later role of the 5th Indian Division was mopping up the considerable enemy forces left behind in the advance and the cutting of the enemy's escape route to the east.

Maj.-Gen. Mansergh has risen in four years from the rank of major.



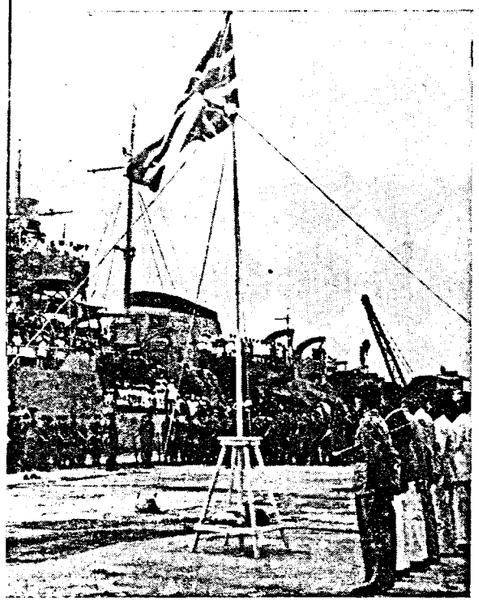
Young Malays cheer occupying troops in Singapore.

He was appointed Commander, Royal Artillery, of the 5th Indian Division and remained with them until August, 1944. For a short while he was a brigadier in the 7th Indian Division.

Next Gen. Mansergh took command of the 11th (East African) Division and when Gen. Warren was reported missing Gen. Mansergh took his place as commander of the "Fighting Fifth."



Disarmed Japanese soldiers marching out of Singapore.



For the first time in four years the Union Jack flies over Penang.

FAMOUS INDIAN DIVISIONS IN MALAYA

LONG fighting records in Burma stand to the credit of the two Indian Divisions—the 23rd and the 25th—which landed recently on the west coast of Malaya.

The 23rd, commanded by Maj.-Gen. Douglas C. Hawthorn, D.S.O., ex-Brigadier General Staff of the 15th Indian Corps, is a veteran division which fought for two years on the Indo-Burma border. The 25th, commander of which is Major-Gen. G. N. ("Sam") Wood, O.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., ex-Brigadier General Staff of the 23rd Indian Corps, was the "mystery" division which held the Maungdaw—"Tunnels" line in Arakan in the 1944 monsoon.

The 23rd Division, apart from one British Infantry battalion and one British artillery regiment is composed entirely of Indian Army troops. It was raised at Ranchi in 1942 and sent to the "northern line" in Manipur, to stem the threatened Jap advance after the loss of Burma.

Its troops were the first back into Tamu over the Indo-Burma border in Spring, 1943, and covered the entry and withdrawal of the first Wingate expedition.

During the Japanese offensive in the Spring of 1944, the Division fought on the Tiddim road assisting the 15th Indian Division in its fighting withdrawal towards Imphal. The Patiala State Infantry fought in the Kabaw valley assisting the 20th Indian Division to pull back along the Palel-Tamu road astride which it made its famous defensive stand.

The 23rd later took over from the 20th, and finally broke the back of the Japanese advance in this sector. The Division then went into the offensive and reoccupied Tamu.

Maj.-Gen. Hawthorn is 48-year-old and took command of the Division in March of this year. He was commissioned in 1917, served in France and transferred to the Indian Army in 1918, seeing service in Palestine and North-West Frontier with the 1st Punjab Regiment.

The 25th Indian Division's last actions were in the series of leap-frog landings down the Arakan coast which supported the 14th Army's drive into Burma. It was the spearhead of the landings on the Myebon peninsular and at Ru-Ywa where its troops fought in the battle of Kangaw—one of the most bloody actions of the Burma war.



Major-Gen. G. N. Wood, Commander, 25th Indian Division.

Raised in South India in 1942, the Division was flung into the line in Arakan in the Spring of 1944 when the 5th Indian Division was flown out north to Imphal.

Stiff Fighting

Stiff fighting took place in the "Tunnels" area before the line was stabilised. With a record low sickness rate, the Division held out throughout the monsoon under conditions of great hardship.

Its offensive opened towards the end of the year with a drive on Buthidaung. The Division also aided in the capture of Akyab early this year.

The divisional commander, Maj.-Gen. Wood, as a young subaltern in 1917 was crippled by a German bullet through both lungs and his spine. Doctors held out little hope of his recovery, but he fought "the toughest battle of his life" and returned to an Army career.

Between wars he saw service in Russia, Asia Minor, Sudan, India and the Balkans.

He took over command of the Division in October, 1944.

R.I.N. IN SINGAPORE SURRENDER CEREMONY

Representing the Royal Indian Navy in Singapore waters while the surrender of all Japanese forces in South-East Asia was being received ashore on September 12, were warships that have played a gallant part in the struggle against Japan.

Among them were the sloops H.M.I.S. *Godavari* (Commander H.M.S. Choudri, R.I.N., in command) and the *Cauvery* (Commander G. T. Moger, R.I.N., in command). H.M.I.S. *Godavari's* exploits included a prominent share in the hunting and destruction of a U-boat in the Indian Ocean last year, while the *Cauvery* was one of the Naval escort for the Rangoon invasion force last May.

Fleet minesweepers at Singapore include H.M.I.S. *Punjab*, the *Bihar*, the *Kumaon* and the *Rohilkhand*, all of which have long been engaged in convoy escort duty and took part in the Rangoon operations. In company with H.M.I.S. *Deccan*, also at Singapore, and H.M. minesweepers they recently swept the Malacca Strait to ensure the fleet's safe passage to Singapore.

The R.I.N. Contingent also includes motor launches that for two years have harried the Japanese on the Arakan coast. With them is their depot ship, H.M.I.S. *Barracuda*.

TEAM-WORK RESTORED VITAL COMMUNICATIONS

Army personnel, the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department and the Bengal and Assam Railway have been thanked by Lieut.-Gen. R. A. Wheeler, Commanding United States Forces, in India-Burma Theatre, for help rendered to his troops in restoring telephone communications between Calcutta and Chabua.

The message is contained in a letter to the Commander-in-Chief in India, Gen. Sir Claude Auchinleck. The service was restored in August this year under extremely trying monsoon conditions when a new cable was successfully laid across the Brahmaputra between Goalpara and Jogogihopa.

"This accomplishment by the United States Forces," Gen. Wheeler writes, "was in no small way due to the splendid co-operation of personnel of the British Army, the Indian Posts and Telegraphs and the Bengal and Assam Railway who so materially assisted by providing the table and participating in the actual construction.

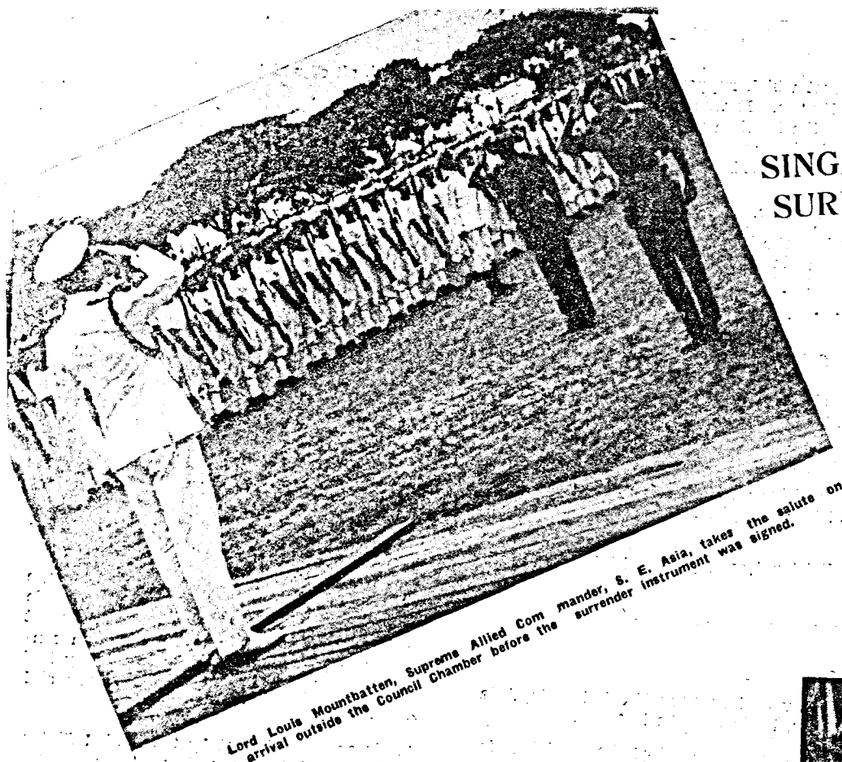
"Please accept this expression of my appreciation for this co-operation and kindly extend it to those concerned," he adds.

P.O.W. FREE CABLES DISCONTINUED

The Red Cross Free Ten Words Cable Service between prisoners of war and civilian internees and their next-of-kin in India has been discontinued.

Arrangements are being made for the recovery and repatriation of prisoners of war and internees as quickly as possible. They will be permitted to send at Government expense to their next-of-kin one telegram on release or on arrival in India.

SINGAPORE SURRENDER

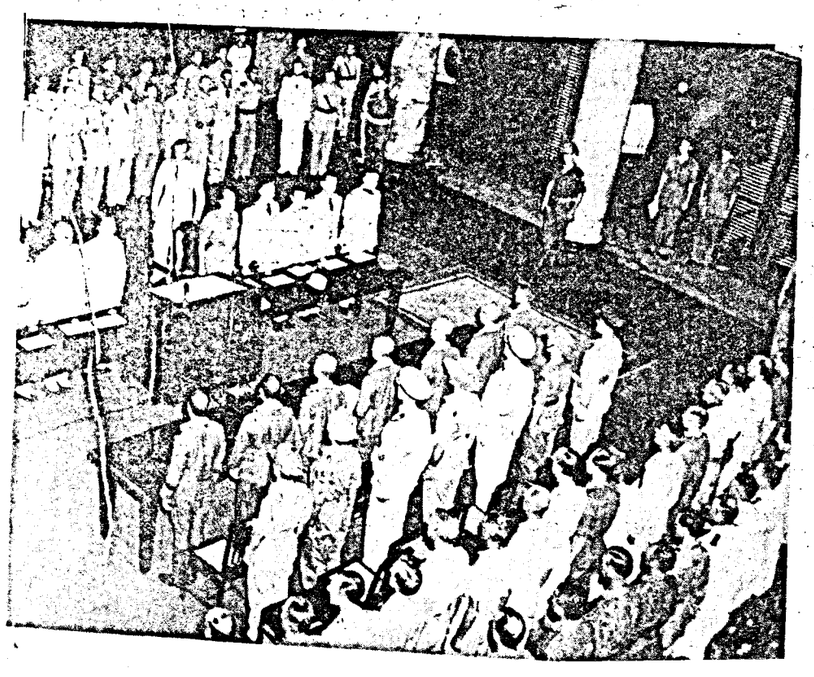


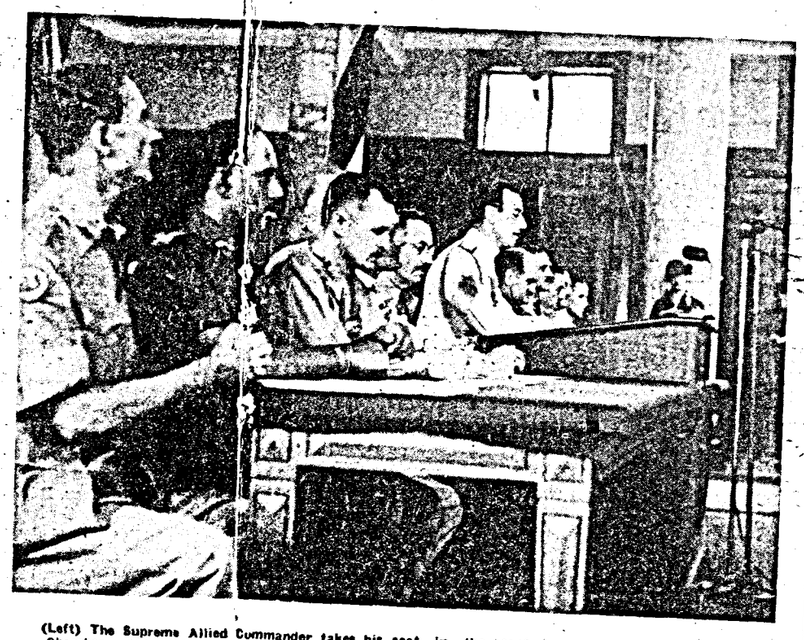
Lord Louis Mountbatten, Supreme Allied Com mander, S. E. Asia, takes the salute on his arrival outside the Council Chamber before the surrender instrument was signed.



Jap delegate signs surrender terms.

Impressive ceremo marked the surre proceedings when Japs handed Singa back to the Allies







(Left) The Supreme Allied Commander takes his seat in the conference room of the Council Chamber. (Above) Brigadier K. S. Thimayya (second from left) represented the Indian Army. He was one of the nine signatories to the surrender instrument. (Right) Lord Mountbatten addressing the people of Singapore after the ceremony.

INSTRUMENT OF SURRENDER OF JAPANESE FORCES UNDER THE COMMAND OR CONTROL OF THE SUPREME COMMANDER, JAPANESE EXPEDITIONARY FORCES, SOUTHERN REGIONS, WITHIN THE OPERATIONAL THEATRE OF THE SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER, SOUTH EAST ASIA.

1. In pursuance of and in compliance with:

(*a*) the Instrument of Surrender signed by the Japanese plenipotentiaries by command and on behalf of the Emperor of Japan, the Japanese Government, and the Japanese Imperial General Headquarters at Tokyo on 2 September, 1945;

(*b*) General Order No. 1, promulgated at the same place and on the same date;

(*c*) the Local Agreement made by the Supreme Commander, Japanese Expeditionary Forces, Southern Regions, with the Supreme Allied Commander, South East Asia at Rangoon on 27 August, 1945;

to all of which Instrument of Surrender, General Order and Local Agreement this present Instrument is complementary and which it in no way supersedes, the Supreme Commander, Japanese Expeditionary Forces, Southern Regions (Field Marshal Count Terauchi) does hereby surrender unconditionally to the Supreme Allied Commander, South East Asia (Admiral The Lord Louis Mountbatten) himself and all Japanese sea, ground, air and auxiliary forces under his command or control and within the operational theatre of the Supreme Allied Commander, South East Asia.

2. The Supreme Commander, Japanese Expeditionary Forces, Southern Regions, undertakes to ensure that all orders and instructions that may be issued from time to time by the Supreme Allied Commander, South East Asia, or by any of his subordinate Naval, Military or Air Force Commanders of whatever rank acting in his name, are scrupulously and promptly obeyed by all Japanese sea, ground, air and auxiliary forces under the command or control of the Supreme Commander, Japanese Expeditionary Forces, Southern Regions, and within the operational theatre of the Supreme Allied Commander, South East Asia.

3. Any disobedience of, or delay or failure to comply with, orders or instructions issued by the Supreme Allied Commander, South East Asia, or issued on his behalf by any of his subordinate Naval, Military or Air Force Commanders of whatever rank, and any action which the Supreme Allied Commander, South East Asia, or his subordinate Commanders, acting on his behalf, may determine to be detrimental to the Allied Powers, will be dealt with as the Supreme Allied Commander, South East Asia may decide.

4. This Instrument takes effect from the time and date of signing.

5. This Instrument is drawn up in the English language, which is the only authentic version. In any case of doubt as to intention or meaning, the decision of the Supreme Allied Commander, South East Asia is final. It is the responsibility of the Supreme Commander, Japanese Expeditionary Forces, Southern Regions, to make such translation into Japanese as he may require.

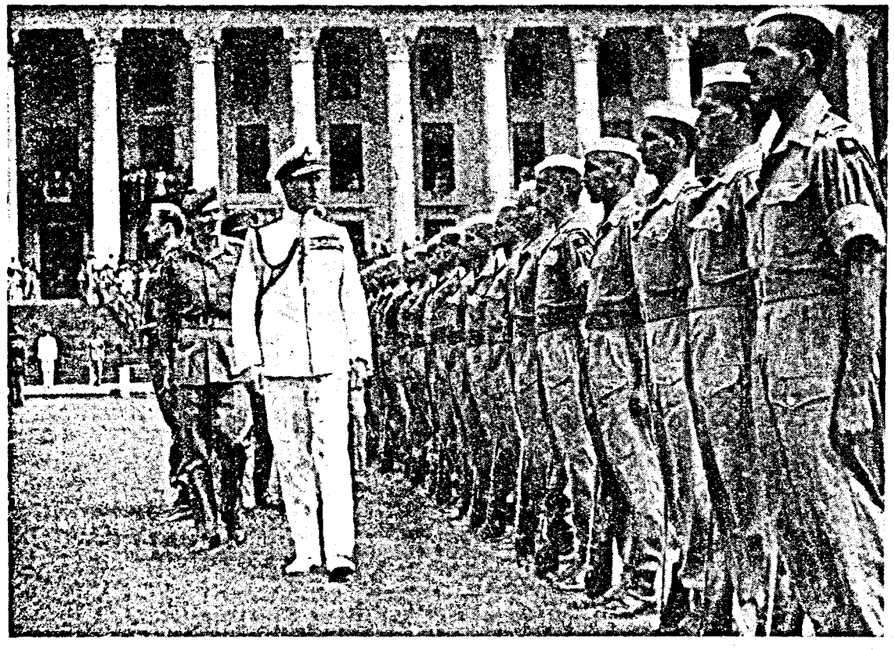
Signed at Singapore at 0341 hours (G.M.T.) on 12 September, 1945.

陸軍大將 故帥 寺内壽一 印

SUPREME COMMANDER
JAPANESE EXPEDITIONARY FORCES,
SOUTHERN REGIONS.

Louis Mountbatten

SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER,
SOUTH EAST ASIA.



The Supreme Allied Commander inspecting the Dogra Regiment of the Fifth Indian Division in Singapore.

"INDIAN TROOPS DESERVE THE HIGHEST PRAISE"

IN a special broadcast to India from Singapore, Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten expressed his pleasure that among signatories to the surrender document were two distinguished officers of the Indian Army.

"Indian troops have formed the largest part—over 70 per cent. of our ground forces," he said. "Led by an Indian Army officer, General Sir William Slim, they have fought doggedly in retreat and with the greatest possible courage and dash during the advances which ended in the liberation of Burma.

"They have taken part in every big victory. They have won 20 out of the 27 V.Cs awarded in Burma. They deserve the highest praise that anyone can give them. I am glad that they were represented at the capitulation ceremony, not only by Gen. Slim himself, but by an Indian brigade commander with a distinguished fighting record—Brig. Thimayya.

"Indian Army prisoners of war have been subjected to the most determined and vicious attacks upon their loyalty. Continued attempts have been made over a period of years to subvert them by propaganda, by coercion, by bribery, by ill-treatment, by the most extreme and brutal forms of torture.

Indian P.O.W. Camps

"No one can go round Indian P.O.W. camps, as I have just done, and hear the stories of men who stubbornly resisted years of such treatment and preferred death itself to dishonour, without feeling that the care of the survivors and their early return to their homes must be one of our most urgent and immediate tasks. In fact, the very first batch of prisoners of war left this island were Indians and the rest are being moved as quickly as possible.

"Finally, I must pay tribute to the great work that has been done in India itself under my friend Gen. Sir Claude Auchinleck, the Commander-in-Chief. India has been our main supply base and every demand of ours that it was humanly possible to meet has been met.

"All of us in South-East Asia Command owe a debt of gratitude to India and I am glad to have this opportunity of again acknowledging it publicly."

LORD MOUNTBATTEN VISITS INDIAN EX-P.O.W.s IN SINGAPORE

Lord Louis Mountbatten has sent a message from Singapore to the Commander-in-Chief in India, Gen. Sir Claude Auchinleck, telling him of the progress made in the evacuation of Indian ex-P.O.Ws.

"Of the 17,016 Indian prisoners of war in the island," the message reads, '4,916 have already sailed from Singapore. In the last 24 hours I have been to all the camps in which Indian prisoners of war are located and have personally addressed all those left at Singapore."

Admiral Mountbatten adds that, as might be expected, he found all of them in tremendous heart.

General Auchinleck has replied: "Very many thanks for your message. Am most grateful for all you have done."

76,000 EX-P.O.W.s AND INTERNEES EVACUATED

Here is a detailed statement of the disposition of Allied prisoners of war and internees in South-East Asia, according to reports received at H.Q., A.L.F., S.E.A., on October 15.

Singapore: Those remaining comprise 166 British, 2,888 Australians, 789 Indians and 5,693 Dutch. A total of 39,073 has been evacuated.

Malaya: 3,220 have been cleared. Only 686 Indians remain.

Hong Kong: 6,019 have been cleared. The remainder comprise 62 British, 85 Australians, 340 Indians, 90 Americans and 181 Dutch.

Siam: 21,577 have been cleared, leaving 200 Australians and 10,802 Dutch.

French Indo-China: 2,639 have been cleared, leaving 5,400 French and 1,750 Dutch.

Sumatra: 3,379 have been cleared, leaving 165 Chinese and an uncertain number of Dutch.

The numbers of former prisoners and internees remaining in the above territories include persons too sick to be moved and others, such as the Dutch in Java and the French in Indo-China, who are ordinarily resident there and are not therefore due for evacuation.

COMMANDERS OF S.E.A.C. DECORATED

THE departure of Lt.-Gen. Raymond A. Wheeler, Deputy Supreme Allied Commander, S.E.A.C., and Commander of the U.S. Forces in the India-Burma theatre, to take up an appointment in Washington was marked by a double investiture at the Kandy S.E.A.C. Headquarters.

The Supreme Allied Commander, South-East Asia, Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten, invested him with the insignia of K.B.E. On behalf of the President of the U.S.A., Gen. Wheeler then decorated Admiral Mountbatten with the Distinguished Service Medal.

Gen. Wheeler was invested for "his exceptional knowledge of logistics and his remarkable ability to act quickly in the face of many rapidly-changing situations that contributed so much toward solving the many difficult and complex problems which faced him."

Admiral Mountbatten's citation from the White House said: "Admiral Mountbatten organised the American, British and Chinese forces into a superb, harmonious and co-ordinated fighting team. He planned, directed and executed the campaign which ensured the security of the air route over "the Hump", which reopened the land route to China and which finally resulted in the complete defeat of the enemy."

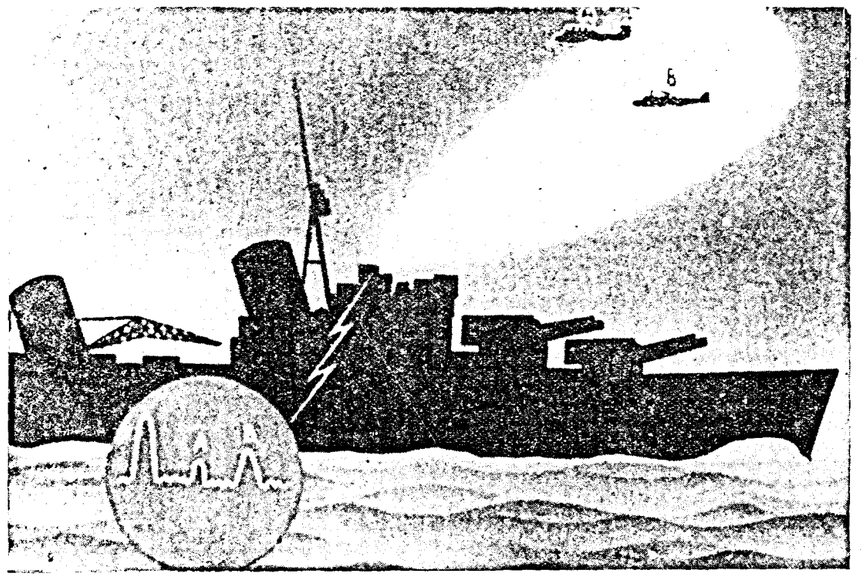
PRESS CENSORSHIP CEASES

A Press Communique issued by the Public Relations Directorate, G.H.Q., India, on September 7, stated:

The Government of India announce that, following the signing in Tokyo of the formal surrender terms and the occupation by Allied forces of strategic points, Press censorship ceases from noon today.

Simultaneously, "Press Instructions for War" lapse, with the exception of certain clauses which have been communicated to editors through Provincial Press Advisers.

Censorship of coastal and telegraphic communications and censorship of documents carried by travellers also cease forthwith so far as the U.S.A., U.K. and Empire countries, other than those recently in occupation by the enemy, are concerned, as do inland and unit censorship and the monitoring of telephone conversations.



Aircraft A and B have been caught in the Radar beam of a warship. Plane "A" which is not fully in the beam, is seen by the Radar operator as the smaller inverted "V" in circle, but plane "B" in the full beam, is seen by the Radar operator as the large inverted "V" on the right in circle. The "hump" on the left is the Radar transmission signal.

RADAR HELPED R.I.N. TO DEFEAT JAPAN

Radar, the "all-seeing eye"—one of the scientific marvels of the modern world—has helped the Royal Indian Navy to convoy great quantities of shipping in safety across the ocean passages and on coastal routes.

As new ships for the Navy came from the builders' yards, they were fitted with Radar equipment, and specially trained personnel manned the sets. During the war a large number of Indian officers and ratings—many of the latter from South India—have learnt to operate the complicated apparatus.

A Radar School was established in India, with modern equipment employed in various classes of warship, including destroyers. One of the few such establishments in the British Commonwealth outside the United Kingdom, it instructs R.I.N. personnel in Radar plotting and action information organisation and trains radio mechanics in the maintenance of ship-borne Radar equipment.

One of H.M.I. ships was fitted up as a training ship and commissioned as a tender to the school.

Throughout the struggle with Japan the Royal Indian Navy's Radar Branch has undergone rapid expansion and has powerfully influenced all other branches of Service. The maintenance of the large amount of complex apparatus involved was a major problem, and to cope with this, base workshops were established at principal Indian ports.

MAIL FOR REOCCUPIED COUNTRIES IN THE FAR EAST

Surface mail communication with Hongkong, Malaya, Straits Settlements, French Indo-China and Siam is now available. The service is restricted to unregistered letters weighing one oz. and postcards in respect of Hongkong, Malaya States, French Indo-China and Straits Settlements. In the case of Siam, unregistered letters, printed and commercial papers weighing 2 oz. and postcards are admissible. Correspondence is liable to delay in delivery.



Lieut. S. K. Kumarhia, R.I.N.R.

Indian Naval Officer as Pilot Commander

THE first Indian Master Mariner to join the Royal Indian Naval Reserve, 33-year-old Lieut. Shri Kishan Kumarhia, R.I.N.R., of Allahabad, supervised the pilotage of the first 60 ships to reach Rangoon after the port's recapture.

As Pilot Commander, he directed operations from H.M.S. *Beacon*, formerly the pilot vessel of the Rangoon Port Commissioners. After the evacuation in 1942, the *Beacon* was commissioned into the Royal Navy and transferred to the Persian Gulf for examination and patrol duties.

Lieut. Kumarhia assumed command at Karachi in January 1945, and sailed his ship to Colombo, where she underwent an extensive refit before joining the first convoy to Rangoon. The *Beacon* is now back on her old job, but she still wears the White Ensign and, since mid-June, has been commanded by an officer of the Burma R.N.V.R.

The pilots who live aboard her were all formerly employed as pilots by the Rangoon Port Commissioners. In the three years interval of Japanese occupation they served in the Burma R.N.V.R., with the exception of one who is now an Army Major and another who joined the Royal Australian Naval Reserve. They, too, are back on their old job.

Trained in "Dufferin"

Serving under him in H.M.S. *Beacon*, Lieut. Kumarhia had three officers of the R.I.N.V.R., a Norwegian engineer officer, 10 British and more than 40 Indian ratings.

Lieut. Kumarhia was trained in I.M.M.T.S. *Dufferin*, served his apprenticeship with the British India S.N. Co., and, before the war, was an officer in one of the Scindia passenger ships on the Rangoon-Chittagong run. He is a son of Dr. Rupkishen Kumarhia, formerly of the Rewa State Medical Service, who is now living at Benares.

FROM PRIVATE TO CHIEF COMMANDER

During the Malaya fighting of 1942, Mrs. N. Gupta, of Garden Town, Lahore, heard that her son, serving with a famous Indian division, had been taken prisoner.

Determined to take a personal part in the war against Japan Mrs. Gupta joined the W.A.C.(I) as a private. Today she is Chief Commander Gupta, Assistant Director of the W.A.C.(I) at Lahore, controlling the work of hundreds of officers and auxiliaries in a large area of the Punjab.

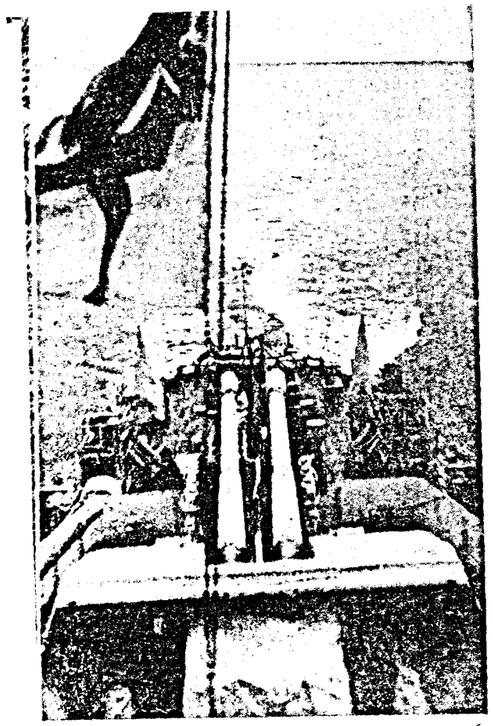
Chief Commander Gupta enrolled on local service terms in July 1943. She worked for 10 days as a private with the R.A.F. and was then promoted sergeant.

Commissioned

In February, 1944, she received a direct commission and was later promoted to Staff Captain, A.D., W.A.C.(I). In May, 1945, she became Deputy President of the W.A.C. (I) Selection Board, Lonavla, and on her return to Lahore in June she found the post of Assistant Director W.A.C.(I) awaiting her.

Having been through the ranks Chief Commander Gupta takes a personal interest in the

(*Continued on Page* 463)



H.M.I.S. "Jumna," a sloop of the Royal Indian Navy. She has steamed over 150,000 miles since she was completed in March 1941.

SANSKRIT AND URDU

AT regular intervals, a committee of Indian officers—experts in Indian history, especially its naval side—meets at Naval Headquarters, New Delhi, to choose names for H.M.I. ships and establishments about to be commissioned.

Its policy is to select Indian names with 100 per cent Indian associations. Choice in individual cases is determined after careful weighing of a number of considerations. Ships of the same class receive the same kind of name. Sloops, for instance, are called after Indian rivers, Fleet minesweepers after provinces and large territorial areas, like Rajputana. Names of towns are borne by other escort vessels. Some shore establishments recall great figures in Indian history; others like H.M.I.S. *Bahadur* feature the qualities expected of a fighting service.

Name Book

A Name Book is being prepared at Naval Headquarters with suggestions for future use. Sanskrit and Urdu terms for the weapons of war appear prominently in it. Searching the centuries-old records of India's Navy, the committee has also drawn up a list of ships that rendered gallant service in the age of "wooden walls." Their names, in the Sanskrit or Urdu equivalent, will be taken over by new warships joining the fleet, and in this way the magnificent traditions of India's Navy will be constantly recalled.

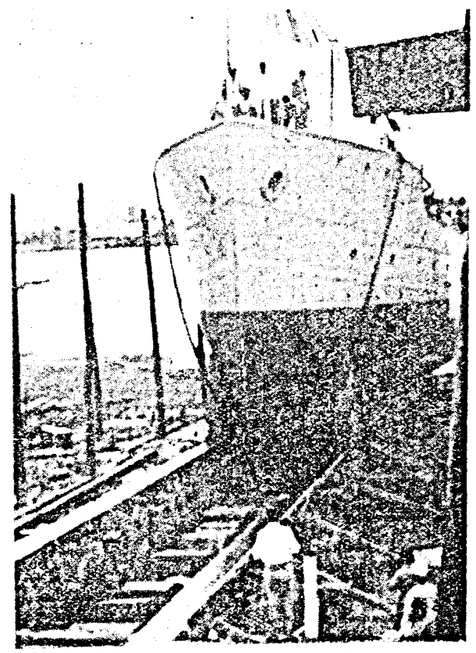
NAMES FOR WARSHIPS

Some familiar Indian names are missing from the list. Strange as it may appear, the explanation generally lies in the remarkable ability of the Parsee Master Shipbuilders of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. These were members of the Wadia family of Bombay, who built ships of such fame and longevity that the Royal Navy has never been willing to let their names lapse. To this class belong the names *Ganges* and *Malabar*.

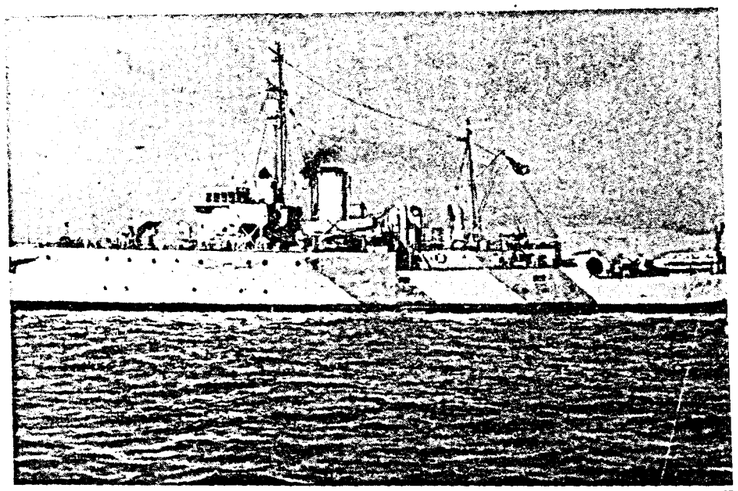
The original H.M.S. *Ganges* was an 84 gun line-of-battle ship built by Mr. Jamsetjee Wadia in the Indian Naval Dockyard at Bombay and launched by his son, Mr. Nowrojee Wadia, in 1821. She was broken up some 20 years ago, having had the longest active career of any of the old "wooden walls," except the reconstructed H.M.S. *Victory*. Her name was taken over by the Boys' Training Establishment at Shotley, the biggest of such establishments belonging to the Royal Navy.

H.M.S. *Malabar* was a 74 gun ship of the line built by Mr. Jamsetjee Wadia in 1818. She ended her long service as the base ship at Bermuda within the memory of living men, and her name is still borne by the present base ship there.

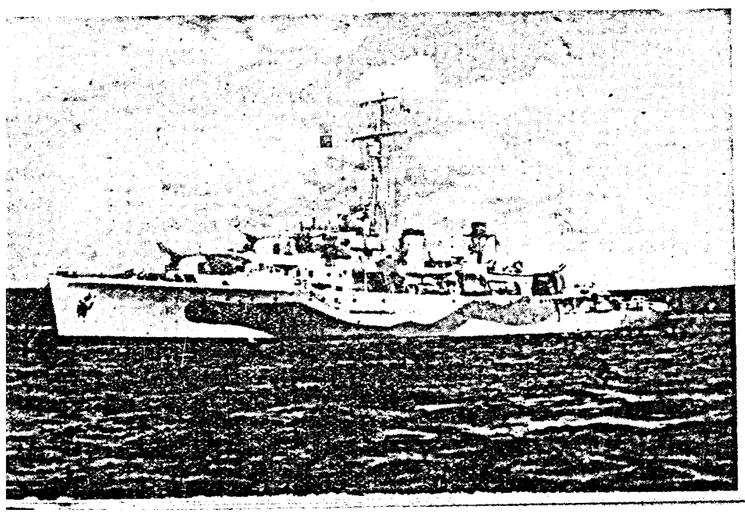
Two of the Royal Indian Navy's present day sloops—H.M.I.S. *Narbada* and H.M.I.S. *Jumna*—maintain, in their names, a link with two 16 gun brigs built for the Royal Navy in 1848 by Mr. Cursetjee Rustomjee Wadia.



H.M.I.S. "Travancore," the largest sea-going vessel built in India, going down the slipway.



H.M.I.S. "Narbada," built and commissioned in the U.K., was engaged in convoy escort duties in European waters.



H.M.I.S. "Punjab," a Bathurst class warship, equipped for escort duties, minesweeping and anti-submarine work.

INDIA'S REPRESENTATION ON FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL

A Press Note issued by the External Affairs Department, Government of India, on September 22, said:

Replying to the invitation to the Government of India to represent their views, if they so desired, at the meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers, the Secretary of State for India, in a letter dated September 17, to Dr. Wang Shih-Chieh, President of the Council, said:

I write to acknowledge, with many thanks, receipt of the letter of September 14 in which Your Excellency, as President of the Council of Foreign Ministers, was so good as to convey an invitation to the Government of India to represent their views, if they so desired, at the meeting of the Council to be held this afternoon on the question of the Yugoslav-Italian Frontier and the future of the city and port of Trieste.

I duly communicated this invitation to the Government of India by telegram, and desire, on their behalf, first to express to the Council their deep appreciation of the consideration which has been given to their interest in the peace settlement with Italy. This interest is derived immediately from the outstanding part played by the armed forces of India in the battles which resulted in the defeat of the Fascist Government of Italy, and from the important share which her forces took in the victories and in the sacrifices, the fruit of which has been the liberation from tyranny of the territories invaded by the enemy.

Link with the West

Moreover, the sympathy felt inevitably in India and throughout the Muslim world with the peoples of Islamic faith now freed from the Italian yoke in North Africa, Eritrea and Somaliland cannot but create a close interest on her part in the future welfare of these peoples. Furthermore, the security of India herself and the continued prosperity of her own many millions of inhabitants depend upon the unimpaired maintenance of the communications by sea and air which link her shores with the countries of the West and, in particular, with the United Kingdom.

After consultation with the Government of India I now have the honour to communicate on their behalf the following reply which I would ask Your Excellency to lay before the Council at its session to-day. The Government of India have no observations to offer on the particular aspect of the Italian Treaty Settlement which is concerned with the determination of the Yugoslav-Italian Frontier and the future of the City and Port of Trieste. Nevertheless, they welcome the opportunity which has been afforded to them by the Council of representing their views at the meeting to-day though, for the reason given above, they do not wish to avail themselves of the invitation.

India's Interest

Having regard to the circumstances which I have explained in the earlier part of this letter the Government of India have every confidence that their interest in the peace settlement with Italy will be borne in mind should another opportunity occur for a similar invitation to be extended to other interested United Nations on some future occasion when matters likely to affect the interests of India are under consideration. In that event their views will be expressed by the Hon'ble Sir Geoffrey Prior, K.C.I.E., whom the Government of India have appointed as their representative for such purpose.

An earlier Press Communique stated: The Government of India have appointed the Hon. Lt.-Col Sir Geoffrey Prior to represent their views to the Council of Foreign Ministers in London on any questions on which India, as one of the United Nations, may be invited to submit views for the consideration of the Council. Throughout the war, Sir Geoffrey has held the important office of political resident in the Persian Gulf, where he succeeds to the tradition set by the late Sir Percy Cox. He is an officer of the Indian Service stationed in a region where India's interests are deeply engaged, and has also represented India in Cairo during an important period of the war.

INDIA AND MIDDLE-EAST REQUIREMENTS

According to a report from the Indian Government Trade Commissioner, Alexandria, importers in the Mid-East countries are anxious to obtain goods from abroad. Increasing quantities of certain lines have reached those markets but have not been sufficient to meet the requirements of the "famished" consumers.

There is a widespread impression in those countries, according to the report, that, with her rapid and extensive industrialisation, India should be in a position to supply most of their requirements.

DEMOBILISATION OF INDIAN ARMY PERSONNEL

A Press Note issued by the Public Relations Directorate, G.H.Q. (India) on September 17, stated:

Plans for the demobilisation of the Indian Army are announced today. They are, of necessity, of an interim nature for, until the situation in recovered territories is clearer, requirements for occupation cannot properly be assessed. An approximation can, however, be made and the Government of India have decided to proceed with the initial stage of demobilisation.

The release of officers and British other ranks of the Indian Army is linked with that of their opposite numbers in British service, and will continue parallel with it, group by group. The only difference is that, for the present, the date of release of those in the Indian Army refers to release in India. This means that Group 20 of the Indian Army will be released in India on the same date as Group 20 of British service is released in the United Kingdom.

Post-War Needs

It is clear that the majority of Viceroy's Commissioned Officers, other ranks and enrolled non-combatants wish to continue to serve; against this desire to continue service, however, a very considerable reduction is necessary to bring the Army down to the numbers necessary for immediate post-war needs.

The initial surplus amounts to about 850,000 of whom approximately 130,000 are recruits no longer required as reinforcements to maintain the forces in the field.

The first process of demobilisation is to be spread over eight months beginning on October 1, and surplus recruits will be the first to go. The reason for this is that it is necessary to clear the training centres which are to be used for demobilisation purposes.

After the recruits certain trained men will be released, and as far as their location and transport facilities permit they will go generally in the following order: Personnel who wish to be released; regulars who have earned their pensions; personnel other than regulars who are in low medical categories; personnel other than regulars, in age and service groups 1 to 12 who have not already been released; and other personnel who will be surplus to requirements and for whom no place can be found within the authorised establishments.

In certain classes and trades it may be necessary to postpone release temporarily because of existing and anticipated deficiencies, but this necessity should disappear before long. Where there is an excess of those who wish to be released, men in the earlier age and service groups will go first.

Demobilisation Centres

It has been arranged that V.C.Os. other ranks and non-combatants will be released through demobilisation centres located with the offices which keep their records and accounts. This will ensure that if there are discrepancies and errors men will have an opportunity of having the matter investigated in their presence by officers specially appointed for the purpose.

At each of the demobilisaton centres there will be officers of the Resettlement Advice Service, whose duty it will be to hear men's wishes and to advise them how best to achieve them. Afterwards they will be assisted in finding employment by the Labour Department's employment exchanges, which have been temporarily augmented by turning 113 recruiting officers into recruiting and employment offices. These are located all over India so that demobilised men will be within easy reach of advice and help.

The W.A.C.(I) will also be affected by this stage of demobilisation and their release has already begun. They will share with demobilised troops the release benefits and arrangements for resettlement and training for civil work.

Recruitment to Continue

In spite of the proposed reduction in strength of the Indian Army there are classes and trades in which deficiencies will have to be made good by further recruitment. The number of officers who wish to be released exceeds the reduction of establishment, and the recruitment of emergency commissioned officers must, therefore, continue for some time. This also applies to the W.A.C.(I) and certain categories of technical personnel.

The work of the recruiting organisation, therefore, is not yet finished. What is more, in addition to this measure of recruiting, it will have the added duty of helping to find employment for demobilised personnel.

RESETTLEMENT OF DEMOBILISED PERSONNEL

Nawab M. A. Gurmani's Radio Talk

"THE demobilisation of the war effort should be a creative re-mobilisation for peace," said Nawab M. A. Gurmani, Director-General of Resettlement in the Labour Department of the Central Government, in a talk in Hindustani, broadcast recently from All-India Radio, Delhi.

He said: "There will soon be returning to civil life an unprecedentedly large number of trained and disciplined Services personnel whose services we could effectively utilise for the development and progress of the country. They have developed qualities of self-sacrifice, comradeship, responsibility and leadership; they have learnt new methods of organisation, new skills and new techniques of production; they have, through their contacts with different peoples and different cultures, acquired new ideas, new modes of thinking and new values. In short, they constitute a national asset of great value.

Fine Human Material

"Coming, as a large majority of them do, from rural areas, they have shown a remarkable resourcefulness in adapting themselves to utterly new surroundings and conditions of life. We expect that on their return to civil life they will show the same resourcefulness and adaptability in working for the common good so as to help build a better India for themselves and the coming generations. It is our duty to provide them with opportunities so as to enable them to make as magnificent a contribution to the building of a better and more prosperous India as they have already made in the field of battle. We should not treat the problem of their resettlement in the spirit either of unemployment relief or of reward for their meritorious services. We should consider it from the broader viewpoint of making the maximum use of this fine human material. These brave men have a right to ask us as to what role they have to play in the country for the defence of which they went into battle and what are the plans for their resettlement in civil life."

Referring to the facilities which Government are providing for their resettlement and employment in civil life, Nawab Gurmani said that the Government had set up an integrated Resettlement and Employment Organisation whose first task was necessarily to find out in advance the number of persons likely to be seeking work and the employment opportunities likely to be available for various categories of workers. Without this data it was not possible to organise resettlement on a rational basis nor was it possible to tackle the difficult problem of employment readjustment during the period of transition from war to peace.

Workers and Jobs

"What is required is a well-organised and co-ordinated employment service which will 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.

"Some of the demobilised persons would be absorbed in Government Service in the reserved vacancies; some would like to revert to their previous employment or occupations; but a large majority would need assistance in finding new employment.

"Resettlement in civil life of demobilised Services personnel involves:

(*i*) advice and guidance in the selection of civilian occupation;

(*ii*) training or re-training for satisfactory employment;

(*iii*) placement in suitable jobs; and

(*iv*) follow-up after employment.

Resettlement Advice Service

"We are setting up a Resettlement Advice Service which will contact demobilised Services personnel at the Release Centres. Its functions will be to:

(*i*) assess the intelligence and aptitudes for training for various types and grades of employment of such demobilised personnel as may need and ask for resettlement or employment assistance,

(*ii*) give them detailed information and advice regarding available employment opportunities and technical and vocational training facilities,

(*iii*) complete the card indices of all demobilised Services personnel, and

(*iv*) explain to them the procedure to be adopted for contacting the appropriate Employment Information Bureau or the Employment Exchange.

"As regards technical and vocational training, it is intended to provide facilities for the following four categories:

(*i*) Those whose training was interrupted through war service.

(*ii*) Those who have acquired some trade during their war service. (Their skill will be tested by trade-testing panels at Release Centres).

(*iii*) Those who had some trade before joining the Defence Services and needed upgrading.

(*iv*) Technicians needing experience in production work for whom apprenticeship training facilities are required.

"There will be a number of unskilled demobilised Services personnel who may want technical training. Their training will depend upon the scope and opportunities for employment in the technical field.

"The scope of technical and vocational training facilities which will be provided in Government and private institutions, factories and establishments will embrace (*i*) clerical and commercial occupations; (*ii*) engineering, building and other technical trades; (*iii*) professional and semi-professional occupations; (*iv*) domestic and social services; and (*v*) agricultural and allied occupations.

Employment Exchanges

"The integral part of a sound employment service in a country is a co-ordinated system of Employment Exchanges developed on modern lines. We are, accordingly, setting up 71 Employment Exchanges (consisting of 1 Central Exchange, 9 Regional Exchanges, 2 Special Exchanges for Naval and Aircraft trades respectively and 59 Sub-Regional Exchanges) covering the whole of India. Considering the size of the country, the number of these Exchanges may seem comparatively small; but we are providing Employment Information Bureaux in rural areas which will work as agencies of the Employment Exchange concerned and will form a link between the demobilised soldiers and the Employment Exchange.

"The function of these Employment Exchanges is to bring together employers and employment-seekers and to ensure the prompt placement of demobilised personnel in employment most suited to their skill or qualifications. Card indices of demobilised Services personnel and discharged war workers containing full particulars of their skill, experience and training will be maintained at the appropriate Sub-Regional Employment Exchange.

"To meet the needs of ex-Service men and women who will be seeking higher posts of an administrative, managerial, professional, scientific or technical character, an Appointments Branch Office has been established at each Regional Exchange. The Appointments Branch Office will ensure that the experience of persons possessing higher qualifications is used to the best advantage.

"It must not be understood that the work of the employment Service ends with the satisfactory placement of ex-Service men and women in employment. Their interests will have to be watched in their new employment and every effort will be made to help them to adapt themselves to their new surroundings and to bring about mutual understanding and cordial relations between them and their employers so that they live happy, contented and purposeful lives. For this purpose we are setting up a Welfare (follow-up) Service under the Resettlement and Employment Organisation.

Facilities for Disabled Personnel

"The Government of India are keenly alive to the importance of providing all the special facilities which modern medical research has made available for the rehabilitation and resettlement of disabled Service personnel. Such disabled persons as have already been discharged from the Services will be given free post-hospital treatment in military hospitals. After the completion of their post-hospital treatment, they will be admitted to technical or vocational training centres. In addition to free board, lodging and clothing, they will be given a monthly, stipend during the period of their training.

"Such disabled persons as have not so far been discharged from the Services will be retained in the Services until the completion of their medical and post-hospital rehabilitation and technical and vocational training. Besides their pay, they will receive the usual concessions and allowance to which they are entitled as enrolled personnel.

"The disability pension to which disabled persons are entitled will not be affected by their training or increase in their earning capacity.

"For cases of serious disablement there will be Special Training Centres which will provide

training for employment under sheltered conditions or for such occupations as are suited for special types of disablement.

"The aim in providing all these special rehabilitation and training facilities to disabled persons is to ensure that they obtain the kind of employment that is best suited to their disability and that they can enter employment in normal competition with their fellow-workers. Every effort will be made to equip them for the most skilled work in which their potential employability is utilised to the maximum.

"Separate registration cards for the disabled persons needing assistance for employment will be maintained at the appropriate Employment Exchange which will have a separate section dealing exclusively with the placement of the disabled. The Welfare (follow-up) service will be charged with the special responsibility of watching and safeguarding the interests of disabled persons after their placement in employment.

Basis for Future Development

"The aim behind the provision of these facilities is to ensure that the post-war development needs of the country for skilled and trained workers, supervisors and executive staff are met satisfactorily. The Employment Service will endeavour to make the most economic use of the available man-power in the country. Unlike other countries India does not suffer from any shortage of man-power but if it is not properly organised it will become a grave liability rather than an asset. Where we expect the employers to take advantage of the skill and training of the demobilised Services personnel there we also expect the demobilised Services personnel to work with the greatest enthusiasm and selflessness for a cause which is no less than the progress and development of their country.

"The Employment Service we are setting up is not a temporary measure: it provides the basis for future development. The Central and Provincial Governments are getting ready with their post-war development plans which will create new avenues of employment. As the opportunities for employment increase, the scope of the Employment Service will be widened to cover all categories of employment-seekers. We hope that it will eventually develop into a permanent service closely integrated with the economic policies directed towards achieving full employment and higher living standards for the people of India."

"MECHANICAL MIND" GIVES RELEASE DETAILS

A "fair deal" for the Army in the matter of release is automatically guaranteed by a "mechanical mind" in the Manpower Planning Directorate at G.H.Q. (India).

The "mechanical mind"—a Hollerith card index system—dealing from a "pack" of more than two million cards, gives the answer to any question on realse and its detailed effect on the Army's manpower—and there are no misdeals.

Every man in the Army—British and Indian Service alike—has a card. On it is recorded by means of punched holes details affecting his release and resettlement.

Hollerith machines are able to read the detail contained on the cards through the medium of the punched holes, and then sort them, count them and "deal" them acccording to the information required.

Accurate Information

The "mechanical mind" is both quick and closely accurate considering the volume of information it records. Recently it was "asked" the question: "How many British Service Other Ranks are due for release in Groups 1 to 14?" The answer came back 4,754. And 4,744 B.O.R.s in all parts of the country got their individual marching orders back to "Civvy Street." The machines were "out" by ten.

The machines are capable of answering detailed questions affecting Indian troops' release such as to what classes they belong, to what districts and states they will be returning and what regiments and corps will be depleted by their departure.

Electrically operated, "the mechanical mind" is handled by a section of 200 Indian civil and military personnel and is capable of dealing with 20,000 cards in an hour.

The Government of India have decided to allow the following further relaxations in the specifications laid down by them for the packing of match boxes intended for civilian consumption:

(i) A strip of kraft paper or other packing or wrapping paper not exceeding the size of 15"×2" may be wrapped round a dozen loose match boxes; and (ii) five gross boxes in the case of ordinary safety matches and half a gross boxes in the case of colour firework matches may be packed in kraft or other packing or wrapping paper.

Government's Employment Programme

A number of steps have been taken by Central and Provincial Governments to accelerate the absorption of men released from the army as well from factories and workshops engaged on war work, and to help in the smooth conversion of industry to peacetime requirements.

In order to deal with any unemployment situation that may arise, the Provinces and departments of the Central Government were asked several months ago to select and plan in detail schemes which would create employment. Most of these will be taken from the five year plans already prepared by the Provinces. They were asked, at the same time, to place orders for machinery, to send in estimates of the materials required and take steps for land acquisition where necessary. These measures are already in hand.

Comprehensive Schemes

Comprehensive schemes for the rehabilitation and improvement of existing roads are in an advanced state of preparation. Other large schemes include irrigation and hydro-electric works, some of which have already started. Departments at the Centre *e.g.* Railways, War Transport and Labour have similar schemes under preparation. The combined effect of these schemes will undoubtedly create a great deal of employment both directly and through the demands made on industry.

In order to facilitate these preparations, a promise of substantial assistance has been made to the Provinces by the Central Government, should it become necessary to start work to absorb surplus labour.

The majority of the Provinces and, among them, those which have been heavily recruited have large funds in hand for post-war development. Other provinces will, it is believed, get limited assistance from Central funds for similar purposes.

Further, measures have already been adopted to assist civil industry in the process of conversion, although, for a time, difficulties over transport and shortage of coal may be a handicap.

Although new industrial development is likely to be of a long-term nature, partly owing to the cost and delays involved in placing orders for capital goods, there are certain expansions already under way, *e.g.* cement, chemical and vanaspati industry. Government are also setting up a large fertiliser plant at Sindri. A considerable number of companies are only waiting for the availability of machinery and materials to begin work on their new projects.

Cottage Industry

In the cottage industry there has been an acute shortage of raw materials *e.g.* leather, brass, iron, etc., and many of the men who came from village industries to the army as technical recruits or to factories may be absorbed into suitable employment as a large demand for agricultural implements, tube-well equipment, etc., can now be satisfied.

While it will not be possible for the Central Government to provide funds for large-scale development until defence expenditure is reduced below its present level, there are a number of urgent works which will have to be undertaken. There are also special priority schemes included in the five-year development plans, some of which have already been approved.

As compared with their pre-war strengths both the Central Government and the Provinces will require an increase in their existing gazetted, subordinate and inferior staff to meet the immediate requirements of their post-war development schemes and to fill war vacancies. These will be recruited, as far as possible, from the Services. Eventually the staff requirements of the five-year plan are expected to be very large.

Demand for Houses

Another source of employment will be a large amount of repairs and maintenance of houses, equipment and machinery of all kinds. This will absorb labour both directly and indirectly through demands for materials. For housing alone there is a large pent-up demand in both towns and villages ample funds being available for the purpose. Steps are being taken to release cement, timber, steel and coal (for brick burning) to meet this demand.

These materials will be available in increasing quantities as the transport difficulties become easier during the next few months. There is also a large rehabilitation demand from Governments, Central and Provincial. The maintenance of buildings, roads and railways and repairs will absorb a large number of workmen and a considerable quantity of materials.

There are other compensating factors. At present there is a shortage of agricultural and other labour in certain areas, e.g., the coal mines, and a proportion of labour can be absorbed without difficulty straight into the existing economy.

Demobilisation must inevitably be spread over a considerable period and large forces will be retained to garrison the liberated territories for a long time to come. This will greatly reduce the incidence of demobilisation. The armed forces in India and overseas will have to be maintained and demands on industry for war supplies, other than munitions, will continue though on a much smaller scale.

Then there are a number of factories e.g. jute mills, glass works and re-rollers, which have been unable to work to capacity, in spite of a big demand for their products, owing to a shortage of coal, raw materials and transport difficulties. These factories may, therefore, be expected to absorb labour.

Technical Staff

The extent to which post-war development plans can be implemented depends not so much on finance as on the provision of technical staff. Every effort, it is understood, is being made to recruit technical personnel, whether from the army or elsewhere. The military authorities are giving full assistance in the early release of such personnel from military service. The training of personnel, it is stated, will be expedited, arrangements having been made for a number of students to proceed overseas for training.

Training institutions under the Centre and in the Provinces are being expanded and it is proposed to set up certain new central institutions. Although these measures will take time to bear fruit, the personnel concerned will prove invaluable and, indeed, essential to carrying out the five-year plans of both the Centre and the Provinces.

In order to keep a watch on the employment situation, the Provincial Governments have been asked to keep the question continually under review. They are being assisted in this by advance information from the Defence Services and departments of Government as to the demobilisation of soldiers and probable discharges of labour. They will also be assisted by the Labour Exchanges, which are being extended on a large scale, recently set up under Directors of Resettlement and Employment in each Province.

RECRUITMENT OF CANDIDATES WITH WAR SERVICE

A Press communique issued by the Home Department, Government of India, on September 20, said:

Recruitment of candidates with war service to fill "war reserved" vacancies in the Central and Provincial Services other than in the subordinate and inferior services will shortly begin. The arrangements for the recruitment of war service candidates have been so designed as to ensure that, so far as possible, all eligible candidates, whether they are in His Majesty's Forces or in civil occupations, and wherever they may be, will have substantially the opportunity of being considered for appointment.

The detailed regulations governing recruitment to these Services, including nationality and domicile, age, education and "war service" qualifications required of candidates, together with information as to the number of vacancies, conditions of service, etc. are contained in descriptive leaflets entitled "Civil Appointments under the Central Government" (CPS1); "Civil Appointments in Madras" (CPS2); "Civil Appointments in Bombay" (CPS3); etc. copies of which may be obtained by civilian candidates on application to the Secretary, Federal Public Service Commission, Kennedy House Annexe, Simla.

Special arrangements have been made to enable those serving in the Forces to obtain copies of the leaflets through Service channels.

SUPREME COMMANDER THANKS ALL-INDIA RADIO

All-India Radio has received special praise from Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten, Supreme Allied Commander, S.E.A.C., for the help it gave in broadcasting messages and instructions to Jap. commanders at Saigon and Singapore, before Service communications could be established with Kandy.

Referring to A.I.R.'s part in this difficult and vital task, the Supreme Commander says, in a letter to the Viceroy: "Particular assistance has been rendered in this respect by All-India Radio, and I am writing to express my appreciation, and to say how grateful I am for the assistance which was so readily given.

"There must, of course, have been some interference with normal arrangements, but without this help all our plans might have been even further held up. I shall be grateful if my appreciation could be conveyed to all concerned."

"THE RIGHT MAN FOR THE RIGHT JOB"

The training of the third batch of officers for the Resettlement machinery being set up by the Central Government began on September 6 at the Employment Exchange Staff Training Centre in Delhi. Mr. S. Lall (Additional Secretary, Labour Department, Government of India) and Nawab M. A. Gurmani, Director-General of Resettlement, addressed the officers.

Mr. Lall emphasised the importance of the training course and said that the success of the Employment Service would largely depend on the hard work and efficiency of the Managerial Staff.

Nawab Gurmani explained the scope and functions of the Resettlement and Employment Organisation and said there would undoubtedly be many difficulties which the trainees would have to face as they were breaking new ground. The setting up of an Employment Service in India was a new venture but it was their privilege to do pioneer work. It was for the first time in the history of India that the resettlement and employment of an unprecedentedly large number of demobilised Services personnel and discharged war-workers was being attempted on modern scientific lines.

Missionary Spirit

In view of the unexpectedly earlier termination of war and the imminence of large-scale releases from the Defence Services, it had become necessary to accelerate the training programme. On the completion of their training, trainees would have to work under conditions of great physical and mental strain but they should approach their work with missionary zeal.

Nawab Gurmani emphasised that in dealing with employers as well as employment-seekers, their one aim should be to render service based on integrity, impartiality and efficiency. Unless everyone was given a fair and square deal, the Employment Service would not be a success. The motto of the Employment Exchange Organisation should be: "The right man for the right job."

It was Employment Service which would prepare the man-power budget of the country and assist the authorities in tackling the problem of unemployment on rational lines. It was, therefore, important that the foundation of the Service should be laid now firmly and soundly. In their dealings with employers as well as employment-seekers, they should show broad human sympathies, an unimpeachable integrity, a high sense of duty and an equally high standard of efficiency.

Later Nawab Gurmani addressed the Staff of the Employment Exchange, Delhi, and impressed upon them the necessity of approaching their task in a spirit of service, impartiality and human sympathy.

RECRUITING IN REVERSE

"Recruiting in reverse" is the keynote of the post-war task of more than 100 recruiting offices which have been renamed "recruiting and employment offices" and are now functioning as employment agencies for ex-service personnel.

While the resettlement of demobilised personnel in civil life is a civil responsibility, the recruiting offices have stepped in to fill the gap pending the completion of the civil employment exchange machinery.

The function of these recruiting and employment—R. and E. for short—offices will finally be taken over by the Labour Department who are expanding their employment exchange organisation. Eleven exchanges have already been set up and 62 more are expected to be in operation in early 1946.

Among the duties of the "R. and E." offices will be to maintain contact with demobilised service personnel requiring employment and to keep in touch with employers.

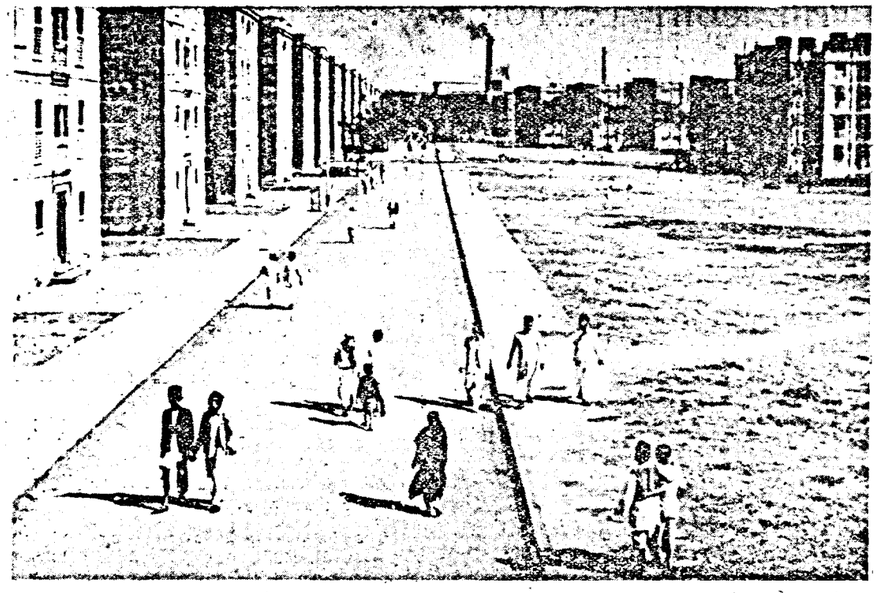
These offices will prepare an employment card index of demobilised servicemen and women and maintain registers for both ex-service personnel and employers. Cards will be completed only for those individuals who wish for training and assistance in finding employment.

FROM PRIVATE TO CHIEF COMMANDER

(*Continued from page 453*)

auxiliaries. Her only daughter, Mrs. Kalyani Sen, is a Second-Officer in the W.R.I.N.S. at Calcutta.

"By joining the W.A.C.(I) I felt I was doing something to hasten my son's return," Chief Commander Gupta told a W.A.C.(I) staff reporter.



Where Bombay city's workers live—A scene in the Bombay mill area. Thousands of workers are housed in these concrete "chawls" each of which contains 80 rooms.

HOUSING OF INDIA'S INDUSTRIAL WORKERS

THE need to accelerate the provision of housing for India's industrial workers, was emphasised at the seventh meeting of the Standing Labour Committee which was held recently in New Delhi. The Hon'ble Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Labour Member, Government of India, presided.

The Committee resolved that a sub-committee should be appointed to consider the following matters relating to housing for workers:—

(*a*) Whether there should be a Building Fund for the housing of workers, and the manner in which it can best be raised, and in particular the manner in which the cases of those employers who have already provided housing can be dealt with; (*b*) the basis on which the workers can be required to pay rent; (*c*) the minimum standards required for workers houses; (*d*) the most suitable manner of administering any fund which becomes available (whether from Government, employer or worker) for the housing of workers; and (*e*) the facilities that are required to be granted by the Central and Provincial Governments and local authorities to facilitate housing schemes for workers.

The sub-committee should be composed of two representatives of the Central Government, two representatives of Provinces, two representatives of Indian States and three representatives each of employers and employees including representatives of Municipalities and Municipal workers.

Holidays with Pay

The Standing Labour Committee also discussed draft rules relating to holidays with pay tentatively framed by the Central Government, under the Factories (Amendment) Act, 1945.

There was a general agreement on the desirability of amending the Workmen's Compensation Act so as to include in the definition of workmen, to whom the act is applicable those drawing Rs. 400 a month.

The meeting was attended by representatives of the Central and Provincial Governments. Indian States and Chamber of Princes, Organisation of Industrial Employers, Employers' Federation of India, All-India Trade Union Congress, Indian Federation of Labour and other employers and workers.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS IN INDIA

The number of industrial accidents increased from 31,089 in 1942 to 44,826 in 1943, according to statistics collected in the Labour Department of the Government of India for the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, during 1943.

The amount of compensation paid for these accidents also rose from Rs. 14,08,035 in the previous year to Rs. 22,83,991 in 1943. The amount of compensation paid per case was Rs. 51 as against Rs. 45.3 in the previous year.

As in the previous year only a few trade unions were reported to have assisted their members in obtaining compensation. In Bombay only the Textile Labour Association at Ahmedabad took interest in handling cases under the Act. The total amount of compensation secured through the Association was Rs. 20,230. Insurance companies also played an important part in the speedy disposal of claims in that Province.

Safety-first Committees

During the year under review there was an increase in the number of proceedings before Commissioners—the total number of cases, including those pending from the previous year, being 3,972 as against 2,881 in 1942.

The total number of adult persons in respect of whom compensation was awarded during the year was 2,425 of whom 2,302 were men and only 123 women. In 1,256 cases the injuries were fatal, in 1,051 they resulted in permanent disablement and in the remaining 118 in temporary disablement.

There were relatively more accidents among the workers of lower wage categories, and it is pointed out that a greater number of workers falls in these categories. It also indicates that a great deal has still to be done to get more attention paid, by "safety-first" methods. It was reported from U.P. that formation of safety-first committees made very little progress and the few in existence had not got into their full working stride.

All inquiries from those resident in India concerning civilian internees in Japanese hands should be addressed to the Principal Refugee Officer, Commonwealth Relations Department, Government of India, New Delhi.

STANDARDISATION OF LEATHER PRODUCTION

A Press Note issued by the Supply Department, Government of India, on September 14, said:

There is at present an acute shortage of raw hides suitable for the production of sole and upper leather throughout the world. It is very necessary to take steps to ensure that the limited supply of available raw hides are utilised to the best possible advantage.

One very common source of wastage is faulty tanning and processing by small tanners resulting in the production of poor quality of leather, which does not stand the same wear and tear as it would do if the hides were processed and tanned in the correct manner.

So far as the production of sole leather is concerned, Government, in 1942, introduced control over the processes of tanning of certain tanneries producing sole leather in bulk and brought their process to proper standards resulting in the production of better quality of durable sole leather.

The Government have now decided to introduce similar control over certain chrome tanners producing upper leather, especially in the Calcutta area, who process a very large number of raw hides and whose methods of tanning are wasteful and inefficient. It is hoped that with the exercise of the control the quality of leather produced by the tanneries will improve resulting in increased quantities of leather being available for export.

EXPORT OF WIRELESS SETS FROM UNITED KINGDOM

A Press Note issued by the Industries and Civil Supplies Department, Government of India stated:

The Board of Trade have approved the export from the United Kingdom to all foreign markets of a total of 200,000 wireless sets during the next twelve months. Wireless sets are no longer subject to export control in the United Kingdom and separate quotas will not therefore be allotted for each importing country.

Importers interested in obtaining supplies should therefore approach the U.K. manufacturers as early as possible. Importers are reminded that no import licence is needed for importing wireless sets from the United Kingdom.

IMPORT OF CAPITAL GOODS FROM THE U.K.

Sir Ardeshir Dalal Explains Position

THE Hon'ble Sir Ardeshir Dalal, Member for Planning and Development, Government of India, who recently returned from a mission to the United Kingdom and U.S.A., said at a Press Conference in Delhi on August 21, that it might take two years or more before we could normally import capital goods from the U.K.

He explained that there was a great deal of goodwill in the U.K. and U.S.A. towards India and India's aspirations in regard to industrial development. There was hardly anyone who entertained the belief held by some people in the past that industrial development of countries like India and China would be detrimental to their own interests. It was now fully understood that the prosperity of India and China would mean prosperity for the whole world and there was no tendency on the part of anybody to regard such industrial expansion with jealousy or suspicion.

His visit to the U.K. and U.S.A., Sir Ardeshir said, had four objects: to enquire into the possibility of getting capital goods from those countries for our industrial development; to see if it was possible to get any modifications of the commercial safeguards in the constitution at least such as control over basic industries; to consdier what facilities were available in those countries for our students in educational institutions and for our technicians in factories; and to enquire into the availability of experts required for industrial development.

Britain Anxious to Help

In regard to the import of capital goods, Britain was anxious to help as it was very important for her to have exports in the post-war period. But first she had to place her own economy on a post-war footing and rehabilitate her own industries. Naturally, it would take some time before capital goods were available from that country. Machine tools might be readily available, but, in the case of major capital goods, two years and even longer might be required. Nearly one-third of our requirements in capital goods, Sir Ardeshir said, was for textile machinery, the delivery of which would take a considerable time.

A good many of our industrialists, Sir Ardeshir added, were inclined to hold back, in view of the high prices. He discussed the question in England, but the British authorities were not prepared to control or regulate their export prices in the post-war period. In fact, they were inclined to relax control so as to secure maximum exports. At the same time, he was assured that if there was any tendency to charge exorbitant prices, the Government would take action. They were now discussing a formula to regulate prices, especially of textile machinery, but no decisions had been arrived at. The question of priorities to send goods to India was also raised, but H.M.G. were not prepared to give any special priority but assured him that if India experienced any actual difficulty they would take suitable action.

U. S. Surplus Material

The conditions were similar in the U.S., but deliveries were likely to be earlier. At the same time, prices were likely to be higher except in the case of goods produced on a mass scale such as automobiles. Now that the war was over there was likely to be a considerable amount of surplus material in the U.S.A. The value of such materials was computed at 90 billion dollars, of which industrial plant alone would be 10 billion. How much of that would be suitable to our requirements remained to be seen. He had discussed the question with the Surplus Disposal Board and asked them to send us catalogues from time to time of the goods available.

Dollar Exchange, Sir Ardeshir explained, was another problem. Certain negotiations were taking place between the U.K. and the U.S.A. and, if a successful solution was arrived at, it would ease the dollar situation and enable international trade to flow more freely. Dollar difficulties were not likely to prove very formidable, as there was a possibility of our industrialists getting accommodation from the Export Import Bank and commercial banks in the U.S.A.

On the question of technical experts from abroad, Sir Ardeshir said that both the U.K. and U.S.A. were not in a position to lend their services as they were engaged in war work. Now that the war was over, the situation would gradually become easier. He had, however, been able to contact some geologists in the U.S.A. who might be expected to lend their services.

Both countries were prepared to help students to carry on advanced studies in educational institutions. There was more accommodation for our students in the U.S.A. than in the U.K. The U.K. was also prepared to accept our technical men to work in factories. There were difficulties regarding such men in the U.S.A. during the war but they should now be removed.

About commercial safeguards, Sir Ardeshir said that organised bodies of British industrialists were at present not prepared for any radical change in the safeguards provided in the Government of India Act 1935. The new Government, he said, would like to consider the question in the context of the larger constitutional issue.

Position in U.K. and U.S.A.

Some British industrialists desire to cooperate in the starting of industries in India only provided they had a controlling voice, while others were prepared to accept minority participation or none at all. The position in the U.S.A. was the same to some extent, except that there were fewer industrialists who wanted control or participation in Indian industries because India was not well-known to them, and there was apprehension in regard to India's political future in the minds of some of them.

Sir Ardeshir said that he also paid a visit to Canada where he was struck by Canada's friendliness. He thought there was a possibility of obtaining some capital goods as also experts from that country. He suggested sending a small industrial delegation there.

U.S. HONOURS LORD WAVELL

(*Continued from page* 415)

The citation read before each presentation acknowledged America's indebtedness to India in the war that has just ended. In the case of the Viceroy it paid tribute to his energy in building up the country as a vast base behind the South-East Asia operational area. The Commander-in-Chief's collateral work in this sphere and his exceptional success in creating a great army to support the Allies' effort were also acknowledged.

After the presentation of the medals there were General and Royal salutes, and the brief ceremony ended by a march past of the guards of honour—the Americans led by the band of the 6th Rajputana Rifles, and the 1|9th Gurkha Rifles (with memories of two years as "Chindits" behind them) and the 1st Battalion of the Royal Scots Fusiliers (battle-tried in Madagascar, Arakan and North Burma) led by the latter's pipe band.

MANUFACTURE OF ALLOY STEELS IN INDIA

The Tata Iron and Steel Industry are now able to produce steels covering the entire range —from straight carbon tool steels to high quality aircraft steels. Almost all varieties of steels used in general engineering practice and machine construction, such as high speed steels, hot die steels, tap steels, nickel-chrome steels, special steels for blades and punches etc., have been developed.

To meet the requirements of the mints, die steels have been produced in bulk. A variety of alloy steels have also been produced, the development of which is discussed in an article in a recent issue of the *Journal of Scientific and Industrial Research* by Mr. K. N. Prahlada Rao. These wartime developments are of permanent value to the Indian steel industry.

Wireless Apparatus

It is now possible to manufacture all radio components in India except valves. Some of the Indian concerns are known to be assembling broadcast receiving sets and amplifiers from components made in this country. The processes developed in India are discussed in another article in the Journal and a working scheme for the growth of the industry has been suggested.

The possibility of employing the insecticides DDT and 666 in wall washes, normally applied to grain storage sheds, as a practical method of checking grain infestation, is discussed in two articles from the Ordnance Laboratories, Cawnpore, in this number. Investigations have revealed that DDT emulsions incorporated in chalk wash and applied to concrete surfaces kill grain pests in eight days. 666 is as effective as DDT against some of the pests.

The result of chemical examination of the seeds of *lajwanti* are described in another article. The seeds of the common *lajwanti* (*mimosa pudica*) contain a fixed oil (about 17 p.c.) which corresponds in composition to soya bean oil and can be employed for all the purposes for which soya bean oil is used.

The maximum wholesale and retail selling prices of 'Carlton' American flashlight bulbs (2.5 volts) have been fixed by the Central Government. The retail selling price per unit is 5 annas and 6 pies.

KOH-I-SULTAN SULPHUR OPERATIONS

THE Central Government have decided to sell their properties and machinery attached to the Koh-i-Sultan sulphur operations in Baluchistan and stocks of sulphur are lying at Nokkundi railhead.

These operations were started in 1941 and conducted by the Utilisation Branch of the Geological Survey of India in the face of difficult climatic and regional conditions obtaining in Baluchistan. The deposits of sulphur ore occur at Batal, Miri and Nawar in the Koh-i-Sultan mountain. The sulphur deposits are of volcanic origin and include lenticular masses of ore cropping out at the surface and, in some cases, continuing downward beneath overburden which consists largely of loose volcanic ash.

In quality the ore varies up to over 60 per cent. free sulphur content. The high-grade ore has been used in the manufacture of sulphuric acid. Laboratory tests have shown that, by flotation, an appreciable improvement in the grade can be attained, but the process involves the use of expensive machinery.

Deposits at Miri

Tests carried out by various agricultural departments have shown that the high-grade ore, when finely powdered, is very suitable to prevent certain diseases in grain crops. Most of the high-grade ore has been extracted from the Batal area, but at Miri large quantities of plus 50 per cent. ore have been uncovered ready for extraction. In addition, there are indications that certain of the deposits continue within the hill side for distances greater than have so far been proved.

The main sulphur deposits at Miri are linked up by a two-foot gauge tram-track to a monocable aerial ropeway, approximately 2 miles in length, along which the Miri ore is transported to the main road-head at Batal. The Miri-Batal ropeway is capable of tranporting 15 tons of ore per hour to Batal and water and stores to Miri on the return.

The purchaser of these properties and machinery will have the right to work sulphur mines or dismantle the properties and to dispose of the stocks of sulphur ore as he thinks fit. Working the mines will, however, be in accordance with the Central Government Mining Rules.

IMPORT OF WATTLE BARK: DUTY REMOVED

EARLY in 1940, the Government of India decided to purchase a reserve of 7,500 tons of wattle bark at an estimated cost of Rs. 10 lakhs with a view to ensuring supplies to the Indian tanning industry in the event of interruption to, or delays in, communication by sea, said a Press Note issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on September 13:

It added: In order to safeguard Government against possible losses on the liquidation of this reserve, an import duty of 3 per cent. *ad valorem* was imposed at the time on barks for tanning as a temporary measure. The duty was to be removed when Government were satisfied that the proceeds had amounted to a sum considered adequate to cover the possible loss.

In the following year the reserve was reduced to 5,000 tons, and by April 1942 the proceeds of the duty had amounted to a sum deemed sufficient. The duty was accordingly removed with effect from April 4, 1942.

Shortly afterwards, in view of a heavy increase in the demand for wattle bark, it was found necessary to increase the reserve to 10,000 tons. The sum already collected as duty was insufficient to provide against possible loss in respect of the increased reserve, and it was, therefore decided to re-impose the duty of 3 per cent. *ad valorem* on barks for tanning with effect from July 4, 1942. This was also intended to be a temporary measure and the duty was again to be removed when circumstances permitted.

The proceeds of this duty have now amounted to a sum considered sufficient to meet any possible loss to Government on the liquidation of the reserve of wattle bark and the Government of India consider that there is no need for the continuance of the duty, the removal of which has also been recently urged by the tanning industry. The import duty on barks for tanning has accordingly been removed with enect from August 25, 1945.

The Governor-General-in-Council has been pleased to nominate the Hon'ble Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Member of the Viceroy's Executive Council, and Rajkumari Amrit Kaur as members of the Central Advisory Board of Education in India for a period of three years with effect from August 18, 1945, said a Press Note issued by the Education, Health and Lands Department, Government of India, on August 31.

DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS WAR STORES

DISPOSAL of large quantities of scrap, salvage and surplus stores arising from the war is one of the major problems which India has to tackle along with other countries of the United Nations.

It is pointed out that the range is very wide, and individual items may vary from a collection of steel scrap, to the most modern factories built for the production of war material and capable of easy conversion for civil industry. In terms of money the total value of stores to be disposed off may range from one to two hundred crores of rupees.

The Disposals Board set up by the Central Government in the fifth year of war has laid down the main lines of policy to ensure the orderly and efficient disposal of these surpluses. The principles underlying the operating policy are: (1) shortest and most direct approach to the ultimate consumer; (2) use of established trade channels, etc., as far as practicable; (3) regulation of the flow of surpluses so as to cause minimum interference with internal economy and production. (4) wide distribution, so that the benefits are made available throughout the country; (5) control, where practicable, of retail selling prices, in relation to current market prices and (6) realisation of the largest possible cash return.

Disposals Board

The Disposals Board is a high-level body with the Secretary to the Government of India, Supply Department, as Chairman and the Secretaries of various other Departments concerned as members. The Directorate-General of Disposals, New Delhi, is the executive organisation of the Board and is responsible for executive action in respect of all stores except in regard to disposal of articles of food and textiles, for which the existing organisation of the Food Department and the Textiles Commissioner are responsible. The Director-General of Disposals is also responsible for the disposal of factories and industrial units, but not for the disposal of other lands and buildings. The Controllers of Supplies (Disposals) at Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Cawnpore and Karachi, and the Deputy Controller of Supplies (Disposals) at Lahore, act as Regional representatives of the Director-General in all disposals matters.

The categories of goods dealt with can be divided into two broad classes, *i.e.* salvage and surplus stores. Salvage, again, can be split up into (*a*) process scrap *i.e.* scrap arising from the manufacturing processes in industries and (*b*) other salvage.

Salvage is sold at the Army Depots at Lahore, Jubbulpore, Lucknow, Cawnpore, Allahabad, Agra, Delhi, Ambala, Karachi, Quetta, Rawalpindi, Peshawar, Calcutta, Kanchrapara, Ranchi, Dhanbad, Gauhati, Chittagong, Dibrugarh, Jorhat, Imphal, Ahmednagar, Avadi (Madras), Bangalore, Bombay, Secunderabad, Ghorpuri, Deolali, and other centres.

Salvage Items

Sales are usually by auction or by advertised tender. The main heads of salvage dealt with are: textiles, cotton, wool and silk—including cotton cuttings, cotton rags, garments, mosquito netting, felt cuttings, blankets, woollen rags, etc.—rubber, leather—including leather scrap from Harness and Saddlery Factories, cuttings, shavings, pieces and bellies, unserviceable boots, chaplies, etc.—paper, including waste paper, cardboard and other miscellaneous items.

Also included in items of salvage are M.T. parts and ferrous and non-ferrous scrap and aero-scrap—M.T. Parts include parts from Breakdown Depots consisting chiefly of radiators, axles, propeller shafts, unserviceable engines, springs, vehicles, lorries, cars and trucks, broken parts of ferrous and non-ferrous M.T. parts, etc.

Ferrous scrap, includes Mild Steel scraps consisting of angles, bars, rods, borings, turnings, sheet and plate cuttings, etc., tin scrap, binding wire and hoop iron, miscellaneous scrap consisting of aero steel scrap, fabrication scrap, galvanised iron scrap, nuts, washers, hinges, cooking utensils, miscellaneous hard ware, etc.

Uses of Salvage

It is pointed out that salvage can be put to many uses and that considerable progress has been made regarding the utilisation of some of the salvaged materials in small industries. The large stocks of "dural" tubes usually available in aircraft scrap have been found suitable for the manufacture of tubular furniture. Aero-scrap is being used for cast-ware work and a variety of utility articles can be produced from it, *e.g.* trays, plates, cutlery, mugs, ash-trays, picture and mirror frames, blotters, penholders, ink-pots, coat-hangers, hooks, paper-weights, table-lamps, window frames and fasteners, boot-trees, etc.

Railways are already experimenting in the use of this alloy for the manufacture of carriage and wagon fittings.

The process of melting and manufacture is relatively simple. The finished article, to all appearances, resembles aluminium products. It is, however, emphasised that the alloy is not suited for drawing into sheets or, what is more important, for the manufacture of cooking utensils. Useful articles can also be made from aircraft parts without having to melt the alloy. At salvage depots are occasionally exhibited items like furniture, tyre pumps, rotating hospital lamps, ice-boxes, buckets, chaplies, small tools, etc., all made from salvaged aircraft material.

The average sales of salvage amounted to about Rs. 28 lakhs a month recently. The total value of the sale proceeds of salvage from November, 1943, to June, 1945, was about Rs. 3,76,00,000.

Now that the war has come to an end, stores other than salvage will be declared surplus in increasing quantities, after ascertaining whether they are surplus to over-all military requirements.

Method of Disposal

The sale proceeds of surplus stores up to the end of June, 1945, was Rs. 55 lakhs. This, however, represents only a very small fraction of the volume of work which will now have to be undertaken. The Director-General of Disposals is examining plans for the disposal of individual major categories of goods. It is emphasised that the method of disposal will vary according to the nature of the goods and the quantities in which they are thrown up for disposal. Goods needed for civil consumption of which there has been an acute shortage during the war, may be easily released without any untoward effects on the market. On the other hand in regard to items where surpluses are likely to equal or exceed normal civil demands, careful planning is needed to ensure that their release is arranged in a manner which does not upset internal economy and industry.

The disposal of surplus factories is also engaging the active attention of the Central Government and, as soon as decisions are taken, wide publicity will be given to the matter.

INCREASED NEWSPRINT QUOTA

The Government of India have raised the present quota of newsprint of all newspapers by twenty-five per cent. with effect from October 1, 1945.

RUBBER MANUFACTURES CONTROL ORDER

A Press Note issued by the Supply Department, Government of India, on September 15 stated:

Restrictions on the utilisation of reclaimed rubber, which have been in force for over a year, have been removed with the publication of the Rubber Manufactures Control Order 1945, in today's issue of the *Gazette of India* The order is a re-issue of the Rubber Manufactures Control Order, 1944 which was brought into force on September 1, 1944.

It incorporates all amendments to the original Order made from time to time and lays down that no person shall treat, use or consume any rubber as defined therein except under the authority of and in accordance with a licence granted or a special or general order issued by the Controller of Rubber, in the Directorate-General of Supply, New Delhi. Applications for permission to treat, use or consume rubber are to be made to the Controller of Rubber. The latter is empowered to require any person to give such information in his possession as may be demanded and to arrange for the inspection of books, documents, manufacturing equipments or premises of any person.

The Order provides for the fixation of maximum prices at which rubber articles can be sold. Ceiling prices fixed in respect of certain specified articles by a separate notification are already in force.

TYRE RATIONING ORDER

A Press Note issued by the Supply Department, Government of India, on September 14 stated:

The Tyre Rationing Order, 1944, has been revised by a notification published in the *Gazette of India Extraordinary.*

The notification removes the restrictions, hitherto in force, on the sale and acquisition of used tyres and tubes and retreaded tyres. These can now be bought and sold by any person without a permit. Furthermore, any person may now have his own tyres retreaded by any retreader without a permit.

The collection of unserviceable tyres and tubes for the manufacture of reclaim rubber has also been discontinued and it is no longer necessary for any person to surrender his unserviceable tyres and tubes either at the time of taking delivery of new tyres and tubes or otherwise. Unserviceable tyres may now be freely used for making chappals, soles etc.

These relaxations have been possible as a result of improvement in the tyre situation. Increased quantities of new tyres and tubes have been made available to the Rationing Authorities for issue to civilian users, under the usual permit system.

Disposal of Foreign Yarn

Directions to Importers

A Press Note issued by the Industries and Civil Supplies Department, Government of India, on September 8, stated:

By a notification published in the *Gazette of India* dated September 8, all importers of yarn from outside India are directed to submit by registered post a statement containing information regarding the description and quantity of yarn included in the consignment and the landed cost of each of the items mentioned therein. The statement is to be furnished to the Textile Commissioner CYC-9 Section, Ballard Estate, Bombay, so as to reach him within two weeks of the receipt of a certificate from the Controller about the landed cost in relation to the yarn referred to in the statement.

The notification further lays down that the importer cannot sell yarn except to such person as the Textile Commissioner may specify provided that if within 28 days from the date on which the statement is received by the Textile Commissioner the dealer does not receive any instructions as to the disposal of the consignment from the Textile Commissioner, he may dispose of the yarn after intimating to the Textile Commissioner the names and addresses of the intending purchasers.

For the purpose of this Order, the "Controller" means the principal officer appointed by the Provincial Government to be in charge of textile control and their designations and addresses for the four main ports are given below:

Bombay—Provincial Textile Controller, Kalachowki, Parel, Bombay.

Calcutta—Director of Textiles, 21 Chittaranjan Avenue, Calcutta.

Madras—Provincial Textile Commissioner, Record Office, Egmore, Madras.

Karachi—Director of Civil Supplies and Chief Controller of Prices, Sind, Bombay Life Assurance Building, Karachi.

PUBLIC UTILITY UNDERTAKINGS

Rule 45 B of the Defence of India Rules has been deleted with effect from October 13. This Rule prohibited the publication of information relating to the following classes of public utility undertakings: undertakings for the supply of electricity, inland water transport undertakings and port, harbour, dock or pier undertakings.

INDIAN WOOLLEN GOODS (CONTROL) ORDER

A Press Note issued by the Industries and Civil Supplies Department, Government of India, on September 12, said:

The Government of India have issued an Order under the Defence of India Rules under which no person other than a recognised dealer is, without the previous consent of the Government, authorised to sell controlled woollen goods. This Order, which is in supersession of the Indian Woollen Goods (Control) Order, 1944, fixes maximum quantities of various types of woollen goods which a person can buy in a calendar year. The recognised dealers are selected by the Government.

Controlled woollen goods are manufactured by Indian mills against orders placed by Government and are marked 'FWMI' or 'TMA.' Indian woollen goods other than controlled woollen goods can be manufactured and sold in retail by any person. Every manufacturer of or dealer in Indian woollen goods has to comply with directions issued regulating types, markings, specifications, ex-mill price and retail price, etc.

Any contravention of the provisions of the Order will render a person or persons liable for prosecution under the Defence of India Rules and also for confiscation of goods in respect of which a contravention has been committed.

IMPORT LICENCE APPLICATIONS

A Press Note issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, stated:

Importers are in the habit of submitting to the Chief Controller, Imports, numerous applications for licences with a single covering letter and a single copy of supporting documents.

As applications for different items of the Import Trade Control Schedule are dealt with by different branches of that office, submission of more than one application with one covering letter involves delay in the disposal of the applications.

Importers are accordingly requested that in future they should submit each application complete in itself, i.e., only one application with one covering letter. It should be accompanied by copies of relevant papers in support of the claim for a licence.

PAPER CONTROL (ECONOMY) ORDER, 1944

A Press Note issued by the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies, Government of India, on September 13, said:

An increase of 10 per cent. in the percentages of basic consumption 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. Another increase of 20 per cent. was announced in the Press Note dated April 10, 1945. The Government of India have now decided to grant, with effect from the quarter beginning with October, 1945, a further increase of 20 per cent. to different types of consumers affected by that Order.

All presses and stationers, therefore, with effect from the quarter commencing October, 1945, will be entitled to use paper to the extent of 80 per cent. of their consumption in 1943. Publishers of text-books will similarly be entitled to consume paper to the extent of 100 per cent. of their consumption in 1939 and publishers of other books to the extent of 80 per cent. of their consumpion in 1943. Publishers of periodicals can likewise now print 80 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.

Individual Consumers

In addition to the general concession referred to above which has been notified in the Gazette of India Extraordinary, dated September 14, 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 110 per cent. of the basic consumption.

Other important concessions which have been granted are:

(i) 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 50 lbs. per month instead of 25 lbs. previously allowed;

(ii) permission to produce or print or make from paper greeting cards, provided they are not used for purposes of advertisements;

(iii) exclusion of the weight of the mount from the permissible weight of calendars;

(iv) permission to print a programme relating to any entertainment or race or sports or athletic meeting up to a total area of 160 sq. inches instead of 80 sq. inches previously allowed; and,

(v) permission to include in pocket diaries 12 pages in addition to pages provided for entries relating to different dates instead of 4 pages previously allowed.

PAPER CONTROL IN CIVIL AND MILITARY STATION, BANGALORE

By amendments issued to the Paper Control (Economy) Order, 1944, and Paper Control (Distribution) Order, 1944, as applied to the Civil and Military Station, Bangalore, power has been delegated to the Hon'ble the Resident in Mysore to authorise any officer to direct the maintenance of records relating to paper or board by a manufacturer or importer of paper or any other person carrying on transactions connected with paper, to inspect books or documents, to enter and search premises in which any transactions connected with paper is carried on, and to seize paper or board in respect of which there is reason to believe that a contravention has been or is about to be committed, said a Press Note issued by the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies, Government of India on September 14.

PAPER FOR ELECTION PURPOSES

In view of the impending elections to the Central and Provincial Legislatures, the Government of India have empowered Provincial Paper Controllers to grant reasonable facilities for the publication of leaflets, pamphlets, posters etc., by political parties and individuals in connection with their electioneering campaigns.

Applications should accordingly be addressed to the Paper Controller of the Province or area concerned. The quantity of paper so allowed will be outside the quota of paper admissible to printers under the Paper Control (Economy) Order, 1944.

IMPORTANCE OF WOOD PRESERVATION

The enormous losses caused by the deterioration of wood underline the importance of adopting proper methods of preserving it. Thus, economically, wood preservation is important and it also indirectly influences forest conservation.

The revised edition of the Indian Forest Bulletin No. 110, recently published, is a brief introduction to wood preservation. After explaining the aim and scope of wood preservation and the agencies of wood deterioration, Indian timbers are classified on the basis of their natural durability. Wood preservatives are described under the following heads: preservative oils, water soluble preservatives and toxic chemicals dissolved in volatile solvents.

This is followed by a discussion on the preparation of timber for treatment, the various processes of treatment, classification of Indian timbers according to their amenability to impregnation with preservatives, the handling of timbers subsequent to treatment and the cost of treatment. Protection of wood by methods other than standard preservative treatments, protection of plywood, sapstain and its prevention and protection against fire are also briefly described.

COMMERCIAL MUSEUMS AT PORTS

The question whether it would be desirable for the Central Government also, in addition to Provincial and local Governments, to establish commercial museums at the ports will be considered after relaxation of the existing restrictions on exports and on the entry of foreigners into India.

It is considered desirable by commercial interests that commercial museums should be opened at the principal ports of export, so that samples of products which India could offer for export could be displayed therein for the benefit of tourists, visiting commercial representatives, etc. The position in this respect is that maritime Provinces or local bodies have already established such museums in a few centres for the display of local commercial and industrial products as *e.g.*, the industrial museum in Calcutta attached to the Provincial Department of Industry. The Calcutta Corporation also maintains a commercial museum.

Consumer Goods (Control of Distribution) Order, 1925

By a notification published in the *Gazette of India* dated September 22, 1945, the Central Government have withdrawn the control on distribution of wines, spirits and liquors and toilet requisites by removing them from the schedule to the Consumer Goods (Control of Distribution) Order, 1945.

Importers and producers will now be free to sell these articles to the trade without reference to the Controller-General of Civil Supplies, Bombay, or any of his subordinate officers, and will also not be required to submit any returns concerning those articles.

The maximum prices notified under Section 3 and other provisions of the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance, 1943, (Ordinance No. XXXV of 1943) in respect of these articles still remain in force, so that the control of their prices is not affected.

Another notification published in the *Gazette of India Extraordinary* dated August 27, 1945, makes an important amendment to the Consumer Goods (Control of Distribution) Order, which will enable a Provincial Controller of Supplies or any other officer not below the rank of the District Magistrate authorised by the Provincial Government to require by an order in writing any dealer within the Province to sell to any other dealer within the same Province such qualities of scheduled articles as may be specified in the Order.

The Provincial Governments have also been empowered to authorise any officer to enter, inspect and search any business premises and to ask for any information necessary to secure compliance with the Order.

PACKING PAPER FOR FOOTWEAR

The Government of India have allowed the following relaxation from the provisions of the Paper Control (Economy) Order 1944, in respect of the packing of footwear:

Canvas shoes with rubber soles may be packed in boxes made of grey board which should not be lined inside or outside with any paper and no tissue or other packing paper should be inserted inside the boxes. A label not exceeding the size $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches $\times$ $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches may be affixed to each box for indicating particulars relating to the contents of the box.

PLAN TO REORGANISE HISTORICAL ARCHIVES

A post-war plan for the reorganisation of historical archives in India has been drawn up and approved by the Indian Historical Records Commission. The Commission have recommended that the plan should be forwarded to the Government of India, the Provincial Governments and the Indian states for necessary action.

This is what a perusal of the annual report for the year 1944 of the Imperial Record Department shows, besides its many other activities during the year under review.

The Department has a five-year publication programme. While no printing work could be undertaken owing to paper scarcity, the typescripts were made ready according to the schedule. Students of history will be interested to learn that it is proposed to publish *in extenso* the correspondence of the East India Company with their servants in Bengal between 1748 and 1800. The series is being edited under the general supervision of the Director of Archives, Dr. S. N. Sen, and the progress of the work has been satisfactory.

Publication Programme

Many other important historical documents are expected to be published. A number of universities and other learned bodies have undertaken to publish records in Oriental languages. The Annamalai University will deal with the Tamil documents. The Allahabad University and the Kotah State have agreed jointly to publish selected Hindi records. Some records in Sanskrit may be included in the volume to be published by the Research Institute.

As in the previous years, a number of scholars sought permission to conduct researches in the Department.

On the occasion of the twenty-first session of the Indian Historical Records Commission, which was held at Udaipur in December 1944, a historical exhibition was also organised when about 75 documents from the Imperial Record Department were displayed.

At the request of the Hon'ble Resident, Rajputana Agency, Dr. Sen, the Director of Archives, inspected the records of the Rajputana States Agency at Mount Abu and also visited the records offices at Jaipur and Alwar. His notes and suggestions were transmitted to the authorities concerned through the Political Department.

An ad hoc Regional Committee was set up for the province of Delhi to conduct a survey of the historical records in private possession with the members of the Indian Historical Records Commission in Delhi. The Committee met twice during the year. The University of Delhi has informally agreed to take custody of such manuscripts as private owners may like to part with.

A gratifying feature of the report is that the Archives Offices of other lands have evinced an interest in the work of the Imperial Record Department and have asked for their publications. The names of the National Archives, Washington; Government Archives, Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia; and the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal, Calcutta, have been placed on the distribution list of the Department on the basis of mutual exchange of publications.

TRADE AND PRODUCTION STATISTICAL PUBLICATIONS

A Press Note issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on September 21, stated:

For security reasons, the Government of India had, in 1940, suspended the issue of certain statistical publications relating to Trade and Commerce. Abridged editions of certain publications have been issued since then and certain publications have been issued with a time lag.

In view of the cessation of hostilities, the Government of India have decided to remove all the existing restrictions on the publication of Indian trade and production statistics, other than those relating to munitions of war and those containing any reference to movements of shipping.

The relevant publications containing these statistics will be put on sale in due course by the Manager of Publication, Delhi.

GRANT FOR AMENITIES TO I.O.Rs.

H. E. the Viceroy has sanctioned a grant of £500 from the War Purposes Fund for providing amenities to I.O.Rs. visiting England on sight-seeing expeditions from the Central Mediterranean Forces.

RETURN OF BURMA EVACUEES

A Press Note issued by the Commonwealth Relations Department, Government of India, on September 26 stated:

Enquiries are being received by the Government of India from Indian evacuees from Burma in regard to their return. In June 1945, the Government of India held a conference on this subject with representative Burma Indian leaders and representatives of associations and bodies interested in Burma. In the light of the decisions taken at this conference, a procedure for the return of Indian evacuees to Burma is being worked out by the Government of India in consultation with the Government of Burma.

Briefly the scheme is to provide special facilities for the return of evacuees to Burma. Special shipping will be arranged to take evacuees from four principal ports, *viz.*, Madras, Vizagapatam, Calcutta and Chittagong.

Identity Certificates

Arrangements are being made in consultation with the Provincial Governments to issue identity certificates to Indian evacuees for which they will have to make applications in a prescribed form which will ask for certain particulars including addresses in India and Burma, interests in Burma, the names of dependents for whom passages are required, etc.

It is expected that the certificates will be issued by magistrates who should be satisfied about the correctness of the statements made as regards evacuee status. Copies of certificates will be supplied to Protectors of Emigrants at the ports of embarkation to enable them to grant facilities to evacuees. The particulars asked for in the application forms are required in order to arrange a system of priorities.

The above are only rough outlines of the scheme. It is hoped to publish detailed instructions in due course as soon as the arrangements are complete. It should, however, be pointed out that the return of evacuees can take place only after the civil Government has returned to Burma and has made arrangements for the reception of evacuees at the receiving ports.

The Government of India have brought Belgian Congo cotton also within the purview of the Foreign Cotton Control Order, 1945.

SAFEGUARDING INTERESTS OF INDIAN INTERNEES

A Press Note issued by the Commonwealth Relations Department, Government of India, on September 8, stated:

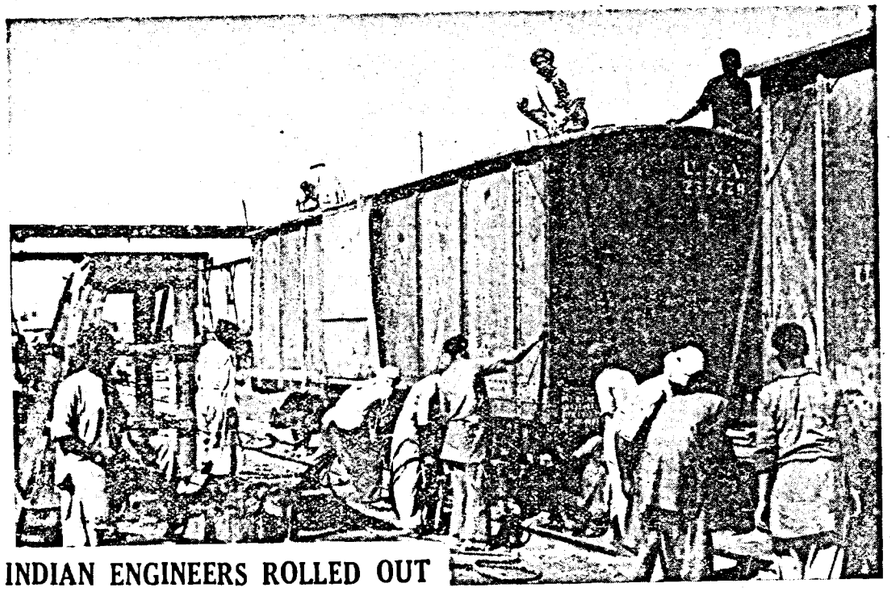
An ordinance promulgated today excludes periods spent in enemy territory in computing limitation under the Indian Limitation Act.

At present there is no legal machinery for safeguarding the interests of a British Subject who has been compelled by circumstances attributable to the war to remain in enemy occupied territory and has no properly authorised person to institute or defend legal proceedings on his behalf in India.

In order to mitigate the hardship arising out of the position the Government of India have considered it expedient to provide that the period of limitation prescribed by law for suits shall not run in the period during which persons instituting suits have been detained in enemy territory. The necessary legal provision has been made by way of ordinance on account of the sudden termination of the war and the fact that the life of the Assembly will expire on October 1, 1945.

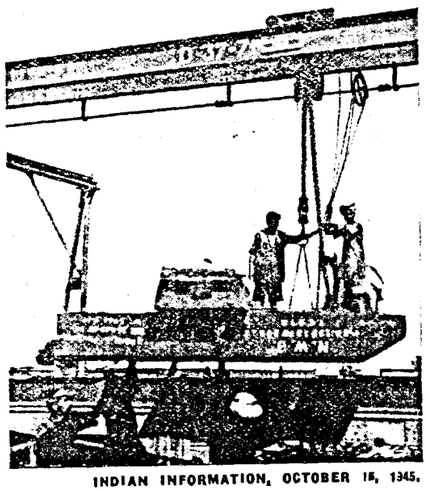
The main provision of the ordinance which is published in the *Gazette of India Extraordinary* is that "if at any time before the expiration of the period of limitation prescribed for any suit by the Indian Limitation Act or by any other law for the time being in force any person who could have instituted the suit has been detained in enemy territory by circumstances attributable to war, the said period of limitation as regards the institution of the suit by such person shall be deemed not to have run in the period during which it is shown to the satisfaction of the court that such person was so detained, and shall, notwithstanding anything contained in the said Act or in any other law, in no case expire before the end of six months from the date, as determined by the court, when such person ceased to be so detained, or from the date of the commencement of this ordinance, whichever is later."

Private telegrams to all parts of Malaya, excepting Perlis, Kelantan and Trengannu, are now admitted at the rates prescribed in the current edition of the Post and Telegraphs Guide, subject to censorship regulations in force. Telegrams must be in plain English only. Commercial telegrams must be limited to those ascertaining facts or seeking information.



INDIAN ENGINEERS ROLLED OUT THE WAGONS

Riveting the body of a metre-gauge railway wagon nearing completion at a wagon assembly workshop in Hyderabad (Sind). (Below) Buffer and coupling beam arriving on the "belt."



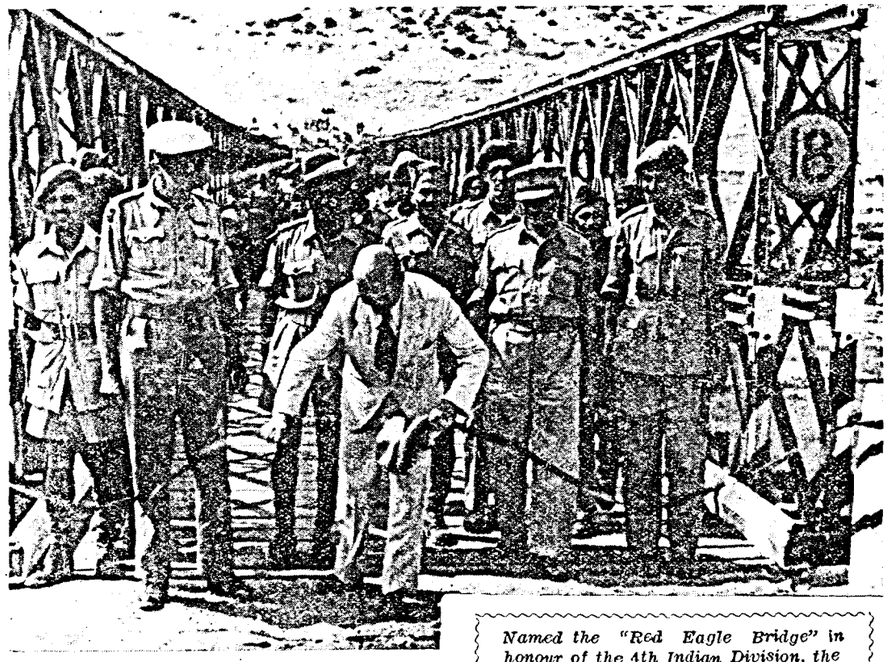
WHEN "Wagon Builders Ltd. I.E." went to work in 1944 to relieve Assam's congested communications system, just under 8,000 wagons were produced in eight months. Collaborating with the civil railway administration, this railway company of the Indian Engineers' Transport Service overhauled and expanded the recently constructed assembly plant at Hyderabad, Sind.

Damage to parts in transit, labour difficulties and heavy monsoon rains in one of India's most malarial regions were faced and mastered. Output on a 24-hour basis never slackened.

"Wagon Builders Ltd. I.E." sprang into being in 1942 in answer to an urgent call for swift delivery of wagons in Persia, writes an Army observer. Erecting their own plant in the desert, they set about belt-assembly production under conditions of great physical hardship.

But completed wagons were soon rolling off the belt. In temperatures varying between 130 in the shade and freezing point, stocks kept streaming along key supply lines from this hub of activity to our forces in Iraq.

The railway company was recalled to India in 1944 to help in the war against Japan.



Named the "Red Eagle Bridge" in honour of the 4th Indian Division, the longest Bailey span in Greece was opened by the Governor of Central Macedonia, M. Naltas. It was built by sappers and miners of the Division.

INDIAN SAPPERS BUILD BRIDGE IN GREECE

BUILT by Indian engineers of 4th Indian Division, a 510-feet-long Bailey bridge has been opened by M. Naltas, Governor of Central Macedonia. Named the "Red Eagle Bridge," in honour of the Division, it spans the Aliakmon river near Servia.

Men of the 4th Field Company, Madras Sappers and Miners, built the structure. Road convoys had to deliver equipment for it across a hundred miles of difficult country, including the notorious Veroia Pass, writes an Army Observer.

The original bridge was destroyed by the Australians in the 1941 retreat, it was rebuilt of wood by the Germans and then burnt by guerillas in the early days of the Nazi occupation. Rebuilding it once more, the Germans finally destroyed it on their flight from Greece.

VICEROY'S CALCUTTA RESIDENCE OPEN TO EX-P.O.Ws.

Belvedere, the official residence of the Viceroy during his visits to Calcutta, is now temporarily housing former prisoners-or-war and civilian internees, in transit to their homes.

New arrivals are presented with a booklet—"Belvedere"—which tells them something of the history of the 200-year-old house. A full page gives them details of canteens, clubs, rest rooms and hostels in Calcutta.

Every effort is made to solve the many problems facing Belvedere's guests. In the ballrooms, the booklet points out, will be found a paymaster, representatives of various services associations, information bureaux, a post office, canteen and shop. On the premises are a barber and tailor.

E.N.S.A. and cinema shows are frequently staged and a swimming pool is open at all times to its residents.

DEFENCE OF INDIA UNITS TO BE DISBANDED

A Press Communique issued by the Public Relations Directorate, G.H.Q. (India) stated:

The Government of India have decided that the Defence of India units shall be disbanded on December 1, 1945. This applies equally to railway, postal and docks operating units.

The Defence of India units were originally formed when it seemed likely that the personnel of the railway, postal telegraphic and docks services would be subjected to air attack. It was felt at that time that it would be fair to men who would have to remain at their posts in the face of danger, that they should receive concessions similar to those received by soldiers, and that the discipline and steadiness which the men would gain from military status and inclusion in military units would help to keep them at their duty and to maintain these essential services.

When the air threat became less the Defence of India units were continued with the object of giving steadiness to those units during a period of exceptionally heavy stress.

Thanked for Loyal Service

Although there is no legal obligation to give these units more than one month's notice of disbandment, the Government of India feel that they deserve to be treated with generosity and also that individuals should be given time to adjust themselves to the new conditions under which they will have to work on return to civil life.

The details of their disbandment and, in particular, what clothes they will be permitted to retain are under discussion.

The Government of India wish to take this opportunity of thanking the personnel of these units for their loyal and steadfast service to which is attributable, in no small degree, the victory of the Allied cause.

The weight limit for letters, letter packets, printed and commercial papers for Holland and Yugoslavia has been raised to 4 lb. 6 oz. Simple post service to Holland is available, up to a maximum weight limit fixed at 1 lb. Registration facilities are also available for Yugoslavia.

NEW PRIVILEGES FOR V.C. WINNERS

BRITISH and Indian officers and men of the Indian Army who have been awarded the V.C. may now elect to be decorated by the King in the United Kingdom or by the Viceroy in India, says a note issued by the Adjutant-General's Branch, G.H.Q. (India).

Following the decoration they will be granted 28 days leave, which will be in addition to normal leave. In the case of those electing to be decorated by the King the leave may be taken in the United Kingdom or after returning to India. Those decorated by H.E. the Viceroy will be granted leave in India.

Free travel by air and rail will be arranged to and from the investiture and to and from leave. This travel will be in addition to normal leave travelling concessions.

In addition, during the entire period of absence, recipients of the V.C. will retain paid acting or temporary ranks or paid lance appointments.

Next-of-Kin Investitures

Widows and next-of-kin legatees of those awarded the V.C. posthumously will receive the Cross in the country in which they are living, except that widows and next-of-kin of British Service personnel of non-Indian domicile who are for the present living in India may, provided they are legatees, be allowed to defer receiving the decoration until they go to the United Kingdom.

The number of next-of-kin investitures is limited, however, and it is not certain that the King will continue to hold them after the war. In view of this, it connot be guaranteed that all next-of-kin legatees may have this option, which might have to be withdrawn at some future date.

MAIL FOR RECOVERED PRISONERS OF WAR

Many letters and telegrams intended for ex-prisoners of war and addressed c/o The Recovered P.W. Mail Centre, Bombay, cannot be delivered because senders do not include full regimental particulars of addressees.

To ensure that letters and telegrams addressed to the Centre at Bombay are safely delivered, senders must give the regimental number, rank, name and unit of the prisoner concerned.

WAR MEMORIAL DELEGATES LEAVE FOR U. K.

Seven well-known authorities on military and general education left Karachi on September 22 for Britain, the United States and Canada to study the organisation of famous military academies.

They will bring back suggestions for the organisation of India's National War Memorial which is to take the form of a "West Point", where officers for India's three armed Services will train together.

The delegation consists of Professor Amarnath Jha, M.A., D. Litt. (Hon), F.R.S.I.; Mr. W. X. Mascarenhas; Khan Bahadur Mian Afzul Hussain; Maj.-Gen. D. R. Bateman, D.S.O., O.B.E.; W/Cdr. S. Mukerjee, O.B.E.; Capt. J. W. Jefford, R.I.N. and Lt.-Col. W. E. Williamson (secretary). Mr. John Sargent, Secretary, Education Department, Government of India, was unable to accompany the delegation, as originally intended.

Among the training establishments the delegates will visit are the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, the Naval College, Dartmouth, and the Air Force College, Cranwell, in the U.K.; and the Military Academy, West Point, and the Naval College, Annapolis, in the United States.

The delegation expect to return to India early in November.

BASIC PETROL RATION

As there appears to be some misunderstanding regarding the effect which the doubling of the basic petrol ration for private cars and motor cycles, which was sanctioned with effect from August 1, 1945, is intended to have on the grant of supplementary petrol rations, it is notified for general information that this increase in the basic petrol ration is intended to be a concession to private car and motor cycle owners and will not affect the supplementary petrol ration previously allowed so long as the car or motor cycle continues to be used for the same essential work for which the supplementary ration was given prior to the doubling of the basic ration, said a Press Note issued by the Government of India on September 22.

INDIAN ARMY'S POST-WAR LITERACY DRIVE

Thousands of Indian soldiers, to whom the written word was a mystery when they joined the Army, will emerge on demobilisation as literates in their own vernacular. This is the aim of a literacy drive started by the Southern Army as part of an all-India scheme to educate every Indian soldier.

Units will be invited to detail regimental instructors who will be trained on practice squads composed of the first batches of illiterates at the different area headquarters. The instructors will then return to their units to pass on their knowledge to others.

Associated in the scheme will be selected civilian instructors. The whole campaign has been planned to last from six to nine months, writes an Army Observer.

In Bombay, this plan is in charge of Lt.-Col. S. F. Trustram, the area education officer, who is assisted by two Indian officers, Maj. S. M. Nakvy and Capt. J. N. Chubb. The project in this area embraces Hindi, Urdu, Marathi, Tamil, Telegu, Kanarese, Malayalam, Punjabi and Pushtu, in addition to Roman Urdu, with which the majority of Indian soldiers are already familiar, and Basic English.

REGISTRATION OF CLAIMS FOR COMPENSATION

A press communique issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on September 26 stated:

In a Press Communique issued in November 1939 the Government of India announced that claims in respect of property in enemy territories, non-Empire territories which had been occupied by the enemy and Andamans and Nicobar Islands were registrable with the Director of Commercial Intelligence, 1 Council House Street, Calcutta.

The Government of India have now decided that the claims in respect of compensation for loss of, or damage done to such properties should also be registered by that officer. All concerned are advised to send detailed particulars in so far as they may be available (in triplicate) of their claims together with copies (in triplicate) of relevant documents to that officer.



An Auxiliary Nurse measures out medicine at an Indian Military Hospital

POST-WAR CONCESSIONS FOR A. N. S.

THE Provincial Nurses Registration Councils and the Provincial Governments favour the grant of certain concessions to members of the Auxiliary Nursing Service, India, to enable them, on demobilisation, to become certificated nurses, said a Press Note issued by the Director-General, Indian Medical Services on September 20.

It added:

Among the concessions accepted by the Councils are (*a*) recognition in full as approved training of the preliminary course of instructions under the Auxiliary Nursing Service scheme as well as subsequent training, if any, taken in the selected military hospitals which have been specially staffed for instructional purposes, and (*b*) recognition in part as approved training of military service rendered in the Auxiliary Nursing Service (not less than one-fourth and not more than one-half of the period will be counted).

A considerable number of Auxiliaries will now be able to take their Preliminary State Examination in Nursing while still in service, and their final examination with a minimum of eleven months' training in a civil hospital after demobilisation.

While members of the Auxiliary Nursing Service are already eligible for the award of disability pensions, according to a recent decision pensions will also be granted to the dependents of those general service nurses whose death is held to be attributable to military service. The rates of pensions and the conditions for the grant thereof will be in accordance with the prescribed rules.

It was announced some time back that when proceeding on War Leave, General Service members would be provided with a first class railway warrant for the journey to and from their homes in India without limitation as to distance. This concession has now been extended to the members of local service also and will be admissible twice a year to all Auxiliary nurses serving in concessional areas and once yearly to those in non-concessional areas.

All General Service members who undertook to serve for the duration of the war and six months thereafter will, on fulfilment of such undertaking, be granted an additional bonus of Rs. 50 for each completed year of service.

TROOPS CONCESSIONS WITHDRAWN

Now that the war with Japan is over the Governmnet of India have withdrawn from October 1, 1945 field service concessions to troops serving in Assam and Eastern Bengal.

Troops serving in Assam and Eastern Bengal were granted full field service concessions in 1942 because of the imminent threat to India at that time. Now that that threat has been removed by Japan's surrender the Government feel that these concessions can no longer be justified.

The effect of this decision is that troops serving in the two areas cease from October 1 to be entitled to purely field service concessions, such as *batta* in the case of Indian troops, free rations in the case of officers, and field allowance in the case of civilians.

They will, however, continue to receive postal and other concessions sanctioned in August for all troops in India Command for as long as they continue to apply.

The Maharaja of Surguja and the Illaqadar of Jhilmili (Surguja State) have generously contributed Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 1,500 respectively to His Excellency the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund.

W.V.S. IN POST-WAR WORLD

Lady Bird's Radio Talk

"VICTORY has come to the Allies, but victory does not mean idleness and the rejoicings of those who think are tempered very much by the thought of the many problems which lie ahead in every country in the world—problems which must be met by a keener sense of self-discipline and unselfishness, and a keener sense of civic duty to the community in which we live. Now what has this got to do with the W.V.S.? Actually a very great deal, because the W.V.S. have already shown women's sense of civic responsibility in many spheres of social service connected with the war."

Thus said Lady Bird, Hon. Publicity Organiser, HQ.W.V.S.(I), in a talk broadcast from A.I.R., New Delhi, on September 12:

Lady Bird said: "But first of all, in case there is anybody listening to me who has not heard of the W.V.S. (and I hope there isn't) what do the Women's Voluntary Services do? Their activities are legion and vary according to the social needs of each country—and in India each Presidency, Province and State, but wherever the W.V.S. exist every conceivable form of welfare for the men of the armed forces has been given pride of place in their programme.

Origin of W.V.S.

"And how did the W.V.S. originate? It was in June 1938, when the threat of another war seemed imminent in Europe, that the then Home Secretary, Sir Samuel Hoare, asked the Dowager Marchioness of Reading to interest the women of the U.K. in Civil Defence. From that moment the movement, backed by enormous enthusiasm, imagination and vision has never looked back, and the idea quickly caught the imagination of women in other countries until today there are Women's Voluntary Services or their equivalent in America, Australia, Canada, the Gold Coast India, Iraq, Iran, New Zealand, Nigeria, Portugal, Sierra Leonne, South Africa, Trinidad, Turkey and of course the U.K., and in all these Countries and Colonies plans for W.V.S. post-war activities are in hand. Now let's go and see what some of them do." Lady Bird then traced the activities of the W.V.S. in the U.K., America, Canada New Zealand, South Africa, Trinidad and Turkey and, referring to India, said:

"In India the W.V.S. was founded in 1942 and today, under the leadership and Presidency of Her Excellency the Viscountess Wavell, over 10,000 Indian, British and Anglo-Indian members are enrolled for service directed by more than 200 Branches.

"The war brought many problems to India and not the least of them was the entertainment and hospitality for the men of the three Fighting Services. Who was to look after these men—who to cater for their leisure hours? The Women's Voluntary Services rolled up their sleeves and got down to it and in a very short time static, mobile and stations canteens began to spring up everywhere, in many of which the men have all the facilities of a well-run club.

Exacting Work

"It is hard and often exacting work, but do the workers mind, not they! They work in the heat . . . . they work in the bitter cold of a winter's morning . . . they arrange entertainments and hospitality . . . . they pack parcels, book leave accommodation and run leave camps. . . , they provide funds for troops welfare from Scrap Depots, Thrift and Victory Shops . . . . under the aegis of the Joint War Organisation of the Indian Red Cross and St. John they visit and shop for the serviceman in hospital and teach him to do leatherwork and to embroider when convalescent . . . . they look after his family . . . they supervise hospital kitchens, make lakhs of bandages, surgical dressings etc., for the Red Cross and work for the Social Services. These activities will still carry on.

"The war is over but it has taught us that voluntary service is one of the ways to good citizenship and that true citizenship demands such service not only in an emergency but at all times to help on the general welfare of the community, and there is no woman so poor or so occupied that she is unable to give some of her time to non-salaried Social Service. The Women's Voluntary Services have it in their power to spread this keener sense of civic responsibility and although the return of our Indian Forces, prisoners of war and civil internees—men, women and children—will still have foremost place in our activities for some months to come as we welcome them home from service and captivity, our thoughts must now turn to the needs of the future.

Post-War Activities

"There is as yet no blue print. There was none when the first Branches of the W.V.S.(I) were formed in India in 1940 but by degrees the way became clear and we have more activities on our hands than our present membership can meet. Civil hospitals, famine relief, destitutes and milk clinics, all will claim our help more and more, also National Savings and some aspects of

rural life, but a great field of opportunity lies in the help the W.V.S. (I) can give to the civil and military authorities in connection with *welfare for women and children.*

"Thanks to the initiative and interest of the C.O's wife in the wives of the men in the Regimental lines during the past twenty years, improvement in the homes, health and general welfare of women and children where health clinics, families hospitals and women's institutes exist is very marked. The women now take a pride in being well turned out and their children reflect the care that the imparting of new knowledge has given.

"The women delight in meeting together in their spare time for handicrafts mothercraft games etc. often taught by their own Indian Officers' wives and they also take a pride in keeping their quarters burnished while tiny flower gardens border the neat and well kept courtyard. Such work must be extended. Post-war planning for men in India cannot get very far until the standard of homes is raised and something is done to include health facilities and clubs for women and children where they can be taught simple hygiene and housewifery, and the raising of their standard will have its effect on the National development as a whole.

"Such subjects as dietetics and nutrition involving cookery demonstrations, films and talks will claim our service on a scale that cannot be met by our present membership, and I, therefore, appeal tonight to all W.V.S. members—especially Indian members—to increase their Branch membership as soon as possible.

An Appeal

"Now that the war is over many of your friends will be freed by degrees from their full time jobs. Do persuade them to give some of their time to the building up of this post-war world which will need all our imagination, our vision and our help no matter in how small a way—as our contribution—nay our duty to the community in which we live. To those of you who have not yet enrolled as W.V.S. members especially Indian ladies may I appeal to you now to join your local Branch at once—tomorrow, and thus help on the post-war work of this worldwide movement to which you will be able to contribute something beyond price—your interest, your initiative, your sympathy and your co-operation.

"And here I want to tell the Indian ladies who are listening to me about a party of men who have recently returned to India after two years as prisoners of war in France. They were delighted to find an Indian W.V.S. worker in charge of a large station canteen and they told her how French women had risked their lives by hiding them and helping them to escape and had even gone without food in order that they might be fed. Some of these women were caught and shot before the men's eyes and one man said: 'The brave deeds of many men are rewarded by honours but the bravery of these women will only be known to us and we shall remember them until we die.' The W.V.S. worker went on to say: 'I felt that these words should be a source of inspiration to every Indian woman to come forward and help in the work.'

"The W.V.S. (I) are proud of their name, proud of their service and proud of their motto 'I Serve' which to them means Service with self-discipline, unselfishness, kindness, loyalty, tolerance and sympathetic understanding.

"So let us go forward and tackle without delay these new fields of service which are opening up to us, driven on, ever on by the inspiration, the spirit, the pluck and the courage of the women of the Empire and of our Allies."

CLAIMS COMMISSION (INDIA)

The Claims Commission (India) is an organisation set up by the Govenment of India, War Department for the investigation of civilian claims against the British Armed Forces in India arising out of traffic accidents and "civil wrongs." The Commission also deals with civilian claims arising out of training and manoeuvres, where these claims cannot be settled by Civil Revenue Officers under existing legislation.

The Commission does *not* deal with claims arising out of contracts, hirings, requisitions, or war damage; nor with claims under Government ordinances or Service Regulations; nor with claims against Provincial Governments; nor with claims arising out of operations of the Central Government not under the control of the War Department.

Civilian claims arising out of accidents or incidents involving members of the Armed Forces, which appear to fall within the scope of the Commission, should be submitted in writing to the local Claims Commission District Officer, whose address may be ascertained from the nearest military headquarters.

All investigations by the Commission and its officers are made without admission of liability on the part of Government and the Services.

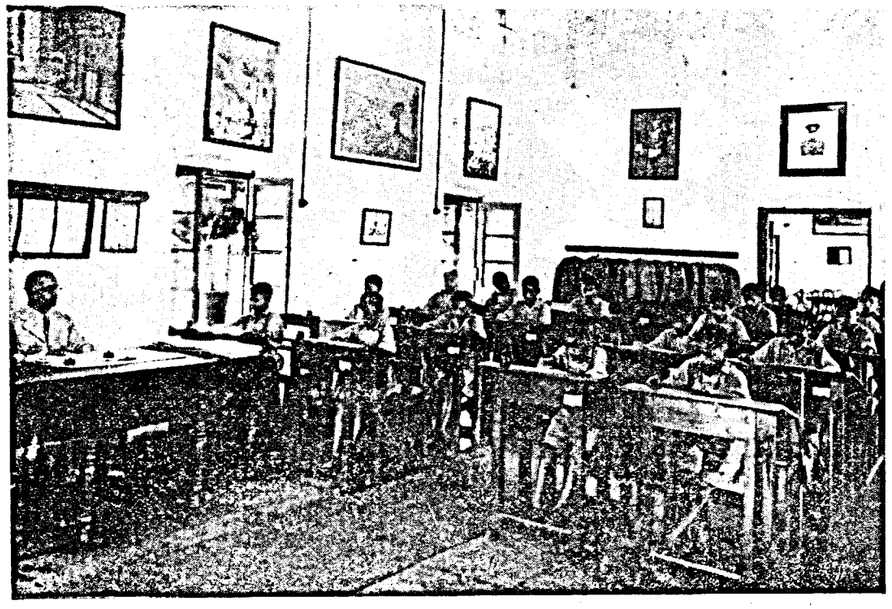


WELFARE OFFICERS FOR TROOPS

A pioneer among Indian women welfare workers for her country's soldiers abroad, Miss Razia Faruqui comes from a respected Muslim family of the Punjab. She is now working as Assistant Welfare Officer in the Cairo area.



Miss Shanti Maya Dass (Right) is serving as Assistant Welfare Officer for Indian troops stationed in Palestine. She belongs to a leading Christian family of the Punjab and was serving in the Punjab Education Department when her services were secured through the Women's Section, Information and Broadcasting Department, Government of India.



Educational facilities are provided for the children of ex-prisoners of war at a hostel of the 5th Mahratta Light Infantry Welfare Centre at Belgaum.

BELGAUM TRAINING CENTRE'S WORK FOR TROOPS' WELFARE

AT Belgaum, in Southern India, an Indian Army regimental training centre—whose first task is to turn untutored village boys into trained soldiers—has blossomed from a parade ground into a public health centre.

The training centre is that of the 5th Mahratta Light Infantry—one of the best known South Indian regiments of the Indian Army. While its fighting battalions have been away at war serving in many parts of the world, the training centre at home has become a "foster-father" to all of them.

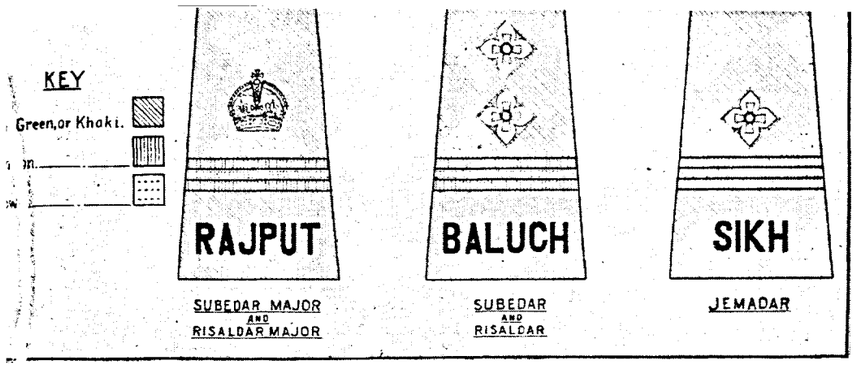
A maternity centre with up-to-date buildings and expert advice and attention exists for the wives and children of the troops. A demonstration farm, where up-to-date agricultural methods are used, not only supplies fresh food but serves as a rehabilitation and training centre for demobilised and injured men.

Sons of Mahratta soldiers may live in the Boys Hostel and go to school there. A resident guardian is responsible for their welfare. Games and physical training are part of their schooling, writes an Army observer.

The commandant of the training centre who takes a great interest in these, the youngest of all the young soldiers, is known by the boys as the *Guru*—or teacher. Most of these boys can speak English and many of the hostel's graduates are already soldiers.

The regiment's returning soldiers—and more especially repatriated prisoners of war—have rejoiced to see what has been done for their welfare and that of their wives and families in their absence.

Now that the war with Japan is over, the Government of India have decided that Officer Recruiting Teams, Deputy Directors of Recruiting and Recruiting Officers will, in future, carry out all officer recruiting for the Services. Consequently Provincial Selection Boards are no longer necessary and all such boards will shortly be closed. Announcing this decision the Government of India wish to thank the chairmen and members of all Provincial Selection Boards for the invaluable work which they have carried out for the Fighting Services during the past years.



V.C.O.'s to Wear Pre-War Badges of Rank

VICEROY'S Commissioned Officers will once again be recognised by the badges of rank worn by them before the war, says an announcement at G.H.Q. (India).

This reversion to the older style has been decided on because the miniature silver or embroidered "pips" and crowns, especially on the crimson and gold braid on which they are superimposed, have been found unsatisfactory. Their significance is partially lost on civilians and is confusing to members of the Allied forces.

The pre-war badges of rank to which V.C.Os will now revert will be a crown for Risaldar-Major and Subedar-Major, two stars for Risaldar and Subedar, and one star for Jemadar.

These are also the badges of rank of King's Commissioned Majors, Lieutenants and Second-Lieutenants. To differentiate between the two types of commissions, V.C.Os will wear horizontally between the badges of rank and regimental shoulder titles a half-inch band of crimson-yellow-crimson braid.

WOUND STRIPES AUTHORISED

Wound stripes may now be worn, but not before claims have been verified. This news is given in an Army Instruction (India). Stripes for wounds received in the present war will be of gold braid, 1½ inches long. One will be worn for each wound officially recorded.

This applies to all Services personnel—men and women—and to those in the Merchant Navy and Civil Defence organisation who were wounded through enemy action. Injuries received while serving in the Home Guard and other qualifying services in the U.K. before enlistment will qualify for wound stripes.

In addition, one red stripe, also 1½ inches long, will be worn to indicate all wounds received in previous wars, including operations on the North-West Frontier.

On tropical uniforms the stripes will be worn vertically in the centre of the right breast pocket. Those entitled to wear both gold and red stripes will wear the red stripe nearer the right shoulder.

On non-tropical uniforms the stripes will be worn vertically on the left forearm, four inches above the bottom of the cuff and midway between the seams of the outer side of the sleeve. They will not be worn on greatcoats.

Claims to wear these stripes must be submitted to officers commanding units. Brass-backed braid, specially designed for use with tropical dress, will be issued when claims have been verified.

INDIAN TROOPS COME HOME BY AIR

Thousands of Indian troops are being repatriated from Europe and the Middle East under the R.A.F.'s large-scale air trooping scheme. On their return journey the giant aircraft carry repatriated British personnel.

The first of the Indian troops to be brought home were greeted at Mauripur airfield, Karachi, by Air Marshal Sir C. Roderick Carr, Commanding Base Air Forces, South-East Asia; Air Commodore G.T. Jarman, Deputy Air Officer Commanding No. 229 Group of R.A.F. Transport Command, and by other senior officers.

The troops were received at the new air trooping camp where British personnel assemble for the journey home.

C.-IN-C. INSPECTS "TIGER HEAD" DIVISION

THE Union Jack ran up to the flagstaff head against a blue background of distant hills, when the Commander-in-Chief in India, Gen. Sir Claude Auchinleck, stepped on parade to inspect 4,000 green battle-dressed Burma veterans of the 26th "Tiger Head" Indian Division "somewhere in India."

The 26th Division fought through two monsoons in the Arakan and its troops were the first into Rangoon in the 15th Indian Corps' amphibious landings.

Decorations won during the fighting this year including eight M.Cs, eight I.D.S.Ms and five M.Ms were then presented by the Commander-in-Chief.

Passing through the ranks on his inspection with the Divisional Commander, Major-Gen. H. M. Chambers, he stopped to speak to Havildar Umrao Singh, Ahir Indian artilleryman from Palra village, Rohtak district, who won the V.C. in the Kaladan valley.

Gen. Auchinleck then spoke to the men in Urdu, writes an Army Observer.

Decorations

The shortest soldier in the brigade, diminutive 4 feet 11 inches Rifleman Tatalsing Gurung, of the 8th Gurkha Rifles, received his M.M. from the C.-in-C. during a later visit to the 36th Indian Infantry brigade, where the band of the Patiala State Infantry played during the inspection of men from the 9th Jat, and 12th Frontier Force Regiments, the 8th Gurkha and 13th Frontier Forces Rifles and the Patiala Infantry. To officers and men of this brigade, the C.-in-C. presented one I.O.M., one M.B.E., three O.B.Is, six M.Cs, eight I.D.S.Ms and eight M.Ms.

Visiting the 7th Indian Infantry brigade he was introduced by its Commander, Brigadier H.H.I. Hutchinson, to officers, V.C.Os, and Warrant Officers representative of the brigade's units. He presented a number of decorations including one M.C., two I.D.S.Ms and five M.Ms.

During his stay with the 26th Division, Gen. Auchinleck was accomodated in a *basha* in the division's camp.

One hundred and fifty African soldiers, of whom not a man stood under six feet high, formed a guard of honour which greeted the C.-in-C. when he visited the 11th East African Division on September 14.

The Division was on parade for inspection and formed up in a hollow square for an investiture. In the morning sunlight these hundreds of Africa's fighting men, most of whom wore both the Africa and Burma Stars, were an inspiring sight.

The C.-in-C. commented that they were among the finest, if not the finest, body of men he had ever seen.

In the afternoon he drove to Ramgarh to visit the British Reinforcements Training Centre, and later, in Ranchi, visited a newly-opened Indian welfare centre mingling freely with Indian troops. At the Services Art Club nearby he saw servicemen and women sketching, painting, modelling and studying architecture in their spare time.

Indian Army

In an address to officers of the Ranchi garrison the previous day Gen. Auchinleck referred to some of the problems of the peace as they affect the Indian Army.

"Even more essential in peace than in war," he said, "is the preservation of the mutual respect and goodwill existing between British officers and Indian soldiers. Born in war, they must not die in peace. All must keep them alive because they will mean a lot to the British Commonwealth, of which one hopes India will remain a member."

During his tour the C.-in-C. is taking every opportunity of discussing release and repatriation problems with British troops, at the same time emphasising the transport problems which are, at the moment, standing in the way.

Airborne Division

On September 15 Gen. Auchinleck visited British and Indian battalions of the 44th Indian Airborne Division commanded by Maj-Gen. E. E. Down, C.B.E.

Men from this Division took part in the parachute landing on Elephant Point, south of Rangoon in May of this year, and some of the officers fought at Arnhem.

Several of the units inspected by the C.-in-C. have long fighting records. The 4/6th Rajputana Rifles have served in Egypt, Eritrea, Syria, North Africa and Italy and won two V.Cs. The 2nd Black Watch have fought in Somaliland, at Tobruk, and in Burma with the chindits in 1943 and 1944. This famous Scottish battalion paraded with their officers and pipe band dressed in the kilt.

GEN. AUCHINLECK OPENS INDIAN FORCES CLUB

Opening the new Indian Forces Club in New Delhi, on September 7, the Commander-in-Chief in India, Gen. Sir Claude Auchinleck, said: "This new club for men in the Indian Services is a step forward on the road to giving them all the consideration they deserve."

"Forty years ago the life of an Indian serving man was a simple affair of simple needs, though he was none the worse for that. But times have changed," said the C.-in-C. Asking for help in the running of the Club, Gen. Auchinleck stressed that its value was greater now that peace had returned, writes an Army observer.

Annexed to the Y.M.C.A. on Jai Singh Road, the new venture is equipped with wash-and-shower facilities, a shop, comfortable seating for more than 70 men and the beginnings of a library. Primarily intended for Indian servicemen and ex-servicemen, troops of other nationalities will be welcome to the Club as guests.

First Indian woman to take initiative in planning and organising the new construction was Lady Trivedi, wife of Sir Chandulal Madhavlal Trivedi, Secretary, War Department, Government of India. Lady Trivedi's committee of seven under the auspices of the Allied Forces' Entertainment Committee has already raised Rs. 26,000, thus almost clearing the total outlay.

"IF I WERE A POLITICIAN..."

"IF I were a politician 'From unity comes strength' would be my motto for India. As a soldier I know the truth of that and the Indian Army is a shining example of it. The Jamshedpur works, where different creeds and castes work under the same roof and management, is a symbol of what may be done in future all over India."

This statement was made by the Commander-in-Chief in India, Gen. Sir Claude Auchinleck, in reply to a speech of welcome by Sir Jehangir Ghandy when he visited the Tatanagar Iron and Steel works on September 12.

The C.-in-C's earlier visit in 1941 was referred to by Sir Jehangir. He said that then the works' watchword was production for victory and they worked incessantly to that end. Now the company's aim was once again the production of steel for the construction requirements of the civilian population.

Gen. Auchinleck spent two hours touring the vast Works—one of the largest individual steel-producing units in the British Empire—and showed particular interest in a series of samples which demonstrated how the Works' laboratory produced by experiment at the beginning of the war armour plating which proved equal to any in the world.

The C.-in-C. also visited the Tata Services Club. Formerly the Jamshedpur Town Hall, it is now a delightful club with swimming pool, canteen and cinema. All amenities are open to Indian, British, American and African troops.

Women volunteers who will go anywhere and undertake any kind of work are wanted under the new Short-term General Service Scheme announced by the Woman's Voluntary Services, (India). They must sign on for a minimum of three months. They will be given free accommodation and travelling, but no salary.

The reason for the scheme is that, while adequate numbers of volunteers are available in the bigger towns in India, the need for troops' canteens and other W.V.S. services is great in remote spots where women are not normally resident.

Royal Welcome for Returned Indian War Prisoners

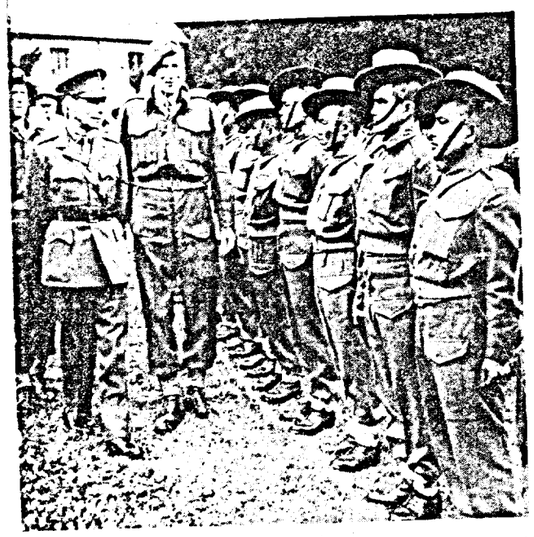
Now reaching India every day, thousands of repatriated Indian prisoners of war are being greeted by the following personal message from Their Majesties the King and Queen.

"The Queen and I bid you a very warm welcome home. Through all the great trials and sufferings which you have undergone at the hands of the Japanese you and your comrades have been constantly in our thoughts.

"We know from the accounts we have already received how heavy those sufferings have been. We know also that these have been endured by you with the highest courage. We mourn with you the deaths of so many of your gallant comrades.

"With all our hearts we hope that your return from captivity will bring you and your families a full measure of happiness which you may long enjoy together. George R.I."

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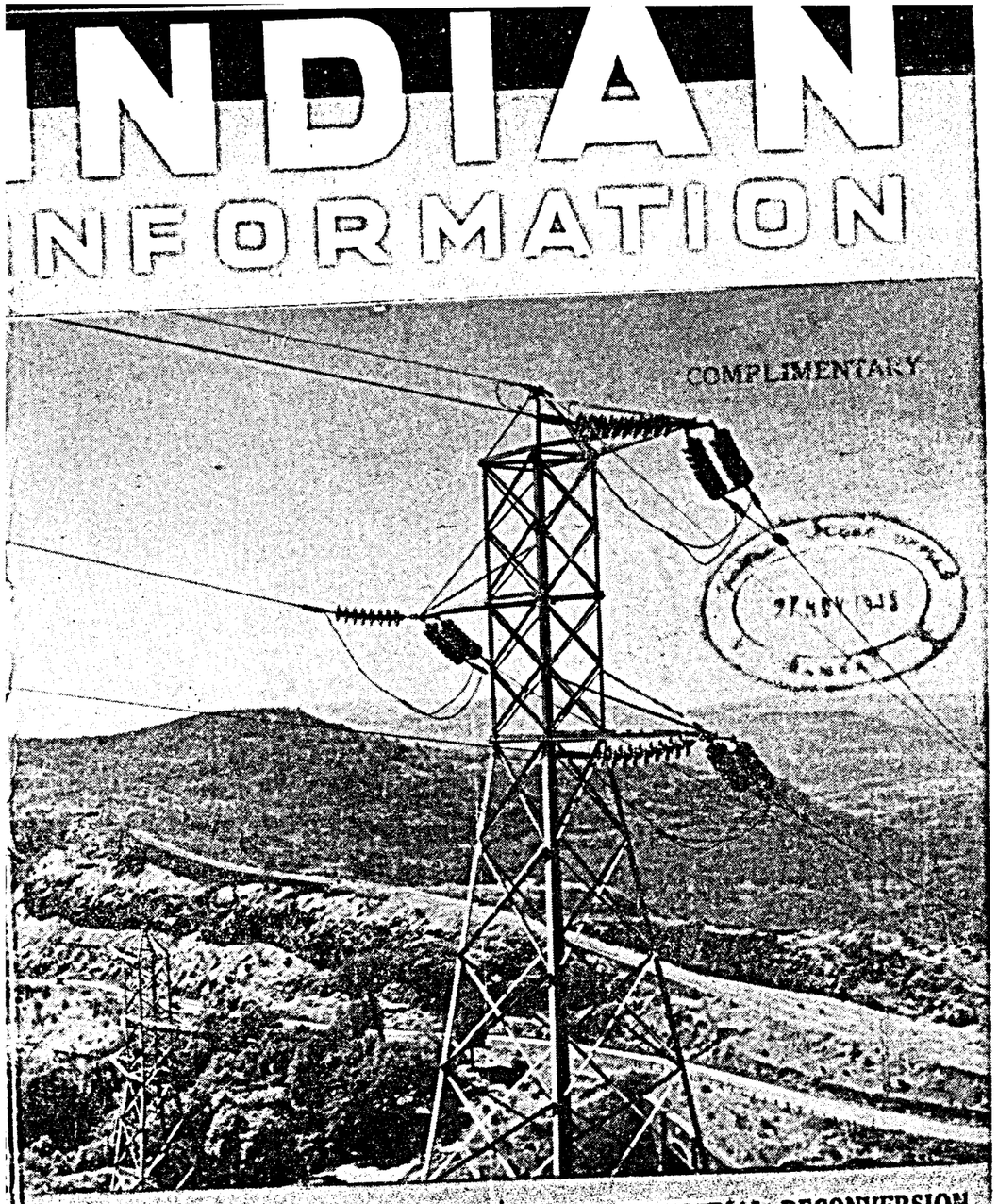




The King and Queen recently visited some 4,000 Indian soldiers released from German prisoner-of-war camps at an All-India ex-P.O.W. Transit Camp in Norfolk. These pictures show (above) Their Majesties with the Indian soldiers at the Camp and (below) talking to Sepoy Modhi Khan (of the Punjab) wounded ex-prisoner of war.



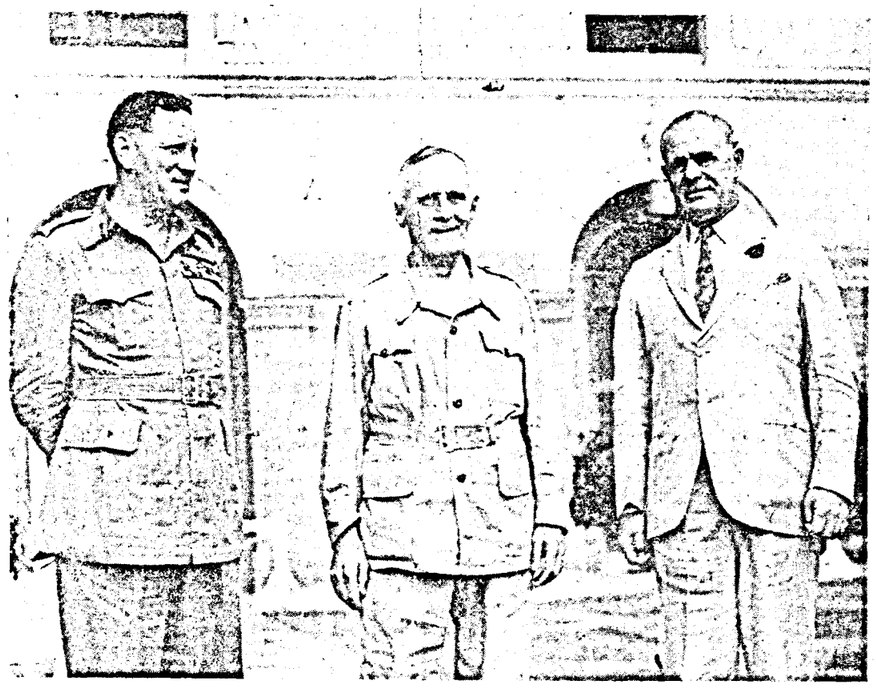
INDIAN INFORMATION



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PRICE 4 ANNAS

PLANS FOR INDUSTRIAL RECONVERSION IN INDIA



The Secretary of State for War, Mr. Jack Lawson (centre), who recently visited Delhi during his tour of India and S.E.A. Commands, with H. E. the Viceroy (right) and the C.-in-C.

Vol. 17, No. 171. INDIAN INFORMATION Nov. 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.

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.

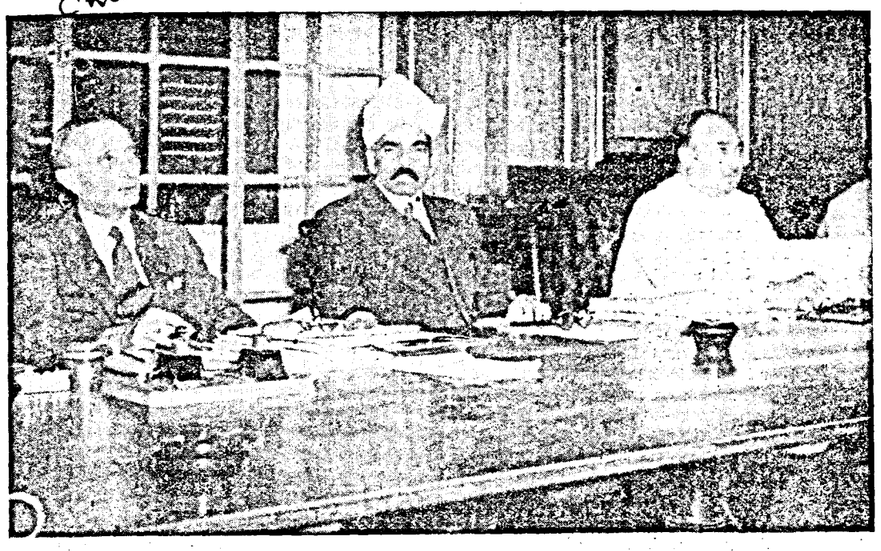
Edited by Pothan Joseph, Principal Information Officer, Government of India.

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COVER PAGE PICTURE: Close-up of a strain tower of a hydro-electric scheme in the Western Ghats.

Fdl 29 Chillows



The Hon. Sir Ardeshir Dalal (left) Member for Planning and Development, presided over the meeting of the Industrial Policy Committee held in New Delhi on October 5. The Hon. Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar (centre) Supply Member, and the Hon. Sir M. Azizul Huque, Commerce Member, also attended the meeting.

PLANS FOR INDUSTRIAL RECONVERSION IN INDIA

Sir A. R. Dalal's Address

THE reconversion of industry to a peacetime footing, assistance or protection to wartime industries and the long-range industrialisation of the country were discussed by the Hon'ble Sir Ardeshir Dalal, Member for Planning and Development, in his opening speech at the meeting of the Policy Committee on Industries held in New Delhi on October 5, 1945.

The Planning Member announced that Government had under consideration the establishment of:—

A Government shipbuilding yard for the building of merchant ships as well as vessels required for the future Indian Navy;

An industry for the building of aircraft for civil aviation as well for the requirements of the Royal Indian Air Force;

An Industrial Finance Corporation for financing medium and large-scale industries;

Provincial institutions on similar lines (Industrial Finance Corporation) to finance small-scale and cottage industries; and

A Tariff Board to examine, in particular, the claims for assistance or protection to wartime industries.

Sir Adeshir Dalal further revealed that in the scheme for the registration of capital goods 651 applications totalling Rs. 34 crores 90 lakhs had been accepted.

Here is the full text of Sir Ardeshir Dalal's speech:—

Much water has flowed under the bridges since we last met. The war is now happily over, but the end of hostilities has brought in its train problems no less complicated, difficult or urgent than those of the war itself.

The matter of immediate concern is the contribution which industry can make to the economy of the country during the transition period between now and the time when comparatively stable conditions will have been established.

The main factors to be taken into account are, on the one hand, the heavy drop in military expenditure, both on account of His Majesty's Government and India in this country, the demobilisation of large numbers of men, the rapid contraction of labour on military works and the psychological effect of reduction of employment, and, on the other, the large volume of currency in circulation, the increase in bank deposits and the large pent-up demand for consumer goods.

The social consequences of unemployment are bound to be particularly severe at a time when the price level remains high. Government are taking all the steps open to them in order to minimise the economic disequilibrium likely to arise in the transition period. Demobilisation is to be carried out in a gradual manner, the Central and Provincial Governments are taking steps to embark on public works which will provide a wide measure of employment, and an effective machinery for placing demobilised men has been started. These steps will necessarily have a steadying effect on the economic situation, but it is obvious that government action alone will not suffice; it must, if the situation is to be adequately met, be co-ordinated with the efforts of private industry.

Fundamentally Different

The problem of industrial re-conversion to a peacetime footing in India is fundamentally different from that arising in other countries, particularly in the U.K. and the U.S.A. There, industry was reconditioned for the production of war materials, such as aeroplanes, tanks, shells and the thousands of odds and ends required by the Defence Services, and factories were largely re-tooled for that purpose. The process has now to be reversed. Labour was diverted to the points of maximum utility to wartime economy and has now to be re-assembled.

The problem in India, both as regards reconditioning of factories and re-assembling of labour is far less complicated. The question of reconversion, in the technical sense, does of course arise in the case of certain factories in India and we have expert departmental committees which are examining the question of converting some of the armaments factories to the production of civilian goods. By and large, however, the problem of reconversion consists in the replacement of machinery which has been driven very hard during the war and the introduction of new machinery for increasing production. Unfortunately we are not ourselves in a position to produce the machinery required, so that our reconversion problem is largely dependent on our ability to get machinery from overseas.

This question, *viz.*, the availability of machinery, was one of those with which I was preoccupied during my recent visit to the U.K. and the U.S.A. A delegation of leading industrialists from this country, of whom I am happy to see some members in this committee, also toured those countries at about the same time and they have recently published a very interesting report. From this report, as well as from the Press Conferences which I gave on my return, you will have noticed that the prospects of securing a large volume of capital goods in the immediate future are not right.

I would like to remind you, however, that while I was investigating the problem overseas, the war against Japan was not over and the problem of exporting capital equipment was necessarily overshadowed by the overriding necessity of equipping large masses of troops in the Pacific. In view of the collapse of Japan, it seems to me that the position has altered for the better, and it does seem permissible to hope, that we shall be able to import equipment somewhat earlier than the industrial delegation and I dared to hope.

You will recollect that in the speech which I made at this Committee meeting last year, I stated that it was proposed to set up organisations, both in the U.K. and the U.S.A. to help industrialists in securing capital goods. A special officer has now been appointed in London and is working at the India House, and Government propose that this officer should form the nucleus of the proposed organisation in the U.K. We are actively considering what agency should be employed in the U.S.A. for a similar purpose. Any such agency will have to be built round the Indian Supply Mission which has made extensive contact with American industry during the war.

Equipment in U.S.

While on this subject, I may state that there is one source from which it may be possible to secure capital equipment in the near future. When in the U.S.A, I had interviews with the American Disposals authorities who informed me that nearly ten billion dollars worth of industrial plant and machinery would be rendered surplus at the end of the war. I have made arrangements with the Supply Mission at Washington to keep in touch with the Disposals authorities and to inform the Government and industrialists in this country of the character



The Hon. Sir Ardeshir Dalal (left) with the Hon. Sir Archibald Rowlands, Finance Member.

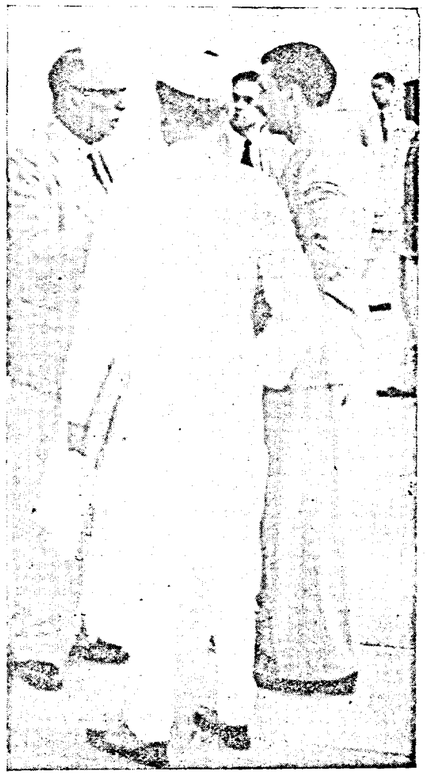
and amount of the material that may be available for disposal from time to time.

I feel, however, that, besides this, more active measures are necessary. It is therefore proposed to strengthen the Supply Mission as required and to depute one or more technical officers on behalf of the Government of India to locate the plant and examine its suitability. It is difficult, however, for Government to do much except with regard to their own requirements, unless they know what plant and material the industrialists require and what prices would suit them.

It is suggested, therefore, that the industrialists may, if they so wish, select a few representatives to be associated with Government for this purpose. The question of the dollar exchange will be considered when the magnitude of the transactions is known. As I have stated on more than one occasion previously, it may be possible for industrialists on proper security to arrange advances from American banks. I shall be obliged for the views of the Committee on this suggestion.

Apart from the U.K., there are two countries in the British Empire from which capital equipment may be available, *viz.*, Australia and Canada, and investigations for this purpose are being made. It is, of course, open to industrialists to make their own enquiries. Government will render any assistance that they may require. Switzerland and Sweden are other two countries from which there are some possibilities of securing capital goods; but in their case the question of the availability of exchange will have to be fully examined.

Apart from the availability of capital equipment overseas, there are many matters of internal administration which have a close bearing on the ability of industry in the near future to work at its maximum potential and assist in the maintenance of employment. I refer, for instance, to controls. The different Departments of Government are carefully examining at present the extent to which these controls which were unavoidable during wartime, should be



Mr. N. R. Sarker (left) in conversation with Mr. J. R. D. Tata.

modified in order that industry should be subjected to the minimum of interference and delay. I shall welcome any concrete suggestions that any of the members of this Committee may have on this subject.

We must, however, guard ourselves against any sweeping suggestion that controls must be removed altogether. A sudden removal of controls may well have the most serious effects on our economy and we may find curselves in a situation so aggravated that we may be compelled to reimpose them after serious dislocation. What is important is to ensure that the transition is gradual and is subject to the minimum of shocks. Besides a gradual relaxation of controls, Government is prepared to assist industries in transition from war to peace in various ways. Attention is invited to a press note issued by the Government of India in the Supply Department, dated 14th August last, in which it is stated that assistance will be rendered by Government in allocating essential materials, e.g., coal, steel, cement, timber, in rendering technical advice, in obtaining transport priorities, etc.

The greatest possible use will also be made of the indigenous production in the procurment of Government requirements. Provinces and States have been requested to give the appropriate controlling authorities phased programmes of their requirements so that allocations of materials in short supply may be made. A co-ordinating organisation has been set up in the Secretariat to assist industries in their problems of reconversion.

Wartime Industries

In the Statement on Industrial Policy issued in April last, it was stated that machinery would be set up to examine in particular the claims for assistance or protection to wartime industries. A Press communique was issued on the same day inviting industries to send in their applications to Government for protection or assistance. Over 40 applications have so far been received. Government are setting up a Tariff Board under the Chairmanship of Sir Shanmukham Chetty to examine the claims of the industries which were started or developed during the war. A Press note to that effect will shortly be issued.

Coming now to the long-range problems of industry, I would draw the attention of the members to the Statement on Industrial Policy which has been circulated. I would recapitulate the salient points of that Statement.

The Government of India propose that basic industries, of which a list has been given, should be brought under central control. This does not mean that the Central Government will nationalise those industries and own or run them themselves. It means that their regulation, in so far as regulation is considered necessary, will be uniform throughout British India so as to ensure co-ordinated development.

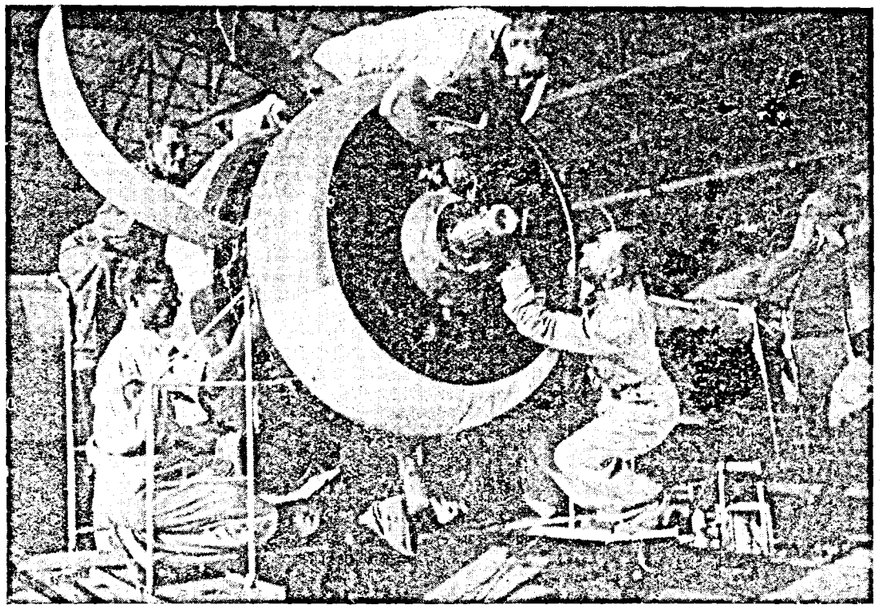
On the question of nationalisation, the Statement adopts a policy which, I submit, is generally in line with that of the Bombay Plan. It is not based on any doctrinaire considerations but on severely practical grounds. I stated at the last meeting of this Committee that I was convinced that private initiative and enterprise had still a large part to play in the development of industries. But private initiative and enterprise have to be harnessed to the public good. Our aim is to secure a balance between the organisation power of the State and the driving force of the free individual.

Aircraft Construction

Speaking very broadly, the field of public utilities is considered to be the preserve of Government or municipal authorities, but the industries outside that field are mainly left to private enterprise. A proviso is, however, laid down that if sufficient capital is not forthcoming for the development of any industry which is considered essential in the national interests, Government will develop it either by themselves or in co-operation with private industry. It may interest the Committee to know that, without attempting any interference with private enterprise, Government have under consideration the establishment of a Government shipbuilding yard for the building of merchant ships as well as vessels required for the future Indian navy. Government have also under serious consideration the establishment of an industry for the building of aircraft for civil aviation as well as for the requirements of the Royal Indian Air Force.

As laid down in the Statement of Policy, Government propose to give active aid and encouragement to industry in the various ways mentioned therein. We have made considerable advance in the consideration of proposals for an Industrial Finance Corporation for the financing of industry. The basic idea on which we are working is that a Bank should be created with fairly large capital and borrowing powers, the shares of which will be held by Government, the Reserve Bank and institutional investors such as insurance companies.

The details, e.g., the composition of the board of directors, powers of under-writing, holding of shares of industrial concerns, acceptance of deposits, Government guarantee, etc.,



Experts at work on the engine of a Catalina patrol boat in an Indian aircraft repair and maintenance factory.

require careful consideration and will be worked out by the Reserve Bank in consultation with the Government. While this Bank will finance medium and large-scale industries, it is proposed that Provincial institutions on similar lines should be established to finance small-scale and cottage industries. I shall welcome the views of the members on these proposals.

The Statement of Policy proposes that industry should be subjected to a certain degree of regulation in the public interest. In particular, it lays down that a system of licensing should be adopted so that industrial development will not be haphazard and that areas which are at present inadequately developed and have the necessary natural advantages, are not left out. This is a very far-reaching proposal which will have to be worked out in its final form in consultation with the Provinces and the States, as well as the Legislature.

I venture to trust that the Committee will find themselves in agreement with the main lines of the Statement of Policy. I do not pretend that it is perfect, or that there are not points on which there may be genuine difference of opinion. Nevertheless, it has been sincerely designed to assist the speedy industrialisation of the country and to spread the benefits of such industrialisation as widely as possible.

Protection of British Capital

I expect that the Committee would like me to say a few words about the more important of the points that we discussed at our last meeting. One of these was the question of the constitutional protection that British capital enjoys under the Government of India Act. I have had extensive discussions on this subject with His Majesty's Government and with leading British industrialists. British opinion has advanced considerably in recent times and there is hardly anyone in England now, whose opinion is worth anything, who does not accept the thesis that it is right that India should develop her industries, and that such development, far from injuring British interests, will eventually result in increased prosperity for both.

There are many British industrialists who are individually prepared to assist in the promotion of industries in India without any controlling voice in the capital or management of such industries. I was not, however, able to get the constituted bodies representing British industry to accept the view that it would be in the long-term interests of both the countries if British capital invested in India functioned under goodwill created by mutual interests rather than under statutory safeguards which are wholly repugnant to public opinion in India.

The immediate consideration of this question has been rendered difficult because of the constitutional discussions which are shortly to come off. It has been suggested that this question may be considered as a part, as indeed it is, of the general constitutional settlement between India and England, which is on the anvil. Should, however, a final constitutional settlement between the two countries take a number of years, as well it might, it is not possible for the industrial development of India to proceed unhindered so long as these constitutional provisions remain on the Statute Book.

Grant of Protection

Another important matter raised at the last meeting was the grant of protection. The formulation of a long-term policy of protection is under the consideration of the Government but is likely to take some time. The international picture in the economic field is still so unstable that it would be difficult for India, with any attempt at permanence, to frame a policy which must have repercussions on other countries.

What industry in this country is fully entitled to ask for, however, is that, pending settlement of the long-term policy, adequate assistance should be given to the Indian industry to tide over the transition period. That is being done and a Tariff Board, as I have already stated, is being appointed for the purpose.

The scheme for the registration of capital goods is proceeding smoothly. The latest figures are as follows:

1207 applications of the value of Rs. 60 crores 81 lakhs have been received; 651 applications totalling Rs. 34 crores 90 lakhs have been accepted; 22 applications of the value of Rs. 97 lakhs 78 thousands have been rejected, and the rest remain to be disposed of.

In my speech at the last meeting, I referred to the proposal for the formation of industrial panels. I have had a statement circulated showing the work that has up to now been done by the panels. Members might feel that progress should have been quicker. In answer I will say that time was inevitably lost in the formation of the panels, as a large number of busy men had to be consulted; staff had to be gathered; and preliminary memoranda prepared to serve as a basis of discussion. Now that preparatory work has been done in most cases, I have every confidence that the work will proceed more rapidly and that it will not be long before we have a co-ordinated blue print for industry.

Targets are suggested to the various panels as regards scope of development or expansion of the different industries, and their considered opinion on the matter is called for. In order to provide expert technical assistance to the engineering and chemical panels, where such assistance is particularly required, I arranged during my recent visit to the United States to obtain the services of Messrs. Ford, Bacon and Davis, an outstanding firm of Consulting Engineers in America, to advise the Engineering Panel and of Messrs. the Chemical Construction Company to advise the Chemical Panel. An expert from the latter Company is already in the country and is engaged on the work.

I do not minimise the difficulties that lie in the way of implementing our industrial policy as laid down in the Statement of last April. One main difficulty is the uncertainty of the present political situation. I had fervently hoped for the success of the Simla Conference, and was greatly disappointed to hear, while abroad, that it had failed. His Majesty's Government is once again making efforts to solve the political deadlock in this country. As the Planning Member interested primarily in the economic improvement of India and the raising of her standard of living, I can only express the hope that this attempt will meet with success.

MAXIMUM PRICES OF WINDING WIRES

The maximum wholesale and retail selling prices per lb., chargeable by a dealer in respect of winding wires and resistance wires, have been fixed by the Central Government by a Notification published in the *Gazette of India* dated October 13.

The wires for which these prices have been fixed include double rayon-silk covered, single cotton covered, double cotton covered, enemelled, enamelled and single cotton covered, and enamelled and adhesive paper covered types of winding wires of sizes SWG 6 to 47 and bare resistance wires for 'Eureka', 'Advance', 'Nichrome' and similar types of sizes SWG 10 to 40.

SIR A. R. DALAL ON ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IN PEACETIME

"PROVIDED Government and the people pull together and certain conditions are satisfied, there is no reason why economic activity in the country should not be sufficient to avoid a serious drop in expenditure, though its direction and purpose will naturally be different. It would be a tragedy if the standards which have risen during the war were allowed to deteriorate and if the knowledge and skill acquired by large bodies of men were not harnessed for constructive peacetime purposes", said the Hon'ble Sir Ardeshir Dalal, Member for Planning and Development, in his address to the fourth meeting of the General Policy Committee which met in New Delhi on October 8.

Here is the full text of the speech:

I have great pleasure in welcoming you to this, the fourth meeting of the General Policy Committee. When we last met in Bombay, the war was still being waged in all its intensity and though victory appeared to be only a matter of time, no one could have predicted that the end, particularly in the Pacific, would be so sudden and dramatic. The post-war period to which we have so long been accustomed to refer as something in the future, has now become a present reality.

Planning and Reconstruction

But though the cessation of hostilities has lifted a grievous burden from the world, it has not brought any relief from the pressure of difficult problems. The nature of our problems has altered, but the problems themselves are no less intricate and important than those which faced us during the war. It is the task of this Committee to consider such of these issues as bear upon planning and reconstruction. But before we do so, it is essential to have a clear picture in our minds of the different economic forces working in the country and the directions in which they are pulling.

The single factor of outstanding economic significance during the war, and the one which will have the most important repercussions in the immediate future, is the enormous increase in public expenditure in India during the last few years. Before the war, the total expenditure of the Central and Provincial Governments used to be of the order of Rs. 160 crores. This included a Defence expenditure of as little as Rs. 45 crores. The expenditure during last year was in the neighbourhood of about Rs. 1,200 crores of which something over Rs. 450 crores was on account of His Majesty's Government and some Rs. 450 crores the Defence expenditure of the Government of India. For a country of the size and resources of India, a public expenditure of Rs. 1,200 crores could not, under favourable conditions, be regarded as unreasonable or extravagant, but the significance of these figures lies in the fact that they represent, in a large measure, expenditure of an emergency character on Defence and that such expenditure must inevitably contract sharply after the war.

Unskilled Labour

The impact of this large expenditure on our general economy was diverse and profound, but from our present point of view its most important effect was that it led to a sharp increase in employment. There was, first of all, an increase in the strength of the Defence forces themselves, which, from a peacetime strength of less than a quarter of a million, rose to well over two million.

There was a sharp increase in the employment of unskilled labour on works required for military purposes—the construction of roads, aerodromes, military buildings and so on. The number so employed was of the order of one million, excluding the labour employed by the Civil Public Works Department. Factory employment also went up roughly by about three-quarters of a million.

In addition, the number of employees in the various Departments of the Central Government, including Railways and Posts and Telegraphs, went up by nearly 350,000. These make a total of over four million. There was also, of course, a great deal of expansion in provincial employment and, in addition, there must have been a considerable amount of secondary or ancillary employment, though no accurate figures of such employment are available.

Decline in Employment

The first economic consequence of the cessation of the war is that the expenditure on account of His Majesty's Government must cease within a short period and the expenditure of the Government of India on Defence must progressively decline. Even on the most favourable view, the decline in employment associated with the contraction of public expenditure must be large. The demobilisation plans of the Army envisage a fall in the Army strength of 850,000 men in the course of about eight months. The

bulk of the unskilled labour employed on Defence works, roughly a million men, could also no longer be supported by Army expenditure.

Thus, even if we did not take into account the possible contraction of the staff employed by Government, this means a fall of employment of the order of two million and the secondary employment that may be associated with it. Our problem is to find employment for as many of these men as possible.

Fortunately, there are factors in the economic situation today which suggest that there will be spontaneous activity in the country to counteract what might have been the effects of a sudden increase of unemployment. There is, at the moment, a great deal of reserve purchasing power in the country. The increase in bank deposits since September 1939 is some Rs. 620 crores, and the increase in notes in circulation is over Rs. 1,000 crores.

In addition to these, there are deposits in the Excess Prots Tax amounting to over Rs. 50 crores; various categories of payment that will have to be paid to troops such as war gratuities, deferred pay, undisbursed pay, etc., amounting to Rs. 100 crores; and an increase in savings bank deposits, national savings certificates, etc., amounting to some Rs. 70 crores. All these provide a reserve of financial power which, under suitable conditions, could be effectively used for providing economic employment and raising the national income.

Building Industry

Getting away for a moment from the purely financial aspect of the case, we have to note that there is a considerable arrear demand for various types of goods and services. From the point of view of capacity to absorb labour, one of the most important arrears lie in the building industry which almost came to a standstill during the latter period of the war due to short supply of building material. Apart from private dwelling houses and public buildings in which a great leeway has to be made up, the housing of industrial labour belonging not only to private employers but also to the Central and Provincial Governments, required considerable expansion on sound lines.

The Government of India is actively considering a scheme for the housing of its own industrial labour. Research on pre-fabrication, standardisation of types, mass production of fittings, designs, etc., is being undertaken by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research which is setting up a Building Research Section. The question of providing a special stimulus to the building industry by the grant of loans on easy terms through building finance corporations requires careful consideration. I shall be glad to have the views of the members on this question.

The demand for various types of consumer goods which were in short supply during the war is also considerable. The primary producers who are the heaviest consumers of non-luxury goods are likely, on account of the acute shortage of various types of raw materials in the world, to have a good income and this is expected to react favourably on the volume of activity in the consumer goods industries. Lastly, quite apart from their various development plans including large irrigation and hydro-electric works, the Central and Provincial Governments have to re-condition plants, buildings, roads, etc., neglected during the war.

Economic Activity

A consideration of all the factors suggested above leads to the conclusion, that, provided Government and the people pull together and certain conditions are satisfied, there is no reason why economic activity in the country should not be sufficient to avoid a serious drop in expenditure, though its direction and purpose will naturally be different. Through the trials and tribulations of war we have generated considerable economic activity, though much of it was necessarily not constructive and brought a wider vision and some knowledge of world forces to large numbers of men. It would be a tragedy if the standards which have risen during the war were allowed to deteriorate and if the knowledge and skill acquired by large bodies of men were not harnesed for constructive peacetime purposes.

You will observe that I have used a qualifying phrase: if certain conditions are satisfied. It is obvious, for instance, that the increase in the tempo of industrialisation and even its maintenance are conditioned by our ability to obtain capital equipment. Our own manufacturing capacity in the field of heavy machinery is so limited that we are mainly dependent on imports.

As I said at the meeting of the Industries Policy Committee the other day, the position regarding imports of machinery is at the moment not an easy one. Even in the matter of road construction, which one would ordinarily suppose to be an easy matter if funds were available, we are handicapped for want of road rollers and lack of adequate technical personnel

for preparing surveys, plans and designs. All this sets some limitation on our ability to utilise the human energy and the financial resources available to us in immediate constructive endeavour.

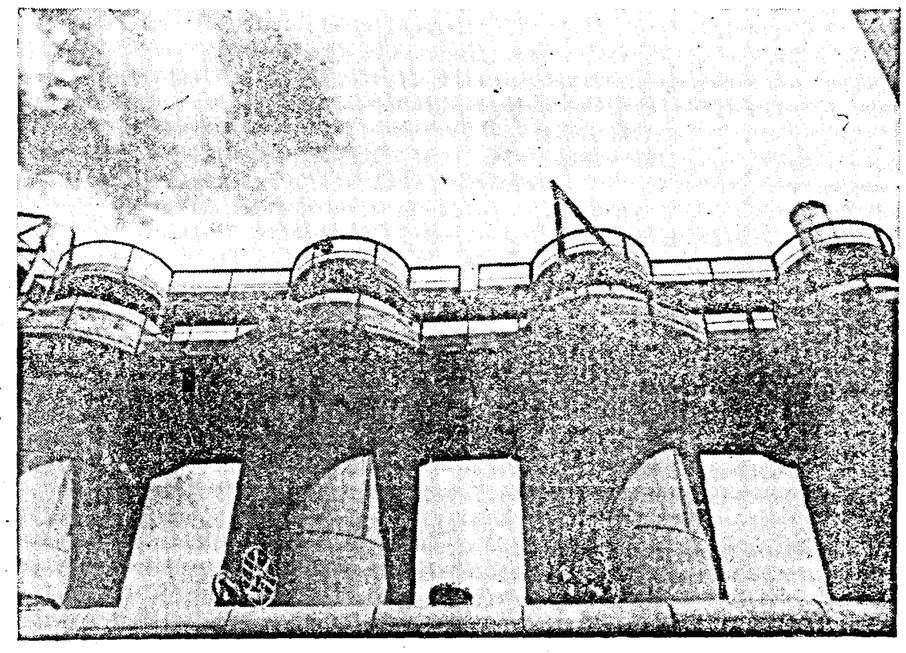
The note which has been circulated to the members gives a broad indication of the plans which Government have prepared to provide for the transition. You will observe in particular that projects are being urgently prepared, both by Central and Provincial Governments, for starting public works such as irrigation works, anti-erosion works, roads, etc. These works would, as far as possible, form part of the five-year plans of Government, but where, for any reason, this is impossible, *ad hoc* works would also be undertaken. Provincial Governments have been informed that the choice of projects should be determined in accordance with the following desiderata, *viz.*, that they should be capable of being put into operation at short notice, and that they should be those in which the ratio of expenditure on employment is high relatively to the total expenditure.

Central revenue surpluses, out of which grants for development are contemplated, are not expected to accrue until two years after the termination of the war. In the meanwhile most Provincial Governments have certain resources, and it might be argued that they could legitimately be expected in the interim period to undertake some of the development schemes immediately they are found necessary for combating incipient slump or unemployment tendencies without waiting for Central assistance.

Government of India's Grants

This may, however, compel Provinces to embark on programmes without strict regard to the priorities which they would have given on purely developmental considerations, and that they might hesitate to do this in the absence of an assurance of Central assistance for post-war development more solid than a promise of future grants conditional on the fulfilment of certain assumptions.

The Government of India have, therefore, offered to reimburse Provinces up to 25 per cent of the expenditure incurred by them on unproductive schemes undertaken urgently for



Stoves of a blast furnace in an Iron and Steel Works.

this purpose subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 crores. That is to say, Provinces could spend up to Rs. 200 crores on remedial measures, when they become necessary. This is in addition to any productive expenditure which they may find it possible to embark upon. The grant of Rs. 50 crores referred to above will be taken into account in determining the grants to be made to Provincial Governments in the first effective post-war quinquennium.

Private Enterprise

I have spoken at some length of what Government propose to do, but I may emphasise that Government action will not be the decisive, or even the most important, factor in immediate economic development. A great deal of responsibility lies on private enterprise. Private investment will be the main factor in maintaining economic activity. In my speech before the Industrial Policy Committee, I have mentioned in some detail the measures which Government are taking to assist private industry. Changes in the taxation system to meet the new set of circumstances are engaging the attention of Government.

A revival of international trade may also be looked upon as one of the channels through which economic activity can be maintained. A certain revival, when shipping and transport facilities are restored, may be looked forward to with some confidence. But the extent and the nature of it depends upon international factors which cannot be predicted now. The disappearance of Japan and Germany for some years to come from the industrial field is also one of the factors. It will be the endeavour of Government to secure a fair share of the trade of those countries, particularly of Japan.

The observations made so far relate to what is called the transition period. It is difficult to forecast how long this period will last. For purposes of planning, we have assumed that we shall have reached a sufficient degree of stability by 1947-48 to begin putting our five-year plans into full execution. You may remember that, according to the second Report on Reconstruction Planning discussed at the last meeting, 1947-48 was expected to be the first financial year in which revenue surpluses of the magnitude required for financing reconstruction planning were to begin coming in.

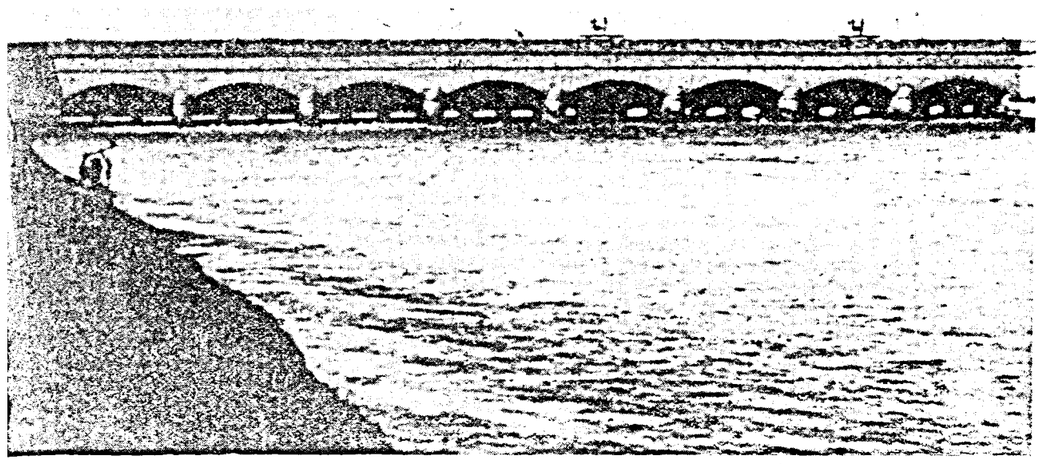
I will now give you a brief survey of the progress of planning. As has been stated in the second Report on Reconstruction Planning, there are certain schemes, designated "Special Priority Schemes", which have to be undertaken as the first essential step towards planning. They relate mainly to the training of personnel. For implementing our plans, we will require hundreds of thousands of trained technicians, doctors, teachers, agriculturists, and so on. The training of such men is a special priority measure which must be undertaken first. About 700 students with high science qualifications were selected this year to undergo advanced training in the United Kingdom and the United States in various technical subjects. The educational authorities in both countries were most sympathetic, and places were found for them without difficulty in the United States, and even in the United Kingdom where facilities for technical training have been affected by the war, a considerable number of places were obtained.

Unfortunately, owing to the very serious transport difficulties caused by the abrupt ending of the war, many of these students have been unable to find berths in outgoing ships. Approaches have been made to the highest authorities in London and Washington and every effort is being made to send on these students, but, owing to the very severe strain on the transport difficulties, this will take some time.

Another Scheme

We have another scheme for the training of technicians, already employed in factories, for further training in factories in the United Kingdom and the United States. Here, again, the men have been selected, but there has been some delay in securing places for them in factories abroad. I have, however, little doubt that we will be able to overcome this difficulty and despatch our technicians within a short time.

Training institutions have been and are being expanded by most Provincial Governments, and the rates of admission to them have been considerably increased. Most Provinces are undertaking the establishment of new colleges for training in engineering, agriculture, animal husbandry, forestry, etc. The Central Government also propose to put up high-grade colleges for training in agriculture and animal husbandry. The scheme for setting up an All-India medical centre awaits the proposals of the Bhore Committee. The Committee appointed to consider the establishment of a technological institute on the lines of the Massachussetts Institute of Technology has made good progress. Technological institutions are also being expanded, or newly set up, in the Provinces. The co-ordination of higher technical training throughout India, which has been recommended



Head Regulator on the Lower Jhelum Canal, in the Punjab.

in the Sargent Report, is under discussion with the Provinces.

The expansion of the Geological Survey, to which I referred at the last meeting and which I regard as one of first importance in the industrial advance of the country, has been undertaken. The cadre of the Geological Officers is to be raised from 30 to 135 as the first instalment.

The required complement of Geophysicists, Mining Engineers and Chemists will be recruited as soon as they are available. As an immediate step, additional staff comprising 7 Superintending Geologists, 18 Geologists and 45 Assistant Geologists has been sanctioned. A Geophysicist has been engaged, and negotiations are going on for recruiting geologists with very high qualifications from the United States.

Roads and Irrigation Works

Next in order of priority are the plans for roads and irrigation works which, besides the long-term benefit they will confer upon the country, are of immediate value for providing employment in the transition period. Considerable progress has been made with the road plans in the various Provinces, and a policy for road-rail co-ordination which has been approved by the Legislature is being put into operation. Government propose to start with the National Highways as soon as the difficulties referred to earlier, regarding the obtaining of road machinery and adequate technical staff, have been overcome.

A number of large irrigation works and hydro-electric schemes are under way in the different Provinces and States. To mention only a few by way of illustration, there is the Thal Project and the Bhakra Dam in the Punjab, the Tungbhadra and the Godavari Projects in Madras, and the Damodar Valley Project, estimated to cost Rs. 55 crores, in Bengal.

The Damodar Valley Scheme requires special notice, as it is being undertaken jointly by the Central Government and the Governments of Bengal and Bihar somewhat on the lines of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

The Central Technical Power Board, which has been functioning for some time, has already proved its utility. The demand for its services from the different Provinces is so large that they can only be met gradually.

A Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission has also been set up. The problem of waterways, particularly in Bengal and Bihar, is of growing urgency. One of the functions of the Board will be to consider the question of our navigable rivers and canals which have long been neglected and which, if properly constructed and run, would provide the cheapest means of transport.

You will thus see that Government has not merely been content with preparing plans and schemes on paper, but that a great deal of essential practical work has been done and progress achieved.

Five-year plans have now been prepared by every Province in India. In one or two cases, they have either not been finally approved by the Provincial Government, or are being revised to bring them within the bounds of financial possibilities. The total cost of these plans, excluding Bengal and N.W.F.P., comes to well over Rs. 600 crores. The Bengal plan is of the order of Rs. 150 crores.

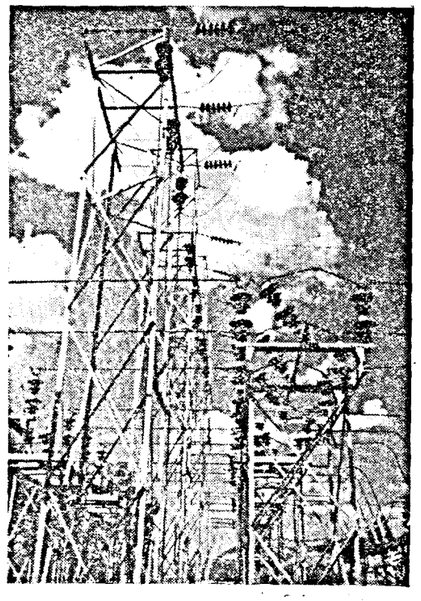
These plans, however, are still in a tentative form. The next step that is necessary is to examine these schemes and come to some judgment as to whether they are sound from the point of view of all-India development. Such an examination has necessarily to be made in relation to define objectives. For instance, educational schemes have to be examined in relation to a policy approved in principle by the Government of India. Schemes for industrial expansion submitted by certain Provinces must be examined in relation to an all-India plan of industry which is now being undertaken by my Department through the machinery of industrial panels. The Public Health and Medical schemes have to be examined in relation to such broad policies as may be arrived at by the Government of India on a consideration of the Bhore Committee report.

It has not yet been possible to complete the examination of Provincial plans on these lines, but Government hope to arrive at final decisions without any avoidable delay. A further difficulty has hitherto been that the Departments of the Central Government which have been severely handicapped for want of superior staff are unable to devote adequate time for the consideration of reconstruction plans. Now that the war is over, it should be possible to get more officers for this purpose and I am confident that it will be possible, before very long, to have the five-year plans examined and recast where necessary.

A Gigantic Task

The preparation of a comprehensive plan for the whole of India, including the States, is a gigantic task and bristles with difficulties, administrative as well as political, and must necessarily take a long time. Most of the subjects with which planning deals are a Provincial responsibility, and the different Provinces with their varying political and economic development have to be brought into a co-ordinated whole. The problem in the case of States is even more complicated, as you can readily imagine.

As I have very often stated, it is not the intention on the part of the Central Government to encroach in any way on the autonomy of the Provinces or the States. They will have to be



The dead-ending structure of a high tension line of an Indian hydro-electric system.

left to adjust their plans in accordance with their own circumstances and needs. But the whole object of planning at the Centre will be frustrated if individual plans do not conform to certain broad objectives, and follow a certain order of priorities, and the Government of India, who would be called upon to pay a considerable share of reconstruction expenditure, do intend that provincial plans conform to certain general principles before subventions in aid of reconstruction are given.

I am happy to say that, in all these matters, there is a genuine understanding and co-operation between the Central Government and the Provinces. The States also appreciate the fact that they have an important part to play in the all-India plan of the future. There are certain questions still awaiting solution as between the Government and the States; but once these difficulties are overcome, I have no doubt of the willingness of the States to co-operate in the formulation of an all-India plan.

Criticism is frequently advanced that Government plans are a haphazard collection of schemes with no mind behind them and no unified purpose. I hope that what I have stated would serve to dispel that misunderstanding.

Plans have to be prepared on a severely practical basis, taking into account not merely limitations inherent in the country's economy such as manpower, technical ability and finances, but also limitations imposed by outside forces, e.g., the difficulty of securing capital equipment for industry. Individual targets have already been fixed, or are being fixed. Targets for food, education, agriculture, transport, forests and civil aviation have been fixed. The panels for each of the industries are being given tentative targets. The Health targets will, it is hoped, be suggested by the Bhore Committee.

When all the individual targets have been framed and practical possibilities surveyed, it will be possible to formulate the target in respect of the national income as a whole. This is a more difficult task than laying down a *priori* targets and objectives and must necessarily take time, but it appears to the Government to be the sounder approach to the problems. I may state that I have discussed this question with a number of economists and have the support of some of the most distinguished economists in the country to the procedure that has been adopted.

Once the political difficulties which confront us so acutely and hinder our progress in so many directions are over, you will find that foundations have been laid and groundwork prepared on which to erect a sound edifice of a future free and prosperous India.

DISCUSSIONS

The problem of transition from war to peace, continuance of wartime controls and India's adherence to the Bretton Woods agreements were discussed by the General Policy Committee.

In considering the problem of transition from war to peace, the Committee discussed:

(*a*) Resettlement and re-employment of ex-service personnel in civil life;

(*b*) the disposal of surplus military stores, lands, factories and buildings;

(*c*) the conversion of industry from war to peace;

(*d*) civil employment as affected by the cessation of hostilities and stoppage of war orders in general;

(*e*) "Special Priority" Development Schemes.

The Committee generally approved of Government's approach to the transition problem as disclosed by Sir Ardeshir Dalal in his speech. While the need for large public works such as roads, irrigation and power projects was recognised, it was emphasised by many members that special measures should be taken to stimulate the building industry by the provision of easy finance and increased supply of building material. It was explained on behalf of Government that the allocation of coal for brick-making had been increased six-fold during October and that the needs of this industry would be given high priority.

Regarding disposals, the Hon'ble Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar explained that the policy of the Government was to see that there was minimum disruption to trade and minimum loss of markets to industry. The utmost publicity, he said, would be given to all methods of disposal.

The disposal of American material would, under American law, have to be carried out by U.S. agency, but it had been agreed that the U.S. authorities would adopt the same policy as the Government of India and work in close co-operation with them. The Supply Member added that the proposal to have a small advisory committee in each region as well as a Central Advisory Committee to advise on general policy of disposals was under consideration.

Controls

On the question of controls, the general opinion of the Committee was that there should be gradual and planned relaxation of controls. The fact that the war was over was in itself no justification for abolishing them; in each case it would have to be examined whether the circumstances which gave rise to the control continued to exist. Several members urged that the administration of controls should be improved and speeded up.

The Hon'ble Sir Archibald Rowlands, Finance Member, dealing with the financial issues raised at the meeting, said that he would welcome concrete suggestions for a review of the taxation structure in order to give the maximum benefits to the country and stimulate initiative and private enterprise. The suggestions that additional depreciation allowance on new machinery and equipment should be allowed and expenditure incurred on research should be deductible expenditure for the purpose of income-tax were bound up with the question of arming the Executive with powers to prevent evasion of tax-payment.

He announced that steps were being taken to issue the necessary rules enabling voluntary Excess Profits Tax depositors to have their money refunded for the purposes of purchase of fresh capital equipment. The Finance Department would consider whether the same concession could be extended to those who had made compulsory deposits.

The suggestion about the financing of building industry, the Finance Member said, would be examined with the greatest sympathy and care, but in this, as in other matters, the public should not rely entirely on Government. There was sufficient room for private or corporate financial co-operation in this field.

On the question of capital issue, the Finance Member said that the capital likely to be available in the next ten to 15 years was limited and therefore it was essential that it should be directed and canalised in the proper way so as to achieve the maximum return. He hoped to simplify the capital issue procedure.

Bretton Woods Agreements

In initiating discussion on the Bretton Woods agreements, the Finance Member said that he was anxious to have the views of the Committee because in order to become an original member of the International Monetary Fund and the Bank for Reconstruction and Development the country must signify its adherence to the Fund by December 31. An original member enjoyed certain rights and privileges and that was why he had thought fit to ask the Committee whether the Government of India should adhere to the Bretton Woods agreements, although as a result of political developments there would be no opportunity of consulting the Legislature before December 31.

The members of the Committee generally expressed the view that without knowing H.M.G.'s position and in the absence of the Legislature it was inadvisable to arrive at any decision.

AIR MAIL SERVICE TO FRANCE AND SWITZERLAND

A Press Note issued by the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs, Government of India, on October 20 stated:

Air mails from India for France and Switzerland, which are at present forwarded by air up to the United Kingdom and thence onwards by surface route, will be forwarded by air right up to the destination. This will considerably accelerate the air mails for the two countries.

Mails to France should be superscribed "India-U.K.-France" and the mails to Switzerland "India-U.K.-Switzerland". A blue air mail label should be affixed to the top left-hand corner of all air mail correspondence.

The revised air mail fee for letters and packets, in addition to ordinary postage, is Rs. 1-4 per half oz. The rate for postcards, inclusive of ordinary postage, is As. 9 per postcard.

RECRUITMENT TO CENTRAL AND PROVINCIAL SERVICES

RECRUITMENT for vacancies under the Government of India and Provincial Governments reserved for "war service" candidates will begin towards the end of this year.

Details of recruitment to the Indian Civil Service and the Indian Police have already been announced. A further Army Instruction (India) deals with recruitment for technical and non-technical occupations in the Central and Provincial Services.

All British subjects of Indian domicile or descent and subjects of Indian States are eligible as candidates for these Services, but provinces generally restrict recruitment to persons domiciled in the provinces. British subjects of non-Asiatic domicile may also be recruited for certain of the Services.

Full details of the regulations governing recruitment are contained in leaflets which have been circulated to Armies and Commands. Generally speaking, applications should be submitted to the Secretary, Federal Public Service Commission, by December 1. Candidates who become eligible subsequently must submit their applications within six months of their becoming eligible.

Selection

Candidates may be summoned for preliminary and final selection, though no written tests of an academic nature will be required. Up to 21 days casual leave with full pay will be granted to those attending selections. Candidates will be required to undergo a special medical examination before receiving an offer of an appointment.

On a candidate's acceptance of an appointment, application will immediately be made for his release from the Army so that he may take up the appointment or start a course of probationary training, as the case may be.

PRODUCTION OF TAPESTRY

An amendment to the Textile Industry (Control of Production) Order, 1945, published in the *Gazette of India*, directs that no producer should in any month utilise more than 2 per cent. of his entire weaving energy for the production of tapestry, and permits the use of folded yarn of all counts in the weaving of tapestry, said a Press Note issued by the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies, Government of India, on October 23.

VICEROY OPENS MAHARAJA HARISINGHJI HOSPITAL AT SRINAGAR

OPENING the Maharaja Harisinghji Hospital at Srinagar (Kashmir) on October 11, H.E. the Viceroy said:

When Lord Linlithgow laid the foundation stone of this Hospital five years ago the war against Germany had been in progress for just over a year. India was beginning to feel the shortages of materials with which we have since become familiar, but I doubt if those present at the ceremony foresaw that it would be five years before the Hospital could be declared open.

For a long time now steel, cement and bricks have had to be allotted almost entirely to military works, and many civil buildings, however useful, have had to await their turn or to remain incomplete. I am very pleased to perform the opening ceremony of the Hospital today and trust that the work that remains to be done will soon be completed.

The record which the Prime Minister has given us of the growth of the Health Services in Kashmir and the corresponding decline in epidemic diseases is encouraging. I have no doubt that the steady rate of progress will be maintained and that this new Hospital, named after the enlightened Ruler who is responsible for carrying out this wise and progressive health policy, will render great service to the people of Kashmir.

Personal Recollection

If you will forgive me a personal recollection, I can make a very modest claim to have done some mobile dispensary work in Kashmir, when as a young subaltern 40 years ago I used to go shooting in some of the remoter parts of the country. I found that villagers where my camp halted for the night used to bring me their sick with a rather embarrassing confidence that I could help them. I am afraid that my prescriptions were mainly dictated by the very limited size of my medicine chest; they were in fact confined to three simple remedies—quinine for fevers, cascara for internal complaints and permanganate of potash for wounds.

My most spectacular cure of an internal pain was effected on my own *shikari* by means of a home made mustard plaster; though I must admit that it required a further cure to restore the skin which the mustard plaster had removed from his chest.

This war has led to many advances in medical knowledge which will soon become available to the general public, and I have no doubt that full advantage of them will be taken in this Hospital. Outside the Hospital also the experience gained during the war in controlling malaria and typhus by the use of new insecticides and new administrative methods may do much to improve the health of Kashmir.

Finally, I would like to impress on you that the best of Hospital buildings and the most skilful of doctors lose a great part of their value without an efficient nursing service. I hope that Kashmir will succeed in organising this very important part of health progress.

I have great pleasure in declaring the Hospital open, and I wish it all possible success.

POOR HEALTH OF PEOPLE IN KANGRA VALLEY

The high incidence of diseases caused by malnutrition among the people of Kangra Valley is due to a lack of balance in their diets between calcium and phosphorus.

Investigations for two years by a group of workers from the Punjab University, financed by the Indian Research Fund Association, revealed that the phosphorus content of their diets is as much as five times that of calcium. This prevents the utilisation of both the minerals, neither being assimilated. It was also found that there is an abnormally low calcium content in the blood of the people liable to result in bone deformities.

The staple diet of the inhabitants of Kangra Valley is cereal and pulses grown in that area. The calcium content in these food crops is somewhat lower when compared to similar crops grown elsewhere. A group of young rats was fed on this diet for a time, but when it was supplemented by calcium lactate the rate of growth among them slightly improved.

GIFT FOR THE RELIEF OF REPATRIATED PERSONS

A generous contribution of Rs. 5,000 has been received from the Gujarat States Agency and Baroda Cantonment War Purposes Fund for the relief of repatriated persons recovered from the hands of the Japanese. The gift has been gratefully accepted by H.E. the Viceroy.



Lord Wavell watching a gadget being fitted to the arm of Sepoy Mohan Singh who lost both his arms and his sight in Italy, when he recently paid a visit to St. Dunstan's Hostel for Indian War Blinded, Dehra Dun.

THE VICEROY VISITS WAR-BLINDED

DURING his recent visit to Dehra Dun, H.E. the Viceroy saw the war-blinded at work in the St. Dunstan's Hostel for Indian War-Blinded.

His Excellency, who was received by Sir Clutha Makenzie, inspected the weaving and spinning sections and saw finished products, some of them in intricate stitches and coloured patterns. An instructor, himself blind, explained to the Viceroy Braille typing and shorthand. Some of the men have lost not only their sight but also both arms. One of these is Sepoy Mohan Singh, Eighth Auxiliary Pioneers Corps, who was blinded and crippled by a bomb from an enemy plane while he was repairing a railway line behind the Eighth Army Front on June 3, 1942. The Hostel has already built a home for him in his village near Amritsar and has made him a special allowance of Rs. 15 a month.

At St. Dunstan's today, 85 blinded soldiers are undergoing training. A further 25 now in hospitals are on their way; 38 have left.

At the request of the G.O.C., West African Forces, the Hostel has opened a small section for blinded men in the Force who have to wait in India for some time before a hospital ship is available to take them home.

Throughout the war, St. Dunstan's has been working with the Government in investigating the problem of blindness and eye disease in India. Associated with a Government Committee on Blindness, appointed in 1943 by the Central Advisory Boards of Education and Health, it has prepared an extensive report on blindness in India.

St. Dunstan's, said Sir Clutha Makenzie, is more than willing to help in this vast problem and to pass on its experience, staff and equipment for the benefit of civilian blindness. Much preparatory work has been done in this regard already. St. Dunstan's is anxious that the benefits of modern training, employment and other services so generously given by the public to the war-blinded men should be made available as speedily as possible to India's 2,000,000 civilian blind.

SERVICES BOARDS PROMOTE FORCES' WELFARE

Acting as the link between Indian servicemen and their families and the local civil authorities, the Indian Sailors', Soldiers', and Airmen's Boards, assisted by the Civil Liaison Organisation, have made an important contribution to the defeat of the Axis.

There are now more than 200 Servicemen's Boards in various districts and states in India against half that number in 1939. The senior civil officer of the area acts as the president and members include officers of both the civil and military administration in the district or the state. On several occasions influential business men have also sat on the Boards.

Duties

The duties of these Boards are to promote and maintain good relations between civilians and servicemen; to assist in the welfare of servicemen and ex-servicemen and their families and to represent to the civil authorities matters which are of particular interest to the three Servcies.

In performing these duties the Boards deal with educational concessions, civil employment, settlement of disputes, medical aid and famine relief, apart from attending to financial problems relating to pay and family allotments, pensions and assistance from charitable funds.

(*Continued on page* 518)

NATIONAL DEFENCE COUNCIL

19th and Final Session

THE 19th and final session of the National Defence Council opened on October 2 at the Viceroy's House, New Delhi. The session lasted three days, and H.E. the Viceroy presided.

The Hon'ble Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, Supply Member, gave an account of the proceedings of the San Francisco Conference. He traced the various stages in the evolution of the proposals relating to the World Security Organisation and described the constitution and functions of the various bodies proposed to be set up.

In the discussion which followed, the implications of the proposals in relation to Member-States generally and India in particular were elucidated.

During the afternoon, the Council discussed a memorandum of the Labour Department describing plans for the resettlement and employment of demobilised personnel and discharged war workers.

On October 3, the Council heard and discussed a statement by Lieut.-General Sir Noel Beresford-Peirse, Welfare General in India, on the arrangements made for the demobilisation and re-settlement of service personnel in civil life.

During the afternoon, two Indian officers, one from the Army and one from the Air Force, described their experiences of active operations in Burma.

Organisation of Armed Forces

At the Council's meeting on October 4, H.E. the Commander-in-Chief made a statement in which he reviewed the problem of the future composition and organisation of the Armed Forces of this country and the general principles underlying the approach of the Government of India towards the solution of this problem.

The Council then heard and discussed statements by the Adjutant-General in India and the Director of Military Intelligence regarding the procedure followed in the investigation of cases of members of Defence Forces who aided the enemy in Burma and Malaya.

An Indian Army Officer, recently released from a prisoner of war camp, narrated his experiences to the Council.

VICEROY'S MESSAGE TO KING- EMPEROR

H.E. the Viceroy has sent the following telegram to H. M. the King-Emperor: "National Defence Council, which has just concluded 19th and final session, desires me to convey to Your Majesty, with humble duty, loyal congratulations on complete victory over all the enemies of the British Commonwealth. Council trusts that this will mark the beginning of the era of peace and prosperity in which India may play her full part."

King's Reply

H. M. the King-Emperor has sent the following reply to the Viceroy's message of congratulations on behalf of the National Defence Council.

"I sincerely thank the Members of the National Defence Council for their loyal message sent at the conclusion of their final session congratulating me on the complete victory over the enemies of the British Commonwealth to which their labours have so greatly contributed."

LORD LINLITHGOW THANKED

H.E. the Viceroy has sent the following telegram to Lord Linlithgow:

"The members of the National Defence Council which held its 19th and last session on October 2, 3 and 4, unanimously requested me to convey to you their deep appreciation of your services as the founder and first President of the Council and their congratulations on the victory over Japan in which you played as great a part."

Lord Linlithgow's Reply

Lord Linlithgow has sent the following reply to H.E. the Viceroy's message:

"I am most grateful to members of the National Defence Council for their generous message. From its inception I was confident that Council would play an essential part n India's war effort and I congratulate most warmly all concerned on successful outcome of their long and patient labours."



Anti-malaria posters on display at the recent Anti-Malaria Exhibition held in New Delhi.

CONTROLLING MALARIA AND CHOLERA

The Annual Report of the Scientific Advisory Board for the year 1944, issued by the Governing Body of the Indian Research Fund Association, records another year of successful research despite the difficulties imposed by war conditions. As hitherto, diseases such as malaria, plague, cholera, leprosy, filariasis and anæmia, which are responsible for the high rates of sickness and mortality in India, received special attention.

Detailed studies in the prevention and control of malaria were continued at the Malaria Institute of India. A series of large-scale field trials with various insecticides (including D.D.T. and mosquito repellents) was conducted. Five courses for training medical officers and others (both civil and military) in anti-malaria work were held during the year.

New drugs in the treatment of cholera were tried out at the School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta. The degree of protection afforded by anti-cholera inoculation is being critically assessed by a scientific analysis of the statistical data collected in Madras Presidency. New methods for improving still further the quality of anti-cholera vaccine are being tried out at the Haffkine Institute, Bombay.

The comparative value of different sulpha drugs in the treatment of plague was also studied at this Institute. The peculiar mode of spread of plague in certain rural areas in Madras Presidency was investigated.

Long-term studies in the mode of spread of leprosy are being carried out at the School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta, and certain villages in Madras Presidency. New methods of treating filariasis were tried out at Calcutta.

The problem of nutrition, which is becoming more and more important every day, has been studied from various angles. Analysis of different types of Indian foodstuffs was continued at the Nutrition Research Laboratories, Coonoor. Clinical and field investigations on various types of malnutrition were also undertaken. Improved methods of treating advanced cases of malnutrition and anæmia have been worked out. A number of Health Officers from all over India were trained in nutrition work.

Enquiries to determine the therapeutical value of various indigenous drugs are being continued.

MR. W. H. KIRBY ON THE BENEFITS OF RATIONING

"IN a country like India where there is widespread malnutrition and under-nutrition, where the population is ever increasing out of all reasonable proportion to the increase in the supplies of food, where the average income is perhaps the lowest in the world, a strong policy backed up by strong action for increasing food production, for controlling food prices and for distributing food equitably, was so obvious and yet so overlooked that only the stress and strain of a world-wide war and the disastrous famine in Bengal in 1943, were able to bring this vital matter to the forefront.

"If we now shut our eyes to this necessity again,—on the ground that the war is over,—we will do so at our peril and there will be a relapse in the situation from which it may be difficult to get over. So long as a proportion of the people in many Provinces and States remain at starvation level, the regimentation of the people's food is necessary."

Thus declared Mr. W. H. Kirby, Rationing Adviser to the Government of India, speaking on the necessity for the continuance of food control measures, at a meeting in Delhi on October 5.

Here is the full text of Mr. Kirby's speech:

With the cessation of hostilities, an important question, which must be exercising the public mind, is how the Government of India propose to deal with the various measures of control in the matter of food which the war emergency had compelled them to impose.

Economic Controls

You will have read in the newspapers recently that the Government of India held a meeting with their Central Food Advisory Council, which is a body of non-officials. One of the resolutions passed by the Council reads as follows:

"The Council is of the view that conditions which necessitated the imposition of economic controls have not materially altered with the cessation of hostilities and that, under present conditions, it will be inadvisable to withdraw the controls over procurement, supply, distribution, movement and prices. The Committee, therefore, recommends that control should continue subject to review from time to time with a view to their relaxation or abolition as soon as circumstances permit".

Now let us examine this resolution and understand what it means.

In normal times, deficits and surpluses in foodgrains are adjusted through the normal



Mr. W. H. Kirby.

trade channels, with rail and river transport easily available and with free and unlimited imports to make up any deficit which cannot be met from local resources, prices being regulated according to the normal law of supply and demand.

Conditions in 1942-43

The conditions that brought about food control and rationing in India in 1942-43 were:

(1) Shortage of supplies,

(2) Dislocation of and pressure on transport facilities,

(3) The rapid rise in prices,

(4) Loss of confidence,

(5) Speculation,

(6) Hoarding,

(7) Disappearance of the foodgrains from the urban areas, and

(8) Black markets.

The loss of imported rice arising out of the Japanese occupation of Burma contributed largely to the shortage of supplies and I will refer to this aspect later on.

The most obvious method of correcting this state of affairs was by controlling the procurement, movement and distribution of the foodgrains all over the country by a Central authority, according to the needs of each area.

The object of food rationing was not primarily to reduce consumption but to distribute short supplies in an equitable manner, and for

this purpose it was necessary to exercise price control, which could not withstand, unaided, the pressure of increasing demand on dwindling supplies. Nor could rationing be successful without price control. The distribution of foodstuffs by rationing was carefully co-ordinated with the supply position and its planning supported by an accurate statistical balance-sheet adjusted periodically.

Thus both wholesale and retail traders were used under Government licence and supervision to carry out the procurement and distribution of foodgrains as Government agents. But wherever this agency did not function efficiently, Government grain shops were opened, managed and controlled directly by the Provincial Governments concerned.

The series of Price Control Conferences, All-India Food Conferences, the Report of the Foodgrains Policy Committee, the creation of the Central Government Food Department,—and now the Report of the Famine Inquiry Commision, have focussed the attention of the public, as well as the authorities, on the food problems of the country as never before.

Public fears and doubts—torn between black markets and the speculators on the one hand, and Government food control on the other,—were eventually set at rest, and a sense of security and confidence was restored among the people by the phenomenal development of rationing from 22 towns covering a population of a few million in 1943 to 522 towns covering a population of about 55 million people to date.

The quickest and the largest extension of rationing was in the most necessitous parts of the country, namely, in the deficit Provinces and States. But even in the surplus Provinces, rationing resulted in a fair distribution of supplies, in the assurance of the quantities allotted, in curbing the activities of the black market and the hoarder, and not the least by providing the "gesture value" of an equal sacrifice with the deficit Provinces.

Dangers of Decontrol

With a sense of security and confidence restored in the years following 1943, it would be unwise to end the whole system of food control and rationing in the country at the present time, even though war between the nations of the world has ceased. It would be foolish to assume that with the end of the war, conditions will return to normal suddenly or of their own accord. War may have ended, but the effects of war are bound to remain for a considerable time to come.

The entire economy of the country has undergone a great change and the system of food control and distribution developed in the country through much difficulty cannot be thrown over lightly. Any sudden or immediate removal of food control, distribution and rationing is bound to bring a sudden reaction towards those very conditions which have been enumerated above, and which prevailed before the controls were introduced, and were the principal causes for these controls.

Any laxity in the controls at the present time might, indeed, prove so disastrous as to make it impossible to bring back conditions to the normal in any appreciable length of time. The sudden end of war means a threat to India's national economy, and any false step at the moment would make inflation, unemployment, black marketing and speculation rampant in the land.

The majority of people have gradually recognised the benefits of rationing, and it is the reaction of the poorer sections—who form the large majority in the rationed areas—that count most as a factor for continuing rationing for the time being. It is the richer classes who want controls to be abolished, because they have nothing to fear from starvation and hunger.

Equitable Distribution

It is for the first time in the history of this country that rationing has assured an equal amount of supply of essential foods to the poor as to the rich, without distinction. This beneficent principle and practice cannot now be discarded without first making secure the overall food position of the country. The aim of food rationing is thus not so much in reducing the consumption, as of equal distribution to everyone of the supplies available. This aim,—if fortified with nutrition and balanced diets (which subjects are increasingly becoming the concern of the Food Department) will raise the general health and strength of the people as has never been raised before.

In a country like India where there is widespread malnutrition and under-nutrition, where the population is ever increasing out of all reasonable proportion to the increase of the supplies of food, where the average income is perhaps the lowest in the world, a strong policy backed up by strong action for increasing food production, for controlling food prices and for distributing food equitably, was so obvious and yet so overlooked that only the stress and strain of a world-wide war and the disastrous famine in Bengal in 1943, were able to bring this vital matter to the forefront.

If we now shut our eyes to this necessity again,—on the ground that the war is over



Customers queue up to take their quota in a ration shop in Bombay.

—we will do so at our peril and there will be a relapse in the situation from which it may be difficult to get over. So long as a proportion of the people in many Provinces and States remain at starvation level, the regimentation of the people's food is necessary.

Generally in India, you cannot expect a succession of good crops every year. We have been fortunate in having good monsoons for the past three years, and there is enough evidence to show that the monsoon this year is reasonably good as an overall in the country, but is not quite so good in parts of Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and the southern parts of the country. It would thus seem to be wise that the question of relaxing any control should not be considered at the present time.

The average net annual yield of foodgrains during the years 1939-42 was about 52 million tons against the requirements of 62|65 million tons at the minimum of 1 lb. per adult per day, in respect of seven major foodgrains.The latest basic plan figures show a total annual yield of 51.8 million tons, the average since 1943 being 50.7 million tons. On the other hand, population has increased during the last five years in far greater proportion than any increase in the production of foodgrains,—probably by about 15 millions.

A growth of population by another 100 millions in the next 20 to 25 years is stated by some authorities to be certain,—a fact of obvious importance in connection with the food control and its distribution in the country. There has been a large pressure of population on the food supplies. Thus the necessity of controlling the food of the people for an equitable distribution is obvious,—even though it may be assumed that developments in the methods of agriculture, industrialisation and a raising of the income levels in the country will not allow population to outstrip food production in the years to come, or that a national calamity will occur.

An Erroneous View

One of the reasons advanced for relaxing food control is that the requirements of the army will now cease. This is an erroneous view. A large number of soldiers and army personnel will come back to civilian life, but a process of demobilisation will not decrease the mouths to be fed except to the comparatively small extent of the American and British soldiers who



Newcomers to Bombay city receive their ration cards.

are now returning to their own countries. If anything, the Indian soldiers who will come back to civilian life will expect a higher level of food than they used to have before they joined the army.

The problem of the increased demand of proper food for civilian consumption of those increased numbers will be added to the Civil Supply Departments of the Governments concerned. This hardly points to any possibility of relaxation in controlled food distribution in the near future, until at least the demobilised millions have become fully absorbed in civilian life and resume their normal vocations.

The war has been the cause of large-scale production of certain kinds of foods to be produced for war needs, for instance, military dairies, military vegetable farms and military poultry farms. It will obviously be one of the plans in the continuing food control to harness these wartime food industries to civilian needs. For this purpose, controls on these operations will be necessary. With the increasing importance that is being attached to the production and distribution of protective foods to the "priority" classes in the country by the Government, this aspect of the matter does need every emphasis.

A reason often advanced for the relaxation of controls is that, now that Burma has been reconquered, its rice will be available for India. I entirely agree that the reconquest of Burma is something for which we on the food front should be profoundly thankful. There can be little doubt that it was the ability to import large quantities of rice almost at will from Burma, that did so much before the war to stabilise the rice market and maintain public confidence.

The loss of Burma rice imports was an important factor in causing the shortages of 1942 and the famine of 1943. The restoration of Burma is an important ground for new confidence at the present time. While I do not wish for one moment to minimise the vital importance of the reconquest of Burma, I would issue a note of warning as to the possibilities of immediately obtaining from Burma the full volume of prewar imports of rice. In the first year of rehabilitation it may be difficult for the authorities in Burma to procure, move, mill and ship from ports in Burma the large quantities they did in previous years.

I know that the Government of Burma, in consultation with the Ministry of Food and the Government of India, are doing their best to ensure that from now onwards substantial quantities of rice will flow into this country, but we must be prepared to make the most of our own resources and not exaggerate our needs at the expense of other countries, which doubtless would also like to share in the shipments of rice from Burma if allowed to do so.

Wheat

As regards wheat, since we are, in fact, partly dependent on overseas supplies and can obtain these only with the assent of countries themselves suffering from shortages, to decontrol now would expose us to the grave risk that our action would be resented and that overseas supplies would not be forthcoming. In fact, the domestic supply situation is far from easy and decontrol would inevitably lead to a rise of prices—at a time when demobilisation is affecting the ability to buy of considerable sections of the urban population, and when we must expect some, perhaps a considerable, volume of unemployment—transitional or permanent.

A rising price-level would obviously encourage the cultivator to withhold supplies and imperil the entire policy of rationing. If rationing, too, were abolished, there would again be a tendency for the wealthier sections of the consuming public to hoard, with a repetition of all the difficulties of 1942-1943.

It need hardly be said again that price-control, procurement and rationing represent facets of a single policy. They imply each other

and are, in turn, implied in the fact of control. Control will continue to be necessary as long as there is a marked excess of demand over current supply at current levels of consumption. In my considered judgment, to decontrol until visible supplies are available and are *known* to be available by the public as a whole, is to court disaster.

In this connection, it may be mentioned that the Continental countries have organised food controls and rationing schemes, also the controls in countries like U.S.A., Canada, Australia and England are not only being maintained, but are also being tightened up even though the war has ended. There is bound to be an increasing demand of foodgrains from all the liberated territories and it cannot be assumed that India will get a disproportionately high priority for shipments of wheat from abroad or for rice from Burma.

Large storage schemes have been initiated by the Central Government and the Provinces for building up reserves of foodgrains. These schemes, together with the improved development of the system of cleaning, testing and inspecting, of mixing, sorting and grading, have created greater and better opportunities for a more efficient administration of food controls and rationing. The technical question of bagging and re-bagging, storage and turning over of stocks are receiving constant attention, and it is reasonable to assume that the "quality" of the rationed foodgrains will improve.

Legitimate Complaints

Mistakes have been made and are still being made in undertaking such a tremendous job by the various authorities and there have been legitimate complaints against the inefficiency, inexperience and corruptibility of some food control staffs. Every effort is now being made to root out these defects and drawbacks; which, however, are not inherent in the system of rationing, and therefore, are no reasons for abandoning rationing.

The world has shrunk on account of scientific developments and new methods of transport and communications. It is, therefore, inevitable that the food problems and shortages in one part of the world should have quick and sharp repercussions over the other parts of the world. If the war-ravaged countries of the world which are suffering from serious food shortage have, or are introducing, food control and rationing, or are tightening up their controls, India cannot remain unaffected. India cannot relax her controls in view of what is happening elsewhere in the world.

The huge organisation of rationing in the country has gained considerable experience in the problems of food, in the feeding of certain groups of people like the heavy manual workers, essential civil personnel, coal-miners etc., and latterly, in the distribution of certain protective foods like milk etc., to priority classes of children and women. This experience is now being gradually switched over towards better nutrition and better diets.

In fact, rationing has made the people food-conscious as never before. It has to a great extent eliminated wastage of food by, for instance, restricting the number of people to be fed at social and-or religious functions, restricting the quantities to be allowed for such functions, regulating supplies of food to the hotels, catering establishments and other institutions, restricting the number of courses to be given at a meal and generally encouraging an austerity campaign amongst the well-to-do.

Rationing has proved a ready and good medium for popularising the use of unfamiliar foodgrains with a view to raising the nutritional levels of people's diets, and to provide alternative food in place of the food in acute short supply. Any decontrol will mean the frittering away of these efforts.

Rationing has also enabled a number of food statistics to be collected which must prove useful in gauging the people's requirements and to find out the changes in which improvements can be affected in the post-war period.

There is no doubt that as rationing is to continue, a vigorous campaign will have to be inaugurated to clear the rationing organisation of the persistent charges of bribery, inefficiency, corruption and lack of sense of service to the consumer, that are frequently talked about these days.

As the first reactions to continual control are likely to come from the few surplus Provinces, it has been advisable for the Government of India to make an announcement that all food control and rationing schemes will remain in force until sufficient time has elapsed as would enable the Central Government to complete a survey of the food position in India in relation to the world position of food supplies and requirements. As I have already said, the announcement was made two weeks ago by the Food Member at a Conference of the Central Food Advisory Council.

The existing rationing organisations are proving a useful means for handling rationing of other commodities like kerosene and cloth, but obviously, the most important development will be for the rationing organisations to start handling the distribution of protective foods, in

the running of priority milk schemes, the school-feeding schemes and the schemes of giving cheap and nutritive meals to workers through industrial canteens etc.

The appointment of Nutrition Officers and Nutrition Advisory Committees in the Provinces and States is being undertaken; knowledge about nutrition and nutritional diets in easily understandable language is being broadcast to the public through the publications by the Food Department, and popular attention is more and more focussed on the important points relating to dietetics, welfare and health. Rationing has thus prepared a foundation for food planning on a nutritional basis. Good nutrition is indeed the goal towards which control of food supplies must progress, not by hasty relaxation of controls but by wisely raising the quantity as well as the quality of food generally. It is agreed on all sides that wartime controls and rationing should cease as soon at it is safe to do so. Therefore, it is now necessary for all Provincial and State Authorities in consultation with the Central Government, to commence working out "phases" of decontrol that can be put into operation when certain supply and economic conditions are stable, and the future prospects warrant relaxation, the actual date of which is unpredictable.

"Grow More Food"

In the meantime, it is important for everyone concerned in the administration of food controls—especially rationing—that inconveniences and petty harassment of the public must be eliminated. To those who want to know more about the food problems of India, the second part of the Famine Inquiry Commission's Report,—now published—gives all facts, figures and recommendations, the importance of which should be known by all who are concerned in India's well being.

And in conclusion, what is the soundest and quickest method of abolishing all forms of food control?

Just three short words,—*"Grow More Food"*,—these words must not be allowed to degenerate into a mere slogan, the position is far too serious for that,—everyone can do his share,—the cultivator must produce a larger yield, uncultivated lands must be made to produce food, industrialists and others with waste land must turn it into a food production centre, and lastly the individual with a garden must help himself and his family by producing food, preferably vegetables. It has been said,—"The future belongs to those who prepare for it,"—when this is applied to the foundations of existence in these difficult days, it means "Grow More Food."

SUGAR MANUFACTURE BY OPEN-PAN SYSTEM

IMPROVED plants and processes for the manufacture of sugar by the open-pan system, whereby higher recovery and better quality of sugar can be obtained, have been evolved by the Sugar Research and Testing Station, Bilari, Moradabad District (U.P.).

It is proposed to work these improved plants and processes side by side with the indigenous plants and processes during the season 1945-46 in collaboration with khandsaris or owners of farms and open-pan factories. The Research Station will give the following facilities in this connection:—

I. All the necessary technical assistance, advice and guidance for putting up and working the improved plants or processes will be given by the Research Station.

II. The necessary staff which will be required to carry out the trials and collect the scientific and commercial data will be provided by the Research Station.

III. Such equipment as may be required to supplement the equipment already available with the collaborating farm or factory may, if available, be spared from the Research Station on loan for the trials.

IV. The Research Station will assist the sugar manufacturer in obtaining permits for the release of materials and equipment required in connection with the trials such as lime, sulphur, cement, iron material pipes, fitting shafts, pumps, motor etc.

V. The Research Station will also assist in obtaining permits for the sale and despatch of sugar and molasses but will not be responsible for them.

VI. In such cases where no excise duty would have been paid before but would be leviable on account of these trials, that additional excise duty will be paid by the Research Station.

Sugar Manufacturer's Obligations

The sugar manufacturer will, however, have to (*a*) provide regular and ample supplies of cane at his cost for the full season's working (sugar and molasses produced will be his property); (*b*) permit and give facilities for the training in or demonstration of the plants and processes being worked at his farm or factory (*c*) provide the machinery, equipment, labour, fuel, oil calrificants and other materials required at his cost; (*d*) carry out the trials under the direction of the Research Station; (*e*) provide free of charge residential accommodation for the staff of the Research Station at his factory or farm for the sake of the trials; and (*f*) permit collection of all the necessary data.

A list of the comparative trials proposed to be carried out is given below.

(1) Comparative working of the new open-pan sulphitation process and the old ordinary process using the improved Rohilkhand Bel for the latter process.

(2) Comparative working of the new open-pan sulphitation process and the ordinary process using improved Meerut Bel with the former process and the *Desi* Meerut Bel with the latter.

(3) Crystallization of *rab* in the newly-evolved power-driven masonry crystallisers and in *kalsis* or tins.

(4) Crystallization of *rab* in the newly evolved bullock-driven masonry crystallisers and in *kalsis* or tins.

(5) Curing of *rab* in centrifugals and in *khanchis*.

(6) Comparative working of the improved Rohilkhand Bel as against the *Desi* Rohilkhand Bel.

(7) Comparative working of the improved Meerut Bel as against *Desi* Meerut Bel.

(8) Comparative working of the improved Bijnor Bel as against the *Desi* Bijnor Bel.

BAN ON METEOROLOGICAL INFORMATION LIFTED

A Press Note issued by the Posts and Air Department, Government of India, on October 5 stated:

With the termination of the war, the Government of India have decided to remove all wartime restrictions on the supply of meteorological information to the Press and the public. These restrictions were made necessary by the outbreak of the war and with the entry of Japan into the war and a complete black-out on weather information was imposed.

By the lifting of this ban the public will get warning and information about cyclonic storms, gales, heavy rains, frosts and such other weather phenomena. This information is expected to be useful to all and more particularly to those engaged in the cultivation of land and the growing of food and money crops.

The ban on the publication of photographs of weather effects has also been lifted.

Indian National Savings Certificates

Due to the conditions created by the recent great war there has been an interchange of a large number of visitors between India and Ceylon, some of whom are likely to have purchased Indian National Savings Certificates, said a Press Note issued by the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, Government of India, on October 10.

It added: With a view to affording encashment facilities in Ceylon of holdings in these certificates, the Government of India have entered into an arrangement with the Ceylon Government by which Indian National Savings Certificates purchased in India will be encashable at the General Post Office at Colombo in Ceylon under ordinary rules. Holders of these certificates will be able to cash their holdings in Ceylon only after their specimen signatures have been verified by the Indian office of issue of these certificates.

Though necessary arrangements have been made by the General Post Office, Colombo, for this purpose, this procedure is likely to cause a considerable delay which can be avoided by the holder by providing himself with an "identity slip" from the Indian office of issue of these certificates. The holders of Indian National Savings Certificates who desire to cash their holdings in Ceylon should, therefore, obtain "Identity Slips" to facilitate ready encashment of their holdings in Ceylon.

ESSENTIAL STORES FOR JUTE INDUSTRY

A fresh Order has been published in the *Gazette of India* of September 29, to control articles of essential stores for the jute industry, says a Press Note issued by the Supply Department, Government of India.

It adds: The Jute Industry Essential Stores Control Order, issued in 1943, has been repealed, provided that anything done under any of the provisions of that Order will be deemed to have been done under the corresponding provisions of the new order.

The Order requires that articles of essential stores for the Jute Industry should not be sold or acquired except under the terms of a license granted by the Controller of Supplies (Bengal Circle), Calcutta.



A village cattle show. (Below) The 'hookah' goes round as four villagers 'clinch' the sale of a buffalo.



CATTLE SHOWS IN INDIA

That cattle shows are becoming increasingly popular in India is revealed by the Report of the All-India Cattle-Show Society for 1943-44.

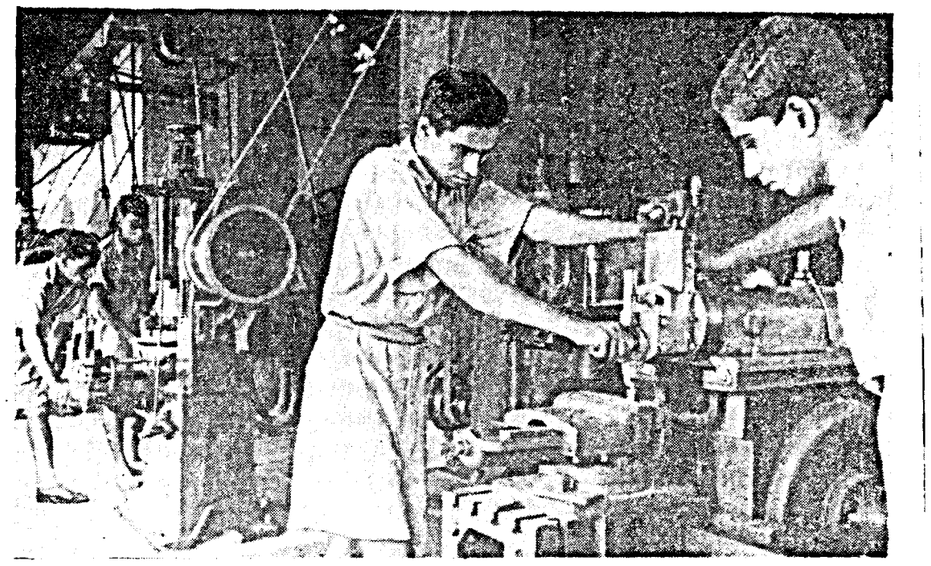
Forty-four shows were organised in the various Provinces and States as against 35 in the previous year. Rs. 19,965 was awarded by the Society in prizes compared to Rs. 17,813 last year.

Small cattle shows in different breeding tracts of the country were organised by the Society in 1942-43 and on a demand for their continuance the second of the series was held during the year under report.

All the important breeds of cattle and buffaloes were represented, numbering 8,547, as against 6,653 in the preceding year. The quality and condition of the animals exhibited were also better. The animals sold, particularly the prize-winners, fetched high prices. About three lakhs of visitors are estimated to have visited the shows, and cattle worth several lakhs of rupees changed hands.

At most of the exhibitions milking competitions were held to promote the production of milk.

The Society made a grant of Rs. 500 to the Indian Poultry Club for sponsoring poultry shows and a number of exhibitions were organised at different places.



Trainees at a Travancore Technical Training Centre operate a shaping machine.

CIVIL JOBS FOR WAR TECHNICIANS

"THERE is in this country a bewildering multiplicity of occupational terms which is a stumbling block to the initiation of progressive economic measures, and the improvement in the working conditions of skilled labour," observed Nawab M.A. Gurmani, Director General of Resettlement and Employment, at a meeting held in Simla between representatives of Employers' Association and various Government Departments, to assist the Labour Department in placing civil equivalents against Services occupations.

Nawab Gurmani said: "The absence of any well-defined grades of skill leaves little incentive for a workman to improve his technical efficiency, hinders the mobility of labour and limits the field of selection for employers.

"Attempts have been made in the past to standardise occupational terms but they were not attended with success. The war has, however, brought these handicaps forcibly home to us. Owing to the absence of standard occupational terms, we have experienced much difficulty in the interchange of tradesmen between the civil and military spheres of employment. The Services have over 1,000 trade categories. Some of these trades, although identical, bear a different nomenclature in the different Services. Some have their civil counterparts; others, though not exactly corresponding to civil occupations, are closely allied to them; while there are some that have no civil counterparts.

New Trades and Occupations

"A considerable number of young Indians who were unskilled workers six years ago have learnt new trades and occupations and acquired new skills and techniques of production during their service with the Armed Forces or in the factories engaged in war-work.

"In order to facilitate their absorption in civil life, it is necessary that their trades and grades of skill should be classified and clearly defined so that employers are enabled to make the maximum use of their technical knowledge and experience.

"It is with this object that we have undertaken to prepare a Guide to Occupational Classification and Registration of Applicants for Employment. It will give a complete list of the various Services trades and grades of skill for each category of tradesmen. Where necessary, redundant trades have been either eliminated or

re-classified. This Guide is not intended to be a cast-iron classification of trades; it will be susceptible to such modifications as may be necessary in the light of experience.

"When with your help and advice, based as it is on a wide knowledge and intimate experience of employment conditions in this country, we have placed civil equivalents against all Services trades, we will have evolved a common nomenclature for Services and civilian trades and we hope that this will lead to the standardisation of occupational terms throughout the country.

Guide

"This Guide will prove most valuable to our Employment Exchanges and to all employers, big and small. It will give to the employers detailed information regarding the various categories of skilled workers who will be available after their demobilisation from the Services for civil employment along with their experience and grades of skill, while the Employment Exchanges will be enabled to submit to the employers the names of workmen with the right qualifications for each job.

"When this Guide is finalised and printed, we propose to make available a sufficient number of copies to all Employment Exchanges, Employers' and Workers' Organisations, and I have no doubt that its value will come to be increasingly appreciated by them.

"I would take this opportunity of expressing my deep appreciation of the excellent work done in this connection by Lt.-Col. Dibdin who has spared no pains in collecting and compiling this mass of information in such a short period. His has been the difficult task of a pioneer cutting through the thick jungle of occupational terms and creating order out of confusion.

"Our thanks are also due to the representatives of the three Services who have assisted us in the compilation of this useful information."

Dr. (Miss) Laura Bodmer, Deputy Chief of the Social Security Service under the International Labour Organisation, has arrived in India to advise the Central Government on the Seamen's Social Insurance Scheme, being prepared by the Labour Department in collaboration with the Commerce Department.

Dr. Bodmer is a well-known Swiss expert on the problems of seamen's insurance. It is expected that she will remain in India for a period of two or three months.

RELEASE AND RESETTLEMENT PLANS FOR SERVICEMEN

DETAILS of the Government of India's release and resettlement plans to help Servicemen and women on their return to civilian life are given in a booklet—"Release and Resettlement"—published by the Welfare General in India.

All persons domiciled in India who have served in the Indian Defence Services, States Forces units under the Crown, or British Services, are eligible to benefit under these plans.

The first step is the provision of educational and vocational classes for those in the Services awaiting release. Indian sailors, soldiers, and airmen have the choice of a number of subjects. Those qualified in English can try for the Naval Higher Educational Test or Indian Army Special Certificate of Education, accepted by most universities as the equivalent of matriculation. Tradesmen can refresh their knowledge of technical subjects in Service workshops.

On demobilisation, those who wish for advice on their careers can apply to the Resettlement Advice Service. This service, staffed by officers of the Labour Department, is designed to assess the returning servicemen's aptitude for various types of employment and advise him on his chance of a job. Employment Exchanges will help to place men in jobs.

Post-Release Training

Those whose careers have been interrupted by the war may, under certain conditions, receive civilian training free of charge. This post-release training will be available in a wide range of subjects, including skilled manual occupations and engineering.

The National Service (European British Subjects) Act, the booklet points out, lays an obligation on employers to take back into their employment former employees, under conditions not less favourable than those which would have been applicable had their employment not been interrupted. Application for reinstatement must, however, be made within two months of the termination of national service.

All these benefits are additional to the war gratuity and leave with pay to which every demobilised serviceman is entitled.

Members of women's services will be eligible for pre-release training facilities provided for British Service personnel and for any of those provided for the Indian Defence Services which are suitable and which can be made available to them. Special courses in domestic science and economy will be a feature of the scheme.



Mr. George Isaacs, British Minister of Labour, recently presented certificates and badges to Indian trainees who had successfully completed their training in industrial establishments in the U.K. Sir Samuel Runganadhan, High Commissioner for India and Mr. Isaacs addressed the trainees. These pictures show (Above, L. to R.) Sir Samuel Runganadhan, Lord Pethick-Lawrence Secretary of State for India, and Mr. George Isaacs and (Below) the Minister of Labour shaking hands with an Indian trainee after presenting him with the certificate.



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO CIVILIAN INTERNEES

CIVILIAN internees from the Far East and Indians repatriated by British or Allied military administrations in reoccupied territories are entitled to allowances under the Government of India's scheme of financial assistance to evacuees and dependants, said a Press Note issued by the Commonwealth Relations Department, Government of India, on October 6.

It added: The general scheme of financial assistance to evacuees and dependants of persons detained in occupied territories has now been sanctioned up to December 31. Existing scales of allowances will continue without modification.

Unemployable Evacuees

Since the war has come to an end and the scheme of financial assistance has been in existence for more than three years, it will now apply primarily and as a rule to unemployable evacuees and dependants. Assistance will be granted in cases where the sanctioning authority is satisfied that no employment is available and that the evacuees in questions have made genuine efforts. A short period of grace, ordinarily not exceeding one month, will be allowed in cases in which it is decided to discontinue assistance to employable evacuees.

To encourage evacuees and dependants to take advantage of the scheme of capital advances, sanctioning authorities may at their discretion grant maintenance allowances at half the normal admissible rate for a period of six months or for the period during which the scheme of assistance remains in force.

PROMOTING SERVICES WELFARE

(*Continued from page* 504)

The Civil Liaison Organisation is an inter-Services body and was created as a result of special war conditions. Its agents maintain liaison with civil authorities and tour extensively to assist Indian servicemen in bringing their difficulties to the appropriate civil authorities.

Civil Liaison Officers also watch the ex-serviceman's chances of civil employment, working in close co-operation with officers of the Service's Resettlement Organisation.

ENEMY FOREIGNERS IN INDIA

A Press Note issued by the Home Department, Government of India, on October 3 stated:

During the war, civilian enemy foreigners in India, consisting mostly of Germans and Italians, have in general been kept in detention for security reasons. Some were exempted from detention, such as refugees from Nazi Germany, and some have been released from time to time as the war progressed. The latter were able to establish genuine anti-Nazi or anti-Fascist sympathies, and included many Italian missionaries.

Now that hostilities have ceased, the Government of India have reviewed their policy in respect of enemy foreigners generally. They have decided that all those whom it was found necessary to keep in detention up to the end of the war should be compulsorily repatriated, but that individual applications for relaxation from this general rule will be considered on the following grounds:

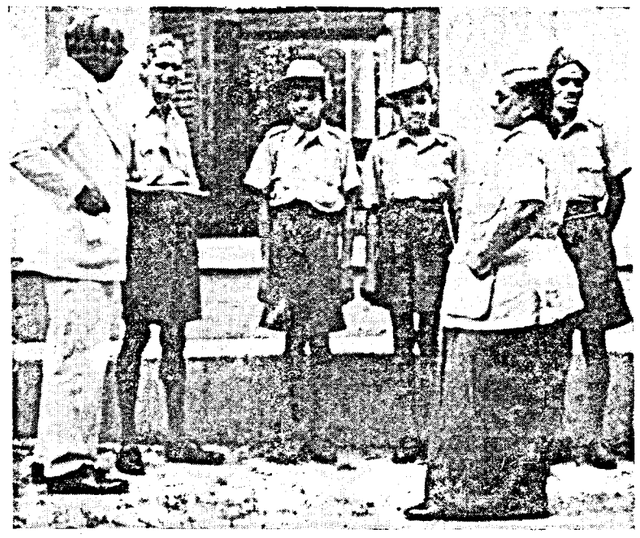
(*a*) Risk of persecution on return to own country.
(*b*) Length of residence and connections in India.
(*c*) Required in India for work of national importance.
(*d*) Those with wives and children who are British subjects.
(*e*) Any other circumstances in which compulsory repatriation might cause undue hardship.

Those enemy foreigners who were allowed to remain at liberty or who were released from detention were subjected to various restrictions. They were not allowed to move more than five miles from their place of residence, or to reside in certain strategic areas, or to possess certain prohibited articles such as fire-arms, radios and motor cars.

All these restrictions have now been removed (except that an exit permit will still be required for departure from India) and they will, in future, be treated as foreigners subject to the Registration of Foreigners Act and the rules thereunder and to the Foreigners Order.

The Government of India have also decided that a ban should be imposed on the admission of enemy foreigners to India for the next five years, at the end of which the position will be reviewed. Relaxation from this ban will be considered in exceptional cases, for example, to admit technical experts in the national interest.

A large number of Indian civilian internees repatriated from Singapore arrived in Madras recently. These pictures show (Right) some of the internees with the Protector of Emigrants, Madras (left), who looked after them. The batch included Dr. M. M. Moudgill, of Ludhiana (next to the Protector of Emigrants) who had been serving in the Malaya Auxiliary Medical Service; two Cutchi boys who according to their reports, were captured by Japanese submarines in 1943 and taken to Penang and then to Singapore; and a Punjabi Muslim. (Below) an internee, wife of an ex-P.O.W., with her child.



REPATRIATED INDIAN INTERNEES FROM SINGAPORE



REOCCUPATION OF ANDAMANS

THE Andaman Islands are once more in British hands. On the morning of October 7, cheering crowds lined the beaches to watch an assault force of 8/6 Rajputana Rifles and 7/1 Punjab Regiment, commanded by Brigadier J. A. Salomons, come ashore.

The reception given to the Indian troops was spontaneous and overwhelming. Islanders shouting *thik hai*, waved strips of cotton and followed the first columns into Port Blair.

The Japanese guards saluted all and sundry. As soon as possible the Japs will be disarmed and most of them will be moved to Ross Island in Sisostris bay, writes an Army Observer.

Welcome to Allied Troops

Japanese vehicles flying white flags and driven by Japanese drivers are being used by the occupying force. But movement is slow, for the roads are full of dense and happy crowds who surround any car as soon as it stops.

Under Japanese rule all civilians were ordered to salute soldiers, but there is no compulsion behind the salutations with which the Indian, Burmese and Chinese inhabitants greet our soldiers, sailors, and marines.

IMPORTED ENGINEER STORES

A Press Note issued by the Supply Department, Government of India, on October 5 stated:

In pursuance of their policy in regard to relaxation of wartime controls, the Government of India have, by a notification in the *Gazette of India*, revised the existing schedule to the Control of Imported Engineer Stores Order, 1943, by excluding a number of engineer stores from the purview of the Order.

Important among the imported stores thus decontrolled are: A.C. motors and generators, rubber insulated electric cables and flexible cords, TRS(CTS) cables and flexible cords, exhaust fans, ball bearings, portable electric tools, refrigerators and certain types of metal working tools and hand tools. Importers and dealers will henceforward be free to dispose of these stores without obtaining a release permit from the Controlling Officers.

CIVIL POPULATION IN THE ANDAMANS

A Press communique issued by the Home Department, Government of India, on October 2 said:

News has been received of the safety of Mr. C. F. Waterfall, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., and a number of other officials of the Andamans administration who remained in the Islands when they were occupied by the Japanese in March 1942. Full details regarding the condition of the party, which is at present in Rangoon, have not yet been received, but the families of the officials concerned have been informed as far as possible.

For some time before the termination of hostilities with Japan, the Government of India had been perturbed about the welfare of the civil population in the Andamans. It was known that there was a large Japanese garrison in the Islands and that the Islands themselves were effectively blockaded. There was reason to believe, therefore, that the garrison and the civil population were depending on the local resources of the Islands, which would not be sufficient for both, and that the civil population in consequence might not be getting enough to live on. The possibility of dropping supplies by air was considered, but found impracticable.

Relief Ship Sent

After the termination of hostilities it was decided to send a relief ship carrying essential supplies and a small party of civil officers to supervise their distribution. Arrangements were made accordingly with the Japanese military authorities and the ship, escorted by a sloop of the R.I.N., recently arrived in Port Blair. A recent report announces that the condition of the local population, though far from good, is better than was expected, partly because stocks of food had been released by the Japanese after the termination of hostilities. The same report mentions that considerable damage has been done to the buildings in and around Port Blair.

The notification issued under the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance in September, 1944, authorising importers, producers and retailers of electric bulbs to refuse to sell bulbs to dealers who were not their old customers; or to purchasers who did not return fused bulbs or produce a permit from specified authorities, has now been cancelled by a notification published in the *Gazette of India* today, said a Press Note issued by the Industries and Civil Supplies Department, Government of India, on October 12.

SURVEY OF RESOURCES IN URANIUM

Grant For Cosmic Ray Research

THE construcion of a Technological Block of the Glass and Ceramic Research Institute in Calcutta at an estimated cost of Rs. 2,21,000, a block grant of Rs. 60,000 per annum to the Madras University for meeting the cost of a Leather Research and Technological Institute and a grant of Rs. 75,000 per annum to the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Bombay, for work on astrophysics and experimental physics and cosmic ray research, were approved at a meeting of the Governing Body of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research held in New Delhi recently, under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Sir Ardeshir Dalal, Member for Planning and Development.

Among other schemes considered and accepted by the Governing Body was the survey of India's resources in Uranium, the element used in the atomic bomb, and conducting research on radio-active elements.

Central Road Research Institute

It was agreed in principle to establish a Central Road Research Institute. On the recommendation of the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research, the Governing Body decided that a small committee of the Board should draw up detailed plans and estimates in collaboration with the War Transport Department. It was also agreed to approach the Government of India for a special grant for the purpose.

Another decision of the Governing Body was to advertise for the staff of the National Chemical and National Physical Laboratories, recently proposed in the Report of the Industrial Research Planning Committee, in order to find out what talent was available in the country and what personnel was required to be trained abroad. It was also decided to offer the post of Director, Fuel Research Station, proposed to be established by the Council at Dhanbad, to Dr. J. W. Whitaker, at present Principal, Technical College, Huddersfield, England for a period of five years.

The block grant of Rs. 60,000 per annum to the Madras University to meet the cost of the Leather Research and Technological Institute was agreed to on the condition that an adequate percentage of the students to be admitted for training should be reserved for students from provinces other than Madras and the Government of India provided the necessary funds.

Dr. Bhabha and Dr. Chandrasekhar will be associated with the new organisation of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, for which the Governing Body decided to sanction a block grant of Rs. 75,000 per annum. It was suggested that the Institute might approach the Government of India to sanction additional funds.

Other Recommendations

The Governing Body also approved the establishment of a Road Research Board and the opening of training classes in plastics engineering and the starting of building research at the Thomason Civil Engineering College, Roorkee, which was suggested by the Board of Scientific and Iudustrial Research.

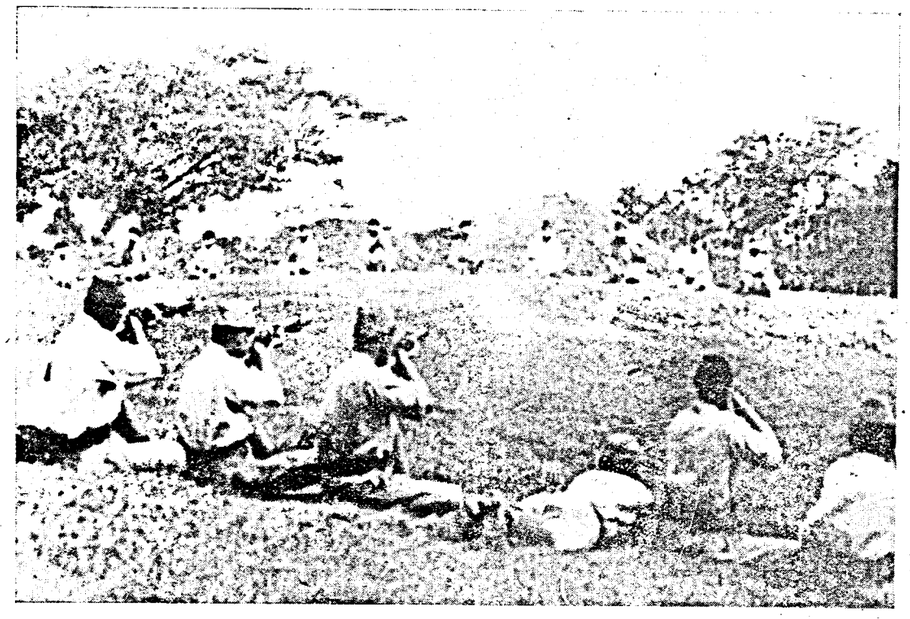
Among other recommendations of the Board accepted by the Governing Body were: Investigations on the cytogenetics of yeast and fungi by Mr. M. Sreenivasaya, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore; research on the reconditioning of lead-acid batteries and salvaging of electrolytic condensers by Mr. V. V. L. Rao, Radio Engineer, Madras; the manufacture of flash lamps by Dr. P. K. Kichlu, Lahore; the manufacture of permanent magnets by Mr. B. B. Bowmik, Calcutta; the manufacture of photographic developers in India by Mr. B. B. Dey, Madras; thermonic work functions of metals and alloys, electrical properties of alloys in liquid state by Prof. K. S. Krishnan; and the manufacture of saggers on a pilot plant scale at the Bengal Potteries Co., Ltd., Calcutta.

EXPERTS TO ADVISE ENGINEERING AND CHEMICAL PANELS

During his recent visit to America, Sir Ardeshir Dalal, Member for Planning and Development, made arrangements with two firms to send their experts to India mainly for the purpose of advising the Engineering and Chemical Panels of the Planning and Development Department.

The firms in question are Messrs. Ford, Bacon and Davis, the famous firm of Consulting Engineers in the United States who have advised the Government of Russia and several South American States, and the Chemical Construction Corporation. An expert from the latter firm has already arrived in India.

150,000 COOLIES DRIVEN TO DEATH ON THAILAND-BURMA LINE.



The Japs provided evidence of their own brutality in pictures found in their records at Singapore. Picture shows tied Indian prisoners of war being fired on by Jap soldiers.

AT least 150,000 coolies, most of them Tamils, were driven to death to build the notorious Burma-Thailand railway, on which 16,000 British and Allied prisoners-of-war also lost their lives. This is the *minimum* estimate given by British medical officers, who laboured, under incredible conditions, to alleviate the lot of these slaves of "co-prosperity in Greater East-Asia".

Exact figures of coolie deaths may never be known. The Japanese kept few records, and destroyed or removed such as they had. Our own people, piecing together what information they can in re-conquered Malaya, may perhaps form a vague estimate. But doctors who worked in the transit camps are sure this will not fall below the figure given, and would not be surprised if it reached the hideous total of a quarter of a million.

A typical method of recruitment was as follows:

Coolies in the Kuala Lumpur area were invited to volunteer for a month's work repairing the Alor Star power station. They were offered good pay, their families were in distress, and they gladly took the work. On the job their treatment was excellent. When they were released, the Japs said they would have another job for them shortly, at the same pay, and they were to tell their friends and relatives about it.

Disease, Death and Decay

But when they next turned up at Kuala Lumpur station a very different reception awaited them. Guards, armed to the teeth, swarmed. They were clapped into sealed iron trucks in the heat of an equatorial summer. For five sweltering days and nights they travelled; at last they were bundled out in the heart of Thailand, to find that much worse yet was in store for them.

"When one approached a Tamil coolie gang," writes Captain Lindsay Emmerson, an Army Observer who was himself a prisoner-of-war, "the first thing one heard was the overseer shouting over and over again the one word 'Lekas, lekas,' the Malay for 'quick.'

"For 12 hours a day at the very least, the coolies laboured at tremendous speed under a boiling sun, digging embankments and cuttings, blasting rock, laying and ballasting rails. The pace was enforced with bamboos, crowbars, bayonets, and anything else that would serve as a weapon.

"The next thing one noticed was the appalling stench of disease, excrement, death and decay, far worse even than the worst of the prisoner-of-war camps.

Unspeakable Living Conditions

"Men, women and children—for many of their families, starving in Malaya under the Jap rule, had accompanied them to Thailand—the coolies were crammed promiscuously into bamboo barracks, built in two stories each approximately three feet high, often with less than a foot of space per man. In one camp 50 people, in two tiers, slept under the outer cover of a tent intended for two men. Elsewhere the roof was attap thatch, botched and stingily applied, which let through the monsoon in torrents. The floors, or beds, were bamboo slats, alive with bedbugs, lice, scorpions and centipedes.

"The surroundings of the camps were incredibly filthy. The Japs never bothered about drainage, and in the monsoon there were seas of mud, often knee-deep, in which floated food refuse and the excreta of dysentery patients. No attempt was made to isolate the diseased. Flies swarmed everywhere spreading infection. Dysentery, bacillary and amoebic, was pandemic.

"The slightest scratch from a bamboo—impossible to avoid if one worked in the jungle—might produce a tropical ulcer. Such ulcers are the scourge of jungle warfare, even when such drugs as M and B and penicillin are available to treat them. The coolies had nothing.

"Their sores looked like huge inverted dinner plates, with raised edges and horrible pits in the centre, often exposing the bone. They often stretched from knee to ankle. For such an ulcer the only treatment was amputation without anaesthetics—if anyone could be found to do it. Worn down as the coolies were with beri-beri, starvation and general debility from overwork, amputations were usually fatal.

"Then came cholera, and the hundreds of dead became thousands in every camp along the line. For the patients nothing was done. Those who could not work got no food, except what their own people could spare from their own starvation rations. A bag of rice—when you could get it—cost 100 days' pay. The cheapest covering, a shoddy sarong, 35 days' pay.

"Even the Japs now became frightened, not for the coolies, but of the infection spreading. So they started 'isolation,' which in nearly all cases simply meant driving the coolies into the jungle, out of sight, though not out of sound.

"I myself have seen 30 or more coolies dying in a few square yards. If prisoners tried to give them water or help them in any way, we were beaten by the guards, scared of the spread of infection.

"Day after day, as we were ballasting the line, we heard coolies lying in delirium in the jungle. We could not help them, and it was hard to find a place out of earshot of their appalling screams and piteous appeals. The Jap guards amused themselves by throwing stones at them.

"And yet the Japs had no idea of real cholera prevention. It was a common sight to see bodies floating down the river, hung there to get rid of them, so that the water supply was contaminated for miles around.

Buried Alive

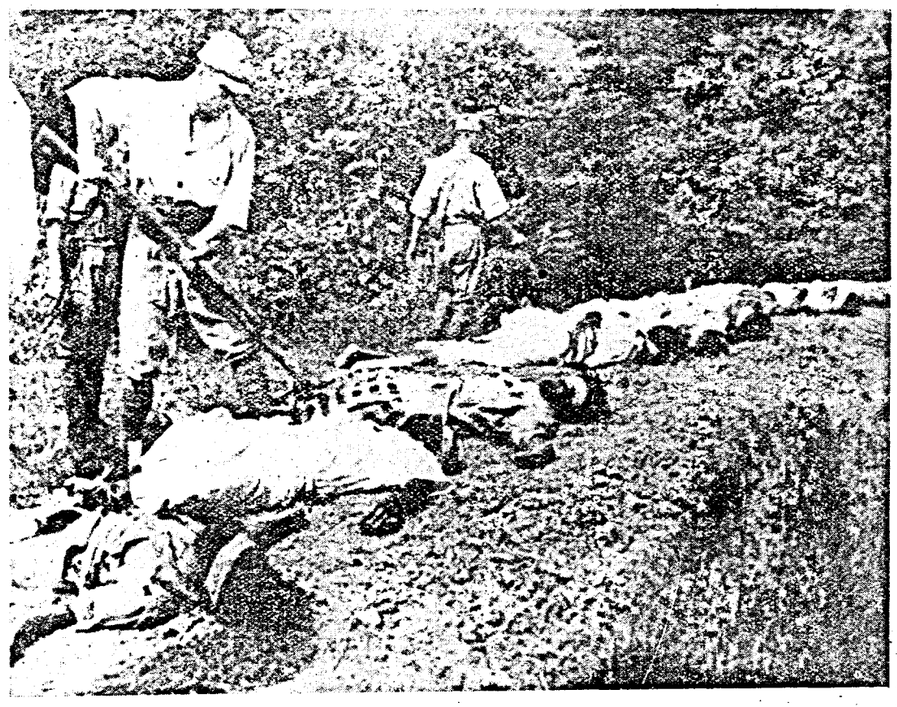
"Some Japanese commanders were more energetic, and ordered burial of the dead. British prisoners-of-war provided the burial parties.

"On one occasion the coolie who was being carried out to his grave suddenly revived, and tried to sit up. Without hesitation the Jap guard crashed a spade down on his skull. The burial then proceeded.

"How many men, women and children were buried alive will never be known. No steps were taken to see that life was extinct. Anyone in a coma was just shovelled into a hole. At the 201 Kilometre camp, these holes were two feet deep and ten yards from the water supply.

"On most parts of the line medical attention was non-existent. In some of the larger transit camps, however, so-called hospitals were set up, usually under the charge of a single prisoner-of-war doctor. What these hospitals were like can be judged from the statement of 128568 Captain David Owen Davies, R.A.M.C., formerly of the London Hospital, who comes from Carmarthenshire.

"The camp, through which passed thousands of coolies, was commanded by a Japanese lance-corporal. Captain Owen Davies was under



Japs make sure their victims are dead before piling them into the communal "grave" in the ditch behind them.

the orders of a Japanese medical orderly, with no qualifications whatever. He was given very little in the way of assistants, and almost no medical stores of any kind. The patients had no food.

"The hospital was merely a leaky attap shed in which coolies were thrown to die. Periodically a Japanese came through the shed and beat the patients with a bamboo. All who could stand were then driven back to work. When the shed became too full, patients were thrown into the jungle to die, those who had any money being first pillaged.

"At first the Japs gave the sick injections to kill them off. Captain Owen Davies himself gave three before he realised what they were.

"The death rate can be judged from the fact that even the overseers, who were comparatively well fed and treated, died like flies.

"For the heroism of the doctors who worked in such conditions to alleviate the lot of these unfortunates it is hard to find adequate words.

"Senior medical officer of the Tamil force was Major Crawford, R.A.M.C., formerly in private practice in Malaya. Magnificent work was done by Major White, I.M.S. and by Captain Deverell, R.A.M.C., Captain Eastwood, R.A.M.C., and Captain Wallace, I.M.S. Captain Wallace worked as a coolie for four months. Captain Owen Davies caught pneumonia and was himself thrown into a coolie hut; he states that he owes his life to Captain Deverell, who defied Jap orders and walked miles to visit him, to Mr. Jones, an Anglo-Indian medical orderly, and to a Burmese coolie, formerly lance-corporal in the Burma Rifles, who cared for him.

"It was impossible, with the facilities at our disposal, to keep adequate, or indeed any, records. The list of names above will therefore necessarily have omissions. It can only be said that, individually and collectively, the doctors working on that line formed the finest body of men we have been privileged to know. Two gave their lives.

"The only promise the Japs kept was to pay the coolies a Thai tical a day—if you were capable of work. The tical had, however, become so inflated that its value was derisory. In addition, the coolies were robbed and cheated on everything they bought, by the Japanese, by the canteens, and by their own overseers and clerks.

"Among the worst racketeers were the Jap medical orderlies. Almost the only medical stores issued were a few cheap bottles of mercurocrome, costing the Jap army a few pence each, the size of scent bottles. These the medical orderlies stole, diluted them with a beer bottle of water, decanted the mixture back into the original tiny bottles, and sold them for five days' pay each.

"Nothing more than bare rations, at a starvation level for long periods of eight ounces of rice a day while doing heavy work, could be obtained without paying grossly excessive prices. No consideration or attention unless a man was in a position to bribe—and then he was usualy cheated.

"And yet the spirit of these coolies, reduced to skeletons and covered with festering sores, was amazing. They would grin at the prisoners-of-war, spoke eagerly and without whining to any who understood their language, and helped them in any way they could.

Remorseless Brutality

"The Chinese were the most pugnacious. They would peer round to see if anyone was watchnig, point to a Japanese sentry, and make a gesture of slitting his throat. Many of these managed to slip away and perhaps survived the jungle to join their own troops, or the various bands of irregulars operating up to the very outskirts of the Jap covering forces on the railway line.

"The Tamils were more resigned; they shrugged their shoulders and waited, some with a burning hope, some with resignation, and many with despairing longing, for the day of release.

"We calculated that one prisoner-of-war died for every three sleepers of the Thailand-Burma Railway. On the same reckoning over three coolies died for a single sleeper. Certainly no one who saw these things will ever forget such a record of man's deliberate and remorseless brutality to man."

Letter mail articles containing dutiable goods can now be sent to Holland under the usual conditions prescribed in this respect, said a Press Note issued by the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, Government of India, on October 19.

Return of Civil Government to Burma

ADMIRAL Lord Louis Mountbatten, Supreme Allied Commander, South-East Asia Command, issued the following order of the day when he attended a ceremonial parade of 12th Army troops in Rangoon on October 11:

"On January 1, 1944, I assumed the military administration of that five per cent of Burma which was in our hands at the time. As the Japanese were driven out the percentage of the country under military administration increased until, at the fall of Rangoon five months ago, it was more than 85 per cent.

"I recently had a meeting with H.E. the Governor, Sir Reginald Dorman-Smith, and with leading Burmese, at which it became clear that it is the strong wish of both Sir Reginald Dorman-Smith and of the Burmese people that, now the war is won, civil government should be restored.

"I therefore joined with Sir Reginald Dorman-Smith in recommending this course to His Majesty's Government and, as a result, H.M.G. have decided that my military administration shall cease in mid-October except of that part of Tenasserim and Karen-Ni where the disarmament of the Japanese is not yet completed.

Rehabilitation

"I am, of course, placing military resources at present in Burma, both of personnel and material, at the disposal of the civil government who will now assume complete responsibility for their use in rehabilitating the country.

"I am confident that under Sir Reginald Dorman-Smith's government Burma will quickly attain to Dominion status and that the ties between the people of Burma and the peoples of the rest of the British Commonwealth of Nations will become even stronger as a result."

From November 1, the North-Western Army and the Southern Army will revert to their pre-war titles of Northern Command and Southern Command, it is officially announced.

During 1942, when the defence layout in the India Command was reorganised, the Southern Army was formed from Southern Command, and the North Western Army was formed from Northern Command and incorporated the former Western Independent District which covered Baluchistan and Sind. The territorial boundaries of the two Commands will not be affected by the change in designation.

BURMA GOVERNOR THANKS INDIA

The following telegrams have been exchanged between H.E. the Viceroy and H.E. the Governor of Burma:

From H.E. the Governor of Burma—"On the eve of my departure from India and on behalf of all from Burma to whom India has been a home since 1942, I send to Your Excellency, your Government and to the people of India our heart-felt gratitude for the great hospitality and the many kindnesses which have been extended towards us.

"I would also express our deep feeling of thanks to all those Indian fighting men who have made such a notable contribution to the liberation of Burma. We have all joined with the Indian people in watching their exploits with admiration and respect.

"The war has brought much suffering to Burma, while many Indians have laid down their lives and have cheerfully undergone acute hardships so that Burma and other countries too might be freed from Japanese oppression. I am confident that these common sufferings will cement the friendship and good relationship between India and Burma.

"May India prosper and go from strength to strength under your guidance and leadership."

From H.E. the Viceroy—"On behalf of the Government and people of India I thank Your Excellency for your message. India has been glad to accommodate here Your Excellency's Government and the many others from Burma who have lived in India during the past three years. I wish you all a successful return to Burma and good luck in your great task of reconstruction. The war has shown how closely the fortunes of India and Burma are interwoven, and I trust that a lasting friendship and understanding between the two countries may result."

D.F.C.s FOR INDIAN PILOTS

The awards of the Distinguished Flying Cross have been approved to Flight Lieutenant M. M. Engineer, of Bombay, Flying Officer R. M. Engineer, of Bombay, Flying Officer S. K. Mukerjee, of Simla, and Flying Officer B. B. Rao (deceased), of Samalkot.

These officers were flying on the Assam-Burma and Arakan fronts with the R.I.A.F. reconnaissance and close-support squadrons.

INDIAN RED CROSS WORK FOR RELEASED P.O.W.

THE Indian Red Cross and St. John War Organisation have played an important part in helping released Allied prisoners-of-war and civil internees. Each man, when contacted, has been given a Red Cross parcel containing just the thing he needs for his personal comfort. The parcels which have varied slightly in different localities include, for the most part, soap, handkerchiefs, comb, mirror, towel and a face cloth, hussifs, biscuits, cigarettes, a packet of stationery and six post cards besides other toilet requisites.

Altogether, 60,000 of these gift parcels have been distributed. Large numbers have been dropped by air to prisoners-of-war camps; others have been distributed at released Allied prisoner-of-war and internee collecting centres and at given points on their journey back to India by air, while others have been issued on embarkation for India and at Indian ports.

In addition to these parcels, gifts have been distributed in the S.E.A.C. area from the vast quantity of stores, exceeding 2,000 tons, which the Red Cross have made available to the S.E.A. Command. The Supply of gift parcels and other stores to released Allied prisoners-of-war and internees is not the only service rendered by the Red Cross.

Post-War Work

Indian Red Cross welfare workers have been sent overseas in large numbers and they have met the released prisoners-of-war and internees and have assisted them in many ways, such as distributing gifts, taking notes of their enquiries, assisting them in writing letters and generally acting for their welfare.

Although the war has ended, the work of the Indian Red Cross goes on and will continue as long as there is a soldier in hospital as a result of war, and who will enjoy the service of the Indian Red Cross and St. John War Organisation as he had during the past five years.

MAIL COMMUNICATION WITH FRANCE AND BELGIUM

Articles liable to customs duty, may now be sent by letter post to France and Belgium under the conditions laid down in clause 206 of the Post and Telegraph Guide, said a Press Note issued by the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, Government of India, on October 13.

It added: The export Control and financial regulations imposed by the Government of India will, however, apply.

REFUSED TO JOIN I.N.A.



Capt. Hari Badhwar's Ordeal

HUNG up in a cage in Bangkok for 88 days because he refused to join the Indian National Army, Captain Hari Badhwar, 3rd (Indian) Cavalry, returned recently to India from a prison camp in Singapore.

Only a man of exceptional courage and physique could have survived this ordeal. Exposed to the heat of the sun by day, with a spotlight turned on him by night, unable to sit or lie down, Capt. Badhwar got food and water from the Siamese only when the guard's attention could be distracted. The only furniture in the cage was a sanitary bucket, emptied once a week.

Nevertheless, Capt. Badhwar persisted in his refusal and survived. Sent to Singapore, he was, according to all the Indian prisoners-of-war imprisoned with him, one of the greatest upholders of their morale.

When found in a prison camp by an old friend, he merely said that he had had "rather a rough time". The full story of his ordeal was only revealed in a personal message from General Christison to Admiral Mountbatten.

Capt. Badhwar, who will be 36 in November, was at school at St. George's, Mussoorie, Sherwood, Naini Tal and at Col. Brown's school at Dehra Dun. He subsequently went to Christ's College, Cambridge, and to Grenoble University in France.

After being in business for some time, he decided to join the Army and, being then too late to get a commission in the ordinary way, enlisted in the ranks of the Rajput Regiment and worked his way up to become a cadet and, later, an officer.

He served his attachment to a British regiment with The Buffs in Lucknow and was known as a very fine hockey, tennis and polo player. His brother is Secretary of the Railway Board.

NEPAL'S TEN GURKHA V.Cs.

"It is very gratifying that ten compatriots of mine have won this most coveted honour in the service of our great friend and ally." The Maharaja of Nepal replies in these words to a message of congratulation from the Commander-in-Chief in India, General Sir Claude Auchinleck, on the award of the V.C.—the tenth to a Gurkha in World War II—to Riflemen Lachhiman Gurung, 8th Gurkha Rifles.

"Proud as I am of the achievement of another Gurkha," continues the Maharaja, "I congratulate you also on the splendid achievements of men under your command."

Rifleman Lachhiman Gurung won his V.C. at Taungdaw in Burma when his platoon was surrounded for three days.

The Japs hurled innumerable grenades at the position. Two grenades were flung back by Lachhiman Gurung, a third blew off the fingers of his right hand but he loaded and fired his rifle with his left hand.

In the end the Japs were repulsed with heavy casualties.

A Press Note issued by the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, Government of India, on October 22 said:

Sample post service to Poland and Danzig is now available. Such articles should not exceed 1 lb. in weight.

R.I.A.F. DEMOBILISATION PLANS

A Press Note issued by the Public Relations Directorate, G.H.Q. (India) on October 8 stated:

No demobilisation of pilots of the Royal Indian Air Force is contemplated. In fact, a steady flow of pilots will be required to maintain the post-war R.I.A.F. of ten squadrons, and to expand it as circumstances permit.

Some demobilisation of ground personnel will, however, be necessary to reduce the Force to the immediate post-war requirements.

As an essential preliminary to regular demobilisation, which will begin on November 15, the discharge of recruits awaiting training began on October 1. Recruits now under training at technical schools, however, will be permitted to complete their courses of training before release.

Resettlement

The selection of personnel for demobilisation will, as a general rule, be according to age and service groups. The exigencies of the Service may, however, make it necessary to retain selected personnel, particularly officers and senior non-commissioned officers, after the general release of their age and service groups. Officers and airmen who wish to remain in the Service may also be considered for retention within authorised establishments.

The demobilisation centres at Lahore and Bangalore (Jalahalli) are designed to complete the process of demobilisation as quickly as possible. At each centre the services of a Resettlement Advice Officer will be available to advise demobilised airmen on resettlement in civil life. Thereafter, Employment Exchanges set up by the Labour Department throughout India, and including converted recruiting offices, will assist in finding employment. Labour Department also propose to set up a special Employment Exchange, working through the ordinary exchanges, to deal with men having experience of aircraft.

The limit of weight for letters for the whole of Italy, including the Provinces of Gorizia, Trieste, Fiume and Pola, has now been raised to 2 lbs., said a Press Note issued by the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs, Government of India.

R.I.N. DEMOBILISATION PLANS

PLANS for the demobilisation of the Royal Indian Navy involve, in their initial stage, a reduction, by April 30 next, of 940 Reserve officers and 9,000 ratings in the present strength of the Service, said a Press Note issued by the Public Relations Directorate, G.H.Q. (India). It added:

To facilitate a steady flow of officers through the release centre (H.M.I.S. *Feroze* at Bombay), officers are being released by groups, and a start was made in September. The largest number concerned is in the Executive Branch (630 officers) and Special Branch (174 officers). It is intended that in these Branches groups up to 40 and 48 respectively will have been released by April 30.

In the Engineer and Supply and Secretarial Branches group 20 will have been reached by that date, the slower pace of release being due to the additional responsibilities which those Branches will have to shoulder in the next eight months. All ex-Army officers will be released with their parallel groups in the Army.

Class "B"

In addition to this programme, which relates to class "A" releases, officers, are being released under the class "B" scheme, that is, for specified employment of national importance.

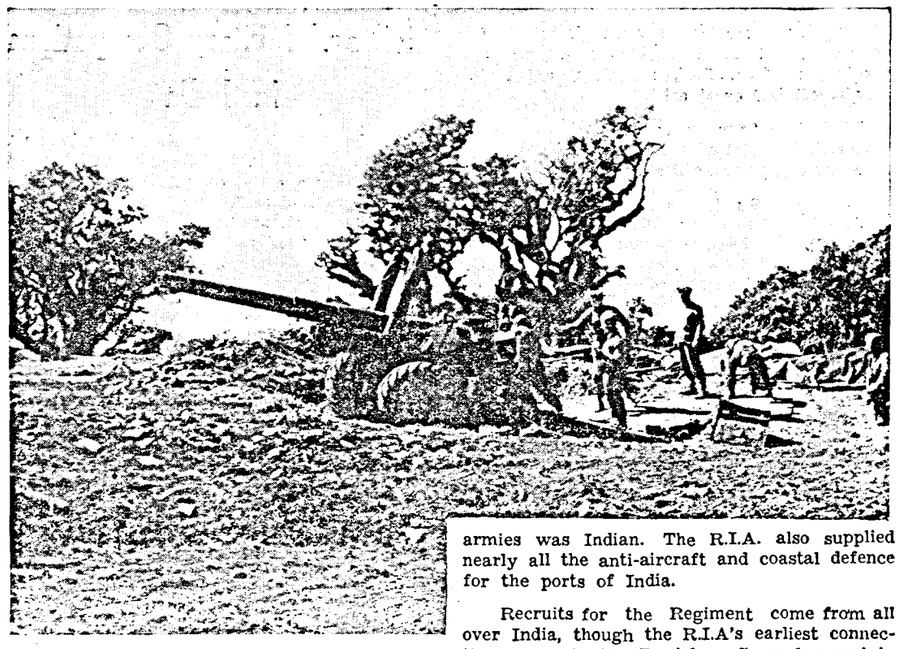
Reductions in the number of ratings will be carried out in two phases, the first to be completed by December 31, the second by April 30. In the first phase, 5,464 men will be released. Included in these are 1,566 ex-Army personnel, already in course of re-transfer to the Army, and 1,385 "Hostilities Only" ratings, who are mostly merchant seamen who were recruited for Naval service early in the war. Other ratings will be released in priority groups, extending in certain categories up to group 35 by December 31.

The release centre for ratings will be a shore establishment at Versova, near Bombay, and as in the case of officers at H.M.I.S. *Feroze*, the intention is to pass personnel through the centre without undue delay.

Recruitment of ratings, other than boys, has been suspended until the end of the year.

Release in the Women's Royal Indian Naval Service will be carried out in accordance with the general W.A.C.(I) programme.

(*Continued on page* 530)



Indian artillery men have done excellent work in waging continuous warfare against the Japanese in Burma. Picture shows a medium gun firing at Jap bunker positions.

ROYAL INDIAN ARTILLERY

IN recognition of the name that Indian gunners have won for themselves on the battlefields of the world, the Indian Artillery will now, with the approval of the King, be known as the Royal Regiment of Indian Artillery.

From seven regiments in 1939, the Royal Indian Artillery has grown to its present strength of 63 regiments of all types, including 12 mountain, 11 field, six anti-tank and 30 anti-aircraft regiments.

The Royal Regiment has one V.C. to its credit—that of Havildar Umrao Singh, who defended his gun in hand-to-hand fighting against overwhelming odds in the Arakan in 1945. Other awards are six D.S.Os., five I.O.Ms., 34 M.Cs., 34 I.D.S.Ms., 29 M.Ms. and one George Medal.

Indian gunners fought gallantly in North Africa and in Italy during this war. In Burma a large proportion of the artillery with the field armies was Indian. The R.I.A. also supplied nearly all the anti-aircraft and coastal defence for the ports of India.

Recruits for the Regiment come from all over India, though the R.I.A's earliest connections were in the Punjab. Several mountain regiments were formed as early as 1835.

In the First World War two mountain batteries earned undying fame at Gallipoli and others fought in France in 1914-15.

In 1935, the first field regiment was formed and the first Indian officers introduced. In November 1940, the Indian Artillery was recognised as a separate regiment.

C.-IN-C.'s CONGRATULATIONS

On the occasion of the conferment by the King of the distinction "Royal" on the Indian Artillery Gen. Sir Claude Auchinleck has sent his congratulations to all Commanding Officers of the Regiment's units and establishments.

"I am very glad to be able to tell you," writes the C.-in-C., "that His Majesty the King Emperor has honoured the Indian Artillery by conferring upon it the title of the Royal Indian Artillery.

"As you know, there have been units of Indian Artillery for one hundred and fifty years and more, but up to the beginning of this last war the number of regiments of Indian Artillery has been few and those regiments were mostly mountain Regiments. During the war the Indian

Artillery has grown from seven regiments to 61 regiments, and these regiments include all branches, medium, field, mountain, anti-tank, anti-aircraft and coast artillery.

"This is a tremendous expansion and one which reflects the greatest credit on all those who had a hand in bringing it about.

"Wherever the Indian Artillery has fought in this war it has made a fine name for itself and many units have distinguished themselves most highly in action. The new Indian Artillery has gained the confidence, respect and affection of the rest of the Indian Army.

"I Am Proud of Them"

"I have no doubt whatever that the future of the Royal Regiment of Indian Artillery is assured and that it will from now on be an essential and most important part of the Indian Army.

"I have no doubt that all ranks appreciate the signal honour conferred upon the Regiment and that they will continue to uphold the high traditions which they have established during the war years.

"I shall be glad if you will read this letter to your officers, Viceroy's Commissioned Officers, non-commissioned officers and men, and tell them how proud I am of them and their Regiment, and that I wish them and it the best that fortune can bring them."

MAHARAJA OF DARBHANGA'S GIFT TO AUCHINLECK ARAMGAH

In a letter to the Maharaja of Darbhanga the Commander-in-Chief in India, General Sir Claude Auchinleck, has expressed his appreciation of a gift of Rs. 10,000 which the Maharaja has presented to the Auchinleck Aramgah, near Delhi station.

"I can assure you that I will make it my personal business," the C.-in-C. writes, "to see that the money is expended to the very best advantage so that the Indian soldiers, sailors and airmen who use the Aramgah may benefit to the fullest possible extent.

"I will let you know in due course as to how the money has been spent. Thank you very much indeed."

The Auchinleck Aramgah was started in November 1943, and has provided much appreciated amenities to thousands of Indian servicemen passing through Delhi.

Civil and Military Occupations in India

To facilitate the work of the Employment Exchange machinery, the Central Government are preparing a series of "Guides to Occupational Classifications", which will clearly define all occupational terms and provide a common nomenclature and uniform standards for civil and military trades.

It is pointed out that the Defence Services alone have about 1,000 trade categories and the types of occupations in civil employment are not identical with those in the Defence Services. One of these Guides will accordingly contain information regarding the qualifications and occupations of the demobilised Services personnel showing against each qualification or occupation its equivalent in civil employment. The other Guides are designed to be complete and descriptive lists of occupations in civil life. They will also contain a short questionnaire enabling Employment Exchanges to ascertain the employment-seeker's specific knowledge of a particular occupation.

Employers will be provided with copies of the "Guide to ex-services personnel's qualifications" so that, by reference to it, they can select the persons most suitable for their industries and then communicate with the Employment Exchanges. The Guides are being compiled on information collected from all Services personnel and the particular industries in which they can be placed.

R.I.N. DEMOBILISATION PLANS

(*Continued from page* 528)

Plans for the resettlement of officers and men of the W.R.I.N.S. have been worked out by the Resettlement Directorate at Simla acting in conjunction with the Resettlement Branch at Naval Headquarters, New Delhi.

Long before Japan's surrender seemed imminent, personnel were circularised in order to ascertain what assistance they would require on reversion to civil life. Naval officers will be available at release centres to advise on resettlement questions, and, as in the case of the Army, assistance in finding employment will be given to all personnel, Naval and W.R.I.N., by the Labour Department's Employment Exchanges and by recruiting officers all over the country.

U. S. COMMANDER PRAISES INDIAN PIONEER CORPS

TRIBUTE to the "outstanding achievements" of the Indian Pioneer Corps has been paid by Lt.-Gen. Raymond A. Wheeler, Commanding U.S. Forces in the India-Burma Theatre, on the eve of his departure from South-East Asia, in a letter to the Commander-in-Chief in India, General Sir Claude Auchinleck.

"For the past three years," says Gen. Wheeler, "Indian Pioneer companies have laboured side by side with American troops on the construction of the Stilwell Road under the direction of the Commanding General at Ledo. It is impossible to enumerate all their outstanding achievements.

"Without the help furnished by such organisations, the road, numerous pipelines, signal communications, and accommodations could not have been completed on schedule and, in fact, many installations could not have been undertaken.

"I should like to express my appreciation of the magnificent job performed by these Indian units and I hope each and every man may know that his work was sincerely valued by his American allies."

C.-in-C.'s Reply

In reply, Gen. Auchinleck says: "I am most gratified and honoured by your very generous appreciation of the work of the Indian Pioneer Corps units which worked with the United States troops on the construction of the Stilwell Road, and I know that my feeling will be shared to the full by the Pioneer Corps and the whole of the Indian Army.

"I will ensure that your message is given the fullest publicity throughout India Command.

"Your praise will be all the more appreciated as the Indian Pioneer Corps is a wartime creation which has made for itself a fine reputation in many theatres of war, from Italy to Burma, by its unremitting labour in an immense variety of tasks which but seldom allowed of its men receiving rewards for gallantry in action, although none the less essential to the winning of the final victory."

By a notification in the *Gazette of India*, the Central Government have cancelled the Stearic Acid Control Order, which has been in force since September, 1944, said a Press Note issued by the Supply Department, Government of India, on October 5.

INDIA'S AMPHIBIOUS ARMY

BETWEEN January 1943 and the end of the war, nine divisions, enough to make an entire army, were trained in combined operations in India.

India's first Combined Training Centre, at Madh Island, near Bombay, was founded in 1943, and is one of the three biggest combined operations training bases in the world. The other main bases in India is at Cocanada, 300 miles north of Madras.

On Bombay's famous Juhu beach and those adjoining it, Indians and Gurkhas, who had never seen the sea before, were taught to swim in full equipment and to assault heavily-defended beaches.

The landing on the Arakan coast and at Rangoon were carried out by troops trained by the Combined Operations Staffs in India and Burma and, but for the early Japanese surrender, India-trained troops would by now have smashed their way ashore on the Malay coast.

Lack of Equipment

The nucleus of the C.T.C. staff came from Madagascar in 1942. Until early 1945, the European theatre of war had priority of craft and equipment, and the combined operations organisation in India had to work with what could be spared from there.

When at least there was a plentitude of amphibious craft and equipment the Japanese war was over. The achievement remains. Had the war not ended, tens of thousands of trained troops were ready to assault the beaches of South-East Asia.

MAIL COMMUNICATION WITH BURMA

The following post-offices have been opened in Burma in addition to those whose names which have already been notified:

(1) Pazundaung. (2) Ahlone. (3) Kamayut. (4) Taungdwingyi. (5) Minbu. (6) Salin. (7) Chauk. (8) Myitnge. (9) Amarapura. (10) Tharrawaddy. (11) Minhla. (12) Zigon. (13) Pavngde. (14) Shwedaung. (15) Prome. (16) Maubin. (17) Wakema. (18) Myaungmya. (19) Bassein. (20) Taunggyi. (21) Thazi. (22) Kalaw. (23) Loilem. (24) Pyawbwe. (25) Yamethin. (26) Pyinmana and (27) Y-U.

EMPIRE DEAD NOT TO BE RETURNED TO HOMELANDS

THE Governments of the U.K., Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Newfoundland and India have decided, as they did after the 1914-1918 war, that the return to their homelands of the bodies of members of His Majesty's Forces buried overseas shall not be undertaken nor allowed. These Governments have authorised the Imperial War Graves Commission to issue the following statement:

"Since the outbreak of war in 1939, a number of requests have been received from relatives of members of His Majesty's Forces buried overseas that bodies should be brought back to their native countries for re-burial. Similar requests were made soon after the 1914-1918 war.

"The Imperial War Graves Commission then gave most careful consideration to all aspects of the problem and in 1918 they issued an announcement of their policy which, in the following years as the results of their work were seen and understood, was accepted throughout the empire. The Commission feel that a re-statement of that policy is desirable now that hostilities are over.

"Today, as in 1918, the Commission are servants of the public in all parts of the British Commonwealth and Empire, and it is their duty to treat with all possible sympathy the desire of individual relatives. But reasons against any change in their policy appear to them overwhelming.

Last Resting Places

"To give effect to even a moderate demand for repatriation would be a task of even greater magnitude than it would have been in 1918 for, though the numbers involved are happily fewer, the graves are far more widely scattered and shipping facilities are practically non-existent. On the other hand, private repatriation by a few individuals who could afford the cost would be contrary to that equality of treatment which is the underlying principle of the Commission's work and which has appealed so strongly to the deepest sentiments of our people.

"Once again France has given a generous lead in providing, in perpetuity, land required for cemeteries in that country and by a like generosity on the part of other Allied Governments or by provision in peace treaties the last resting places of the Empire's dead in foreign

(*Continued on page* 543)

COMMODORE L. SANDERSON RETIRES

Organised Calcutta as Naval Base

SURVEYOR-IN-CHARGE of the Marine Survey of India from 1935 to 1939 and Naval Officer-in-Charge at Calcutta during the first four war years, Commodore L. Sanderson, C.I.E., R.I.N., who for the past twelve months has been Chief of Personnel at Naval Headquarters, New Delhi, has retired after 34 years' service in the Royal Indian Marine and Royal Indian Navy.

India's leading authority on marine surveying, he carried out a number of important surveys, including that of the Mergui Archipelago. In the last Great War he served in Mesopotamia, being mentioned in despatches.

Appointed Naval Officer-in-Charge, Calcutta, in September 1939, Commodore (then Captain) Sanderson had the task of building up the port's naval organisation. Under his direction, four passenger liners were fitted out as armed merchant cruisers at the outset of the war, many other merchant ships were defensively armed, and numbers of small vessels were equipped for local naval defence.

All branches of the naval service in Calcutta were augmented until, by early 1943, the port was able to take its full share in the operations along the Burma coast.

PASSAGES TO U.K.: HEAVY SERVICE REQUIREMENTS

A Press Communique issued by the Defence Department, Government of India, on October 23 stated:

The Secretary of State has informed the Government of India that civilian movement between India and the United Kingdom must be reduced to a minimum during the remaining months of 1945 owing to extremely heavy service requirements for released prisoners of war and personnel due for repatriation or demobilisation.

The number of passages available for civilians will therefore be considerably less than at present. The Government of India are aware that many civilians have urgent reasons for travelling to the United Kingdom and that some of them have not had home leave for eight years or more. They are doing all they can to secure a more adequate allotment of passages and hope for an improvement in the first quarter of 1946.

W.A.C. (I) DELEGATION BACK FROM U.K.

After a two months' visit to A.T.S. units in the United Kingdom, six members of the W.A.C.(I), who will now visit units of the Corps throughout India to share the knowledge they have acquired and describe their experiences, recently returned to India.

The principal reason for their visit to the United Kingdom was to study methods of instruction in A.T.S. training establishments and the working of the Service's recruiting organisation and selection boards. For this purpose they visited A.T.S. units in England, Scotland and Wales.

The deputation was received at Buckingham Palace by the Queen, who invited them to spend a day at the Royal Farm at Windsor. In North England three of the deputation were received by the Princess Royal, Controller Comandant of the A.T.S.

The three Indian members of the deputation were Junior Commander Aziz, Recruiting Officer, Rawalpindi; Junior Commander Omir Sen, Meerut; and Subaltern Das Gupta, Platoon Commander, Calcutta.

Thousands of arms have been surrendered by the Japanese 33rd Army to the 17th Indian Division. The 33rd Army was first smashed at Meiktila by men of this Indian Division, when the fate of the Japanese Imperial Armies in Burma was sealed for ever, writes an Army Observer. The Japanese 33rd Army, concentrated north of Martaban, is now completely disarmed except for a small proportion which is required for local protection. The disarmament of the Japanese 28th Army, concentrated north-east of Thaton, is going on successfully.



The six W.A.C.(I) officers who recently flew to England to see at close quarters the organisation and activities of the A.T.S. They are (L. to R.) Junior Commander Aziz (Rawalpindi), Subaltern Das Gupta (Calcutta), Senior Commander J. Leadbetter (New Delhi), Subaltern O.C. Farnon (Bangalore), Senior Commander D. Rawline (Delhi), Junior Commander Omir Sen (Meerut), and Senior Commander M. Fatherstone-Haugh, A.T.S., who was in charge of the party.

INDIAN STUDENTS FOR U.S.A.

Difficulty in Securing Passages

A Press Communique issued by the Education Department, Government of India, on October 8 stated:

The Government of India have been experiencing great difficulty in securing passages for students desirous of proceeding to the U.S.A. for courses of study during the present year, owing to the fact that the position in regard to passages has seriously deteriorated as a result of the unexpectedly sudden termination of the war with Japan.

Apart from other difficulties, *e.g.*, the need to supply food to liberated areas, the shipping authorities have been called upon to face the very urgent problem of dealing with a large number of military personnel, prisoners-of-war and other persons entitled to immediate repatriation. Every effort has been, and is being made, to secure additional shipping space for students, but the latest information indicates that the number of civilian passages to the U.S.A. during the next three or four months is likely to be so restricted that there is no prospect of students, other than the Government-sponsored students securing passages this year. It is by no means certain that all Government-sponsored students will be able to get off during that period but arrangements have been made to send them in batches from this month onwards.

The Agent-General for India in Washington is urging the education authorities in the U.S.A. who agreed to admit Indian students in September and October to keep their places open as long as possible, but in view of the great pressure on educational accommodation abroad no guarantee can be given that they will be able to do so.

Passages for U. K.

With regard to the U.K., it has been possible, in spite of urgent military requirements, to secure a number of passages for students who have secured admission to universities and other institutions.

The High Commissioner for India is, however, experiencing great difficulty in securing admission to suitable institutions for all the students, including Government-sponsored students, who desire to go this year. This is largely due to the post-war pressure on accommodation accentuated by the fact that a number of educational institutions in the U.K. have been destroyed or damaged by enemy action.

The Government of India have considered it desirable to give this warning to students in order that all concerned may know the present position and be saved unnecessary disappointment later. At the same time the Government of India are not relaxing their efforts to secure passages as well as places in institutions overseas. If these efforts bear fruit, the students concerned will be informed immediately.

Government-Sponsored Students

The Government of India have also under urgent consideration the arrangements to be made for those Government-sponsored students who, for lack of passage or admission to an institution overseas, are unable to proceed this year.

Every endeavour will be made to arrange a suitable course of preliminary training in India for such of them as are not already engaged in some useful activity and also to prevent any unnecessary hardship to those who may have resigned their appointments in order to go abroad as Government-sponsored students. In any case scholarships awarded this year will hold good.

UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG INDIANS IN NATAL

Approximately 17,600 Indians were employed in the Province of Natal, South Africa, during 1944; as compared with 26,000 employed in the previous year. The total number of male adult Indian immigrants in the Province was 43,218, according to the Annual Report of the Protector of Indian immigrants, who explained that many of the immigrants are farming on their own account and carrying on other trades.

The housing accommodation, according to the Report, still leaves much to be desired. But there were no complaints of ill-treatment by employers. No immigrants returned to India during the year.

The health of the Indian population was good during the year, but the death-rate from tuberculosis was still very high. The total population increased to 217,549 from 210,107 in 1943. The total number of children attending Government and Government-aided Schools during the year under review was 32,875, showing an increase of nearly 2,000. Still there were many Indian children who were receiving no education because there was no room for them in the schools.

MARKETING OF BARLEY, GRAM AND BANANAS

"THE manufacture of malt extracts and other malt products from barley is practically non-existent in this country and appears to be a promising line of development. The brewing industry should also be developed on sound lines so that, after the war, it may not suffer from foreign competition. The development of the brewing industry in India will provide a good market for the better quality barley. There is also scope for improving and expanding the manufacture of Pearl barley and barley powder in this country", states the Report on the Marketing of Barley in India, published by the Central Agricultural Marketing Department of the Government of India.

That India is in a position to supply good malting barley has been established by the tests conducted at the Institute of Brewing, London. "But these experiments were mainly on a laboratory scale, and it will, therefore, be necessary to find out, by means of trials on a commercial scale, whether Indian barley would satisfy the quality requirements of the British brewer. This should be done as soon as possible", states the Report, "by sending experimental consignments to that country."

First Foodgrain

"There is much evidence in support of the conclusion that barley was the first foodgrain cultivated by man. Grains discovered in the excavations of Egyptian tombs and estimated to be over 3,000 years old have been identified as barley. Similar examples from pre-historic times have been found in the remains of the ancient dwellings of Switzerland, Italy and Savoy. According to Bret-Schneider, barley was one of the cereals sown by Emperor Shen-Nung of China about 2700 B.C."

"The antiquity of this cereal in India is borne out by its mention as *Yava* in ancient Sanskrit literature and is further supported by the discovery of barley grains in the excavations at Mohenjo-daro (Sind), which is estimated to belong to the period 3,000 B.C. In the *A'in-e-Akbari*, barley is said to have been one of the most important crops of Afghanistan and Kashmir during the reign of Akbar, being the source of a large part of the State revenue in these tracts."

In many countries barley is still an important article of human diet. For instance, in Japan, this cereal takes second place to rice as food, and in India, Tibet and some parts of Europe, it is the chief subsistence food of poor people. "Pearl Barley" and "Barley Powder," products of barley grain from which the fibrous integuments have been removed, are easy to digest and possess demulcent properties, and are, for that reason, much used in the dietary of the sick. These products are also much employed in the preparation of soups in European cookery.

As livestock feed, barley is comparatively important in European countries and America and most of the international trade in this grain consists of the feeding quality meant for hog as well as cattle.

The average yield per acre of barley in India works out, according to the Report, to 802 lbs., which is low in comparison with most other barley-producing countries of the world.

The report also recommends the establishment of regulated markets, and invites consideration of the transport authorities to accord a suitable reduction in the freight rates of barley as compared with wheat, in so far as the former is normally a cheaper grain than the latter.

Marketing of Gram

Recommendations for improving the quality and yield per acre of gram in India are made in a report on the marketing of gram published by the Agricultural Marketing Department of the Government of India.

The average yield per acre of gram in India during the ten years ending 1939 was 503 lbs. This, according to the report, is low and can be increased by growing high yielding varieties which will also improve the quality of gram. It is suggested that high yielding and beter quality varieties evolved by the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa, and the Punjab Agricultural Department, should be popularised among the cultivators who may be induced to replace the indigenous, poor yielding and inferior strains.

Total Production

The total acreage under gram is 18 million acres and the total production amounts to about 4.4 million tons. The United Provinces produce more than 50 per cent. of the total production in British India followed by the Punjab (28.8 per cent.) and Bihar (13.2 per cent.).

The report recommends the development of co-operative marketing of gram in the main producing areas in order to enable the producer to get a fair return. Market charges should also be regulated and standardised and efforts made to introduce a standard contract for trade in gram on the return of normal conditions.

In their report on the marketing of bananas the Agricultural Marketing Department of the Government of India suggests that possibilities of increasing the demand of bananas for industrial uses should be explored and trade in bananas, figs and flour, particularly in the surplus banana-producing provinces and states like Madras, Mysore, Cochin and Travancore, should be taken up.

Under war conditions, the report adds, there seems to be little scope for developing foreign trade in Indian bananas, but the position may be reviewed when normal conditions return and it may be possible to increase the export of bananas from Madras and Bombay.

The area under bananas in India is estimated at 404,550 acres producing about 110 million maunds. The average annual export of bananas during the three years from 1937-38 to 1939-40 was 12,000 maunds only.

The report suggests that banana varieties should be systematically classified and described in all the principal banana-producing provinces and states. There is also need for standardising units of price quotation and improving market intelligence. Suggestions have also been made for the extension of the Agmark trading and marketing scheme to bananas and the setting up of co-operative sales societies in the chief banana-producing areas.

It is further suggested that possibilities of adopting improved containers for the superior varieties of bananas should be studied and in order to develop the export trade in these varieties cold storage should be developed. For transporting bananas, wooden vans with proper arrangements for ventilation should be provided by the railways.

SULPHURIC ACID CONTROL ORDER

A Press Note issued by the Supply Department, Government of India, said:

A fresh order has been published in the *Gazette of India* dated October 5 to control the sale and manufacture of sulphuric acid. The order is a re-issue, with all previous amendments, of the Sulphuric Acid Control Order, which was introduced in August 1942.

Manufacturers who have already got themselves registered as sellers under the original order are not required to take out fresh registration certificates. Those who wish to get themselves registered under the new order are required to furnish particulars of estimated quantities of sulphuric acid which they expect to manufacture for sale during the quarter ending December 1945 together with particulars of supplies made during the calendar year 1944.

BENDING OF WOOD SKIS

An investigation into the bending of wood skis for which ash and hickory are used in Europe, was carried out at the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, to determine if it was possible to use some Indian timbers for this purpose. Certain Indian hard-woods possessing the required qualities, namely laurel (*Terminalia tomentose*), *sissoo* (*Dalbergia sissoo*) and *aini* (*Artocarpus hirsuta*) were selected for the tests.

The result of the investigation shows that, in order to achieve success in the bending operation, only straight-grained wood free from knots and other defects should be selected for ski bending, and that it should be seasoned to 20 per cent. moisture content. In case of the above woods it was found that they could be softened by steaming at atmospheric pressure in a seasoning kiln for four hours, and that the bent pieces had to be left in position around the form for at least 24 hours after the bending operation. The bent blanks were then conditioned for two days in a season kiln at 50 degrees C. temperature and 55 per cent. relative humidity for proper drying and setting of the bends.

The results of the tests carried out on the bending of laurel, sisso and aini as well as the various processes involved, namely, preparation of the blank, seasoning of wood to proper moisture content, softening of wood before bending, bending operation and setting of the bends, are described in detail in Indian Forest Leaflet No. 78, issued by the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun. There is also a general discussion on the use of Indian woods for ski making.

Till recently skis used in this country were mostly imported from abroad, the skis being usually made of ash or hickory. With the advent of the war, imports of foreign skis almost stopped while their demand increased as they were also required by the Defence Services. To meet this demand experiments were carried out at the Forest Research Institute on the production of laminated skis with considerable success.

The results of the experiments carried out at the Institute on the fabrication of laminated skis which are better than solid wood skis, in many respects are laminated skis made from *Dalbergia sissoo* and *Artocarpus hirsuta* using water resistant phenolic adhesive were found satisfactory.

In view of the encouraging results obtained it is hoped that production of laminated skis from Indian timbers will be taken up by firms manufacturing sporting materials.

BENGAL'S POST-WAR PLANS

THE following Press Note has been issued by the Government of Bengal on their post-war plans:

Liquidation of the Permanent Settlement, comprehensive irrigation and land reclamation projects, raising of the standard of living by increased opportunities for employment, development of subsidiary industries, vastly improved agricultural, veterinary and health services, construction of over 3,500 miles of new roads, implementation of the Sargent Report, strengthening of the administration generally—these are in the forefront of Bengal's first five-year post-war plan of reconstruction.

The plan is the first instalment of a twenty-year project and deals for the present mainly with those schemes which are considered most urgent and can be executed within the first five years. They carry within them, however, as the introduction points out, the "germs of a long-term policy."

Agriculture

The plan concentrates primarily on agriculture, on which must depend the progress and well-being of the whole province. It envisages the liquidation of the Permanent Settlement, first in the districts of Bakarganj, Faridpur, Burdwan, Hooghly and Sunderbans. It is estimated that this will take 11 years to complete, but progress after the sixth year will be accelerated and the entire province will be covered in 23 years. The cost is estimated to be Rs. 12 crores in the first quinquennium.

To improve irrigation, the two major projects considered are, first, the Damodar Valley Project which is expected to benefit the districts of Howrah, Hooghly, Burdwan and Bankura, and which the Government of India have since undertaken to execute, and second, the More Reservoir Project which involves the construction of a weir at Khatanga and a dam for the generation of electric power, benefiting the districts of Birbhum, Burdwan and the western part of Murshidabad.

In other areas in Western and Central Bengal, apart from numerous minor schemes, 47 similar irrigation and drainage projects are to be executed, designed not only to benefit agriculture but to improve rural sanitation by removing water-logging. The total cost of irrigation and drainage schemes is estimated at Rs. 37,19,00,000.

The largest of the land development schemes are connected with the reclamation of waste lands in western Bengal where, it is estimated, some 1,000 square miles of land have been lost to cultivation through erosion. Some 200,000 acres of waste lands in different areas are to be brought under the plough by reclamation under the Provincial Land Utilisation Board. Another scheme for the reclamation of 200,000 acres is designed to help the resettling of some 10,000 ex-soldiers and seamen. The land is to be farmed mainly collectively to facilitate mechanical operations.

Other schemes under agriculture include the expansion of the Agriculture Department, providing at least one Agricultural Demonstrator and Kamdar for every six unions, Plant Research Stations—the main station at Dacca with 12 sub-stations at other places—setting up of a seed multiplication farm in each district with a seed store in each Thana, eradication of the water hyacinth and the promotion of horticulture. The outlay on agricultural schemes will be Rs. 17½ crores.

Some Rs. 4½ crores is to be spent on the improvement and care of livestock by the expansion of the Livestock and Veterinary Departments, the setting up of five research and livestock breeding stations, which alone will account for Rs. 2½ crores, the provision of veterinary dispensaries in each Thana and the appointment of a peripatetic staff to render veterinary aid at the villager's door.

Communications

As regards communications 3,400 miles, made up of 900 miles of National Highways and 2,600 miles of district and village roads, are to be completed in the first five years ending in 1951-52. The ultimate target is the construction, in 20 years, of 1,200 miles of National Highways, 6,300 miles of major district roads and 20,000 miles of minor district and village roads, linking up all villages with a population of over 500.

Waterways, providing as they do necessary and cheap means of transport, are to be improved, and 12 important routes, four of them inter-provincial, are to be kept open for navigation throughout the year by the use of dredgers.

The plan does not deal with major industries the development of which comes within the purview of the Central Government, although a number of technical training institutions are to be reorganised or set up to help resettle the returned soldier and produce technicians to meet the post-war industrial requirements. Special attention is to be paid to the silk and fishing

industries, which employ large sections of the population.

For silk, schemes have been suggested for the production and distribution of improved seeds, for the training of village workers and technical assistance for standardising and marketing their produce, and it is proposed gradually to extend State control over the industry to ensure its ordered growth.

With regard to the fishing industry, the introduction to the plan calls attention to the almost limitless potentialities of Bengal's fisheries as a source of valuable protective food, and recalls that the Bay of Bengal is the second best fishing ground in the world. The plan provides for the large-scale exploitation of inland, coastal and estuarine fisheries, both with the help of fishermen who will be organised into co-operative societies and through Government enterprise. The expansion of the Fisheries Department, the organisation of a fleet of seiners and smacks, motor boats and barges, equipped with cold storage arrangements, for quick transport, the establishment of a Central Technological Research Laboratory to investigate different methods of catching and processing fish, fish-curing plants, etc., are planned at a cost of Rs. 153 lakhs.

Provision also has been made for the development of the local salt industry as recommended by the Bengal Industrial Survey Committee, and it is proposed to plan the production of salt through Government assistance and private enterprise in such a manner as to develop ancillary industries.

Schemes have also been drawn for labour welfare, and to gain experience and information as to the ultimate cost of a more comprehensive project a pilot scheme to re-house 50,000 of Calcutta's bustee dwellers will be taken up.

Primary Education

Primary education forms the most important and feature of the educational plan and is to be modelled closely on the Sargent Report. It is estimated to educate some 7,500,000 school children in this province, and 50,000 schools and 250,000 trained teachers will be required. It is hoped, however, to achieve quicker results than envisaged in the Sargent Report. According to the plan, "provided unforeseen difficulties do not supervene, compulsory primary education will have been introduced throughout Bengal in 20 years, that is, in half the period visualised in the Sargent Report."

Provision has also been made for what are described as adult education centres in villages and for the dissemination of modern ideas in health, agriculture and industry. Though initially the education schemes will cost only Rs. 8 crores, they will ultimately involve an outlay of Rs. 25 crores annually.

With regard to medical and public health, all existing hospitals are to be greatly improved and better equipped. A minimum of 16,400 beds are necessary for the province and it is hoped that, in the first five years, the number of existing beds will have been raised by 8,900. Five hundred new rural dispensaries, each with two doctors and 100 mobile medical units, are to be started besides the 179 dispensaries now existing. The scheme also provides for the encouragement of qualified doctors to settle and practice in rural areas.

A Bengal Nursing Service is to be established to improve the service prospects and working conditions so as to encourage women to take up this profession. Facilities for training doctors and nurses are to be expanded. Vigorous anti-malarial measures are to be undertaken systematically by a Directorate under a Malariologist of international repute and 20 control units are to be set up in the first instance. A rural water supply scheme aiming at one source of supply for every 500 people has been planned.

Co-operative Societies

Co-operative societies are to receive considerable attention. The entire structure of co-operative credit is to be overhauled and reconstructed and the supervisory staff strengthened. Greater facilities are to be provided for financing co-operative enterprises, for assisting the rehabilitation of fishermen seriously affected by the famine and for the development of the co-operative handloom industry and the co-operative marketing of agricultural produce.

Government and private forests are to be rehabilitated and districts devoid of forests are to be reafforested at a cost of Rs. 4½ crores so as to decrease the risk of erosion and flooding and to distribute forests in such a way as to enable the inhabitants to derive the maximum benefit from their produce.

Finally, the general administration is to be strengthened at a cost of Rs. 7½ crores as a prerequisite to the successful execution of the plan. For this purpose the recommendations of the Rowlands Committee will be kept in view.

To implement the plan, the recruitment and training of a large technical staff and the expansion of the existing Departments are necessary. The plan has been drawn up on the assumption that the first post-war quinquennium will commence fom April 1947, and it is proposed to take up, so far as possible, a large number of schemes dealing with the training of staff and other preparatory work necessary for implementation of the Plan before then.

The plan, it is pointed out, is not a blueprint. It may undergo modification and other schemes may be added. There are obvious gaps; for instance, there are no schemes for town planning, for improvement of local self-government or production of hydro-electric power, etc. These are under consideration.

The introduction states that "it will henceforth be the duty of the Post-war Reconstruction Board by endorsing, modifying or co-ordinating these schemes or by putting forward proposals initiated by itself to prepare an integrated plan for each region or district, to decide the order in which they should be progressed and to keep a constant watch over their execution."

The total cost of the plan at the end of the five-year period is estimated to be Rs. 159 crores or, omitting the cost of the National Highways, which is a Central responsibility, Rs. 145 crores. The ultimate net outlay, that is, the total cost that can be incurred to complete the schemes, minus the amounts recoverable on productive schemes, after allowing for such expansion only as inherent in the schemes from the beginning, will be Rs. 250 crores capital and Rs. 31 crores recurring.

Discussing the financial implications, the introduction says: "Lest it should be assumed that the plan is extravagantly conceived, it may be pointed out that it seeks to meet only the most urgent basic needs of the province; needs the fulfilment of which could possibly be postponed have been left unmet. That, despite it, the cost should be so heavy is due to the fact that for many years the administration of the province was maintained in short commons and Departments that have had to go most short generally have been those mostly concerned with development."

This is attributed in the introduction to "inquitous financial settlements" and the comparative inelasticity of Bengal's revenues owing to the Permanent Settlement. It adds: "The Government of India have suggested that this province may tentatively assume that Bengal's share of the Central Post-war Development Fund will be, during the first five years, approximately Rs. 69 crores."

It points out that a "preliminary forecast of Bengal's post-war finance shows that, without increased assistance from the Centre, Bengal could not possibly carry the annual burden which the complete programme will ultimately impose on provincial revenue," and concludes: "while Bengal is doing her utmost to develop the provincial resources, it is to be hoped that the necessary additional financial assistance will be forthcoming."

PUNJAB'S RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Rs. 100-Crore Development Plan

THE Thal, Bhakra and other projects included in the five-year development plan of the Punjab Government, when completed, will provide additional irrigation to nearly four million acres of land and generate 200,000 kilowatts of cheap electric power, said Mr. Akhtar Hussain, I.C.S., in a recent talk from the Delhi station of All-India Radio, describing the Punjab's post-war reconstruction and development plans.

"I am speaking entirely in my personal capacity", said Mr. Akhtar Hussain. The plan itself does not claim to be an unalterable blueprint and is subject to such changes as further scrutiny may necessitate, he added.

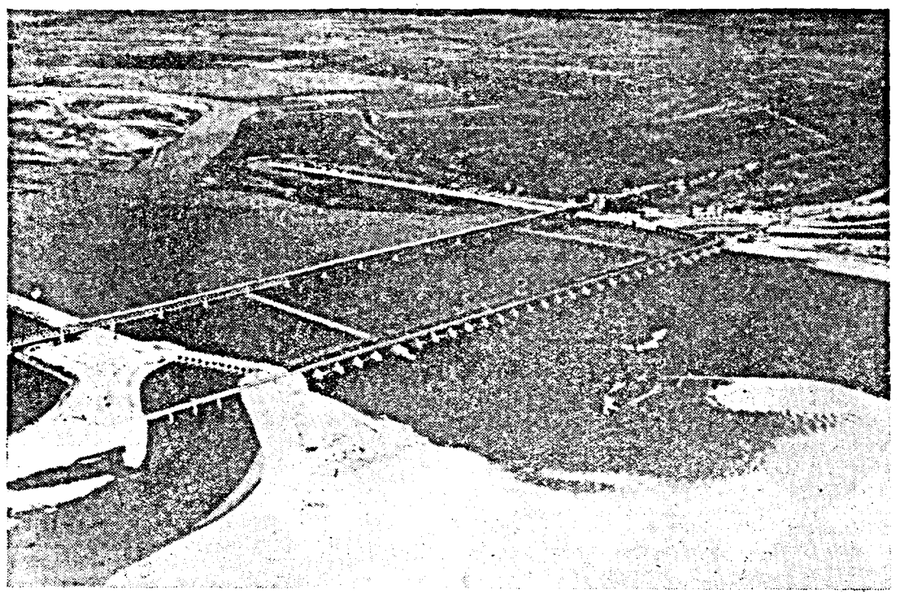
The plan has been formulated on a long-term basis and the first five years are intended to be a period of preparation, training and experiment. Owing to the limiting factors of finance and staff it is difficult to carry out full-scale development simultaneously all over the Province. It has been decided, therefore, to concentrate improvement under certain heads, such as village roads, schools, medical treatment, public health, water supply, etc., in 29 selected *tahsils*, covering nearly one-fourth of the area of the Province.

As these *tahsils* correspond with areas heavily recruited for the Defence Services, the resettlement and absorption in civil life of ex-Servicemen will also be facilitated.

Irrigation and Hydro-Electric Projects

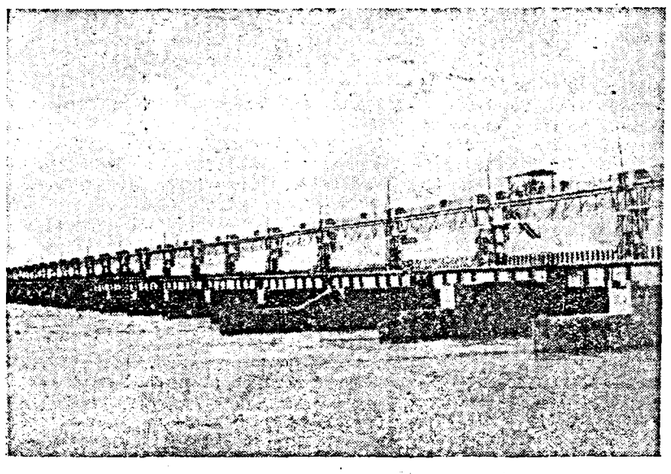
The plan contemplates an expenditure of Rs. 100 crores, out of which nearly Rs. 45 crores will be spent on irrigation, hydro-electric and electricity projects. With the construction of the Thal project, work on which has already been started, the Punjab canals will have fully utilised the entire winter discharge of the rivers of the Province.

Investigations have shown that a number of excellent sites are available in the Himalayas for the storage during the monsoon period of surplus water which at present runs waste to the sea. Further development of irrigation in the Punjab will depend on the extent to which these possibilities of storage in the hills can be exploited.



An aerial photograph of the Ferozepore Canal Headworks, Punjab.

Many preliminary projects have been prepared for holding up water by the construction of high dams to extend irrigation and generate hydro-electric power. It is proposed to take up the construction of the Bhakra Dam project first. A dam 480 ft. high will be put up across the Sutlej in a gorge near Bhakra, irrigation from which, it is hoped, will eventually protect an area of nearly four and a half million acres in the south and south-eastern Punjab. The project will also generate 160,000 kilowatts of electric power.



A down stream view of weir Ferozepore in the Punjab.

To cover the period which the larger scheme will take to materialise, a large expansion in the existing electric generation and distribution systems is proposed, which will enable the present limit of 20,000 kilowatts of primary power to be increased to approximately 54,000 kilowatts.

Afforestation and anti-erosion schemes estimated to cost Rs. 2 crores will reclaim about 150,000 acres of useless land and increase the productivity of 350,000 acres of poor and unterraced land.

To encourage scientific methods of farming, it is proposed to establish a network of experimental, demonstration and seed farms all over the Province. Additional training facilities will be provided and research sections expanded at the Punjab Agricultural College, Lyallpur, and other sub-stations. The scheme is expected to cost Rs. 5 crores in the first five years.

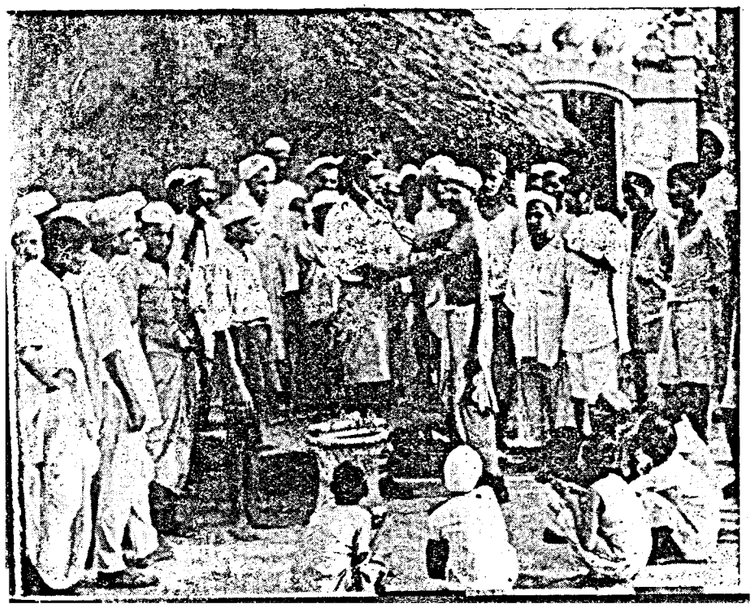
Cottage industries occupy the first place in the post-war plan for the development of industries. Other schemes provide for specialised industrial training, initiating intensive industrial research in the utilisation of the resources of the Province, putting up a pilot workshop for designing and manufacturing machines and appliances suited to Indian conditions and for sponsoring new industries like coal-tar distillation, which had not yet been attempted by private enterprise.

A 35-year plan for the development of education has been prepared which aims at the introduction of universal compulsory free education between the ages of six and 11, increase of provision for secondary and collegiate education, expansion of technical, commercial and art education, an efficient school medical service and provision of proper nutrition in needy cases and a generous system of scholarships. It is proposed to spend Rs. 10 crores on education in the first five years.

Public Health

The activities of the Medical and Public Health Departments are to be extended at a cost of Rs. 12 crores. The scheme includes provision for the extenson of medical facilities in rural areas, expansion of medical education, including a new medical school for women, and raising of hospital accommodation at district and *tahsil* headquarters, which will be fully equipped with up-to-date clinical and X-ray appliances. A number of maternity and child welfare centres are also to be established.

It is proposed to undertake a 15-year road development programme, which is estimated to cost Rs. 69 crores, of which Rs. 15 crores are to be spent in the first five years. When the programme is completed, there will be no town with a population of 5,000 or over which is not connected by a metalled road and no village which is more than two miles from an all-weather road. In the first five years nearly 2,000 miles of major roads and over 3,000 miles of village roads are to be constructed.



The doctor of a rural health unit at work in a village in Moradabad district.

SIR AKBAR HYDARI



Member for Information and Broadcasting

A Communique issued from the Viceroy's House, New Delhi, on October 20 stated:

The Hon'ble Sir Sultan Ahmed, K.C.S.I., Member of the Governor-General's Executive Council for Information and Broadcasting, has asked to be permitted to resign in order to take up an appointment of Adviser to His Highness the Chancellor of the Chamber of Princes. His resignation has been accepted and will take effect on October 31.

The Governor-General in Council has appointed the Hon'ble Sir Akbar Hydari, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., to be a temporary Member of the Executive Council in place of the Hon'ble Sir Sultan Ahmed.

Mr. J. A. Rahim, I.C.S., assumed charge of his duties as Indian Government Trade Commissioner, Alexanderia, on October 11, said a Press Note issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on October 25.

New Governors Appointed

A Press communique issued from the Viceroy's House, New Delhi, on October 4, said:

His Majesty the King has been pleased to approve the following appointments:—

Sir Evan Jenkins, K.C.I.E., C.S.I. Secretary to the Governor General (Personal) and Private Secretary to His Excellency the Viceroy, to be Governor of the Punjab in succession to His Excellency Sir Bertrand Glancy, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., who vacates office on April 8, 1946.

Sir Olaf Caroe, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India in the External Affairs Department, to be Governor of the North-West Frontier Province in succession to His Excellency Sir George Cunningham, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., O.B.E., who vacates office on March 2, 1946.

Sir Chandulal Trivedi

Sir Chandulal Trivedi, C.S.I., C.I.E., O.B.E., Secretary to the Government of India in the War Department, to be Governor of Orissa in succession to His Excellency Sir Hawthorne Lewis, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., who vacates office on March 31, 1946.

His Excellency Sir Thomas Rutherford, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., Governor of Bihar, has asked to be permitted to retire on grounds of health from a date in May 1946. His Majesty the King has approved his retirement, and the following appointments consequent upon it:—

His Excellency Sir Hugh Dow, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., Governor of Sind, to be Governor of Bihar in succession to His Excellency Sir Thomas Rutherford;

The Hon'ble Sir Francis Mudie, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., O.B.E., Home Member of the Governor General's Executive Council, to be Governor of Sind in succession to His Excellency Sir Hugh Dow, from a date in January, 1946:

Sir John Thorne, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., Secretary to the Governor General (Public), to be Home Member of the Governor General's Executive Council, in succession to the Hon'ble Sir Francis Mudie, from October 15, 1945.

By a notification published in today's *Gazette of India*, the Central Government have fixed the prices of coal despatched from certain collieries in Baluchistan, said a Press Note issued by the Supply Department, Government of India, on October 12.

It added: The prices of coal from these collieries were not notified so far as some of them were not working and the rates for others were not settled. The leases have now been reopened and the prices have been settled and notified.

FUTURE OF EXPORT AND IMPORT CONTROLS

WITH the cessation of hostilities and the availability of commodities in supplying countries, measures to relax import trade control have already been introduced, wherever feasible, to enable larger imports of necessary goods into the country and a larger number of persons participating in India's import trade.

As regards the export trade, it is pointed out that the most important consideration in the matter of control is the supply position in India of the goods concerned. Where commodities are in short supply and exports have to be controlled, it is considered that the interests of exporters can best be protected by granting quotas to established shippers with reference to a basic period. Whenever it is found that quotas cannot be utilised fully by established shippers, the surplus quota is distributed to other suitable traders in the line so as to encourage the flow of trade.

Purchases in India

Further liberalisation of the present export control policy, it is explained, will depend on the improvement in the internal supply position of the various controlled commodities.

On the question of purchases in India being made by foreign countries through normal trade channels, necessary steps are being taken to see if normal trade channels cannot be restored in the near future in respect of those countries, *e.g.* Turkey and Persia, whose Government representatives at present arrange for the distribution of quotas in the countries concerned. So far as jute-goods are concerned, a beginning in this direction has already been made, and Turkish sugar factories will henceforth obtain their requirements of bags direct from India.

WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

(*Continued from page* 532)

lands will be permanently secured. The cemeteries are being laid out and constructed on the model of those of the last war and, like them, they will be reverently tended by the Commission's own gardeners and will be honoured for all time.

"The Commission have learnt from intimate contacts with relatives during the past 25 years that a real consolation is derived from the knowledge that the last resting places of their dead are so honoured and revered."

BRASS AND COPPER CONTROL ORDER

In supersession of the Brass Utensils (Control) Order, 1944, the Government of India have promulgated a new order, entitled the Brass and Copper (Control) Order 1945, said a Press note issued by the Industries and Civil Supplies Department, Government of India, on October 8.

It added: This Order comes into force with immediate effect and its main provisions are as follows:—

(*a*) Bass and copper scrap (light) Rs. 60 per cwt.
(*b*) Brass and copper scrap (heavy) Rs. 66 per cwt.
(*c*) Brass and copper ingots Rs. 73 per cwt.
(*d*) Brass and copper sheets Rs. 105 per cwt.
(*e*) Imported cold rolled brass sheets landed cost plus 5 per cent.

The ceiling prices of machine-made utensils have been fixed at Rs. 1-10, 1-13 and 2-0 per lb. Detailed information as to the types of utensils to which these prices are applicable are given in schedule I to the Control Order.

Hand-made utensils have been divided into three categories and the ceiling prices fixed at Rs. 1-8, 1-10, and 1-12 per lb. In the case of hand-made utensils manufactured in Moradabad, the ceiling prices however are Rs. 1-10, 1-12, and 2-0 per lb. Detailed information is given in schedule II to the said Order.

The ceiling prices referred to in para 3 and 4 above are not applicable to brass and copper utensils with art work and E.P.N.S. which involve extra cost to the manufacturer.

Any hand-made utensils manufactured at Moradabad with Moradabad *kalai* both inside and outside can be charged at As. 7 per lb. above the rates permitted by the Order.

No manufacturer of hand-made or machine made brass utensils shall sell any utensils to the *dealers* (there are no *approved dealers* under the new Order) otherwise than on a "f.o.r. destination" basis or at a "f.o.r. destination" price which exceeds 90 per cent of the maximum retail price of the utensils as determined by the provisions of schedules I and II.

Brass or copper semi-manufactures and any other article of brass or copper not specified in the Order or in the schedules thereto shall not be sold at a price exceeding the ceiling price of the metal as given in (II) above plus a reasonable cost of manufacture plus a profit margin not exceeding 10 per cent.

Development of India's Foreign Trade

The question of sending trade missions abroad is receiving the active consideration of the Commerce Department.

Owing to the abnormal conditions created by the war, it has not been possible for Indian Trade Commissioners abroad to visit India periodically while the war was on and to maintain personal contacts with the commercial community in this country. Now that the war is over, the question of their visiting India by turns for short periods for this purpose is being taken up.

The question of reorganising and strengthening the Trade Commissioners' service, to suit post-war needs and conditions, is also under active investigation by the Commerce Department.

While the policy of the Commerce Department would be to stimulate the export trade to the maximum possible extent, it is pointed out that the question of diverting more and more of the country's production for export purposes would naturally depend on the improvement in the supply position of the commodities concerned.

ENEMY TRADING AND ENEMY PROPERTY REGULATIONS

A Press communique issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on September 22, said:

The Central Government has issued a notification under the Defence of India Rules declaring belligerent countries in Europe, namely Germany, including Austria and Memel, Italy (including Sicily and other Islands under her sovereignty) and Albania, Hungary, Bulgaria, Finland and Rumania as enemy territories for purposes of Enemy Trading and Enemy Property regulations.

It is, accordingly, an offence under the Defence of India Rules to carry on any commercial, financial or other intercourse or dealings with persons and concerns in those countries. Business correspondence restricted to ascertaining facts and exchanging information is, however, permissible with these countries excepting Germany, includng Austria and Memel, Hungary and Albania.

REVALIDATION OF IMPORT LICENCES

A Press Note issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on October 2 stated:

It has been decided to revalidate automatically all licences issued for import of goods other than foodstuffs from countries in the sterling area which are valid for shipment in July-December 1945 to cover shipments up to June 30, 1946.

In respect of countries outside the sterling area, licences for imports of goods other than foodstuffs will be automatically revalidated to cover shipments up to June 30, 1946, only if initially granted to cover shipments in January-June 1945 or July-December 1945.

Licences for imports of foodstuffs will be automatically revalidated to cover shipments up to June 30, 1946, only if initially granted during July-December 1945.

The validity of all other import licences will terminate at the conclusion of the current period, unless individually revalidated.

IMPORT TRADE CONTROL

The Government of India have published a revised edition of "A Handbook on Import Trade Control," bringing information on the subject of import control up-to-date.

This handbook is intended to provide importers with a brief but precise account of the Import Control measures introduced by the Government of India as a result of the war, and to make clear to them the steps which they must take in order to obtain import licences. In this revised edition, the handbook has been brought up-to-date. Enough information has been given to enable importers to understand the main lines of procedure; for further details they should apply to the various licensing authorities.

Every effort has been made to make this account as objective and as accurate as possible. No part of it, however, should be construed as purporting to give an authoritative interpretation of any provision of law or to supersede or modify in any way the existing Import trade Control regulations.

Copies of the Handbook may be purchased from the Manager of Publications, Civil Lines, Delhi.

LT.-GEN. R. A. WHEELER LEAVES FOR U. S.

CARRYING with him a Gurkha *khukri*, a last-minute gift from the Indian Army, Lieut.-Gen. R. A. Wheeler, who has been Commanding General of the United States Forces in the India-Burma theatre, recently left Palan aerodrome for America.

The *khukri* was handed to him by a representative of the Commander-in-Chief in India, General Sir Claude Auchinleck, as he stepped into the giant Skymaster 'plane which was to carry him back to the United States, where he is to assume command of the United States Army Engineers.

A guard of honour drawn from the Sixth Rajputana Rifles, which General Wheeler inspected before he emplaned, gave him a salute before he left, and the pipe band of the regiment played "Auld Lang Syne."

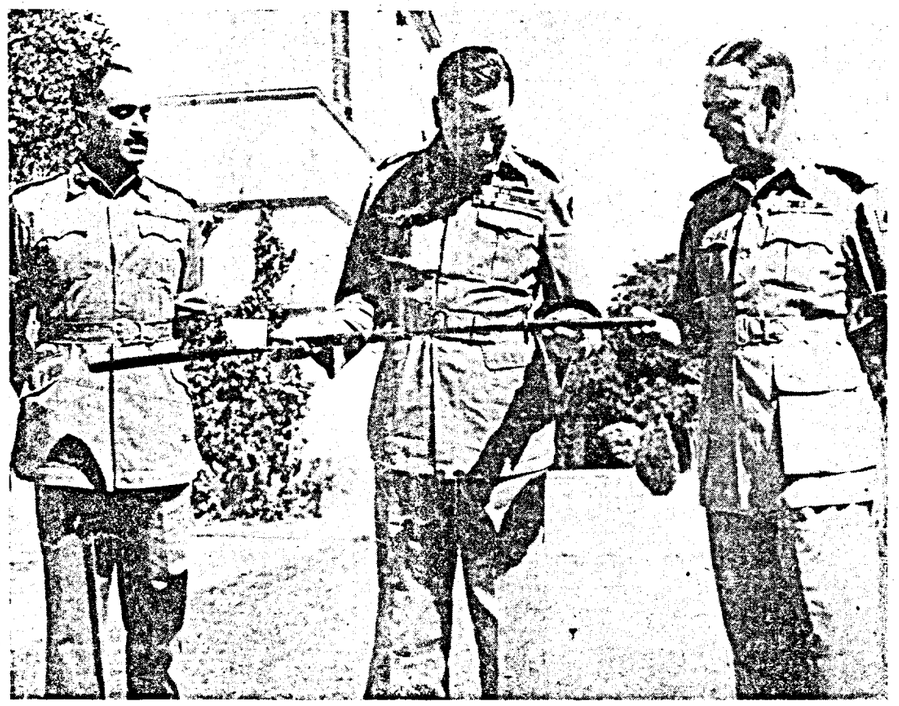
High-ranking officers of the British, Indian and American forces were present to say good-bye to Gen. Wheeler.



Gen. Sir Claude Auchinleck (Centre) recently gave a farewell dinner to Lt.-Gen. R. A. Wheeler (Left) Commander, U.S. Forces in India-Burma Theatre, before he left for America. (Below) The C.-in-C. and Lt.-Gen. Wheeler.



The Viceroy was represented by his Military Secretary, Col. D. H. Currie, and the C.-in-C. in India, then on tour in the Dehra Dun District, was represented by the Chief of the General Staff, Lieut.-Gen. Sir John G. des R. Swayne. Major-General Thomas A. Terry, who is succeeding General Wheeler, was also present with Maj.-Gen. G. V. Evans, Chief of Staff, U.S. Forces in the India-Burma theatre.



A Jap sword captured at Kangaw in the Arakan was sent by the 'Jawans' of the 51st Brigade to Gen. Sir Claude Auchinleck. The presentation was made by Brig. R. A. Hutton (Right) and Brig. K. S. Thimayya (Left).

"ALL-INDIAN" BRIGADE'S PRESENT TO C.-IN-C.



Memories of the battle of Kangaw—one of the fiercest of the entire Burma campaign—and the part played by the "all-Indian" brigade in this and other actions in the Arakan were revived on October 5, when a Jap officer's sword was presented to the Commander-in-Chief in India, Gen. Sir Claude Auchinleck, by Brig. R. A. Hutton, who commanded the brigade.

Among those present at the ceremony was Brig. K. S. Thimayya, who officiated for a time as the Brigade Commander and led it at Kangaw. He is now Commander of the 26th Indian Infantry Brigade.

The presentation ceremony coincided with the recent announcement of the award of a Bar to the D.S.O. for Brig. Hutton and D.S.Os. for his three Indian battalion commanders, including Brig. (then Lt.-Col.) Thimayya.

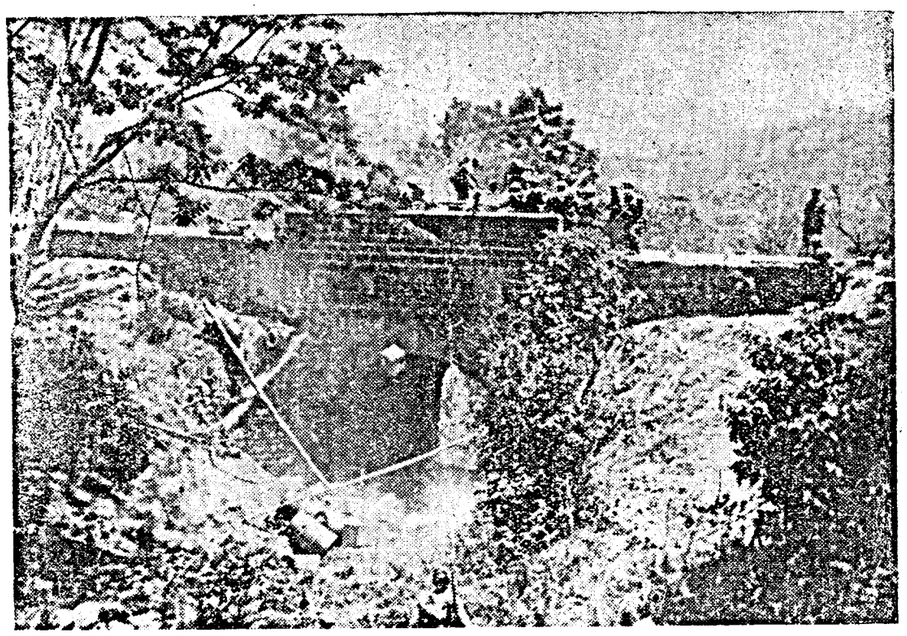
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INDIAN INFORMATION



14, No. 139: June 15, 1944
ed Fortnightly by the cipal Information Officer Government of India.

● **NEW INTERNATIONAL MONETARY PLAN**



Madras Sappers and Miners removing an enemy road-block on a bridge in Burma.

Vol. 14, No. 139. INDIAN INFORMATION JUNE 15, 1944

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

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

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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: F. D. Douglas.

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COVER PICTURE: Road Sign in the Arakan.

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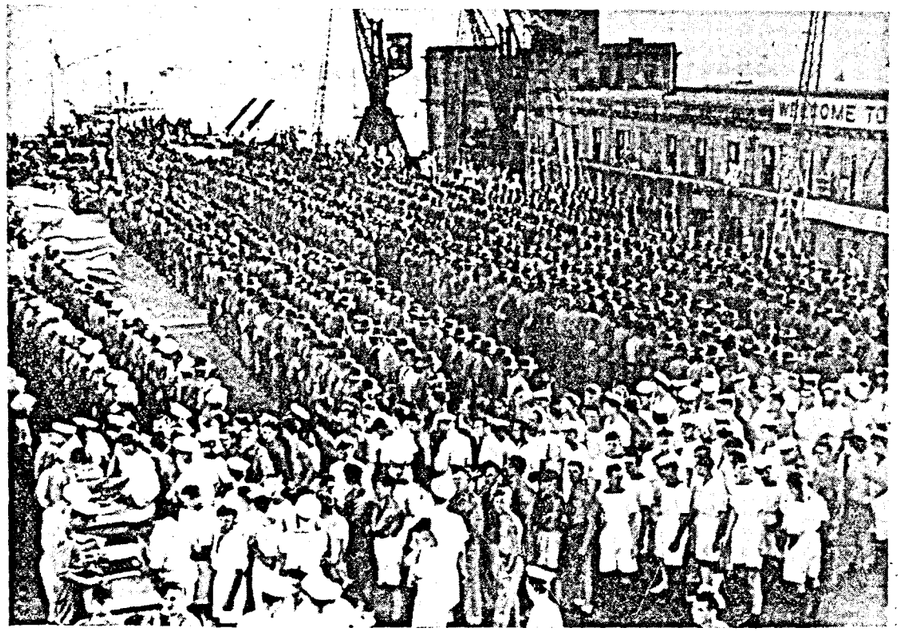


COMPLIMENTARY

Vol. 17, No. 173 Dec. 1, 1945.
Issued Fortnightly by the Principal Information Officer Government of India.

PRICE 4 ANNAS

NEPALESE HONOUR FOR C.-IN-C.



Thirteen hundred Indian ex-prisoners of war, who arrived at Bombay from Rabaul, New Britain, in the British aircraft-carrier "Formidable," were given a great welcome as the ship docked at Ballard Pier. Picture shows the troops lined up on the flight deck for the broadcast of the King's and the C.-in-C.'s messages over the ship's loudspeaker system.

Vol. 17, No. 173. INDIAN INFORMATION Dec. 1, 1945

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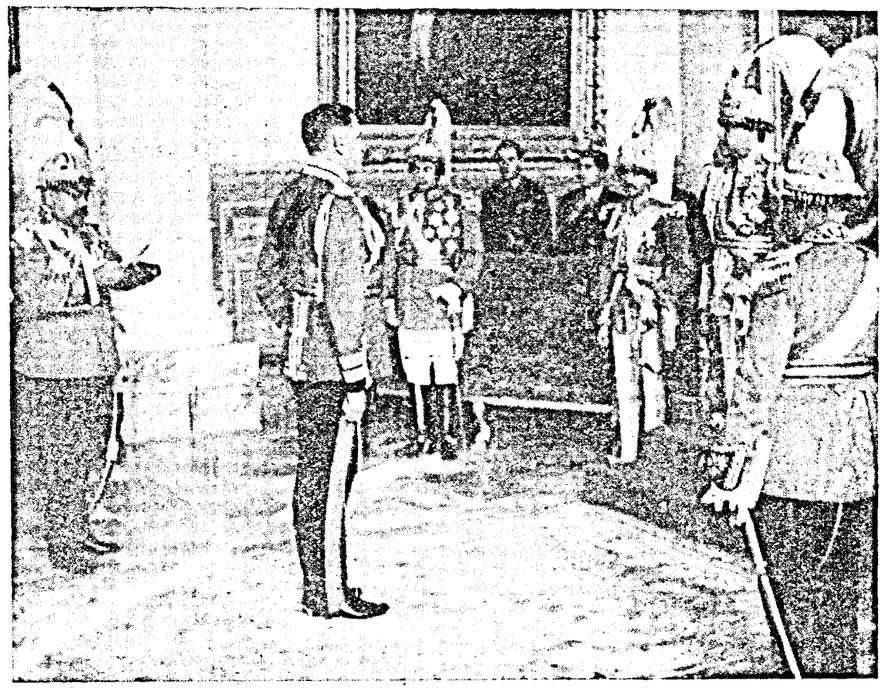
Edited by Pothan Joseph, Principal Information Officer, Government of India.

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COVER PICTURE: Field Marshal Lord Alanbrooke, Chief of the Imperial General Staff, shaking hands with Major Girdhari Singh, during his visit to the 8th Punjab Regimental Centre, Lahore.

HIGH NEPALESE HONOUR FOR GEN. AUCHINLECK



The King of Nepal's speech to General Auchinleck being read by the Prime Minister's son, Gen. Sir Bahadur Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana (left).

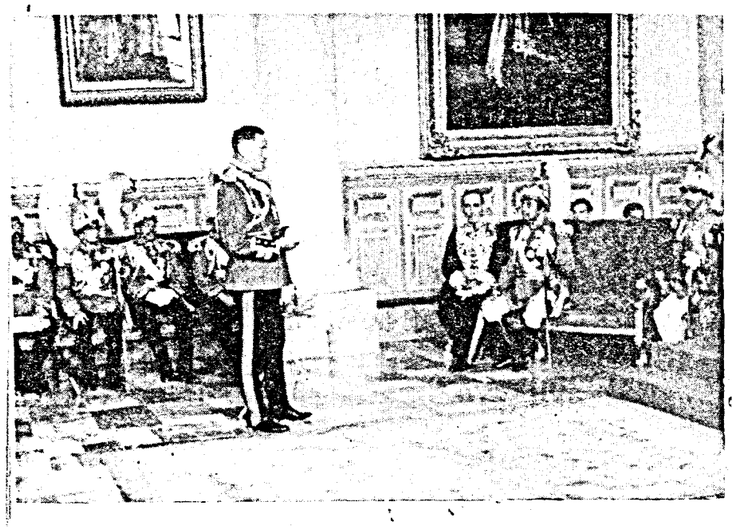
PICTURESQUE CEREMONY AT KATMANDU

AMID scenes of glittering splendour in the King's *Durbar* at Katmandu, on October 25, the Commander-in-Chief in India, General Sir Claude Auchinleck, had conferred on him the rank of Honorary General in the Nepalese Army and was invested with the Most Refulgent Order of the Star of Nepal (First Class) with the title of Supradipta Many Avara (literally "Glittering Gem and Ornament").

These honours were announced by the Ruler of Nepal, H.M. Maharajadhiraja Tribhubana Bir Vikram Sah, at a special *durbar* held in General Auchinleck's honour on October 25, writes Capt. R. A. Donaldson, Army Observer.

From the British Legation on the northern skirts of the city, General Auchinleck, in full dress uniform and with orders and decorations gleaming, drove in state through streets lined with excited Nepalese. In the *durbar* square, with its bewildering mass of temples and shrines on the steps of which were thousands of citizens in their colourful costumes, a body of the Nepalese Army's finest red-coated troops moved to a precise salute.

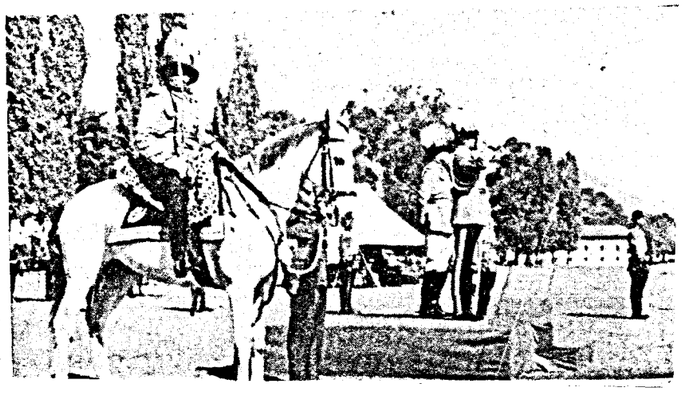
From the *durbar* square the C.-in-C. moved into the long and pillared *Durbar* Hall, the wall panels of which are covered with paintings of the great kings and prime ministers of this remote land. From the delicately patterned ceiling depended eight crystal chandeliers reflecting the bright sunlight slanting in from tall windows.



Gen. Sir Claude Auchinleck replying to the Nepalese King's address.



Part of the Nepalese Contingent which fought in Burma marches past Gen. Auchinleck during the parade in his honour. (Right) The C.-in-C. taking the salute.



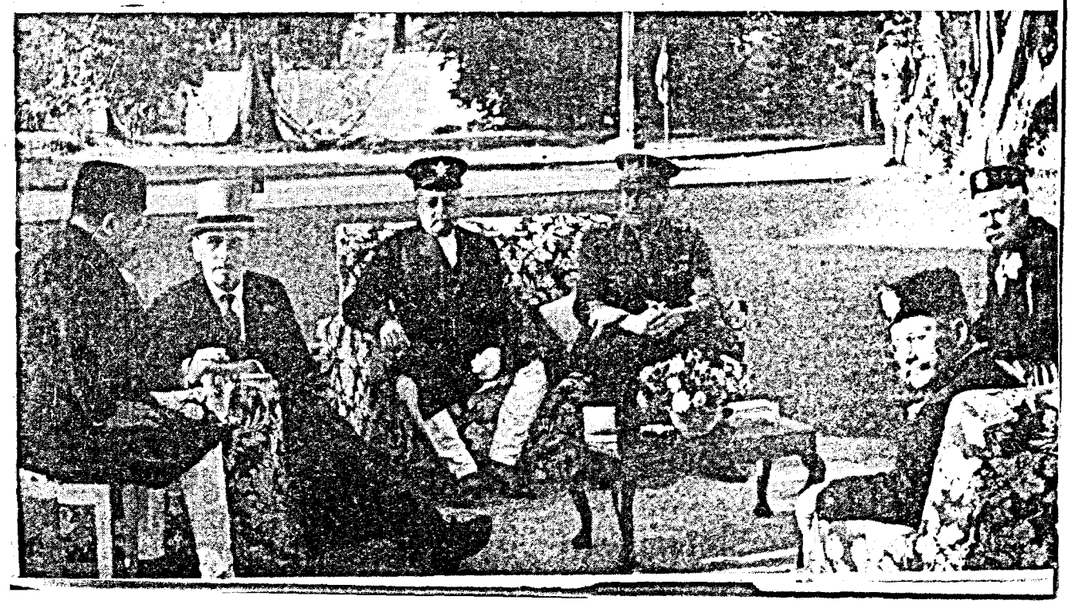


Gen. Auchinleck in full dress uniform with the Most Refulgent Order of the Star of Nepal, First Class.



The Prime Minister of Nepal saluting the Guard of Honour as he paid his official call on the C.-in-C. at the British Legation.

The Garden Party at the British Legation. (L. to R.) the Prime Minister's son; the British Minister, Col. Falconer; the Prime Minister; Gen. Auchinleck; the Senior Commanding General, Nepalese Forces, and the C.-in-C. Nepalese Forces.



Around this great Hall were members of Nepal's foremost families and the *Gurujis*, who are the leaders of the country's Brahmin faith. Scarlet and white mixed with dark blue and deep olive green, and the simple brocade dresses of the *Gurujis*. Gold facings, lace and cord added more colour and darts of light glinted from orders and decorations and from sword scabbards.

At the head of the Hall, on a heavy gold and silver, crimson-cushioned throne, sat the King in scarlet coat with silver epaulettes and facings. At his right sat the young Crown Prince and next to him was the Prime Minister, Maharaja Sir Joodha Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana who, venerable with the years, conducts the affairs of his country so wisely and is such a staunch friend of Britain.

Both wore helmets of priceless value—the King's made up entirely of diamonds, pearls, emeralds and rubies; the Prime Minister's of closely-sown pearls and heavily encrusted with diamonds and emeralds. From the front of both helmets rose a jewel of great beauty holding bird of paradise plumes which curled high over the head and fell low over the shoulders. Varied to indicate status, similar head-dresses were worn by the other nobles in the Hall.



Gen. Sir Padma Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana, C.-in-C., Nepalese Forces.

The Investiture

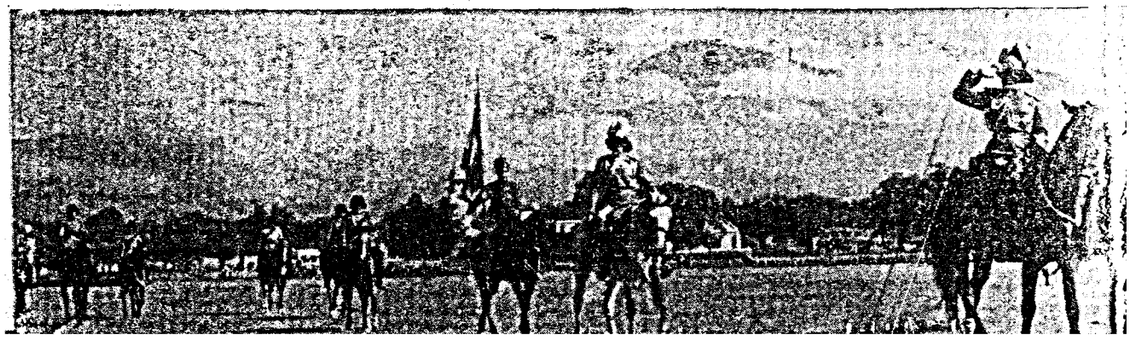
Down this kaleidoscope of scintillating colour, General Auchinleck was handed by Nepal's Commander-in-Chief, General Sir Padma Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana and senior General Sir Mohan Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana.

Then, bareheaded and alone, General Auchinleck stood to hear the King's speech read by Commanding General Sir Bahadur Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana. The speech acknowledged Gen. Auchinleck's part in battle and the success of his command in India, to which Nepal had sent much of the flower of her manhood.

After being invested with the insignia of the Order of the Star of Nepal, General Auchinleck expressed his thanks. "I give place to no one," he said, "in my admiration and affection for these gallant sons of Nepal, than whom there are no braver or tougher soldiers in the world today."

The regal splendour of the scene closed with the offering of *pan* and *attar* to the Commander-in-Chief and his party, which included Major-General J. G. Bruce, Deputy Chief of the General Staff, who was invested with the Order of the Star of Nepal (Second Class). For many years an officer in Gurkha regiments, Gen. Bruce is also well known as a member of several Mount Everest expeditions from Nepal.

The C.-in-C., Nepalese Forces, led the parade of 25,000 men held in honour of Gen. Auchinleck.



DEVELOPMENT OF ROAD AND RAIL COMMUNICATIONS

India's Post-War Plans

A wide measure of agreement regarding plans and policies for the development of Railways, major Ports, roads and road transport, and for the co-ordination of road and railways, was reached by the Transport Advisory Council and the Policy Committee on Transport, at a recent meeting held in New Delhi. Co-ordination of railway and road development with inland water transport was also dealt with. These bodies were not concerned with air transport and did not discuss it.

The position regarding future railway construction is as follows. In the past, when the construction of railway lines was undertaken in India, the needs of densely populated areas and centres of industry or commerce, strategic requirements, and measures to combat famines received first consideration. Even so, it was not possible to meet all the demands with the limited resources—both financial and physical—at the disposal of the authorities concerned.

Many areas, though potentially rich, were so situated that railway facilities remained inaccessible to them. The development of such areas, and further strategic requirements make it necessary, in some cases, to undertake the construction of new railway lines now, even though, for some considerable time to come, these lines may remain unremunerative. It cannot, however, be said that railways are, under modern conditions, indispensable for the industrial and economic development of a particular locality.

Railway Projects

In many cases a good network of roads can provide alternative means of communication at very much less cost. In the interests, therefore, of the conservation of national resources, very careful consideration must be given to ensuring that railway construction is undertaken only in those cases where a road scheme, howsoever well-planned, will be inadequate to serve a particular area. Railway constructions are, accordingly, being considered only where roads could not be effective substitutes for railways for the economic development of the tract.

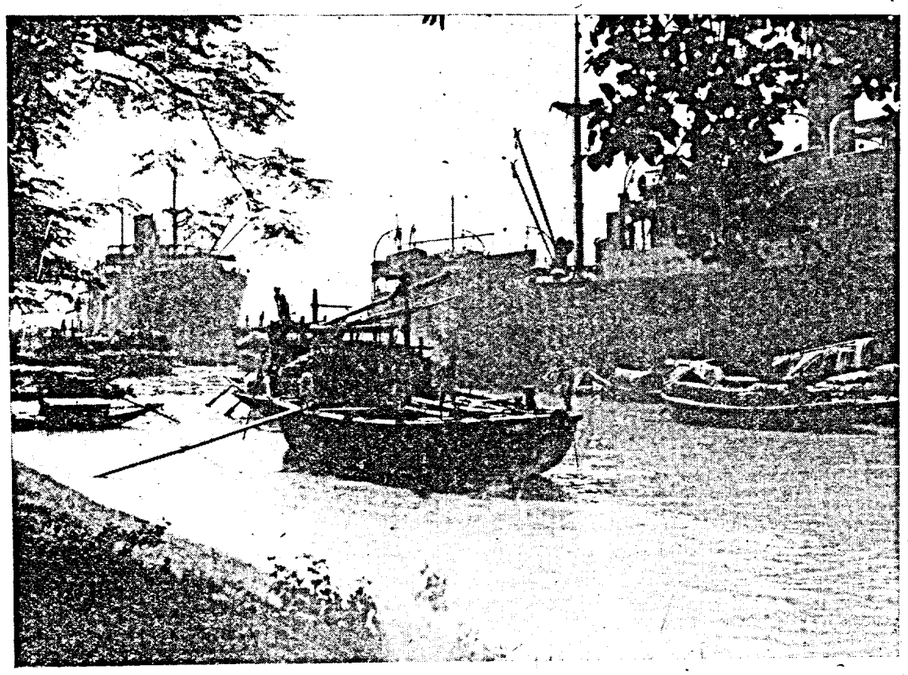
The railway projects which have been marked down for further investigation now include construction, restoration of dismantled lines and some conversions from one gauge to another. The proposals are provisional, subject to reconsideration when the results of up-to-date engineering and traffic surveys are available and, in some cases, after further correlation with steamer services and existing or projected roads. Among the more important projects under contemplation are the Bombay-Sind broad-gauge connection and the linking of the north and south metre-gauge system. The total mileage of schemes which will be investigated amounts to about 5,000 of which the Central Government contemplate the construction of 2,800 miles at an estimated cost of Rs. 60 crores during the next seven years. These figures do not include projects in certain Indian States which have yet to be examined.

Road Development. (1) The concerted post-war development plans of the Provincial and Central Governments include ambitious schemes of balanced road development, so as to bring good roads and modern transport into the heart of the countryside and serve expanding industries. Roads have hitherto been a Provincial, and State, liability towards which some development grants have been made from the Central Road Fund. As part of their contribution towards post-war developments in the Provincial fields, and as part of a concerted plan for the co-ordinated development of land transport as a whole, the Central Government have proposed, subject to the vote of the legislature, and without prejudice to the future constitutional position, to accept liability for the construction and maintenance of a system of main trunk roads to be known as National Highways. The relief thus afforded to Provincial road budgets will, it is hoped, together with such further financial help as the Central Government may be able to give with post-war development generally, enable Provincial Governments to carry through a scheme of development of district and village roads, as well as of Provincial Highways, on a scale not hitherto attempted.

Road-Rail Co-ordination

(2) This scheme is part of a proposed general agreement beween the Centre and the Provinces relating to the co-ordination of road and rail transport, the main features of which are outlined below. The terms of this agreement have been the subject of the discussions in the Transport Advisory Council and the Policy Committee. The conclusions of the Transport Advisory Council are subject to ratification by the Central and Provincial Governments, but a large measure of agreement was reached, on the basis of which it is hoped that it will be possible to go forward with the scheme.

(3) The National Highways comprise the main inter-Provincial and trans-continental roads and, as at present delineated, amount to a total



Dinghies on the Hooghly River.

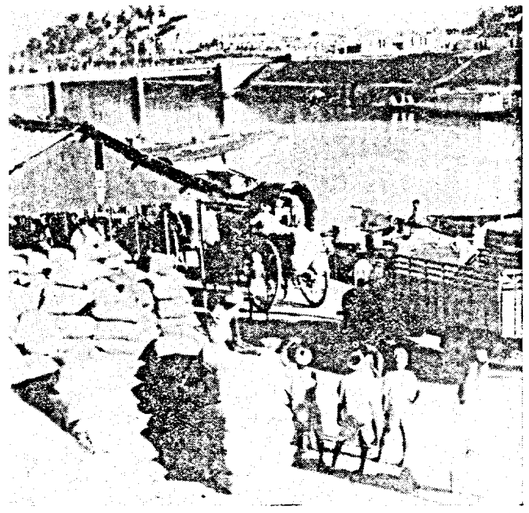
of approximately 18,000 miles of which 15,000 are in British India and about 3,000 in States. The Central Government does not propose to accept this liability in Indian States, except where the finances of any particular State are inadequate to provide a road to the standards necessary for through communication between different parts of British India, in which cases arrangements will be a matter for negotiation with the State concerned.

Uniform Standard

(4) These roads will, it is proposed, be designed, constructed, and maintained to a uniform standard as regards bridging and to such standard as regards specifications and width of the road surface as will give reasonable riding qualities for the traffic carried by different sections. They will, therefore, include all classes of construction from the least costly, where the traffic is light, to multiple-lane concrete roads, with separate side road-ways for slow moving traffic, on the approaches to main cities.

(5) It is a further part of the arrangement that National Highways will throughout their length be free from all tolls or taxes to any motor vehicle upon which the Provincial tax has been duly paid, with the possible exception that in certain cases tolls may be imposed by, or with the consent of, the Central Government for special reasons such as to recover part of the cost of an expensive bridge.

(6) Another integral part of this general agreement is that the Central Government will promote legislation to amend the Motor Vehicles Act, with the object of empowering the Provincial Governments and the Transport Authorities to co-ordinate road with rail transport in accordance with the provisions of an agreed code of practice to be adopted in the working of certain provisions of the Act designed to this end. The broad policy upon which the proposed legislation and the code are based is that, while co-ordination of road and rail should be real and effective and apportion to each means its most suitable functions, there should be a very large expansion in bus service facilities, which, at least for distances for 50 miles, must necessarily be more convenient to the public than ordinary rail services, since buses can run at frequent intervals, but that in order that there shall be effective co-ordination and that the Railways



The Buckingham canal at Bezwada. This important waterway links Bezwada with Madras.

and the buses should not be forced into uneconomic competition to the detriment of both, joint road-rail companies should be formed. This policy has been accepted by the majority of the Provinces.

In the run of goods traffic, the basis of the policy is that the economy, flexibility and general value of motor transport over short distances should be recognised and that, while the need for permits for public carriers between places connected by rail exceeding 50 miles should be scrutinised with care, there should be no rigid attempt to zone goods traffic by road within distances less than 100 miles and that permits for distances exceeding 100 miles should require strong justification. In the matter of both passenger and goods permits, it is, therefore, proposed that transport authorities should take into consideration both the representation of railways and other road transport operations, and, where they exist, steamer companies, regarding the adequacy of their existing services.

These representations are to be given particular consideration in the case of passenger services exceeding 50 miles and goods services exceeding 100 miles. During the first year, until experience has been gained of the working of the Code, transport authorities will scrutinise with particular care applications for grant or removal of public carrier permits for distances exceeding 50 miles and not exceeding 100 miles between places connected by Railway. As stated above, these principles and the code are still subject to ratification by Provincial Governments.

Subject to such ratification and subject to the approval of the Central Legislature, the Central Government propose to take over liability for maintenance of National Highways in British India with effect from April 1, 1947. In the meantime, if any works on National Highways have to be put in hand urgently to provide employment or to off-set slump tendencies the Central Government will, subject to certain conditions, accept the liability for such works commenced from now onward.

National Highways

The National Highways consist in the main of the existing trunk roads, which are reasonably well-bridged throughout, but include also certain gaps in through communication which at present exist. One of the most important of these gaps, now to be taken in hand, is on the so-called Bombay-Calcutta National Highway which takes off from the Bombay-Delhi road at Dhulia and, passing through Nagpur and Raipur at present ends at Sambalpur in Orissa, leaving a gap of some 300 miles between that place and Calcutta.

With the projected Bombay-Sind railway connection, the proposal to construct a National Highway on a parallel alignment has been abandoned, but the possibility will be investigated of completing such a highway between Rajputana and Hyderabad (Sind) to connect with another highway projected from Bombay to Delhi taking off from the Bombay-Ahmedabad road, which has been under construction for some years, and passing through Udaipur to Ajmer from whence, *via* Jaipur, a road to Delhi exists.

A virtually new road will be the North Bengal Highway from Calcutta to Siliguri, linking with the existing road from Siliguri into Assam.

Major bridges are projected across the Ganges at Garhmukhtesar, and possibly in connection with a railway bridge at Patna; and investigations are in hand regarding the possibility of bridging the Indus between the south-west Punjab and Baluchistan.

Detailed investigations and estimates have still to be made and the time within which this large scheme can be completed depends on the rate upon which it is possible to provide money and the necessary technical equipment and supervision.

While the projected scheme of National Highways lends itself to more graphic description, the importance of the development of Provincial and particularly of district and village roads was emphasized throughout the discussions and the opportunity was taken of review-

ing the position of Provincial plans for the development of these roads. A majority of Provincial P.W.Ds have been heavily engaged in war work and the preparation of complete plans for post-war development has necessarily been handicapped. Practically all Provinces are, however, now ready with schemes for the construction of roads other than National Highways which can be put into early effect, and further preliminary work is proceeding apace.

At these meetings plans were also discussed for the future employment of ex-service men in road transport and on road construction and the necessity of early commencement of road construction work to counter unemployment was stressed.

Handicap

One handicap to the rapid execution of road works on a large scale in the immediate future is the shortage of road rollers and other plant. Even with the maximum possible economical use of cement-concrete, rollers will be needed in large numbers. The overall plans contemplate the construction of roads on a scale not hitherto undertaken so that the pre-war equipment available in the country would have been inadequate even had there not been six years without imports and with heavy wear and tear on war construction works.

It is the intention that rollers as well as other plant should be manufactured in India to the extent necessary to make the country self-sufficient as soon as possible, but, in the meantime, if the road plan is not to be held up, large numbers of rollers will have to be imported from abroad and orders have been placed for 1,000 power-rollers out of the total of over 3,000 estimated to be necessary during the next three or four years.

As regards manufacture in India, tenders are being invited for the manufacture of power-rollers on the basis of the steady recurring market of the future, but tendering firms will be asked whether they can temporarily increase their production to meet the immediate need. Plans are also being examined for the temporary manufacture against the immediate demand in munition factories in India.

Major Port Development. The report of the Inter-departmental Port Development Committee was placed before the Policy Committee. The Port Committee concluded that the present capacity of the major ports of India, which has been increased by as much as 25 per cent. during the war, would be generally adequate to meet forecasted requirements in the immediate

(*Continued on page* 645)

TELE-COMMUNICATIONS IN THE COMMONWEALTH

ON July 12, 1945 it was announced by the Government of India that, following the visit which Lord Reith had paid to Dominions and India at the beginning of 1945, a Commonwealth Tele-communications Conference would be held in London to consider further the future organisation and development of the Commonwealth tele-communications system, said a Press Communique issued by the Department of Posts and Air, Government of India, on November 1.

It added: The Conference, which accordingly met in July, 1945, in London, considered the future of the Commonwealth tele-communications services on the basis of a report prepared by Lord Reith after his mission to the Dominions and India.

Recommendations

The Conference unanimously recommended (1) a fundamental change in the organisation of Commonwealth tele-communication services; (2) the public ownership of overseas tele-communications services of all Commonwealth Governments; (3) the replacement of the existing Commonwealth Communication Council by a new Board with wider functions representing all Governments of the Commonwealth: (4) financial contributions by Members of the Commonwealth for the maintenance and use of the cable system.

The Government of India have accepted these recommendations in so far as they affect India. The overseas tele-communications services of India are now operated by the Indian Radio and Cable Communications Company Ltd., under an agreement with the Government of India. This agreement is subject to termination on 12 months' notice given at any time by the Government of India. The question of giving this notice and of acquiring the assets of the Company are under discussion.

The Government of India are confident that the arrangements which are being made will lead to a more efficient and extensive system of communications for the general benefit of the public of India.

All normal surface mail services except insurance and parcel are now available to the whole of Malaya.

The weight limit of letters for Hong Kong has now been raised from 1 oz. to 2 oz.



A Persian tile (Delhi Fort Archaeological Museum.)

By Courtesy, Archaeological Survey of India.

HIDDEN TREASURES OF INDIA'S CULTURAL HERITAGE

"IN the earliest recorded decuments one can get glimpses of groping towards human brotherhood. Prophets and philosophers, seers and poets, from all corners of the earth have expounded and sung of the oneness of all men of all races. Politics, economics, war, peace and security, all hinge upon whether mankind recognises this truth and learns to live in its light."

Thus observed the Hon'ble Sir Jogindra Singh, Member for Education, Health and Agriculture, in his presidential address at the 22nd annual session of the Indian Historical Records Commission held at Peshawar on October 29. He said:

"May I, on behalf of myself and the members of the Indian Historical Records Commission, express our warm thanks to your Government for the invitation to your historic city and for your kind hospitality. We appreciate greatly the honour you have done us by opening our present session.

"It may interest you to know that the Imperial Records Department holds in its custody a huge mass of manuscripts of historical importance belonging to the North-West Frontier Province ranging from 1849 to 1893. These records have been scientifically treated in the Department's Laboratory and are being sorted, classified and carefully stacked and are held in trust for you to be transferred as soon as your Government forms a statisfactory Records Office. I hope, you, Sir, and our friends here will pay a visit and inspect some of the documents which Dr. Sen has collected and preserved with great care.

"Standing here today at one of the gateways which connect India with Asia, one can almost hear the tramp of marching hosts that came through the Khyber Pass. It was through this gateway that the Aryans emerged, followed by Scythians, Huns, Afghans and Turkomans and became inhabitants of Hindustan. It is this mixture of races and religions which makes

specially the people of the Punjab. Alas, when will mankind take to heart the lessons of history? In the land of five rivers, men of diverse races and creeds have learned to live together.

"It is true the new political ferment is stirring up the placid life of the towns, but in the heart of the masses of the people the spirit of fellowship is strong, born out of the joys and sorrows shared together. India then may have something to contribute to a floundering world trying to achieve material ends by material means. It is only the light of God's love which has the power to overcome man's inherited self-regarding propensities and turn him to the service of his fellow men.

"Your Province in any case stands firm for national unity and freedom. You have a band of workers who regard themselves as servants of God while the world is swarming with servants of Mammon. You have courage and courtesy, love of romance and adventure, unbounded charity and inherited chivalry. The modern wars have killed the ideal of mercy to the defeated foe and protection of the weak.

A Peep into the Past

"Looking backward into the dim and distant past, the invasion of Alexander seems relatively an event of yesterday. Indeed the high mounds on all sides which surround Peshawar are all that is left of ancient towns and cities; Pushkalavati, the capital city of this region, in the days of Alexander, lies buried at Charsadda, under a mound 100 feet in height. Dr. Mortimer Wheeler, our Director-General of Archaeology, promises to explore this key site and reveal its hidden treasures. He hopes that the explorations here may throw a new light upon the age-old era of great Vedic civilisation.

"Where are they—the king and captains of yesterday? They have passed away with their good or evil influences, while the word of spiritual teachers remains and is as poweful today as it was when it was first uttered.

"It was here that a Yueh-chi or King Kanishka received the gospel of Buddha, and though Buddhism has almost disappeared from the land of its birth, countries of the Far East still walk in its light. He built a stupa 400 ft. high. Today all that is left of this great monument are a few low mounds which the Archaeological Department have explored. From these mounds was recovered the precious metal casket bearing Kanishka's name and portrait and surmounted by the Buddha and two Bodhisattvas—a treasure which is now enshrined in your Museum.

"It was here at Shahbazgarhi that Asoka engraved his message of love and peace for a troubled world that had lost its spiritual heritage in quest of material gains. Here did the great masters of the Greco-Buddhist School of Art carve in stone the life-story of the Blessed One showing how he searched and found the eightfold path of peace. Need I recall that your city was the centre of the famous Gandhara Art of the first four centuries of the present era?

"Opinions differ as to the chronology and as to its relative indebtedness to India and the West. The problem is one which concerns not merely India but also Buddhist lands of China and Indonesia. The mounds of the city of Purushapura and the country watered by the Kubha and the Indus may yet provide the key and reveal how influences from the East travelled to the West and from the West to the East.

A Great Seat of Learning

"Your city was also a great seat of learning. It was here that Panini, the great grammarian, lived and was visited by students. In more recent times it has witnessed the exploits of Kushal Khan Khatak, in whom Mars and the Muses alike found an ardent devotee, and Hari Singh Nalua for whom death had no terror.

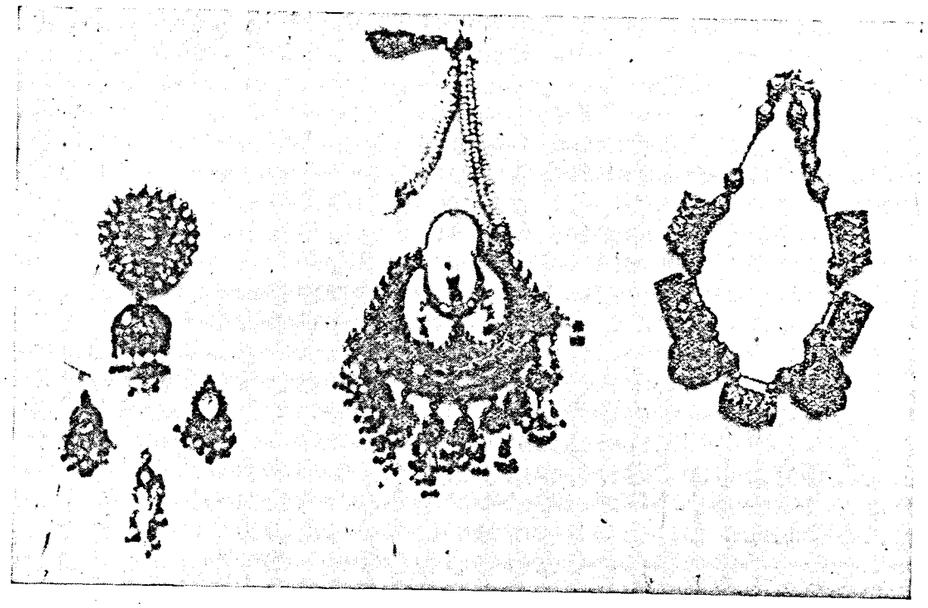
"Frontiers are indeed the razor's edge on which hang suspended the stern issues of war or peace, of life or death to nations. And the N.-W.F. Province has borne the brunt and has had its share of living in a state of suspense.

"Now that the argosies of the air recognise no boundaries, the minds of men may grow and recognise human brotherhood. The policy of beggar my neighbour may no more be regarded as a practical proposition. The historian may, with his knowledge of the past, suggest solutions of the perplexing problems and give the statesman inspiration to act wisely in the difficult situations with which he is faced.

Old Historical Record

"I must not digress any more. Dr. Sen will never forgive me if I do. He would wish me to confine myself to the subject with which he is directly concerned.

"He tells me that in the case of India, many of the old historical records have been destroyed, some of them have been taken away to other lands and large numbers are lying unnoticed in private custody. The necessity for reclaiming the privately owned manuscripts has been admitted by all. *Ad hoc* Regional Survey Committees were established in most provinces and some Indian states, but due to war, they have not been able to function properly. Now that peace has been happily restored, we may



Three pieces of jewellery of Zinat Mahal Begum. (Below) Persian vases.
By Courtesy, Archaeological Survey of India.



reasonably hope for a renewed activity in all cultural spheres. What we need is the appointment of permanent Regional Survey Committees in all provinces and states, to discover and secure the hidden raw materials of history. Where delay might occur in the formation of permanent Committees, the *ad hoc* Committees may be granted such facilities by the Governments concerned as may promote the objects the Committees have in view.

"Mere saving of records from neglect and ruin will be of little use unless arrangements for storage, preservation and repair of old records on scientific lines are available within easy reach.

"The Indian Historical Records Commission has persistently advocated the creation of Central Records Offices in the provinces and states, which can house, besides official documents, such private manuscripts as are entrusted to their care, and offer expert help to such owners as may require it, for the proper preservation of their manuscripts. I am happy to recall that most of the provinces and states lacking Central Records Offices, including the N.-W.F. Province, held out hopes of organising them after the war was over. Let us hope that this long period of inaction is over.

"Work on the various schemes undertaken by the Imperial Record Department at the instance of the Indian Historical Records Commission was continued during the period of the war. On account of paper scarcity, however, publication could not be taken in hand. Now that the paper situation has improved, the Department hopes to be able to bring out a number of volumes as early as possible.

"Your Excellency and gentlemen, in the earliest recorded documents one can get glimpses of groping towards human brotherhood. Phophets and philosophers, seers and poets, from all corners of the earth have expounded and sung of the oneness of all men of all races. Politics, economics, war, peace and security, all hinge upon whether mankind recognises this truth and learns to live in its light. The testing time is on us in India; what shall we make of it—stand united or divided into communities,



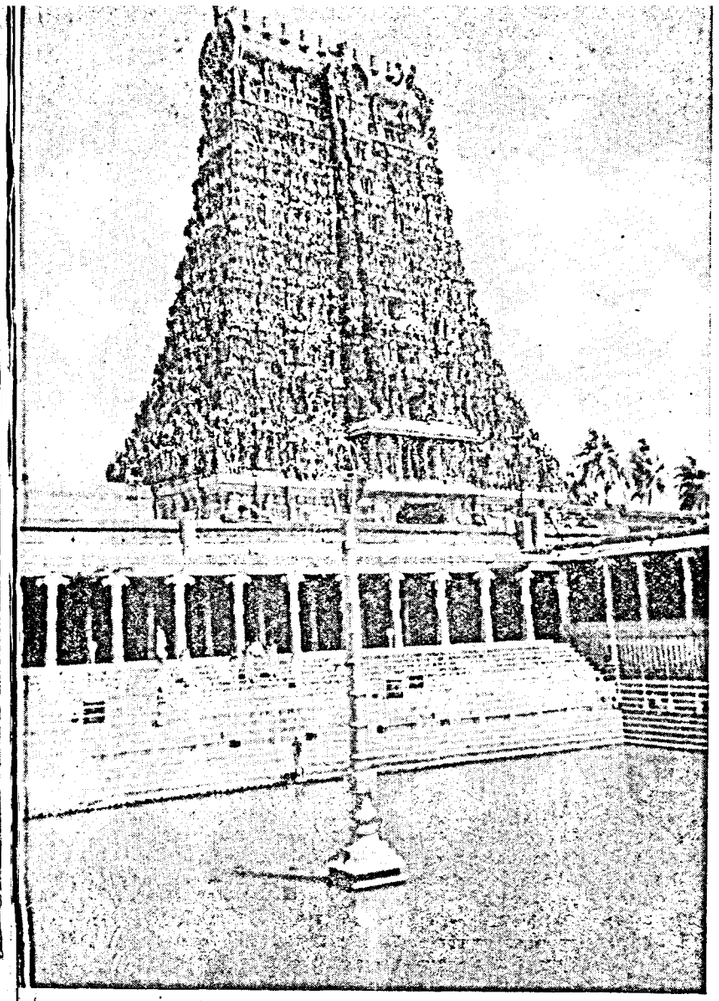
Copy of a painting from 'Tuzk-i-Timuri.'
By Courtesy, Archaeological Survey of India.

each claiming its small share of mother earth in the name of religion which teaches unity, or uniting to serve everyone without distinction of race or creed or colour? Who can tell?"

UNPUBLISHED HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS

A number of papers based on unpublished historical documents were read by scholars and discussed at the Session.

A careful study of the State papers and *farmans* of the medieval period will help us to get a better picture of the working of the then governmental machinery and acquaint us with the names of important officers who played a vital role in various capacities from time to



The Golden Lily tank of the ancient Madura temple (South India), which is one of the finest edifices of Dravidian architecture. In the background is the southern and loftiest gopuram.

time. A systematic study of these documents will also give us a clue to the evolution of the art of calligraphy under the Muslim rulers of India.

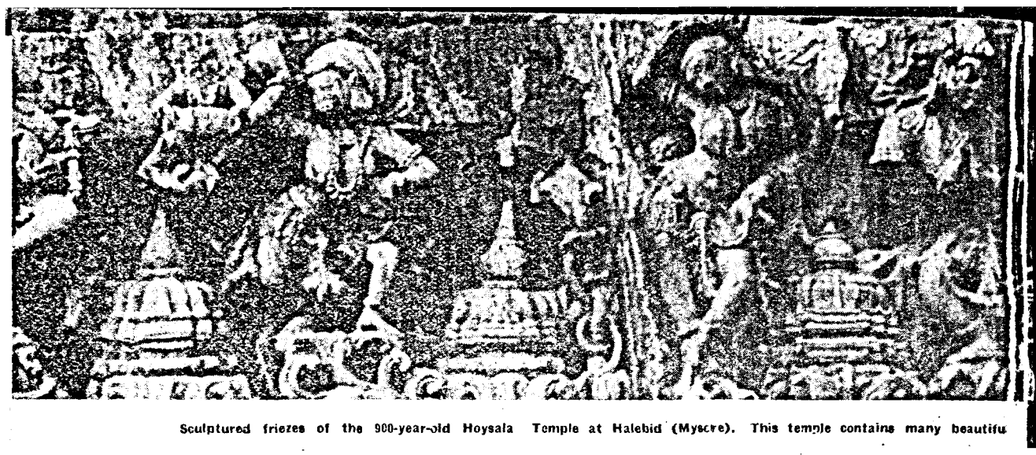
Study on these two lines was made by Dr. A. Halim, Lecturer in History, Aligarh Muslim University. Recently he examined a *farman* issued by Emperor Akbar in 1572 ordering refund of 8,311 *tunkas* to Qazi Kamal, an honest and loyal officer and a judge of the canon law from whom unscrupulous officials had taken that amount. The *farman* is to be found in the Aligarh Muslim University Library. The eight seals put on the *farman* reveal the names of the various departmental heads in the metropolis. The *Ain-i-Akbari*, Dr. Halim says, does not help us much in knowing who these important officers were except for a few of them. The list given in the seals thus fills a gap.

Mr. Upendra Nath Sarkar of the Imperial Records Department has studied the "List of the Native Manufacturers of Peshawar April 1838" submitted by Sir Alexander Burnes who was sent on a mission to Kabul in 1836. Burnes studied the commercial possibilities of the bazaars of Peshawar and the neighbouring places and submitted the list to Lord Auckland in 1838. The list is preserved in the Imperial Record Department and gives an idea of the variety of textile goods used and the customs and costumes of the people, as also of the prices prevalent a century ago in the Frontier regions of India.

Equally interesting are Burnes' lists of commodities of the Kabul market. These articles were both indigenous and of foreign origin, Russian and English. The currency of English goods speaks of English commercial penetration long before the political domination of Afghanistan was planned by the English Company. English shawls of different shades, colour and designs and *dorya jamdani* cotton fabrics for turbans, *ubra feringee*, white *pamdani*, *chintzs* of different colour; white *nainsukhs*, *sahan* or white long cloths, white *jalees*, muslin or *mul-mulls* for shirting, coats, trousers and *dastmal* (handkerchief) found their way to Kabul.

India supplied, besides many fashionable and costly articles for the rich, such commodities as *nasirkhani chintzs* with coloured stripes for beds and trousers, *badalkhani* cotton fabrics with red and yellow spots for shirts, dark coloured Sona Nagri for trousers for the poor. "The shoes from Delhi of goat skin used by all men for their durability" were also not unknown in the Kabul market. The market of Kabul had not only a wealth of imported goods but could boast of a variety of indigenous products.

A little known figure in the scheme of Shah Shuja's restoration to the throne of Kabul was



Sculptured friezes of the 900-year-old Hoysala Temple at Halebid (Mysore). This temple contains many beautifu



sculptures of gods and goddesses, "apsaras" (heavenly dancers) and horses and elephants.

the surgeon, Percival Barton Lord who was in the service of the Bombay Government. He was deputed to Peshawar by Lord Auckland in 1838 as an acknowledged agent of the British Government in order to "collect and arm all the natives who were ready to fight in behalf of Shah Shuja".

The Doctor, on his way to Peshawar, broke journey at Amritsar where he had an interview with Maharaja Ranjit Singh. "This incident has not been brought to light so far by the scholars", says Mr. Sri Krishna Saxena of the Imperial Record Department, "but this interview is important in the sense that it explains the object of Lord's mission to Peshawar". In the course of his interview with the Maharaja Dr. Lord said that an officer of the British Government employed about the affairs of Shah Shuja in a city of the Maharaja (Peshawar was then within the domains of Ranjit Singh) would be a demonstration to the whole world of the unity of sentiment which pervaded the three great powers on that important occasion. To that the Maharaja warmly assented.

East India Company

Dr. Lord's duties, as he told the Maharaja, were to hold intercourse as occasion demanded with the chiefs of the various Afghan tribes, to encourage the friends of the Shah, deter his enemies, confirm the wavering, repress the turbulent and endeavour to impress on the mind of all that the Shah now coming backed by all the power of the British and the Sikhs who had both combined to place him on the throne, could not fail to be in a situation both to reward those who supported and punish those who opposed him. These objects the Maharaja declared to be both rational and desirable.

"There is no more interesting chapter in the history of the East India Company than the persistent efforts it put forth from time to time in attempting to maintain a high degree of purity in the public service as it existed in its time", says Rao Bahadur C. Hayavadana Rao, Editor, *Mysore Economic Journal*, Bangalore, in his paper on "East India Company and Its Public Servants".

The serious endeavours made by the Company's Directorate to exercise strict control over its public servants in India are borne out by the letter which the Court of Directors wrote to "Our President and Council at Fort St. George" in 1754. The letter is full of advice and admonition and covers the diverse modes in which the Court desired to reform the current abuses rife in the Company's factories in India.

The Governor and Council were directed to carefully attend to the morals and manner of life of the Company's servants and reprove them whenever it should be found necessary. The superior servants were to avoid as much as possible an expensive manner of living. Particular care was to be taken that the younger servants did not launch into expenses beyond their incomes and the Directorate laid it down as a positive and standing command that no writer be allowed to keep a palanquin or horse during the term of his writership.

The immediate cause for the dispatch of this letter was the "late unhappy situation of our affairs", evidently referring to the incidents arising out of the capture of Madras by the French in 1746 and what followed them, including the war for the possession of the Karnatic between 1751-1754 and the provisional treaty and truce between the English and French East India Companies in 1754. Public morality seems to have reached a very low ebb those days.

Dr. A. G. Pawar, Professor of History and Economics, Rajaram College, Kolhapur, got an opportunity to inspect the family records of an ancient Inamdar family in Kolhapur State.

Among many papers that he found useful in these records is one that refers to a Moghul campaign which, so far as he knows, no history of Aurangzeb mentions. It is the siege of the fort of Bhudargad in 1690-91. The fort of Bhudargad is at a distance of 36 miles south of Kolhapur. Its strategic importance in the Moghul-Maratha War must have been very great but the recorded histories of this war do not mention any incident of importance relating to this place. Only Keshavapandit's *Rajaramcharitam* appears to make a dubious reference to it.

The document is an original order given by a divisional officer of the Maratha King, Rajaram, on November 7, 1691. It refers to a grant made to the Desais, Deshkulkarnis and Nadagaudas of the Ajra sub-division for the "immense trouble they had taken in sending supplies to Bhudargad when that fort was besieged by the Moghuls".

The document does not mention the date of the siege. Dr. Pawar's surmise is that the grant must have been made not long after the siege *i.e.*, in 1690-91. The record of the events of that year in the history of Aurangzeb, *Masiri-Alamgiri*, also supports this view. The brief allusion to this siege in the documents referred to above makes it clear that the siege was raised because the officers of Ajra sub-division kept on supplying provisions to the besieged. Other details of the siege are not yet known.

RESOLUTIONS

A 20-year publication programme for the Imperial Record Department was recommended by the Indian Historical Records Commission. Four years ago the Government of India adopted, at the instance of the Commission, a five-year programme in spite of war conditions. This scheme is now nearing completion and the Commission has suggested another plan on a 20-year basis.

The first part of the scheme embraces 432 manuscript volumes of Bengal General Letters (1801—1834) which will be published in 54 volumes. These volumes are to be edited by scholars nominated from time to time by the Commission. The second part contemplates publication of 46 printed volumes of historical documents in the custody of the Central Government Archives relating to the administration of Bentinck, Minto, Moira, Auckland, Hardinge and Dalhousie, and Mecaulay Papers from 1803 to 1856.

These records of Governors-General of India and other administrators when published are expected to illumine many obscure corners of the British period of Indian history. The third deals with records in Oriental languages—Persian *Akhbars* (1803-1850), Bengali Letters (1821-1850), a day-to-day account of Ranjit Singh's private life (1825) and selections from Persian and Urdu newspapers (1824-1849).

Map as Source of History

The Commission urged upon the Central Government the need to organise a Map Section in the Imperial Record Department to offer facilities to research students to study maps and plans of historical interest.

In another resolution the Commission pointed out the desirability of concentrating the district and divisional records at the Provincial headquarters with a view to their better preservation. The Commission suggested that the Government of India's Director of Archives should visit the provinces in this connection.

H.E. Sir George Cunningham, Governor of the N.-W.F.P. who inaugurated the proceedings, announced that the N.-W.F.P. would have its

(*Continued on page* 639)

PROTECTION FOR WARTIME INDIAN INDUSTRIES

Tariff Board Formed to Investigate Claims

IN their Resolution No. 218-T(55)|45, published in the *Gazette of India Extraordinary* dated November 3, 1945, the Government of India have announced the constitution of a Tariff Board which will hold enquiries into claims for protection or assistance from industries which have been started or developed during wartime and are established on sound business lines.

The Resolution reads:

In the statement on industrial policy issued by the Government of India on April 23, 1945, it was announced that, pending the formulation of a tariff policy appropriate to the post-war needs and conditions of the country and the establishment of permanent machinery for the purpose, the Government would set up machinery for investigating claims from industries, which have been started or developed in wartime and which are established on sound lines, to assistance or protection during the transition period. A press communique issued on the same date invited industries to address their claims to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Commerce.

Several industries have accordingly applied for assistance or protection, and on a preliminary examination of their claims, the Government of India have come to the conclusion that applications submitted by the following industries call for a detailed examination:—

(*i*) non-ferrous metals, including antimony;
(*ii*) grinding wheels;
(*iii*) caustic soda and bleaching powder;
(*iv*) sodium thiosulphate, sodium sulphite anhydrous, sodium bisulphite;
(*v*) phosphates and phosphoric acid;
(*vi*) butter colour, aerated water powder colour;
(*vii*) rubber manufactures;
(*viii*) fire hose;
(*ix*) wood screws;
(*x*) steel hoops for baling.

Other applications are under the consideration of the Government, and further action in their case will be taken in due course.

In addition to the industries which have applied for assistance or protection, there are certain industries the starting of which was considered essential by the Government of India under conditions created by the war. Early in 1940, the Government announced that specified industries promoted with their direct encouragement during wartime might feel assured that, if they were conducted on sound business lines, they would, by such measures as Government might devise, be protected against unfair competition from outside India.

In accordance with this decision, the following industries have been given an assurance of protection against their competition after the war:

(*i*) bichromates;
(*ii*) steel pipes and tubes up to a nominal bore of 4 inches;
(*iii*) aluminium;
(*iv*) calcium chloride;
(*v*) calcium carbide;
(*vi*) starch.

Of these industries, only those engaged in the manufacture of bichromates, calcium chloride and starch have so far applied for assistance or protection during the transition period. The Government of India consider that the applicatoins submitted by these three industries also call for immediate investigation.

Personnel

For the purpose of these and any subsequent investigations, the Government of India have decided to set up a Tariff Board for a period not exceeding two years, in the first instance. The Board will consist of: Sir R. K. Shanmukham Chetty K.C.I.E. (President) Mr. C. C. Desai C.I.E., I.C.S.; Prof. H. L. Dey, D.Sc. (London), Members.

The Board will include one more member whose name will be announced shortly. Mr. Desai will act as Secretary to the Board in addition to his duties as Member.

The Tariff Board is requested to undertake, in such order as it thinks fit, the investigation of claims put forward by the industries specified above. In the case of each industry the Board will, after such examination as it considers necessary, report whether the industry satisfies the following conditions:

(1) that it is established and conducted on sound business lines; and



Sir R. K. Shanmukham Chetty.

(2) (*a*) that, having regard to the natural or economic advantages enjoyed by the industry and its actual or probable costs, it is likely within a reasonable time to develop sufficiently to be able to carry on successfully without protection or State assistance; or

(*b*) that it is an industry to which it is desirable in the national interest to grant protection or assistance and that the probable cost of such protection or assistance to the community is not excessive.

Functions

Where a claim to protection or assistance is found to be established i.e. if condition (1) and condition (2) (*a*) or (*b*) are satisfied, the Board will recommend:—

(*i*) whether, at what rate and in respect of what articles, or class or description of articles, a protective duty should be imposed;
(*ii*) what additional or alternative measures should be taken to protect or assist the industry; and
(*iii*) for what period, not exceeding three years, the tariff or other measures recommended should remain in force.

In making its recommendations the Board will give due weight to the interests of the consumer in the light of the prevailing conditions and also consider how the recommendations affect industries using the articles in respect of which protection is to be granted.

Since relief, to be effective, should be afforded without delay, the Board is requested to complete its enquiries with all possible expedition and to submit a report as soon as the investigation of the claim of each industry is concluded.

Board's Headquarters

The headquarters of the Board will be at Bombay, but it will visit such other places as it thinks necessary for purposes of its enquiries. Firms and persons interested in any of these industries, or in industries dependent on the use of the products of these industries, who desire that their views should be considered, should address their representations to the Secretary to the Board.

Any claims hereafter received from other industries which in the opinion of the Govern-



Mr. C. C. Desai.

ment of India are suitable for examination by the Board will be referred to the Board in due course for examination.

The Government of India trust that Provincial Governments and Administrations will afford the Board all the assistance which it may require and will comply with any request for information which may be addressed to them by it.

RESOLUTION EXPLAINED

The Board has been constituted in accordance with the assurance contained in the "Statement of Government's Industrial Policy" issued in April 1945. It ran as follows:

"The formulation of a tariff policy appropriate to the post-war needs and conditions of the country is under active consideration. The subject, however, is one of great complexity and will require a little further time for the Government of India to determine its policy and devise the machinery for implementing it. In the meantime, the position of industries which have been established or developed in wartime requires consideration. Some of these are covered by the announcement made in 1940 in regard to the grant of an assurance of post-war protection to essential wartime industries. Outside the scope of this announcement, however, lie a large number of industries which have helped to sustain the national economy during an exceptionally difficult period. The provision of assistance to or protection of such of those industries as have been established on sound lines is likely to assume a measure of urgency during the period of transition.

"Government propose to set up a machinery without delay for the investigation of the claims of such industries for assistance or protection. This is a short-term measure pending the formulation of a long-term tariff policy and the establishment of a permanent machinery for the purpose."

1940 Assurance

The 1940 assurance, referred to above, to essential wartime industries was as follows:

"The Government of India have had under consideration the need for assuring certain specified industries, the starting of which is essential under conditions created by the war, of a measure of protection which may be necessary after the war to enable such industries to continue their existence.

"Such specified industries which have been promoted with the direct encouragement of Government, are assured that, if they are conducted on sound business lines, they will be protected from unfair competition from outside India."

The present arrangement is a short-term measure, intended to subserve the needs of the transition period, "pending the formulation of a long-term tariff policy and the establishment of a permanent machinery for the purpose". The broad provisional outlines of the future tariff policy were indicated in the following terms by the Second Report on Reconstruction Planning:

"Protective duties are imposed in pursuance of the accepted policy of protection. The principles and working of this policy must form the subject of a detailed investigation. Meanwhile, the provisional view is that the economic interests of the country would be best served by the continuance of a policy of protection subject, however, to a liberalisation of the principles governing the selection of industries and of the procedure for the initiation and conduct of investigations into claims of protection. The grant of protection would not be confined to existing industries and investigations about the necessity for granting protection to indusries yet to be established would be made.

"While subsidies and bounties would be unsuitable for countries like India with limited revenue resources and might involve regressive taxation, they may have to be granted as a special measure in some cases.

"The resuscitation of the Tariff Board should have first claim on the attention of Government as soon as normal competitive conditions are beginning to be restored; but before that stage is reached provisional decisions should be made as to the status, functions and the period of appointment of the future Tariff Board."

A Landmark

The present announcement constitutes a landmark in the evolution of India's fiscal policy since 1924, when the foundations for the policy of "discriminating protection" was laid. It lays down the fiscal policy for the transition period to be followed by long-term arrangements which are now under consideration. The new Tariff Board will investigate the claims for assistance or protection of two types of industries, started during the war, viz., those which have been started or developed in wartime and helped to sustain the national economy during an exceptionally difficult period and those which were started during the war and considered essential by Government under conditions created by the war.

The former type includes such industries as non-ferrous metals, certain chemical industries, rubber manufactures, and manufacture of steel hooks for baling; and the latter, bichromates, steel pipes and tubes up to a certain bore length, aluminium, calcium chloride, calcium carbide and starch, for which an assurance of protection against unfair competition after the war had already been given.

With a view to speed up work, it has been laid down that the Tariff Board should complete its enquiries with all possible expedition and submit a report as soon as the investigation of the claim of a particular industry has been completed.

The conditions laid down for the grant of assistance or protection would appear to liberalise to a substantial extent the policy of discriminating protection. Under the 1924 policy, an industry claiming protection must satisfy the following three fundamental conditions:

1. The industry must be one possessing natural advantages, such an abundant supply of raw materials, cheap power, a sufficient supply of labour and a large home market.
2. The industry must be one which, without the help of protection, is either not likely to develop so rapidly as is desirable in the interests of the country.
3. The industry must be one which will eventually be able to face world competition without protection.

Conditions

Under the new policy, an industry claiming protection or assistance, should, besides being established and conducted on sound business lines, satisfy the following conditions:

Having regard to the natural or economic advantages enjoyed by the industry and its actual or probable costs, it is likely within a reasonable time to develop sufficiently to be able to carry on successfully without protection or State assistance, or

It is an industry to which it is desirable in the national interest to grant protection or assistance and the probable cost of such protection or assistance to the community is not excessive.

The interest of the consumer is sought to be safeguarded by making it clear that "the Board will give due weight to the interests of consumer in the light of the prevailing conditions and also consider how the recommendations affect industries using the articles in respect of which protection is to be granted."

The personnel of the Board should find general acceptance as it consists of persons well-known in the country and well qualified for the task which they have been called upon to undertake.

Sir R. K. Shanmukham Chetty, K.C.I.E., is a well-known figure in the political and official world of India. He was the head of the Government of India Supply Mission in America in 1941-42 and played a notable part in securing supplies for India in furtherance of her war effort. He piloted the Grady Mission throughout India in 1942. In 1944, he attended the International Monetary Conference held at Bretton Woods as one of India's delegates. He was the Chairman of the Industrial and Scientific Research Committee which has recently submitted its report.

Mr. C. C. Desai, Member-Secretary, is a senior and widely experienced member of the Indian Civil Service. From October 1943 he was the Controller-General of Civil Supplies and was in that capacity responsible for ensuring to the civil population during the war proper distribution at reasonable prices of the available supplies of consumer goods. He has thus wide knowledge and intimate experience of Indian business, particularly relating to manufacture, imports and trade.

Dr. H. L. Dey, D.Sc. (Econ.) London, M.A., is a noted Economist of the country and author of "The Indian Tariff Problem in relation to Industry and Taxation." After long association with the Lucknow University he was the Reader of the Economics Department of the Dacca University.

PETROL FOR ELECTION PURPOSES

A Press Communique issued by the War Transport Department, Government of India, on November 5, stated:

Petrol rationing is in force throughout the sterling area, and it is uncertain how far and for how long restrictions will have to continue in India and in other countries. The whole question is under constant review between the Government of India and His Majesty's Government, and at the present time the basic ration in India is approximately the same as that in the United Kingdom.

The need to conserve dollars, which are required both for purchase of oil and for charter of tankers, is the main factor necessitating the present continuation of restrictions. Furthermore, it will take some little time for the oil storage companies to restore and expand their distribution system.

Arrangements are, however, being made to ensure that adequate supplies of petrol are available for the purposes of the forthcoming elections.

INDO-AUSTRALIAN TRADE

Mr. R. R. Saxena Explains Future Prospects

"AUSTRALIAN and Indian economic development can be so dovetailed as to be conducive to the best interests of both countries. As one who has lived in Australia for five years, I am in a position to assure our people here that the Australians, their friends and admirers call them 'dinkum aussies'—are wholeheartedly in sympathy with Indian aspirations and will readily extend to us their hand of good fellowship. It is for us to hold it in a firm and friendly grip."

Thus observed Mr. R. R. Saxena, Government of India's Trade Commissioner in Australia, who is now in India, addressing a Press Conference in New Delhi on November 1.

Referring to the prospects of India getting capital goods from Australia, Mr. Saxena said that Australia could be of assistance to India in the fulfilment of her immediate objective, *viz.* her industrialisation and the raising of the standard of living of her people. During the war, both India and Australia were dependent mainly on primary industries. The war provided a stimulus to the development of secondary industries of which both countries took advantage. But whereas in India the large reserves of manpower did not necessitate the employment of labour-saving machinery, the Australian contribution of over 10 per cent. of her slender man-power to the Armed Forces made it a compelling necessity that, in the production of Defence materials, she should employ the most up-to-date machinery available.

Australia's Progress

Australia, for this reason, depended on imports of plant and equipment from abroad and also had to utilise her skill in the manufacture of such plant and equipment as could be produced from available materials. She already had the advantage of producing the cheapest steel in the world. Her technical men were able, during the war years, to acquire great experience in the various processes of manufacture. She was able to produce aircraft, arms, ammunition, chemicals, defence equipment of various kinds, railway materials, precision instruments, etc.

Even though Australia did not at present possess any ready-made capital goods which could be shipped to India, she undoubtedly had the potential capacity to be an important supplier.

Explaining the types of capital goods which Australia was in a position to supply, Mr. Saxena



Mr. R. R. Saxena.

said that Australia was in a position to offer machinery for processing raw wool, for the manufacture and processing of various types of food, for the manufacture of paper, hardware, plastics, plywood and straw products, perfumery, toilet requisites, buttons, toys, bicycles, furniture, electric wires and cables, leather goods, mining, shipping and engineering, oil milling, chrome electro-plating and electrical switchgear and accessories.

Australia was also in a position to export agricultural machinery, road making machinery and appliances and railway equipment. In addition, machinery for the manufacture of paints and varnishes could be made to specifications and plant and equipment for the production of chemicals, rubber manufactures, sports requisites, fishing requisites, and drugs and medicines could also be made to order if required.

Referring to the salient features of Indo-Australian trade which developed out of war conditions, Mr. Saxena said that, before the war, India's trade with Australia constituted under 3 per cent. of the total Australian overseas trade and was relatively of unimportant dimensions. Exports from India consisted almost

entirely of jute and jute products and imports from Australia principally of wool and processed foods. The war provided both the countries with a unique opportunity for economic collaboration.

The first step in this direction was the establishment of the Eastern Group Supply Council in the dark days of 1941 for developing the resources of the countries of the Eastern Group to the fullest possible extent. The urgency of the moment led to a wide exchange of information and to the establishment of enterprises which were responsible for satisfying Defence requirements to an extent undreamt of before.

At the same time, both Australia and India were no longer able to satisfy their civilian requirements from the United Kingdom—their most important supplier—and had of necessity to find alternative sources of supply. Australia produced little by way of cotton textiles and began to look towards India for the satisfaction of her essential needs. The anxiety to conserve dollar exchange was an additional inducement which enabled India to capture the market in certain commodities, principally raw cotton, which she normally shared with the U.S.A.

Effect of War With Japan

The declaration of war by Japan, and the subsequent loss of certain important producing countries like the Netherlands East Indies and Malaya, continued Mr. Saxena, further accentuated these tendencies, and India, with Ceylon, became the principal supplier to Australia of coffee, tea and spices. Simultaneously, India retained her interest in goods of which she had been normally the sole supplier, for example, linseed, groundnuts, myrobalans, shellac, goatskin, goat hair, etc.

All these developments were highly favourable to India, and would have led to an expansion of trade much beyond the recorded figures, had it not been for the fact that it became necessary, both in India and Australia, to impose restrictions on foreign trade. Exports of cotton piecegoods to Australia were thus placed on a quota basis, and exports of certain other types of goods, for example, mica, brassware etc., which were urgently needed for Defence purposes and demestic consumption, were entirely prohibited. Similiarly, Australia was faced with the problem of conserving foreign exchange and imposed a prohibition on the imports of various types of luxury goods, including carpets and floor coverings which had begun to figure largely in the exports from India.

Despite these restrictive measures on both sides, Mr. Saxena pointed out, the value of exports from India to Australia in 1943-44, as compared with the pre-war years, recorded a seven-fold increase. The story of Australian exports to India was somewhat similar. They multiplied five times, but here again, the fact that the United Kingdom had acquired the entire surplus of wool and other primary products from Australia meant that India could only receive as much as was allocated to her by the United Kingdom.

Analysing, with reference to the future prospects of Indo-Australian trade, the favourable and unfavourable influences that were likely to come into play, Mr. Saxena said that competitors, old and new, would appear in due course to challenge India's position in the Australian market. The production of substitute materials and the introduction of new methods of manufacture would tend to bring about revolutionary changes in the direction and volume of trade. The greatest vigilance would, therefore, have to be exercised in order to maintain and, if possible, to improve the position which India had won during the period of the war.

Explaining the significance of the sterling bloc *vis-a-vis* the development of Indo-Australian trade, Mr. Saxena pointed out that, so far as Australia was concerned, the fact that both the countries belonged to the sterling bloc was an asset of great value. In the light of present and possible future dollar position, the countries of the sterling bloc would have a mutual interest in fostering the exchange of goods among themselves.

In the case of India and Australia, Mr. Saxena explained, this exchange would be of benefit to both countries also on other grounds. India had a surplus of jute and cotton textiles, carpets, linseed, groundnuts, shellac, mica, talc, hides and skins, tea, coffee, etc. She could offer, in addition, certain types of manufactured goods like sports requisites, artware etc., which she was peculiarly fitted to produce. Australia, as a country primarily dependant on sheep farming and agriculture for her prosperity, must take our jute—the cheapest packing material in the world. It was similarly in her interest, as Japan was no longer in the picture, to buy our textiles and floor coverings.

The primary products which India exported to Australia were essential for Australian secondary industries. The high standard of living prevailing in Australia similarly demanded that she should be a good customer for our sports requisites, artware and other manufactured products. At the same time, it was in India's interest to buy fine Australian wool, and, as the purchasing power of the people of India steadily improved, it was unquestionable that they would show an increasing interest in the Australian food products, processed and unprocessed.

MR. M. R. AHUJA ON POST-WAR INDO-CANADIAN TRADE

"BOTH India and Canada are primarily agricultural countries and, although both are making great strides in industrial development, their respective industrial resources and economic structure are different and non-competitive", observed Mr. M. R. Ahuja, Government of India's Trade Commissioner in Canada, who is now in India, at a Press Conference in New Delhi on October 26.

On the issue of Indian exports to Canada, he said that India had little or nothing to fear from Canadian home products, at least so far as existing lines of exports were concerned. Canada's imports from India were almost wholly confined to raw agricultural and mineral products and nearly all these were non-competitive with Canadian domestic products. The real danger to some of these lines in the post-war period would come from sources of supply outside Canada, including those that had been temporarily cut off during the war.

Non-competitive Food Products

Analysing the non-competitive basis of Indo-Canadian trade, Mr. Ahuja explained that, in the field of agricultural and farm food products, Canada was a large producer and exporter of wheat, bacon and pork products, as well as eggs, processed milk and cheese. India was hardly self-sufficient in her wheat supply and definitely deficient in the other food products. Indian cereals like white peas and green and red lentils, formerly imported regularly into Canada, were not grown locally. Except perhaps for small quantities of an inferior kind of turmeric, Canada did not produce any spices. Indian ginger, pepper, turmeric, curry powder, mustard, celery seeds and various kinds of other aromatic seeds, on the other hand, had been imported during the past few years in increasingly large quantities.

India was a large producer and exporter of vegetable oils and oilseeds as well as nuts. Most of these commodities were not found in Canada. The principal vegetable oils imported from India into Canada were peanut oil and castor oil. No nuts of any kind were produced in Canada in commercial quantities, while those imported from India were mainly peanuts, cashew nuts, walnuts and almonds.

No tea or coffee was produced in Canada. Jute and jute products were the second most important items of import from India. Indian cotton had also found its way into Canada where



Mr. M. R. Ahuja.

no natural textile fibre, except some flax fibre, was produced. Indian coir and raw wool, suitable for the manufacture of carpets, imported into Canada, were also not produced locally.

Canada was a large producer of forest products, particularly pulp and paper, and these had regularly been exported to India. She got lac from India, which was also not produced locally.

Mineral Products

Minerals found in the two countries, stated Mr. Ahuja, also told more or less the same story. Generally speaking, Canada was a large producer of base metals such as nickel, zinc, copper and lead and these were either non-existent in India or found in comparatively small quantities.

Indian raw hides and skins as well as leather and undressed furs had regularly been imported into Canada. Goat and sheep skins

imported from India were not produced locally in commercial quantities. Despite a large domestic output of fur skins, Indian furs found a ready market in Canada as these were usually of a type that were largely non-competitive.

Apart from jute products, observed Mr. Ahuja, wool carpets and rugs, coir mats and mattings, sports goods, brassware, woodwork, hand embroideries and lace were the only manufactured goods that had so far come from India to Canada. On the other hand, Canadian normal exports to India had always consisted almost entirely of manufactured goods and processed foods, with the largest item, *viz.*, motor cars and parts, accounting for approximately half the total exports. Thus, in the case of manufactured goods, too, there did not exist any competition from locally produced goods either in Canada or in India.

Post-War Prospects

Examining post-war export prospects from India to Canada in respect of individual commodities, Mr. Ahuja observed:

"Canada is predominantly a tea-drinking country. She has always been an Empire tea-consuming country, Indian tea averaging almost 65 per cent. and Ceylon tea a little more than 30 per cent. of the total black tea imports. In addition, she was importing about 3 million lbs. a year of green tea from other countries before the war. This trade has now practically ceased; and this will give, in the post-war period, an additional market in Canada for black tea of at least 2 million lbs. a year.

"Consumption of coffee in Canada has steadily increased during the last 12 years. This would indicate an extensive market, both actual and potential.

"Imports of jute and jute products into Canada are almost an Indian monopoly. Cotton and paper bags are being used as substitutes for burlap in increasing quantities; but it is the opinion of the trade that the latter would come into its own when normal trade conditions are restored in the post-war period.

"As regards webbing, as long as the price of the Indian product is competitive, India has nothing to fear from post-war competition in the Canadian market from Belgium or any other manufacturing country. There is a fairly large demand for jute carpets in Canada and, if looms of the right kind are employed in India, there seems to be good prospects of building up a large trade in this commodity.

"The market in Canada for nuts, particularly cashew, peanuts, walnuts and almonds, is not only actually very large, but has still greater potentialities. Indian nuts have built up a fairly good reputation in Canada, and all possible efforts must now be made, not only to retain the present level of exports from India, but also to increase it. They are not only cheaper but also comparatively better in quality than those available elsewhere at present.

"The principal vegetable oils imported from India are peanut oil and castor oil. It is believed that a fairly good and regular trade can be built up also in Indian cotton seed and coconut oils.

"Indian goat and sheep skins meet with little or no competition and should continue to find a ready sale in Canada. There are good prospects of Indian-made leather gloves finding a steady market in that country.

"The bulk of Indian wool imported into Canada is used for making carpets, rugs and other coarse fabrics. Competition from similar wools from other producing countries is not considered so great, but the progress that is being made with synthetic fibres as a substitute for carpet wools may perhaps develop into severe competition.

"There is a large market in Canada for various Indian lentils, pulses, whole peas, spices, etc. Although some of these commodities have been finding their way from India into Canada, the trade is capable of expansion by a thorough study of the requirements of this market in respect of quality, cleaning, grading, packing, etc.

"India is Canada's chief supplier of lac. It is extremely difficult to foresee the trend of trade in Indian lac in the future.

Mica, Chrome and Manganese

"Although Canada has latterly begun to produce muscovita mica, the quantity produced is so small that it is not likely to interfere seriously with the imports of that commodity from India.

"Indian chrome ore and manganese oxide are said to have been found quite satisfactory by Canadian consumers; it should, therefore, be possible to take advantage of this wartime favourable factor to develop post-war trade in these commodities.

"All kinds of Indian floor coverings find a ready and large sale in Canada. Due to wartime regulations their imports have been greatly restricted, although the demand is very high. It is generally believed that there would be quite a boom in this trade in the post-war period.

"Indian cotton is imported into Canada only in comparatively small quantities. Although the quantities imported in 1941 and 1942 were double the imports during previous years, it is doubtful if this actually indicates a trend towards larger imports in the future.

"Some type of Indian cotton textiles found much favour in Canada before the war. Large and regular business in these lines may be possible in the coming years. The Indian textile industry can easily succeed in capturing Japan's pre-war share of business in Canada, if not more.

"Thus, in the post-war period, a large business in Indian textiles can be built up with Canada. Apart from summer suitings, shirtings, sheetings, towels, handkerchiefs, etc., there are good prospects of doing business also in ready-made goods such as table cloths, cushions, covers, pillow slips, sheets, children's frocks, etc. In addition, some business in Indian laces and embroideries, as well as in hosiery and undergarments, may also be possible.

"Footballs, tennis and badminton racquets are the three main items of Indian sports goods that will sell best in Canada.

Arts and Crafts

"Indian arts and crafts were regularly imported into Canada before the war. As soon as conditions permit, the various lines of handicrafts already known to the Canadian market will again begin to come in. With a little more care in the selection of material and colour schemes, design and packing, this business can be easily further enlarged and expanded. In addition to the lines already imported from India, enquiries exist for horn and bone articles, pottery, artificial jewellery, silverware, gold and silver embroidered shoes and slippers, stone and marble articles, ivory and sandalwood articles and laquerware and paper mache."

Discussing the prospects of India importing from Canada industrial machinery and factory equipment, Mr. Ahuja said that Canada today manufactured quite a variety of these goods and there would appear to be fairly good prospects of their being exported to India in increasing quantities. The principal types, which might be available for export to India, were: dairy equipment; wood working machinery; metal working machinery; shoe machinery; heavy industrial equipment like pulp and paper equipment, textile machinery, canning machinery, rolling mills equipment, mining machinery, plastics machinery, boilers and other combustion equipment, pumps, fans and compressors, bakery machinery, elevators, electric furnaces and marine diesel engines; hydro-electric equipment (complete installations, generators, transformers, hydraulic turbines, motors, etc.); and agricultural machinery like ploughs, tillage machines, seeding equipment, harvesting equipment and tractors.

INDIAN INSURANCE IN E. AFRICA

THE Indian Trade Commissioner, Mombasa, considers that there is fair scope for developing Indian general insurance business in East Africa, but that it would be difficult to start Indian Banking in that country.

There is no reason, he says, why Indian insurance companies should not succeed in securing their fair and legitimate share of business in all branches—Fire, Accident and Marine—provided they work by opening branch offices or by selecting the right type of persons to represent them. Persons in charge of such branches, however, should be sufficiently empowered to assess damage and settle claims locally. Only a few Indian companies are at present doing Marine Insurance business in East Africa. Apparently they cannot stand foreign competition, since foreign companies operating in the area have either branches with efficient management or strong local representation by chief agents with full powers to settle claims locally. He observes, "This is the key-note to success."

Banking Business Difficult

There are three principal (foreign) banks operating in East Africa, having a network of branches all over the territory. "It would be very difficult for an Indian bank to establish branches in this country," observes the Trade Commissioner, "unless the bank is prepared to extend all reasonable facilities to its clients in the fullest possible degree." It should also have worldwide connections and agencies to enable it to meet all the demands of its clients for transfer to any part of the world. Now traders in E. Africa, who have made good profits during the war, generally do not stand in need of bank facilities for overdrafts or discounting of bills, etc. But, observes the Trade Commissioner, they will be needing these facilities ere long. Unless, therefore, "any Indian bank ready to come over to this country is prepared to extend more facilities than what the merchants obtained or would be obtaining from their present bankers, it would be very difficult for the bank to succeed in securing clientele."

But, in his opinion, if a bank made prior arrangements with the exporters in Bombay and with the big firms there who have their establishments in East Africa, and if all such firms desired to co-operate with it, "there is no reason why it cannot succeed, with a strong organisation and efficient management."

According to the Trade Commissioner, the banking laws of the East African territories do not place any disabilities in the way of an Indian bank being opened and operated in these territories.

INSURANCE IN EGYPT

Report of Indian Trade Commissioner

INTERESTING particulars are available of the present position of insurance business in Egypt, from a report on the subject received from the Government of India's Trade Commissioner, Alexandria. There are at present in that country about 60 companies underwriting fire, 65 accidents, 40 marine and 15 life. Most of these are British concerns.

The American Insurance Association represents the American Group and underwrites fire, marine and inland transport. There are eight Continental companies covering life, fire and accident. In addition to these, there are four local companies underwriting all classes. There are also many firms working on Lloyds' cover in respect of all classes except fire.

Insurance Law in Egypt

According to the existing Insurance Law of Egypt, all insurance establishments should be limited companies with a capital of at least £E100,000. For each class of underwriting £E100,000, with a maximum of £E30,000 is required to be deposited with a bank or financial institution duly approved by the Minister of Finance (marine insurance excluded from this provision).

The Chief Agents of foreign insurance companies operating in that country must be domiciled in Egypt. The taking out of insurance policies for Workmen's Compensation and motor lorries is compulsory. Every insurance company underwriting life is required to maintain in Egypt assets amounting to at least 60 per cent. of the reserves for the premium in respect of policies issued in Egypt.

General Insurance

Cotton in hydraulic or steam-pressed bales stored in godowns is the most important item under fire insurance. Buildings, factories, textile and weaving mills, oil mills, stores of merchandise, etc. are now coming increasingly into the picture. There is a Fire Syndicate in Egypt which controls the rates and is in constant touch with the Fire Offices Committee of London. All companies doing fire insurance business in Egypt are members of that Syndicate. Fire experience in Egypt is considered to be very satisfactory.

Under accidents, the Motor Insurance Association and the Workmen's Insurance Association control all rates and transactions relating to their sphere. They are in contact with the Accident Offices Association of London and work more or less on the same principles. Main lines under this head are Workmen's Compensation, Motor, Lift, Personal Accidents and Disease, Third Party, Plate Glass, Fidelity, Jewellery, Theft, etc.

As regards Marine Insurance, the Alexandria Marine Underwriters Association is in regular contact with the Institute of London Underwriters and Marine Association of Bombay and controls rates and other business in this behalf. Marine underwriters were doing fairly big business before the war, though for the past six years, for obvious reasons, their activities were rather restricted. As it is expected that in the coming years the volume of Egypt's foreign trade will increase substantially, there is still room for development in this line.

Increasing Investments

Egypt is primarily an agricultural country and an overwhelming majority of her people live on the soil. Consequently, the standard of living of the common Egyptian is not very high and he has very little to spare, after meeting his expenditure on day to day requirements. Insurance, naturally therefore, states the report, does not come into his life as a rule. There is, however, a small but important section of rich land-holders and educated Egyptians, and the number of the latter is on the increase who are conscious of the advantages of insurance and taking to it with increasing enthusiasm.

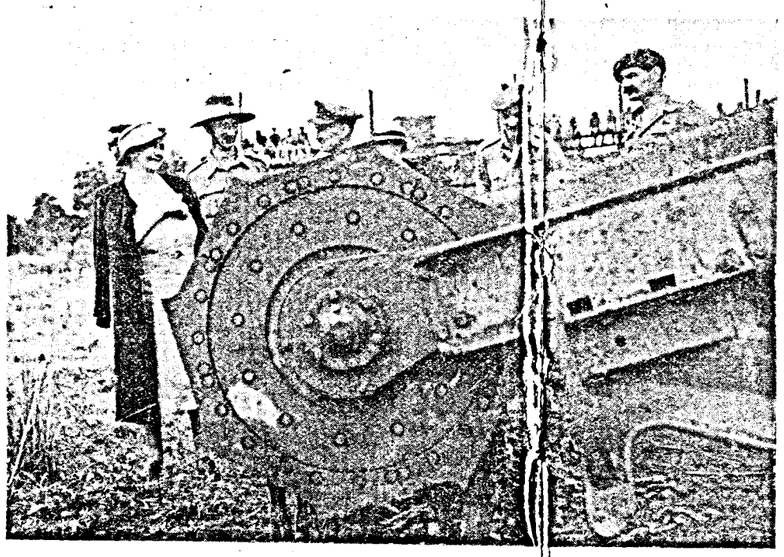
Thus, there are very bright prospects for life insurance and investments are increasing every year. It is stated that each life office is writing to the extent of fifty to sixty thousand pounds (Egyptian) of capital every month and, with the rise in the standard of living and the spread of education, larger sections of the population are becoming convinced of the usefulness of life insurance. The population of Egypt was over 17 million in 1941. Out of this, the foreign community accounted for about a million.

As regards general insurance, recent legislation has given Workmen's Compensation and Motor Insurance an impetus, since one is compulsorily required to take out insurance policies for Workmen's Compensation and motor lorries. As a result of the war, industrialisation in Egypt has made very rapid progress, which is likely to continue to a considerable extent in the post-war period too. This development, according to the report, is bound to bring in greater insurance activity in its wake.

Lord and Lady Wavell at Dehra Dun



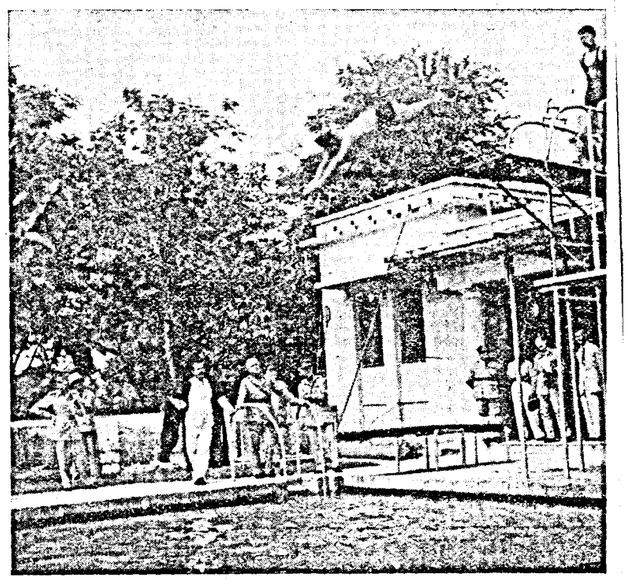
...e President of the Forest Research Institute ...plains to Lord Wavell how lamp shades are ...anufactured. (Below) Lord Wavell, the ...resident and others in the gallery of the Institute.



Lady Wavell examining the "Sherman Crab" at the Technical ...ining Centre. This vehicle weighs 27 tons and is used for clearing jung... etc.



Lord Wavell's keen interest in the Royal Indian Military College and its pupils is evide... from his expression.



The Viceroy watches a demonstration of diving at the swimming pool of the Doon School. (Left) Lady Wavell with members of the W.A.C.(I) Hostel.

During their recent tour of Dehra Dun, Their Ex... ...encies Lord and Lady Wavell visited, among other places, the Forest Research Institute, the Roy... Indian Military College, the Doon School, the W.A.C. (I) Hostel and the Technical Training C... ...ntre in Clement Town. At the Forest Research Institute the President explained to His Exce... ...ncy the various processes in the manufacture of plywood and wood seasoning an... other timber research work.





SIR M. AZIZUL HUQUE ON FUTURE POLICY OF INDIAN SHIPPING

Need for Strong Navy and Mercantile Marine

"I cannot think of any future for this country without a strong mercantile marine and a strong navy. I have no reason to believe that we shall lack any of the resources, talent and personnel necessary for our mercantile marine or for our navy. . . . With others in the Commonwealth planning for their future shipping strength, India has a just and rightful claim for a proper and adequate share of the shipping tonnage."

So stated the Hon'ble Sir Azizul Huque, Commerce Member, Government of India, presiding over the second meeting of the Shipping Policy Committee, which was held in New Delhi on October 26.

Among those who attended the meeting were the Hon. Sir Ardeshir Dalal, Member for Planning and Development, Government of India, the Hon. Mr. N. R. Pillai, Secretary of the Commerce Department, Mr. L. T. Gholap, Controller of Indian Shipping, Sir R. K. Shanmukham Chetty, Mr. Walchand Hirachand, Mr. M. A. Master, Mian Kadir Mohammed Shaban, Mr. W. L. A. Radcliffe and representatives of the Commerce and Planning and Development Departments.

A Vital National Element

Sir Azizul Huque said: "The rapid march of events since we last met, culminating in the final victory of the allied arms, has, in every country, quickened the pace of planning in every sphere of economic activity. The post-war period is no longer a long-awaited epoch of the future; we have crossed its threshold, and can now command a near view, in their varied proportions, of the problems which many have so far been content to regard as the cares of a distant day. Faced as we are with the urgency of these problems, we can no longer express ourselves in purely abstract terms but must attempt to give precise and concrete definition to the many issues of policy and execution which remain unsettled.

"In the sphere of shipping, the particular sector of the national economy with which this Policy Committee is concerned, there will, I have no doubt, be complete agreement on the broad objectives of our future policy. Shipping, with all that it means in the world of today as one of the most vital elements in the economic and strategic life of a country, must necessarily be a matter of fundamental importance to the future pattern of our country, and the expansion of Indian shipping to the fullest practicable extent is the goal which we all wish to see attained.

"Gentlemen, the time has now come to discuss between ourselves, in greater detail, our future shipping policy. Expressed in more concrete terms, we in the Commerce Department had prepared early this year a brief statement of the broad objectives to be kept in view, and this was published as part of the Second Report on Reconstruction Planning. I wish to take this opportunity to bring these objectives to your notice today.

"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.

India's Position

"The vulnerability of India's position has been revealed by the stress of wartime conditions, but by no circumstance 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 presnt 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 Dutch East Indies;

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

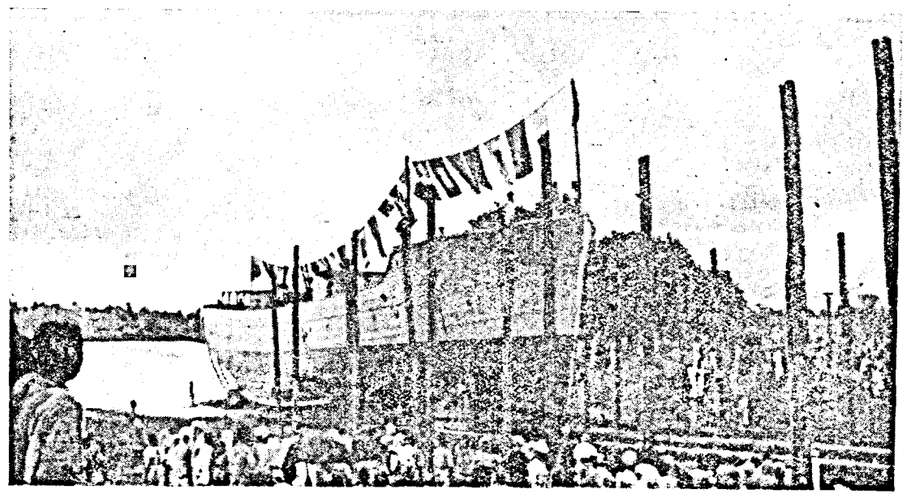
(iv) a fair share also in the trade between India, on the one hand, and the U.K., the Continent of Europe and North America on the other.

What Government are Doing

"We have now before us the important task of working out, in a practical form, the degree of expansion to be aimed at in the course of the next few years, the measures to be adopted to ensure the development of Indian shipping on sound lines and a number of related questions both of principle and of detail. To this task we must now address ourselves. It is for this purpose, gentlemen, that we meet here this morning, and I should like to take this opportunity of thanking you for the trouble you have taken to attend this meeting.

"Let me first tell you briefly what Government, for their part, have been doing in recent months. Not till many years ago, the attitude of Government had been that the apportionment of the available carrying trade between Indian and British shipping interests was a matter for adjustment between the companies concerned by the method of negotiation and agreement, but that Government would at all times be prepared to use their good offices to promote a settlement between the parties. This policy had undoubtedly yielded results in the past. But the world situation today is quite different from what it was in the past and Government recognise that in the present conditions, they might justifiably be expected to take a more active part in the taking of initiative to secure an enlargement and expansion of the sphere of Indian shipping.

"It is well known that, in many of the trades in which Indian shipping already participates or will in future wish to participate, U.K. shipping has at present an exclusive or predominant interest. If unhealthy competition and senseless trade rivalries are to be avoided in future—and we have had some bitter experiences in this matter—it seems essential that an endeavour should be made to come to an arrangement with U.K. interests which would provide for the fullest possible opportunities for Indian shipping. For over a year we have, therefore, been actively engaged in preparing the preliminary details of the varying phases of our future shipping problem and policy. The Commerce Secretary had also some informal and tentative discussions with the appropriate authorities during his visit to London last winter. The Government of India are, for the present, in close touch with H.M.G. on the matter, and I hope it may be possible to arrange for discussions on a more formal basis in the next few months.



Indian shipyards have been busy turning out trawlers and other naval craft for India's navy. Here, H.M.I. Trawler "Travancore" enters the water.

"At the same time, I do not wish to minimise in the least the difficulties that lie ahead of us. As I see the picture today, with the exhaustion of her oversea investments and with her huge new external indebtedness, Britain will probably try to place greater reliance than in the past on her shipping, which has been the greatest of her export trades. It is possible that others with their resources and shipping power may try to enter the shipping arenas which were not frequented by them in the past. We have also other manifest difficulties almost in our immediate front-line.

"With such competing, conflicting or limiting factors, the framing of our future shipping policy would not be an easy task. But our claim is just and fair, and we have faith and determination in our purpose. Having regard to our broad objectives to which I take it we are generally agreed, we must now proceed to the evolving of our future plan, policy and programme and to the preparation of a detailed statement of our case with utmost care and deliberation. We should proceed without any delay to the consideration of all these matters. For this purpose I shall propose, after the general discussion is over, the appointment of a Sub-Committee with appropriate terms of reference, and I trust that the proposal will be acceptable to you all.

Forward Policy

"Gentlemen, we have made it quite clear, even though in most general terms, that the Government propose to follow a forward policy for Indian shipping. Happily, there are signs visible already in the country of a wakeful response to this new policy of Government. There has been, within the last few months, a heavy flow of capital into the shipping industry and various companies have been or are being floated to acquire new shipping tonnages in the future. Public opinion also in this country has, on more than one occasion, been unequivocally clear that India must now pursue a forward shipping policy, consistent with her economic and strategic interests in the future world order.

"For myself, I cannot think of any future for this counrtry without a strong mercantile marine and a strong navy. I have no reason to believe that we shall lack any of the resources, talent and personnel necessary for our mercantile marine or for our navy. For centuries past ships built in the yards of India had been famous in the blue waters of the world, and we were then able to build ships for the requirements of others. Our seamen had for centuries been renowned for taking their vessels even to the most turbulent oceans of the world.

"We have hereditary talents in our country and, even though in the past they had more or less been engaged in pursuits outside the complex mechanism of modern science, the achievments of India's craftsmen, artisans, designers, technicians, research workers and scientists in the vast range of war production must prove beyond a shadow of doubt that India's talents, even without any of the previous experience, are second to none even in the works of highest scientific precision, and they were able to show a remarkable degree of production records in most complex precision and superfinish works with the utmost skill and ability. I have, therefore, no reason to have any doubt in our ability and talent to build up or man our navy or mercantile marines.

Adequate Tonnage

"Gentlemen, this is therefore an outline of the task before us. With others in the Commonwealth planning for their future shipping strength, India has a just and rightful claim for a proper and adequate share of the shipping tonnage. Without a strong mercantile marine and a strong navy, political freedom for this country may ultimately prove to be a mere shadow without substance. Meeting once a distinguished foreigner who was over and over speaking about his anxiety for the political freedom of India, I asked him if he would be prepared to give us a few of the ships which his country could easily spare, of course on receipt of their proper value, and leave us to settle for ourselves our own political freedom. That is how I feel about our future and about the place of shipping in the future of our country.

"In conclusion, I must express my regret that it had not been possible to have this meeting earlier, as was originally intended. But you are aware of the reasons for the unavoidable delay. I had then hoped that the task of formulating this policy and programme woud soon be taken up by those who will proceed to their task without being told by any one that his place in the Government is not as representative of the people as is understood in a democratic or parliamentary form of Government. But the map of the country for the last few months is well known to you and I am now required to continue to bear my responsibility and share in the framing of our policy in the most unenviable situation of one who will probably be told even in matters where he would stand by the best interests of the country that he can never do the right.

"I trust, however, at least, you, gentlemen, will understand the position and help me in my task and I look forward to your wisdom, judgement and experience in tackling this most difficult problem and to your help and assistance. I would not like, in any event, to say a word, either in anger or in retort, to anyone who may probably criticise me or my action on the ground that I do not form a part of what would be termed a responsible Government. I have no doubt that when the turmoils of the moment pass away and the events of today are valued in the cold scrutiny of history, even these critics will find that I have tried to serve the best interests of the country and her people in a most critical period of her history."

SUB-COMMITTEE APPOINTED

The decision to appoint a Sub-Committee to recommend, *inter alia*, a suitable tonnage target for Indian shipping and measures to regulate the shipping industry was taken at the Second Meeting of the Policy Committee on shipping.

The terms of reference of the Sub-Committee are: "To consider the Departmental Statement on Post-War Shipping Policy, and in the light of that Statement and all relevant considerations, to recommend:

(1) What would be a suitable tonnage target for Indian shipping within a period of five to ten years;

(2) What percentage shares of the maritime trade of India and other trades in which India is interested, both coastal and overseas, cargo and passenger, should be secured for Indian shipping; and

(3) What measures should be taken—

(*a*) to regulate the shipping industry with a view to (*i*) preventing the formation or establishment of combines or monopolies or excessively large units within the industry and (*ii*) to ensuring that the number of shipping companies operating is no larger than is economically adequate; and

(*b*) to ensure a fair and equitable distribution, among existing Companies and those yet to be established, of trades which may hereafter be secured for Indian shipping.

The Sub-Committee will be competent to make such other recommendations as seem germane to the subject."

The personnel of the Sub-Committee will be: Sir C. P. Ramaswami Iyer (Chairman), Mr. M. A. Master, Mr. K. C. Neogy, Sir A. H. Ghaznavi and Mr. W. L. A. Radcliffe.

Procurement of Capital Goods in U. K.

MR. P. C. Chaudhri, I.C.S., who was deputed to London by the Commerce Department to set up a special organisation for sponsoring the procurement of capital and other goods to India from the U.K. market, will be functioning as an independent organisation from November 5, at 45, 46 and 47 Mount Street, London W.1.

The organisation will be known as the India Supply Commission, with Mr. Chaudhuri as its Director. It will take over practically the whole of the agency work hitherto undertaken in the Economic and Overseas Department of the India Office in connection with supplies to India.

Work of New Organisation

The work of the new organisation will cover registration, co-ordination and processing of all import licences, sponsorship of shipments, programming and progressing of requirements of machinery, plant equipment and other civil requirements. The main items which the new organisation will be required to sponsor are heavy electrical plant scheduled through the Central Technical Power Board, other power plants including boilers etc., machine tools, textile machinery of all kinds, food machinery including vegetable oil and *ghee* plants, cement machinery, road-making machinery, tea machinery, chemical manufacturing plant, refrigeration machinery, agricultural and crawler tractor and coal mining machinery and plant.

Other requirements to which particular attention will be given are mill stores of all kinds, motor vehicles, drugs and medicines and raw materials including steel, dyes, chemicals, and fertilisers.

The new organisation will also deal with post-war requirements of capital goods including artificial fertiliser plants and the special requirements of projects such as irrigation and hydro-electrical schemes, etc.

In addition, the organisation will represent the Government of India at various committees at which India's requirements are planned.

The Government of India have made a further amendment to the Goods (Control over Movement) Order, 1945, the effect of which is to exempt from the provisions of the Order articles meant for export outside India by a person holding an export licence from the Central Government for the export of that consignment.

EXPORT CONTROL LIBERALISED : 100 ARTICLES DECONTROLLED

TO stimulate export trade, the Government of India in the Commerce Department, by a Notification published in a *Gazette of India Extraordinary,* dated November 3, 1945, have revised the Schedule annexed to their Export Control Notification dated January 29, 1944, entirely decontrolling a large number of commodities and liberalising control over a wide range of others.

Export control was established during the war for the following purposes:

1. Conservation of supplies required for the prosecution of the war;
2. Prevention of essential or key commodities reaching the enemy; and,
3. Conservation of essential consumer and other goods in short supply in India.

Although with the cessation of hostilities the first two considerations have lost their importance, the third continues to remain as valid as at any time, at least in respect of a large number of commodities which are in short supply. Moreover, some items continue to be scarce all the world over and the distribution of these has to be regulated carefully to ensure an equitable distribution of available surpluses among importing countries.

Need for Liberal Export Policy

Nevertheless, Government have felt that the time has come for a comprehensive review of the Export Control policy, not only to rebuild the old export trade, but also to capitalise the present opportunities and develop old markets and cultivate new ones. The object is not only to revive the pre-war trade in agricultural products but also to market abroad, particularly in the adjoining countries, the products of industries that have developed in the country during recent years.

As a result of this review, numerous items have been freed completely from control and it is proposed to allow exports of many others much more freely than hitherto. In certain cases, even in regard to relatively scarce commodities, limited exports will be permitted if, on general grounds, such a course is considered necessary for maintaining contacts with India's natural or old markets.

More than 100 commodities have been removed from the list of controlled items. They include natural indigo, a number of chemicals and chemical preparations, scientific instruments of indigenous origin, certain classes of containers when used as containers, pyridine, cashew nuts, certain gums and resins, kapok, lac, cigarette and jewel cases made of wood, articles mainly or wholly made of mica, animal oils, many essential oils, perfumed spirits, soapnut and bilawan nuts, talc, cigars, cigarettes of indigenous manufacture and manufactured tobacco incuding flue-cured tobacco, toys and requisites for games and sports if not wholly and mainly of rubber, fibres for brushes and brooms, hairs of all kinds, animal bladders, guts and casings, furs and skins, a number of metals and ores (aluminium ore, antimony ore, chrome ore and metal, iron ore, magnisite, manganese ore and manganese, zinc ore, etc.), raw cotton, Turkey red oil, essential oil seeds, spices of all sorts excluding pepper and cinnamon and pickles, chutneys, condiments and curry powder.

Control Transferred

More than 20 commodities, the export of which was hitherto totally prohibited, have now been transferred to control by the Chief Controller of Exports who will allow small quantities to be exported. This category includes agar-agar, bees wax, certain classes of buttons, candles, cinematograph films, cutlery, glue and raw materials for the manufacture of glue, some gums and resins, leather manufactures including footwear and suitcases, stationery, polishes, printers' and lithographers' ink, spectacle frames, Vitamin A preparations, Pashmina shawls, carpets, and floor rugs.

Advantage has also been taken of this opportunity to transfer some commodities controlled by other Departments to the Commerce Department. These items include many kinds of drugs, Hops and Hop products, abrasives, bitumen, carbon black, some chemicals, many instruments, apparatus and appliances, lamps, paints and varnishes, rubber shoes and liquors.

In respect of these and other items a more liberal export policy has been formulated and will now be applied.

PRICE OF BOND PAPER FIXED

The Government of India, in the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies, have fixed, under the Paper (Prices of Imported Paper) Control Order, 1944, the wholesale price of Bond paper containing 50 per cent rag watermarked "Knebworth" and of Ledger paper containing 50 per cent rag water-marked "Cheddar Valley" at Rs. 1-5 per lb. For sales in retail quantities an additional price not exceeding 15 per cent may be charged.

MORE STEEL AND CEMENT FOR CIVILIAN USE

A Press Note issued by the Supply Department, Government of India, on November 3, said:

In the spring of 1945, the Hydari Mission successfully negotiated with His Majesty's Government for the allocation of 300,000 tons of steel, an additional 600,000 tons of cement and 500,000 tons of timber for civil purposes in 1946, to relieve the strain of the war on India's economy. With the advent of V-J Day, the situation has much improved, so far as the remainder of 1945 is concerned, and allocations for purely civil (non-Government) requirements for the last quarter of 1945 are estimated at 68,000 tons of steel, 300,000 tons of cement and 9,000 tons of timber, compared with 47,000 tons of steel, 150,000 tons of cement and 8,000 tons of timber in the last quarter of 1944. This timber figure relates to issues from Government stocks, and is in addition to supplies of timber of types or sizes unsuitable for military and Government purposes; such timber has always been left to civil users.

For 1946 the prospects are good. Excluding the quantities required for the heavy rehabiliation programmes of the Railways and other Central Departments, and of the Provincial and State Governments, it is estimated that 585,000 tons of steel will be available for civil purposes in 1946. The allocations of steel against actual civil demands for the first half of 1946 total 271,000 tons, representing 92 per cent of the immediate pre-war consumption over a corresponding period.

Allocations of Cement

Allocations of cement for similar civil purposes depend to some extent on the take-off for military and Government purposes, but a broad figure of 125 to 130,000 tons a month is in view. Improvements in the coal deliveries could increase production from existing cement factories to the extent of 20 to 30,000 tons a month which would go on to the quota available for civil purposes; while new production projects, if they came into operation, would add further to the civil supply. Comments on the coal position are given below.

The chief point of the timber supply will be the diversion to civil uses of the 540 to 600,000 tons of timber of types hitherto utilised for Defence and Government purposes. This will be in addition to other types of timber unsuitable for military and Government purposes which, as already observed, the civil consumer has enjoyed throughout.

Apart from the three commodities, steel, cement and timber, some comment on that fundamental commodity, coal is appropriate. There have been in recent months welcome indications of a return to normal. Up to the end of September, over 1.7 million tons more have been raised and despatched this year than in the first nine months of 1944. Despatches of coal to all classes of consumers in 1945 are estimated to be 25½ million tons or 2.17 million tons more than in 1944.

Despatches in 1946

In 1946, despatches will certainly exceed 25½ million tons, and given favourable transport conditions, might do so to the extent of another 4 million tons. Deducting what is required for all Government purposes—principally the Railways—the coal available in 1946 for all Provincial, Indian State and industrial purposes should be of the order of 16 million tons as against 11.3 million tons and 13.1 million tons in 1944 and 1945 respectively.

Special attention is being given to the question of releasing all possible coal suitable for burning bricks required for private enterprise without infringing on the requirements of essential industry, and in the last quarter of 1945, the despatches of coal specifically allocated for this purpose are expected to be about 125,000 tons against actual deliveries of 25,000 tons in the last quarter of 1944.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH FAR EASTERN COUNTRIES

As Malaya, the Straits Settlements and Hong-Kong are now among countries in the Far East to which surface mail communication from India is available and private telegrams to all parts of Malaya excepting Perlis, Kelantan and Trengannau can also be despatched, all persons desirous of obtaining information about relatives and friends in the countries mentioned above are advised to establish contact by direct correspondence to their last known addresses.

It can be expected that further facilities for postal and telegraphic communication will become available in the near future and information with regard to this should be sought from local Post and Telegraph offices.

In cases, however, where a person fails to establish contact with his relatives or friends in Malaya, he may address the Agent of the Government of India in Malaya, Oriental Buildings, Kuala Lumpur.

THE WAR AND INDIAN WORKING CLASS

100 Per Cent Increase in Factory Workers' Wages

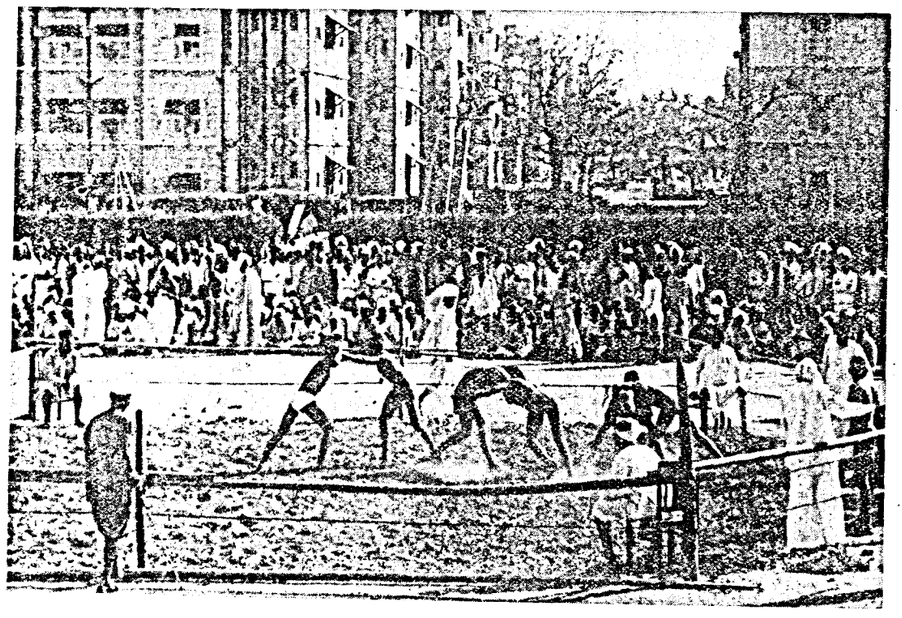
HOW the war affected the wages and conditions of factory labour in India is described in the Annual Report on the working of the Factories Act, 1934, for the year 1943. Higher cost of living forced up the wages even to 100 per cent. and above in certain places. Dearness allowance and bonus were a common feature and the supply of essential foodstuffs at controlled or cheap rates considerably lightened the burden of the factory workers. Provision for better housing, sanitation, lighting and other facilities was retarded on account of shortage of material

An increase in earnings, observes the Report, was generally noticed in all provinces—an effect of dearness allowance and bonus. In Bombay, the general increase amounted to nearly 100 per cent and more in the important industries. Even in the small mofussil factories, engaged in the production of *bidis* and bricks, wages rose by 40 per cent. Owing to high cost of living there was an all-round increase in wages in the Punjab, Delhi, Orissa and Sind. In the jute mills of Bengal, the wage rates remained the same as that fixed according to the cost of living obtaining for August-September, 1942, but earnings fluctuated as the employers generally paid a compensatory allowance of Rs. 3 per week plus the amenity allowance for those weeks when the mills remained idle.

Housing Accommodation

The provisions of the Factories Act were reported to have been well observed in all provinces during the year under Report. But owing to the difficulties of obtaining building and other necessary material no considerable improvement in the conditions and amenities for labour was noticed in any province.

Possibilities of providing additional housing accommodation were limited and generally employers were concerned with maintaining old housing facilities. In Bengal only *cutcha* accommodation could be erected. There was no progress or improvement in the matter of housing in almost all the provinces. The Report from the U.P. stated that the provision of suitable accommodation in sanitary and congenial surroundings no doubt greatly contributed to the contentment of labour with consequent improvement in industrial efficiency and turnover, but the housing problem was a complicated one which could not be solved by building a few hundred houses.



The Bombay Labour Welfare Centres, among the larger groups of chawls in the mill area, have a gymnasium with wrestling pits and shower baths. Inter-Welfare Centre competitions, outdoor games and wrestling are arranged for the workers from time to time.

The large influx of labour into the city of Bombay resulted in shortage of accommodation and overcrowding. The control of bricks and cement and transport difficulties stood in the way. Even prosperous sugar factories in the mofussil had to close down their construction work for lack of building material. In Madras, 73 factories were reported to have provided housing for labour.

Health and Welfare

Water supply in factories was generally adequate and satisfactory. There was much room for improvement in this respect in the mofussil factories in Bengal. Stomach diseases caused by well water were reported from one district in this province and periodic chlorination was recommended as a tentative measure. The real remedy lies, states the Report, in the provision of deep tube-wells or closed storage tanks in which water can be effectively treated. Marked improvement in water supply resulted in the U.P., after advice was given to managers on the best methods of cleaning and storing drinking water for factory operatives.

Improvement in sanitation was also limited owing to shortage of suitable material. Tolerance had to be shown in Bengal with respect to conditions which normally would have resulted in prosecution. In the Punjab warnings were issued in a number of cases and prosecutions also launched. The disposal of trade waste from factories in several districts of Bombay became increasingly serious. Research work was conducted by the Ahmedabad Municipality and six plants were constructed for purification of the municipal drains. Disposal of the effluent from sugar factories was being tackled in the U.P. where particular attention was paid to sanitation in seasonal factories.

The health of the operatives in most of the provinces was generally good. Precautionary measures in the Punjab prevented the spread of influenza and small-pox in three factories. Owing to shortage of quinnine and necessary drugs, malaria and cholera took more than their usual toll in Bengal and caused general deterioration in the health of factory workers.

Supply of essential foodstuffs and other necessaries of life at controlled or cheap rates proved a boon to the workers during the period of scarcity. Bombay provided 86 tea-shops and Bengal 35 canteens. More Creches were provided in Bombay and Madras.

Eighteen factories in Madras maintained schools for workers' children. 42 concerns had saving schemes and 42 had co-operative societies. Medical facilities other than first-aid were extended in 63 factories.

Growing popularity of the Government Welfare Centres has been reported from the U.P. and Bombay. More Welfare Officers were appointed especially in the jute mills of Bengal. The Bombay mills had 34 labour officers who were helping to create a better understanding between workers and employers with sound results and the growth of confidence.

HISTORICAL RECORDS COMMISSION

(*Continued from page* 619)

own record office as soon as finances permitted. He also suggested that some time a good history of the N.-W.F.P. for the last one hundred years, "a period during which the British have striven to give their best service to the provinces should be written by somebody with proper perspective and proper sense of balance and with access to properly authenticated and prepared historical records." These records will be "of the greatest historical value and of the deepest human interest".

At this year's Session the attendance was a record one. Scholars came from all parts of India. One member hailed from Imphal, another travelled all the way from Travancore, the southern-most State of India.

Nearly 20 papers dealing with different topics and problems of Indo-British history were read and discussed during the Session.

Members of the Commission visited some ancient historical sites. A trip was arranged to Jamrud and Khyber Pass as far as the Afghan frontier and an excursion to the Malakhand Pass associated with Alexander's Indian campaign and to the Buddhist remains at Takhat-i-Bahi. From Malakhand the members went to Chakhrada in the Yusufzai country where they enjoyed the hospitality of His Highness the Nawab of Dir. Some members paid a visit to Taxila.

Indian Mica to be Graded and Standardised

'Micmark' Legislation Likely

LEGISLATION for grading and standardising Indian mica for export is under consideration by the Government of India. The Director, Geological Survey of India, it is learnt, is consulting the trade on Government's proposals.

As new sources of mica have been considerably developed during the war in countries like Brazil, Canada and East Africa, and a few substitutes for mica have come into the field competing with the natural mineral, there is an urgent need for providing better marketing facilities abroad for Indian mica by ensuring that the quality of Indian exports is maintained.

During the war all the available supplies of mica in this country were bought by the Joint Mica Mission who set up their own standards and specifications for grading the article. Since the Joint Mica Mission is expected to be wound up shortly, Indian mica will, hereafter, be thrown on its own resources for finding a stable and regular market overseas.

Contemplated Legislation

The contemplated "Micmark" legislation is expected to be on lines similar to the Agricultural Marketing Act, and, for the time being, voluntary in its operation. Exporters will have to apply for a Micmark to the Director, Geological Survey of India, whose inspecting staff will inspect the mica, grade it and affix the Micmark. It is believed that the standards set up by the Joint Mica Mission will be followed initially for grading mica. There will also be a committee composed of mica miners and dealers to advise Government on standard samples and types. The abuse of Micmark will be penalised.

It is also understood that, following the proposed legislation, Government have in contemplation the establishment of selling agencies in the U.K. under the High Commissioner, and in the U.S.A. under the Agent-General to the Government of India for putting exporters of Micmark mica in touch with prospective buyers.

All classes of telegrams are now admitted to and from Port Blair at the usual rates for inland telegrams, subject to the censorship regulations in force which includes prohibition of codes and abbreviated addresses.

AERIAL PHOTOS TO AID GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

AERIAL photographs will in future be used to aid the Geological Survey of India in its quest for underground wealth.

Large-scale detailed mapping, which is the basic function of geological survey, will be extended to individual mines and specific areas so that new deposits may be found and the minerals entombed are conserved and exploited economically. The future life of the Bihar Mica belt, for example, may well depend upon such a survey which the expanded Geological Survey of India is likely to undertake.

Study of glaciers and earthquakes, river surveys and soil investigations, which will be conducted by the Geological Survey of India, are bound to benefit a number of departments like Forests, Agriculture, Irrigation and Public Works.

Geophysical methods successfully adopted in the more advanced countries of the West will also be increasingly employed in unearthing the hidden treasures of India.

PURCHASE OF IMPORTED MOTOR VEHICLES

A Press Note issued by the War Transport Department, Government of India, on November 1, stated:

It has been brought to the notice of the Government of India that certain firms which deal in motor cars and trucks are booking orders from customers and are accepting monetary deposits against such orders, and that would-be purchasers are under the impression that the payment of such a deposit will assist them in obtaining early delivery of vehicles.

The sale of motor cars and trucks imported on a commercial basis must continue to be regulated by the provisions of the Civil Motor Cars Control Order, 1945 and the Commercially Imported Transport Motor Vehicles Control Order, 1945 respectively, for so long as the demand for motor vehicles substantially exceeds the supply; and importers will thus be unable to sell any vehicle to a purchaser who has not obtained a permit from the Provincial Motor Transport Controller.

The public are therefore hereby warned that the booking of an order and the payment of a deposit will not ipso facto entitle them to receive a permit for the purchase of a motor vehicle and will not, therefore assist them in obtaining early delivery of any such vehicle.

FIGHTING FIRE MENACE IN COAL-FIELDS

THE twelve year long continuous battle against fires in India's coal-fields was being waged last year. The report of the Coal-mines Stowing Board for 1943-44 reveals that blanketing and flushing operations to check the spread of fires in the Jharia, Bagdidi and Kusunda coal-fields were continued and assistance for carrying out protective works was given to several collieries during the year.

In the Jharia field the fire threatened to spread in September, 1942, but vigorous action by the Board and valuable assistance rendered by the neighbouring collieries stopped the menace. In the Kusunda area, blanketing operations in the vicinity of the Kari Jore made good progress, while on the southern boundary of the fire area they were much retarded on account of shortage of labour. Nearly 8,800 cubic yards of *muttee* and ash were flushed down the galleries through bore holes and inclines to strengthen the barriers on the western side of the fire area. In all, Rs. 1,85,635 were spent for such protective works in this and other fields.

Stowing Operations

Compulsory stowing operations ordered under the Coal-mines Safety (Stowing) Act were continued in Singaran, Khas Kirkend and Motiram Roshanlal's Kirkend collieries. Owing to labour shortage and high cost of stowing, sufficient progress was not made in the Kirkend group of mines. Compulsory stowing was ordered during the year in respect of the Toposi Colliery and operations commenced in September, 1943.

Voluntary stowing operations were in progress in many collieries and 30,76,794 tons were stowed. The assistance given by the Board came to over Rs. 6,31,906. The Board has sanctioned assistance towards stowing 70,13,998 tons in 53 collieries during 1944-45.

MOTOR TUBES PRICES ORDER

In the *Gazette of India* dated November 23, the Central Government have published an order fixing the prices of motor, motor-cycle, and giant "Seconds" tubes. This is a re-issue of the previous notification dated August 1, 1944, with all amendments up-to-date. Prices have been slightly increased corresponding to the increase in prices for new tubes recently notified.

EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN WORKERS UNDERGROUND

The reimposition of the ban on the employment of women underground in coal-mines from February 1, 1946, has been decided by the Government of India, said a Press Note issued by the Labour Department, Government of India, on October 31.

It added: This step is in accordance with the declared policy of the Government that as soon as the emergency was over, the employment of women underground would be stopped. It will also restore the position in respect of the International Labour Convention that was ratified by India in 1938.

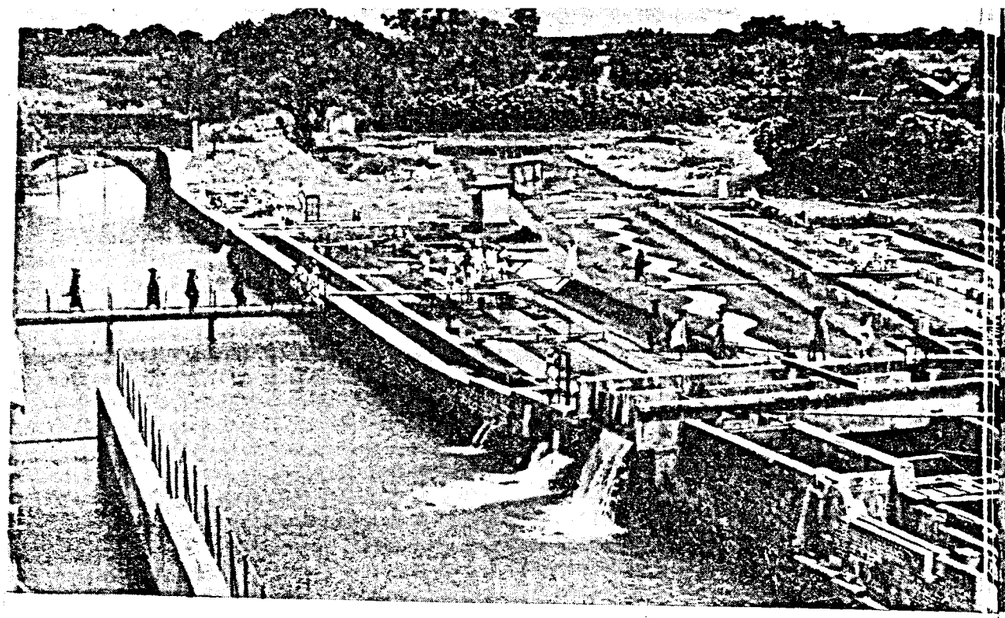
The employment of women underground in mines was reluctantly agreed to by the Government in 1943 in order to meet the requirements of the War. The position has been reviewed from time to time and the Government now feel that the cessation of hostilities justifies the abrogation of a wartime measure even though the position of coal still remains difficult. They have, therefore, decided to reimpose the ban with effect from February 1, 1946, thus giving the mining industry some notice to make necessary adjustments.

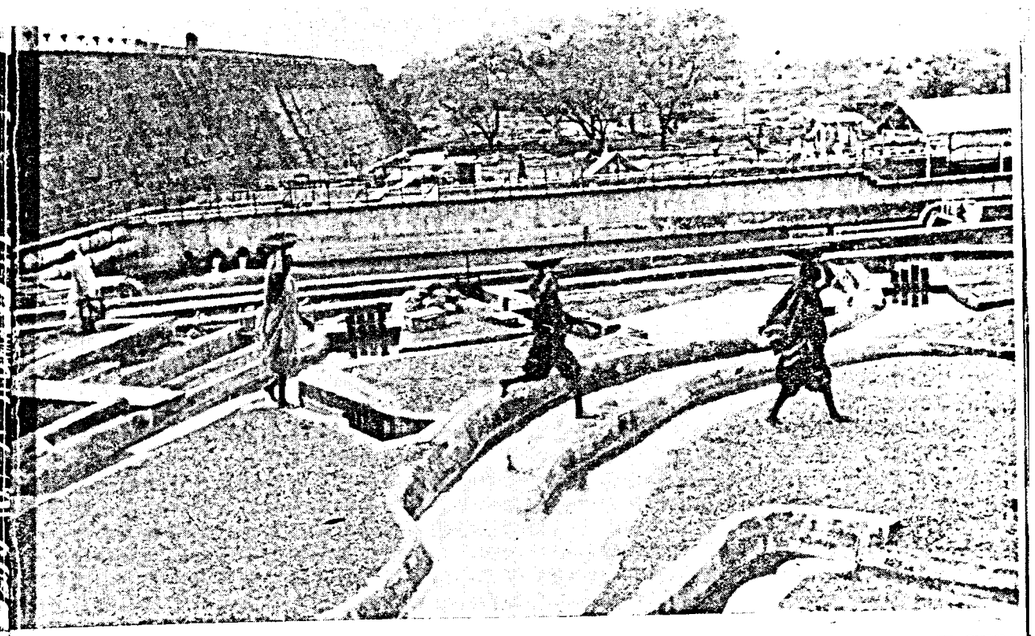
SIR AKBAR HYDARI

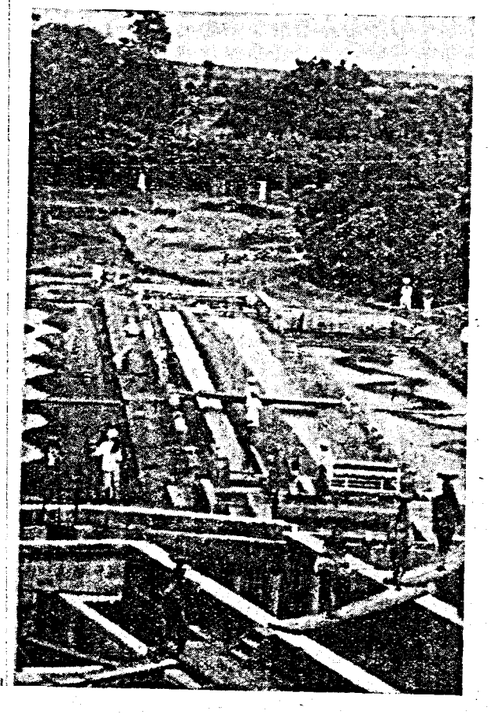
A Communique issued from the Viceroy's House on November 1, stated:

The Governor-General has placed the Hon'ble Sir Akbar Hydari, who to-day becomes a Member of Council in succession to the Hon'ble Sir Sultan Ahmed, in charge of the Department of Information and Broadcasting and the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies. The latter Department has hitherto been in the portfolio of the Hon'ble the Commerce Member, but it will shortly be merged in the Supply Department.

The Governor-General considers that the increase in the work of the Commerce Department while post-war commercial policy is being framed entitles the Hon'ble the Commerce Member to this relief; and that the Hon'ble Sir Akbar Hydari, as former Secretary in the Industries and Civil Supplies Department, can conveniently supervise the work of that Department and its merger with the Supply Department.







The Indian Waterways Experiment Station at Khadakwasla, where important experiments on river control have been carried out. (Left) Investigating factors affecting meanders.

Demonstration models with the Khadakwasla Dam in the background. (Right) A model of the Hooghly River.



RESEARCH AT WATERWAYS EXPERIMENT STATION, POONA

A series of experiments have been conducted at the Indian Waterways Experiment Station, Poona, to solve the problem of scarcity of water supply in Delhi during the summer season.

These experiments are described in the Station's Annual Report for the year 1944, and they were intended to study the relative effects of constructing a low-level weir or a barrage on the river Jumna which recedes in the summer season. The Report points out that conditions would be similar with the barrage added. With the low-level weir, however, a well defined cold weather channel would be maintained at the pumping station.

During the year under review 22 investigations were in progress at the Indian Waterways Station. Of these experiments 12 were specific in character and ten basic. These investigations dealt with problems of river training, prevention of scour below the bridges, control of sand etc.

The report also contains a note on measures necessary to prevent recurrence of floods in the Tapti, Narbada and Sabarmati rivers, which early in 1944 caused considerable damage to adjoining areas including the Surat-Rander Road and the city wall of Surat.

The Station, during the year, gave advice in a number of cases relating to prevention of erosion and scour, river training, and control, rainfall run-off, dams, reservoirs and barrages, spillways, etc. Advice was also given regarding waterway of bridges in Ceylon.

Notes were also written on "basic problems" and on a large number of specific problems without model experiments. The latter included schemes for augmenting the water supply of Bombay, schemes to control floods in the Damodar river, accretion in the Rice Canal in Sind and River Indus at Sukkur and scour in the vicinity of rigid structures.



SHEEP AND GOAT BREEDING AND MARKETING

INDIA has the largest goat population in the world and ranks fourth in respect of sheep, but her exports are small. The few animals exported are taken only by neighbouring countries like Ceylon and Nepal.

"This is in sharp contrast with the export trade built up by countries like Australia and the Argentine which have specialised in rearing quality stock and exporting the same in carcass form in cold storage," says a 'Report on the Marketing of Sheep and Goats in India', issued by the Central Agricultural Marketing Department.

Milch-Breeds

The Indian shepherd or goatherd, says the Report, still works according to old conservative ideas. In the eastern part of the country, for instance, large numbers of females are served by immature males, while the majority of breeders also do not take steps to prevent breeding from immature females. Animals sold for slaughter are poor in flesh and yield lean and comparatively non-tasty meat, "partly because they have not received special fattening feeds and partly because their owners do not know at what age they should be castrated and sold in the most economic and profitable way".

An enquiry on these lines is suggested as also further investigation (the Report lists 30 breeds of sheep and 15 breeds of goat) in respect of the approximate number of animals of different breeds, habitat, live weight, carcass weight and the quality of meat, skins, wool and hair obtained from animals of particular breed.

A salient point brought out in this report is that, in a country like India, where milk is in very short supply compared with the requirements of the population, there are some very good milch-breeds of sheep and goat in some parts of the country. Such sheep are found in South-West Punjab, Damani track of North-West Frontier Province, parts of Baluchistan and Sind, Cutch and Kathiawar, and, among these, Damani sheep is said to give about 3 lbs. of milk a day under village conditions. All adult she-goats yield milk and in some parts, goats yielding large quantity of milk are also available, viz., in Malabar Coast, Southern Gujrat, Cutch State, Damani tract in North-West Frontier Provnice, Thal area of Punjab and South-Western parts of United Provinces. Some of these breeds (e.g., Beetal, Dera Deen Panan, Jamnapare) are known to yield as much as 9 to 10 lbs. of milk under proper farm conditions.

If these milch animals could be improved upon and acclimatised in different parts of the country, multiplied and distributed at a reasonable price to the poorer people, especially to those who cannot afford to buy milk or keep cows or buffaloes, then it is hoped that, in course of time, the health and vitality of the nation would improve to a greater extent.

DO YOU KNOW THAT:—

In Baluchistan, sheep and goats both outnumber humans. There are 1,989 head of sheep and 1,013 head of goats per thousand persons! India has 32 sheep and 39 goats per square mile of area and there are 131 sheep and 151 goats for every thousand persons in the country.

India has the largest goat population in the world—more than 27 per cent. She is followed by China (9.6 per cent.), Turkey (6.4 per cent.), and Russia (4 per cent.). India, China, Turkey, Russia and Iran account for nearly 50 per cent. of the total goat population of the world.

India ranks fourth in the world (6.7 per cent.), in respect of sheep population, being exceeded by Australia (15 per cent.), Russia (13 per cent.) and the U.S.A. (7.1 per cent.). Corresponding figures for the Argentine, Union of South Africa and New Zealand are 5.75 per cent., 5.4 per cent. and 4.25 per cent. respectively.

In 20 years (ending 1942), the human population of India increased by 22 per cent. The sheep population increased by more than 7,500,000 or 22.3 per cent. and the goat population by 18,100,000 or 60.3 per cent.

To stimulate greater use of railways (much of the movement to market is at present by road, often through jungle) and to ensure that animals are transported safely, quickly, and at low cost, recommendations are made in regard to concessional freight rates, the attaching of animal wagons to passenger trains or parcel expresses and the provision of drinking water and feeding troughs *en route*.

Sheep and goat markets are usually held in the open despite the inclement weather and extremes of heat and cold. The names of such important markets have been given in the Report. It is recommended that municipalities (which levy fees and taxes on the slaughter of animals) enclose the market by *pucca* walls, erect sheds for shelter from sun and rain and make adequate arrangements for feeding and watering animals. Finally, brokers in all important markets should be licensed and their number and rate of remuneration fixed according to local conditions.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Facilities for Advanced Studies

In view of the important role which agricultural research will play in the post-war scheme of development, the Government of India have decided to expand the existing facilities for post-graduate training at the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi. To meet the increasing demand for trained personnel in the Provinces and States a larger number of students is to be admitted each year. It is hoped to admit 50 this year as against 12 in previous years. Post-graduate training in two more subjects, namely, Agricultural Engineering and Agricultural Economics and Statistics, will be introduced from 1946.

The existing one-year course in "Farm Organisation, Farm Management, and General Farm Engineering" has been converted into a two-year course in "Agriculture".

An extension course, lasting for one year, in Plant Protection (Plant Diseases and Pests) has been organised in connection with the increased crop production scheme. This course will also begin from October 1 each year, along with the two-year post-graduate courses. Students who satisfactorily complete a two-year post-graduate course qualify for the Diploma of Associateship of the Institute.

INDIAN ROAD DEVELOPMENT

(*Continued from page 612*)

post-war period, but they made certain recommendations regarding improvement schemes and indicated that more deep seaports might eventually be needed on the coast of India to meet anticipated expansion of trade and in particular one of easy access to large ships on the East coast.

The Policy Committee generally endorsed the main conclusions of the Port Committee and resolved that a technical committee should be set up to advise the Central Government on the need for more deep-sea ports to provide sheltered berths for large modern vessels and on other matters on which technical advice is required. It was also decided by the Policy Committee that the report of the Port Development Committee should be circulated to Chambers of Commerce for their opinions on the subject.

SECURITY PROBLEMS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

NOW that both Germany and Japan have surrendered the world turns from the ardous task of making war to the stupendous task of ensuring world security. Unless security arrangements are 100 per cent. foolproof there can be no possible hope or guarantee of lasting peace, and all our sacrifices will go for nothing.

The task of ensuring peace has not been made any easier by the discovery of the means of releasing atomic energy. It is not a matter that can be kept secret; indeed, if it is to be used for the benefit of mankind it should not be kept secret. Control will not be easy. This scientific discovery has placed in the hands of mankind a vast instrument for good or ill, which may either revolutionize civilization or destroy it.

The formation of an Indian Ocean Region as a contribution to the future peace and prosperity of the World was advocated by Lt.-Gen. G. N. Molesworth, former Deputy Chief of the General Staff, Army Headquarters, India, in a paper read by him at a recent meeting of the East India Association, London. The subject was "Some Problems of Future Security in the Indian Ocean Area." Lord Hailey, former Governor of the Punjab and the U.P., presided.

Thus we are today faced with problems which are no longer the exclusive concern of Governments but affect each one of us individually. We have, each one of us, a vital responsibility for understanding the principles on which lasting peace can be based—for peace is the only future hope for civilization—for thinking continually about these principles and contributing our own smal individual share to their practice and preservation.

Today I am only going to consider very tentatively a small portion of this question of future world security over a very limited field. My object is little more than "to start you thinking" on problems which lie before us in the immediate future, in an area in which this Association is particularly interested. I would, however, like to stress that, whatever arrangements may be made in the future, we have always the unknown factor of human nature before us. Occasions arise when human elements predominate, and no considerations of equity, economics, life and death, or common sense will prevent people breaking the peace, whether it be for considerations of greed or despair. It is when we are faced, as we may well be faced, with such a situation that world security will be really put to the test. Either it will succeed or civilization will collapse.

Already some of our best brains are thinking deep, and much valuable preliminary work has been done at San Francisco. Public interest has been aroused and the Charter of the United Nations is before the world. It is not my intention to discuss this important and imposing document in any detail. But for my purpose today certain articles require brief mention.

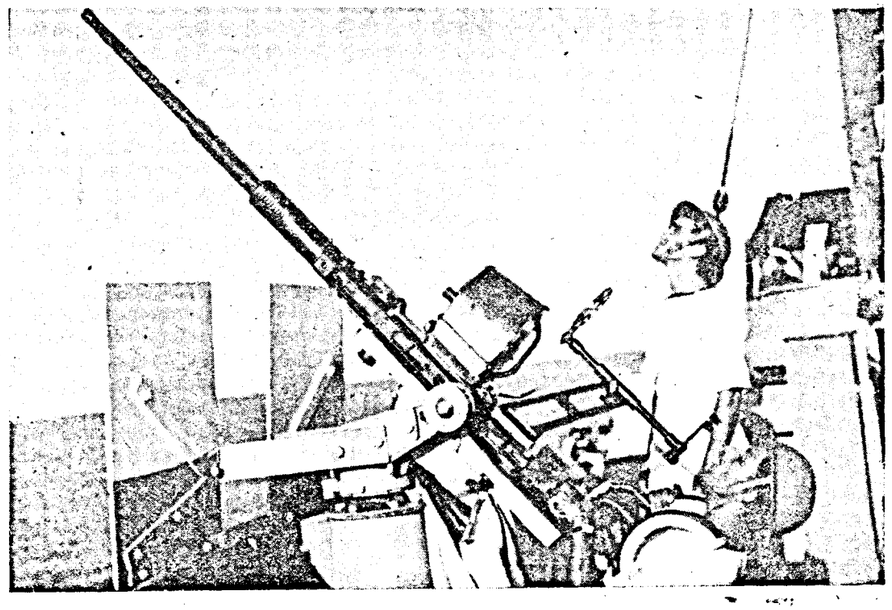
Articles 1 and 2 set forth purposes and principles. These are briefly: first, to maintain international peace and security; and, secondly, to achieve international co-operation in economic, social, cultural and humanitarian questions.

Articles 23 to 54 deal with the establishment of the Security Council, which will have primary responsibility for the maintenance of peace and security. This is outside my field today. But Article 43 is of particular interest, for it deals with the contributions to be made by all members of the United Nations in the event of any threat to the peace. Such contributions include arrangements for the provision of armed forces, assistance, facilities and right of passage.

As I see it, the outstanding features of the whole document are, firstly inter-dependence and co-operation between units on a world-wide basis; and, secondly, contribution by each unit, in some form, to the common cause. Perhaps the main factor in cementing the inter-dependent and co-operating units, and the underlying element in the Charter, is common funk. It is with the application of the elements of the Charter to India and its limitrophe countries that I am concerned today.

India's Defence

It is necessary to look back very briefly to some of India's security problems in the past. Defence has been, and will be in the future, closely related to constitutional, political, economic and social factors, in both the internal and external fields. It is no longer possible to consider defence in a professional, or even national, vacuum. It is closely linked with every facet of national and international life. Expenditure on defence in peace was the insurance premium which every country was prepared to pay in the hope—generally a slender one—that it would be an adequate guarantee against an aggressor. If civilization is to be preserved in the future that premium may have to be increased; those who



Ratings man an A-A. gun on a sloop of the Royal Indian Navy.

can afford it will, in their own interests, have to contribute to aid those who can afford less. Parish-pump policy must take a back seat.

During the period of British occupation—I need go no further back—India has never been able to stand on her own feet in matters of defence. The commitments for which she could accept financial responsibility have been governed by limitations of subcontinental size, vast land and sea frontiers, special racial and tribal factors, low standards of living and the difficulties of raising revenue, rather than the lack of actual resources. □

At sea she has relied for security on the British taxpayer and Pax-Britannica, which is the gift of the Royal Navy. She has in recent years made a valuable contribution to her own local naval defence and the security of trade routes in the Indian Ocean. But that has literally been a drop in the ocean.

Within her boundaries her land forces have been sufficient to: (*a*) defend her major ports, (*b*) secure her internal strategic communications, (*c*) aid the civil power in an emergency, (*d*) maintain the *status quo* in tribal areas, (*e*) defend her frontiers against an aggressor, (*f*) provide a small general reserve.

Air forces have been a comparatively recent and valuable, though expensive, addition. At first responsibility fell on the Royal Air Force, but now India has her own Air Force, which will grow in efficiency and size—and cost.

There have also been forces available in those maintained by Indian States. These have maintained security within State confines, and of the strategic communications which pass through State territory. They have also made a great contribution to imperial and allied causes.

But India has never been called upon, unaided, to resist a major aggressor, either by sea, land or air. It has always been recognised that aid would be sent to her in such circumstances, and she was not called on to provide forces to meet this major emergency. During the two world wars she made a great contribution in men— apart from anything else—to theatres outside India. But the criterion, in peace and war, has been that any forces sent out of India should not be to the detriment of her own territorial security. The main picture is one of the acceptance of limited local responsibility, based on the capacity to discharge it.

India has in the past been fortunately situated for defence. Her geographical position, with no major power in close proximity by sea or land, has been her saviour. Natural obstacles of mountain, desert and forest have combined to render the defence of her enormous land frontier a reasonable commitment with limited resources. The traditional gateways on the west have always been vulnerable spots, whether the danger has come from central Asiatic hordes, tribal incursions, Tsarist Russia or Hitler in his drive to the Caucasus. To the east there has never been a threat, until Japan showed how closely Burma, though separated politically and geographically, is strategically joined to India. But what held for the past no longer holds for the future. Aircraft are only in their infancy, and to them physical land obstacles are little or no obstacles at all. Her vulnerability has increased by several hundred per cent. and is increasing.

By sea her enormous coastline is extremely vulnerable, as the Japanese have shown. Here her safety lies in keeping potential aggressors far from her waters.

Polifically she is not so well placed. She is enclosed by nations which are constitutionally, economically or socially unstable. To the west lie Iran and Afghanistan; to the northwest Sinkiang, in which both Russia and China are interested; to the north are Nepal and Tibet, both undeveloped; to the east is Burma, with Siam beyond. Leaving Burma aside, none of these countries may, in itself, be likely to wish to disturb the peace. But immediately, by reason of their instability and weakness, they are individually and collectively potential danger-points.

In general, the outlook for the countries bordering the Indian Ocean is not too rosy. Not only have modern developments complicated and increased their defence problems, but there are many other problems of inter-dependence and co-operation which are at present almost virgin soil.

Security Regions

I now turn to the future. The San Francisco Charter has cleared the ground as regards principles, but there is much detail yet to be worked out. Beneath the umbrella of the World Security Council there will have to be local responsibility in regions yet to be defined. Such security regions or zones will contain inter-dependent units, who will co-operate and contribute primarily to the solution of their own security problems. But the regions themselves will, no doubt, be interlocked, one region helping another in an emergency.

We do not yet know how or where these regions will take shape, or how many there will be. But it is not unreasonable to suppose that India, by reason of her size, position, manpower and resources—to say nothing of her aspirations—might be the major partner in a region lying between Africa and the Middle East on the one hand, and such regions as may be formed in the Far East and Pacific on the other. The other units with which she might be associated would be those in close proximity to the Indian Ocean.

In considering such a region, with India as its centre, economic, cultural and social factors must come into full account, as well as those of strategy. We can no longer think solely in terms of imperial commitments.

Indian Ocean

To the west there would be obvious objections to the inclusion of any portion of Africa, the Red Sea littoral or Saudi Arabia. With the possible exception of the Hadramaut they looked elsewhere than to the Indian Ocean. Culturally, Iraq and Iran are more closely linked to the Middle East—particularly if we bear in mind the terms of the Saadabad Pact. But strategically Indian Ocean defence is very closely linked with the Basra Vilayet, the Persian Gulf, the Trucial Sheikhdoms, South Iran, and those parts of Eastern Iran through which runs the route from India to Meshed.

Afghanistan is in many ways linked to India, and her peoples are closely related to those on the Indian side of the Durand Line. Her outlet to the sea is through India. Nepal has close affinities to India, but Sinkiang and Tibet lie beyond the Himalayan wall and may perhaps be excluded. Affairs in both countries will, however, always be a concern to any Government in India.

Ceylon, Burma and Malaya, whose defence is closely bound up with that of India, are obvious candidates for inclusion. So also is the Netherlands East Indies, together with Borneo, Sarawak and Labuan. Siam and Indo-China are borderline cases. Culturally they have few connections with the peoples of the Indian Ocean. It may be that, weak as they are, they would fit more conveniently and appropriately, into a Far Eastern Region.

As a minimum, however, an Indian Ocean Region might well comprise the Persian Gulf and its littoral, Eastern Iran (possibly the whole of Iran for administrative convenience), Afghanistan, India, Nepal, Burma, Ceylon, Malaya, the Netherlands East Indies, Borneo, Sarawak and Labuan. This would give an adequate number of inter-dependent units, but not too many; a sufficiency of material resources and manpower; and strategically an area which would not be too large for the rapid movement of reinforcements in an emergency. Strategically, also, it provides space for defence in depth and for the central location of reserves of material, production and forces.

It remains to be seen what contribution the units so grouped could make to their own and world security. It must be assumed that the first commitment of any unit would be its own internal stability. Beyond that, any surplus—and there will have to be a surplus—will go, first, towards regional and, secondly, world needs. This assumption, of course, rules out the "internationalizing" of all armed forces. Any such project, except for very special needs, or for special weapons, bristles with difficulties.

India's Contribution

India, by reason of her location, size, resources and growing importance, would probably form the hard core of the organisation. Her responsibilities would be directly commensurate with her capacity. Indirectly she might be asked to place facilities at the disposal of the World Council for the location and training of reserves raised, and paid for, outside India. In the material and industrial fields her contribution may be even greater than in the purely military field. It might well be that the directional and co-ordinating organism for the region would best be located in India. In the fields of culture and research she would doubtless contribute much.

The other units, with the exception of the Netherlands East Indies, have limited resources and would, at any rate at first, contribute more in the form of material and supplies than armed force. The Netherlands East Indies possessed considerable armed forces in the past. No doubt she would wish to re-establish and, perhaps, increase these. But whatever the resources of a unit may be, it seems essential that she should be expected to prepare some force which, in an emergency, could be made available for a common cause.

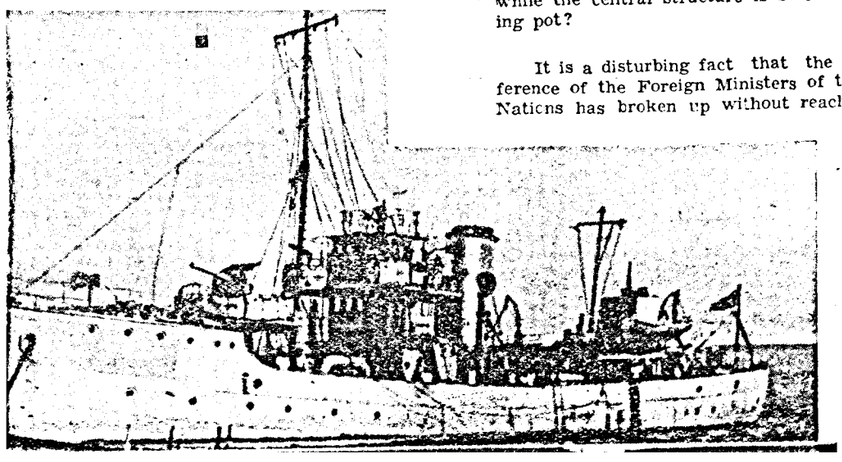
In considering the purely military side of the problem of contribution we must remember that the size, composition and armament of forces may undergo very considerable change in the future. New weapons and new methods of transportation may reduce the number of men required. But whatever the weapons produced and the method of their employment, men will be required to handle them. Moreover, men will for a very long time be the most suitable medium for the preservation of order, in circumstances not amounting to major war. India has always possessed men who, by tradition and nature, are well suited to handle weapons, and whose integrity can be relied on. She may for some years be asked to include them, in full measure, in her contribution.

Co-ordinated Planning

But it is not on armed force that the main basis of security within a region will rest. Much will depend on the quality of the co-ordinated and co-operative planning and interchange of information between the interdependent units. I quote the Charter again, which enjoins "the solving of international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all, without distinctions as to race, sex, language or religion." Co-operation on these lines is the greatest guarantee for lasting peace.

It may be that the reaction of many of my listeners to what I have said may take the form of two questions. In the first place, what is the good of considering the theoretical problems of a small portion of the world security scheme, while the central structure is still in the melting pot?

It is a disturbing fact that the first conference of the Foreign Ministers of the United Nations has broken up without reaching any



H.M.I.S. "Poona."

major decisions. This is, perhaps, not so surprising as it appears at first sight. The stark fact of the emergence from the fires of this war of a new Russia as a world Power, with very definite ideas on her place in the future Europe, has not yet had time to sink in. It is only natural that the ideas of a totalitarian state on how other states should be governed in a reorganised world should not coincide with those of the great western democracies. But, although the hitch which has occurred will cause unfortunate delay, there seems no reason why, after a period for thought, a *via media* will not be found.

Disturbing Factors

There is also a disturbing element in the reactions of American opinion and Congress to the appeals put forward by the United States Service Chiefs for the post-war forces to be maintained. General Marshall has asked for a nucleus on which to be able to mobilise four million men within one year in an emergency. It seems unlikely that he will get this. If the United States go back on world security the outlook is a poor one.

There is also the unknown element of the atomic bomb. This may or may not be a bogey. On the one hand, the secret will not be easy to keep; on the other, we are told that cost may be the limiting factor. Whatever the truth, atomic energy may be the determining element in any plans for security and may revolutionize any preconceived ideas.

But in spite of these disturbing and somewhat unknown factors there is surely no harm in considering and ventilating ideas on both major and minor problems. There is much force in the contention of General Smuts that patience and friendly discussion will overcome present difficulties.

In the second place, what is the good of considering a world security region in which all the units are politically and militarily backward and undeveloped?

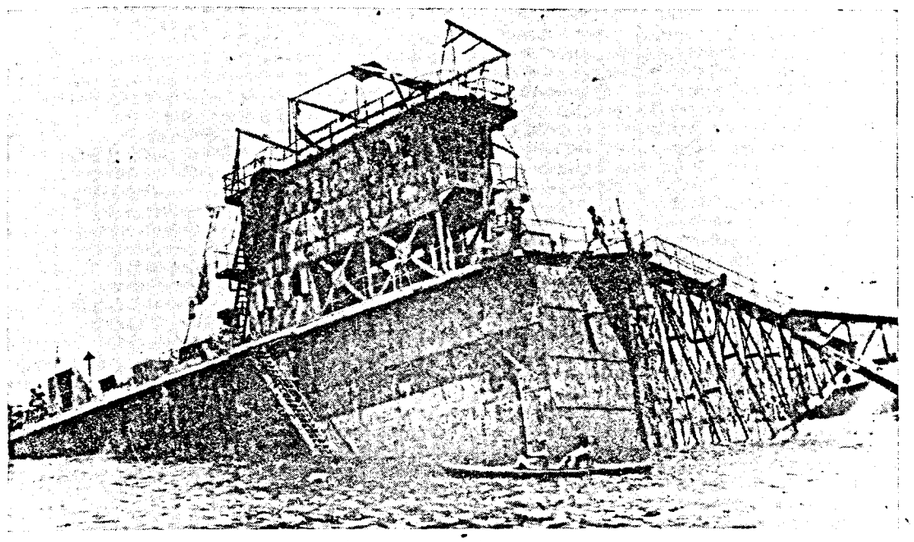
It is perfectly true that these terms can be applied to all the units I have suggested as those which might form part of an Indian Ocean Region. Iran and Afghanistan are constitutionally and economically unstable; militarily they are archaic. India is torn with disunity and communal feeling; but she has a sound military organization; an industrial system capable of much development; and Indian ideas have been broadened by the experience and responsibilities of war. Burma and Ceylon are poor, to a great extent defenceless, and poiltically inexperienced. Siam is dangerously weak in every department. Malaya has always had to rely on Britain for defence; her politics are extremely complex owing to her mixed population. In the Netherlands East Indies we now see a strong Indonesian reaction to European rule.

Throughout the region the war—and ideas of Japanese co-prosperity—have given a vast stimulus to popular aspirations and half-baked ideas of self-government and independence. We, as a democracy, have done much to sow and foster those ideas, so we cannot now complain. Indeed, it seems possible that many people in this country will have to revolutionize their own ideas on the future of Eastern peoples, and whole-heartedly accept the inevitable. It is surely the time not for repression, but for the wise direction of popular aspiration along sound channels, and for ensuring that progress to the ultimate goal is neither too rough nor too rapid.

Constitutional Progress

If that view is taken it is surely necessary to begin to think out the problems at once, so that advances can be made beneath an umbrella of peace and constitutional progress go hand-in-hand with security. All of which, I am afraid, implies that for a very considerable period aid in one form or another will have to come from outside to ensure the security of the Indian Ocean Region.

In what I have put before you there is nothing new. The conception of an Indian Ocean defensive block has been considered in the past. It has, however, always foundered on the rocks of interdependence and co-operation—or, rather, independence and non-co-operation. Thus people like myself, and others of far greater eminence, have been regarded as dreamers and Utopians. But the dream has now got to come true. The world is face to face with stark facts. The dreams of independence and national isolation, in which many Eastern thinkers have been, and are, indulging, have been torn to shreds by the release of atomic energy. No one can afford now to allow others to be independent. We are all in the same boat and travelling over a stormy and unknown sea. Unless we all pull together we are bound for the rocks. There are plenty of rocks, some known, some unknown. We are all responsible for keeping a sharp look-out, not only to point out dangers which we may spot, but to ensure that those who are responsible do not steer a course which will bring us to destruction.



One of the biggest salvage operations to be carried out by the Royal Navy was the refloating of a dock which capsized and sank in 150 feet of water at Trincomalee, Ceylon. The dock was built at Bombay.

INDIAN-BUILT FLOATING DOCK SALVAGED

IN the biggest salvage operation completed by the Royal Navy, a 50,000 ton floating dock has been raised from its resting place 150 feet beneath the Indian Ocean, writes a Naval Observer.

The dock, which capsized in Trincomalee Harbour, Ceylon, soon after the battleship *Valiant* was placed in her thirteen months ago, was built in Bombay entirely of Indian steel from an Admiralty design. Her construction was one of the biggest engineering feats undertaken in India during the war. Her length was 845 feet, and she was 173 feet wide and 75 feet deep. The machinery was American.

It was due not to any structural defect but to a small technical error—a pressure registering one of the forward tanks as being flooded when in fact it was empty—that the mishap occurred when the 35,000 ton battleship *Valiant* was being docked on the night of August 8 last year. The dock assumed a list and began to fold up, the *Valiant's* screws puncturing one of the up-ended sections.

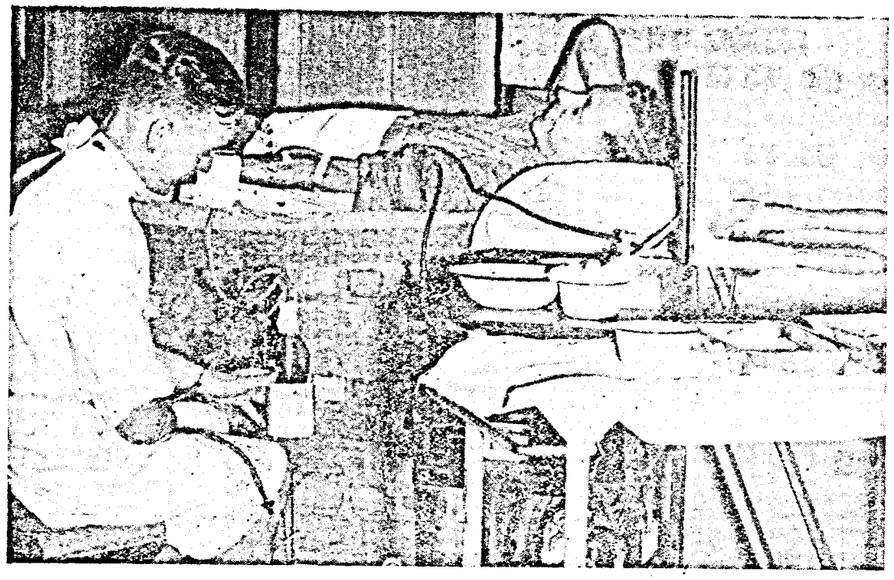
All hands in the *Valiant* were called on deck as there was imminent danger that the battleship would sink with the dock. The damaged portion of the dock was therefore flooded and sunk tearing out the Valiant's port shaft. But the battleship was saved. Electric cables were snapped, and the dock was plunged into darkness, making it impossible to keep her afloat.

"It was a major disaster at the time," commented Captain W.A. Doust, C.B.E., R.N.V.R., under whose command worked the British East Indies Fleet personnel who have now raised the dock. "Since the loss of Singapore, all our big warships in the Indian Ocean had to return to the United Kingdom for their periodical refits. It was to save this loss of time and fuel that the dock was constructed. Another dock was immediately laid down in Bombay, but it has only just been completed."

A Dramatic Scene

The scene when the sunken dock was raised was dramatic. After Naval divers with specially designed air hoses had tunnelled through seventeen feet of glutinous mud to break the suction holding her fast, the steel monster, tugged by salvage vessels, came to the surface in a maelstorm of boiling foam. Fountains of water cascaded eight feet high as compressed air forced its way up. Octopuses, huge shellfish and other deep sea creatures clung to her or slid off her decks as she emerged at an angle.

(*Continued on page* 655)



INDIA PROVIDED MEDICAL EQUIPMENT DURING WAR

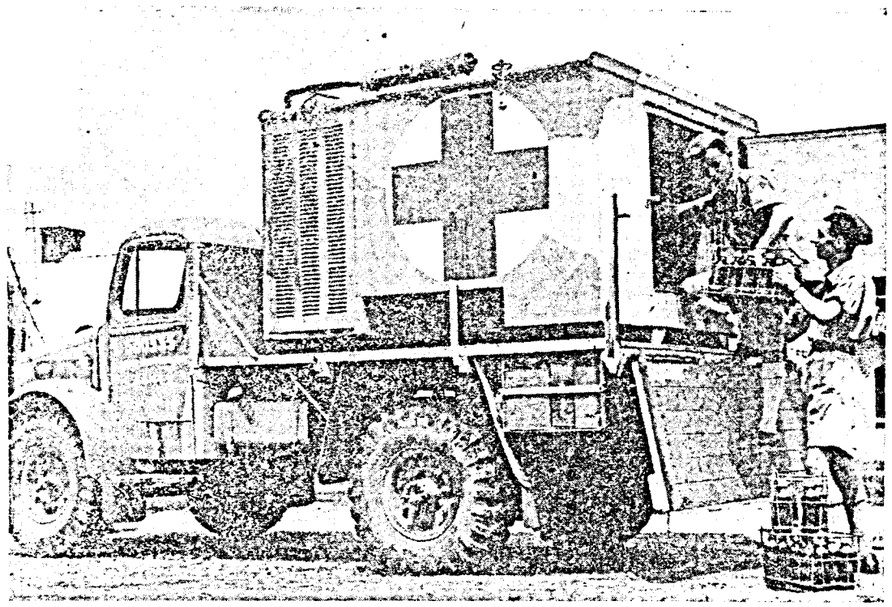
INDIGENOUS production of medical stores and equipment proved remarkably helpful during the war period. A speedy and continuous supply from overseas of these stores was necessary but losses at sea meant replacements causing at times a delay of six months or more. This is where the situation was saved by the efforts of the Indian manufacturer. Although he had little experience in manufacturing such equipment as surgical instruments and appliances, he became the source of 85 per cent. of the requirements until such time as the manufacturing capacity overseas could supply the high standard of equipment used in hospitals and medical units.

Some of the items of medical supply which made a major contribution to victory were mepacrine, penicillin, tubunic morphia ampoule, sulphaguainidine and D.D.T.

With the loss of Netherland East Indies, the main source of quinine, mepacrine came to be used more than before and was supplied to India in large quantities by England and America. Penicillin used in the treatment of infection caused by wounds and venereal and other diseases was available to the fighting forces in adequate quantities.

Blood transfusion is one of the greatest medical advances in recent times in the treatment of the wounded and the Army Transfusion Service for India has been created on lines similar to that in the U.K. Here, a donor is giving blood. (Below) Medical Stores of an Indian Beach Medical Unit being checked.





A mobile refrigerator for the storage of blood.

For immediate relief from pain in the absence of a doctor or nurse at the scene of casualty a wounded person could use the tubunic morphia ampoule. It is a small tube fitted with a hypodermic needle containing the correct quantity of solution for a single injection. By himself administering this injection, the injured person could cure his pain as if he were his own doctor. These ampoules were supplied in large numbers by the U.K. and the U.S.A.

Sulphaguainidine is used in the treatment of bacillary dysentery. This drug was obtained from Australia and administered to patients in India and S.E.A. Commands. It not only saved lives but had the added advantages of rapid cure and short convalescence enabling thousands of men to return to duty within a few days.

Blood Donation

Indian sepoys in large numbers donated blood for transfusion for battle casualties when necessity arose in 1942.

At first there was some prejudice on the part of troops to donate blood as well as to accept transfusion as a treatment. But it soon wore off when an appeal was made to their sense of chivalry and assurance given that it would in no way affect the health of the donor. The result was a generous response and in some cases rivalry to have the highest percentage of donors sprang up between one company and another.

The blood taken from these donors was used in military hospitals in India and for the resuscitation of casualties in Burma.

WARD WATCHING AND COAST WATCHING SERVICES

With the conclusion of hostilities, the Government of India have decided to disband the War Watching and Coast Watching Services. These organisations were formed early in the war with the object of providing a continuous chain of watching posts round the coast of India. Personnel were recruited locally, many being lent by the Governments of maritime Provinces and States. Their work though of a tedious nature was of great importance, and the Government of India now wish to express their thanks to the personnel of these organisations for their loyal and persevering efforts which have contributed in no small degree to the victory of the Allied cause.



Advance party of W.A.C.(I.) Contingent which sailed for Rangoon from Calcutta. (Below) Officer-in-Charge of the party, J/Cdr. Garraty.

W.A.C.(I) CONTINGENT IN BURMA

TWO parties of the first W.A.C(I) contingent to go overseas have arrived in Rangoon from Calcutta. They will work mainly on clerical duties at 12th Army H.Q. and in the Civil Affairs Services.

There are five officers and 42 other ranks, and all lived in Burma before the war. Evacuated from Burma in 1942, the girls joined the W.A.C.(I) and were stationed in units throughout India before volunteering for the Burma contingent.

"At long last we have returned, and we are thrilled to be back", said Junior Commander L. Garraty, daughter of Mr. E. C. Garraty, M.B.E., of P286 Darga Road, Park Circus, Calcutta.

Junior Commander Garraty joined the W.A.C.(I) in May 1942 and served with the Observer Corps. She is in charge of the advance party in Rangoon. In a visit to her old home she found everything in it had been removed.



SIZE AND COMPOSITION OF FIGHTING SERVICES

C.-in-C.'s Address at Quetta

GENERAL Sir Claude Auchinleck, during his recent visit to Quetta, spent more than two hours at the Staff College and at the W.A.C.(I) Staff College, where he was accompanied by the Countess of Carlisle, Director of the W.A.C.(I).

In an address to the students of the Staff College, Gen. Auchinleck dealt with the future of the Indian Armed Forces.

"No firm decision has yet been taken as to the size and composition of the three fighting Services" the C.-in-C. said. "But our plans are well advanced, and we are now at the stage where it is possible to lay down definite proposals in outline. These proposals will be influenced to a great extent by financial considerations. India is not a rich country, and as in other lands the money available for peacetime development of the Armed Forces will necessarily be restricted.

"What we have to ensure is a relatively small force of the highest efficiency, fully equipped according to the best modern standards, and capable of rapid expansion in an emergency.

"The Indian Army has 200 years of accumulated experience behind it, but no army can stand still," continued Gen. Auchinleck. "It must go on adjusting itself to a rapidly changing world. Therefore we must look forward as well as back.

India's Future Army

"India's future army will not differ greatly in size from the pre-war army. By and large the Indian Armoured Corps is likely to remain at about pre-war strength, but in order to widen the basis of recruitment, changes in its composition will be necessary.

"There will also be important changes in the infantry," said Gen. Auchinleck. "New regiments such as the Madras and Assam Regiments have come to stay and will be permanently embodied in the future Indian Army." This would entail changes of composition and organisation in the older infantry regiments, but he hoped the need for disbanding any of them would not arise.

On the question of the Indianisation of the armed forces, the C.-in-C. said: "Our eventual objective is that the three fighting Services should be completely officered by Indians, but obviously this cannot be done at once unless efficiency is to suffer. Pre-war officers are now coming into the zone of regimental and higher commands, but they are not nearly numerous enough. For the time being we must wait till the younger Indian officers have gained essential experience, and fill the gaps with British."

His Excellency finally sketched the project of a new Military Academy which will also be a university. Modelled on the lines of the American Military Academy at West Point, it will accommodate and train at one time from two to three thousand cadets of all three fighting Services. Degrees may be awarded at the end of the four-year course which will assure a complete scientific and military grounding.

Regimental Centre Visited

Gen. Auchinleck also visited the 8th Gurkha Rifles Regimental Centre at Quetta and decorated 11 men for gallantry. He presented the M.C. to the widow of Jemadar Partab Singh Chhetri, 2/8 Gurkha Rifles .

The C.-in-C. saw the Centre's resettlement training projects, which range from agricultural subjects to soap making. About 1,000 men due for release will have completed one or other of the available courses by December this year.

Gen. Auchinleck also visited the Ordnance Depot and a prisoner-of-war camp, where he saw more than 1,000 Jap prisoners.

FLOATING DOCK SALVAGED

(*Continued from page* 651)

The pontoon carrying Captain Doust and his crew of divers, stokers and technicians, and the compressors and other machinery which they had been tending day and night for the past eight months, heaved and plunged as the wall of the dock directly beneath it was released from the bottom.

Two million six hundred thousand cubic feet of compressed air had been used to displace the water in the tanks. A quarter of it was released in the few minutes in which she rose to the surface—directly beneath the puny pontoon. The crew could hardly keep their feet as the walls and superstructure reared up around them.

"Because a floating dock is built for immersion the fact that she has been under water for thirteen months will not have seriously impaired her," said Captain Doust. "Only some of her machinery will need replacement and reconditioning. Thousands of pounds of the taxpayer's money has been rescued from 25 fathoms."

MRS. AMERY HONOURED BY THE KING

A notification in the *London Gazette* dated October 26 states that the King has been graciously pleased to make the following appointment to the Imperial Order of the Crown of India:

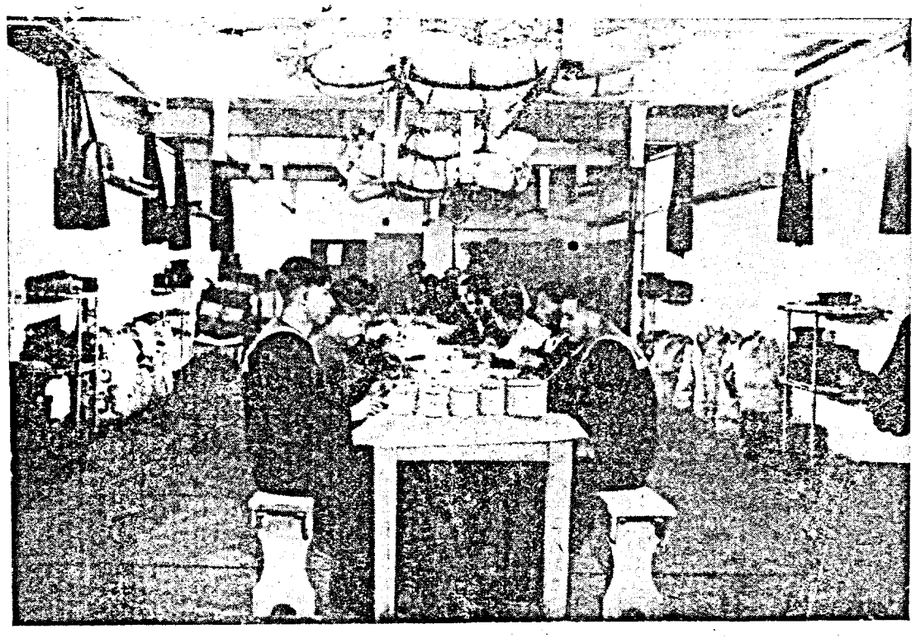
Florence, Mrs. Amery (wife of the Rt. Hon'ble Leopold Stennett Amery, C.H.) in recognition of her work for Indian Servicemen and Indian Seamen as Chairman of the Indian Comforts Fund.

The Indian Comforts Fund was organised by Mrs. Amery, and everyone connected with it has testified to the fact that its success was largely due to her inspiring leadership. The work of the Fund fell under four heads:

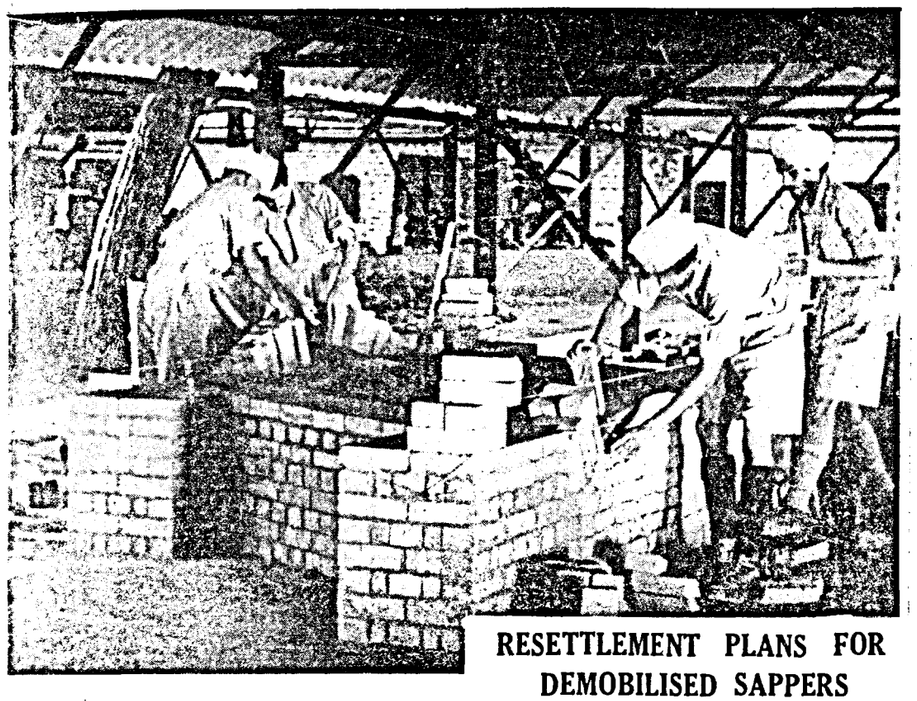
Indian Prisoners of War. The Indian Comforts Fund packed and despatched parcels of food to all Indian prisoners of war in Europe. The aim was that each prisoner of war should receive one of these food parcels every week; they contained Indian articles of diet and were specially designed by nutrition experts to supplement the prison diet. Over a million and a half of these parcels were sent during the war and many prisoners have said that they might not have survived their imprisonment without them.

In addition, thousands of parcels of clothing were sent to individual prisoners together with books, gramophones and records, cigarettes, tobacco, Indian games and musical instruments, educational courses, etc. After their release many parties of prisoners-of-war on leave in London visited the Centre of the Fund at India House to express their gratitude for all that was done for them during their captivity.

Indian Seamen. The Fund distributed many thousands of parcels of warm winter clothing to Indian seamen in British ports. These parcels contained several sorts of woollen garments which had been knitted by women all over Great Britain from wool provided from the Fund and were packed and despatched to the Seamen by the Fund. Parcels were also sent to Indian seamen's hostels and clubs at the ports containing games, gramophones and records, cigarettes, etc., and special entertainments were arranged for Indian seamen at the ports.



The Indian Comforts Fund organised by Mrs. Amery has provided winter clothing and other amenities to Indian seamen in British ports. Picture shows R.I.N. ratings at dinner in a training camp in England.



Men of the Sappers and Miners learn a trade (bricklaying) for use in civilian life.

Indian Troops in the field. Here again many thousands of woollen garments knitted by women in Great Britain were sent to Indian troops in the field all over the world. 83,000 of these woollen garments, for instance, were sent last year to Indian troops in the 14th Army. Cigarettes, games and other comforts were also sent to Indian troops in the field.

Indian Trainees (Bevin Boys). Indian trainees, soon after their arrival in London, were asked to lunch by the Indian Comforts Fund and shown the sights. They were also given warm clothing and other amenities.

All this work was carried on from the beginning to the end of the war by volunteer women workers under the direction of Mrs. Amery, and continued without interruption throughout the various bombardments of London.

RESETTLEMENT PLANS FOR DEMOBILISED SAPPERS

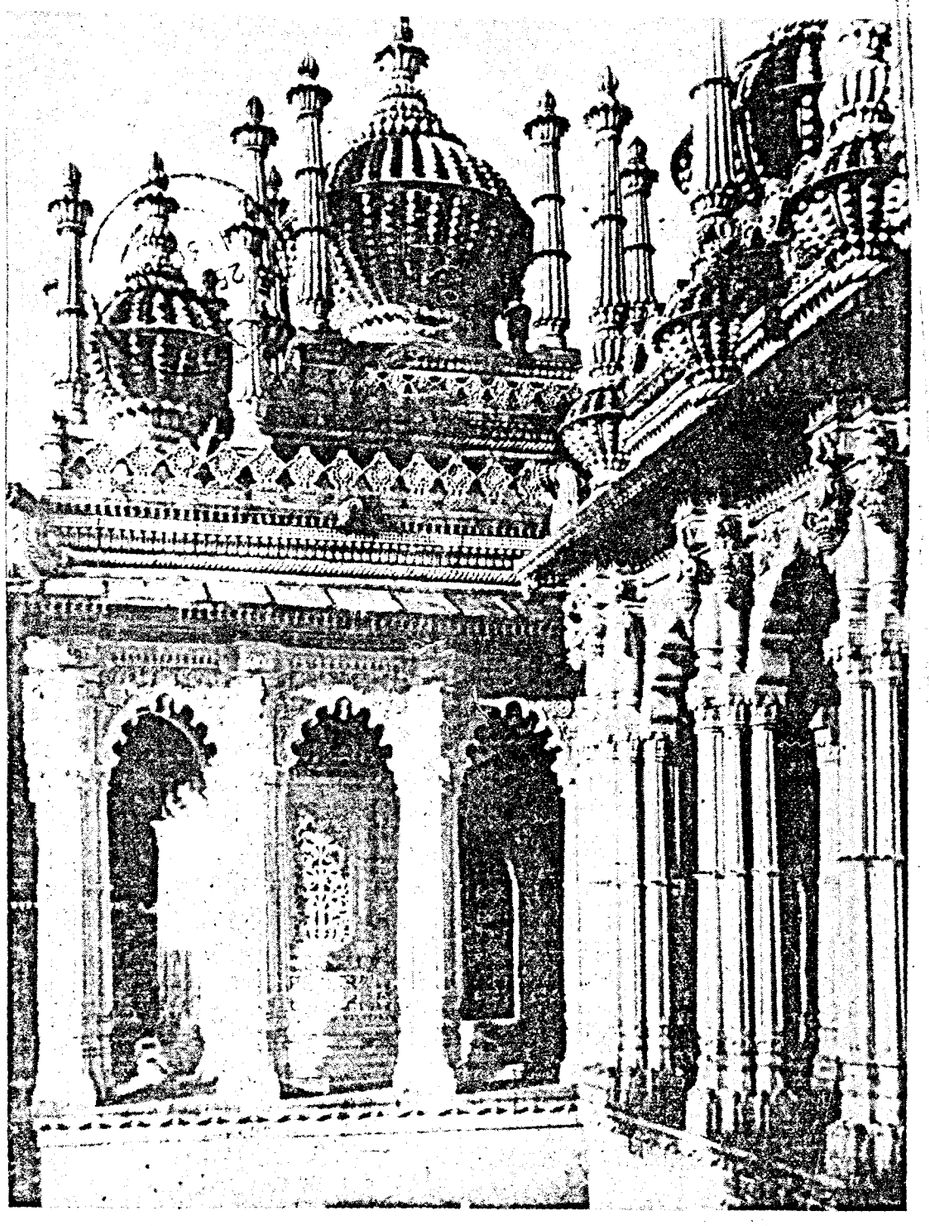
ELABORATE resettlement plans to make demobilised sappers useful citizens and artisans are being carried out at H.Q., Madras Sappers and Miners at Bangalore. Besides providing training in various subjects the scheme offers separate refresher courses for those who already have experience in some trade and wish to follow it on demobilisation.

Training extends from one week to 12 weeks. The plan includes a variety of subjects —from current affairs and citizenship to the study of cottage industries and modern methods of agriculture, writes an Army Observer.

The cottage industries training consists of loom weaving, basket making, calico printing and mat weaving. The agricultural subjects include dairy farming, poultry, sheep and rabbit breeding, fruit and vegetable farming, bee-keeping, hygiene and sanitation.

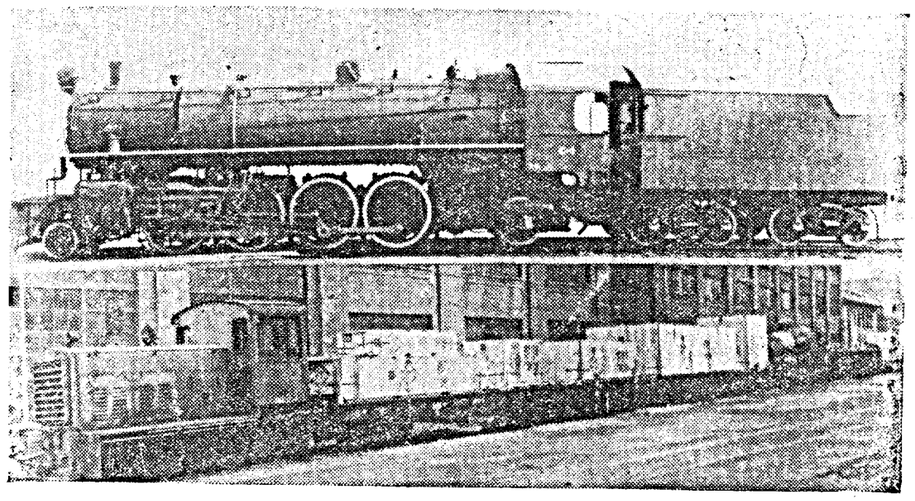
The intake for cottage industries and agricultural subjects is 380 persons a month and the Trade Refresher Course trains 280 men each month. At the end of the course, trainees are given a certificate designed to help them to obtain employment.

Regd. No. L-5060



The tomb of Bibi Ladrebu in Junagad State (Kathiawar)

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(Top half) One of the Canadian locomotives built for the Indian State Railways. (Lower half) The same locomotive dismantled and packed in 17 crates for shipment.

CANADIAN LOCOMOTIVES FOR INDIA

ONE hundred and forty-five Canadian-made locomotives will soon be in service on the broad-gauge railways in India. Weighing 161 tons with tenders, these locomotives, known as the X-Dominion type, are a smaller version of the 288½ ton Mikados which keep freight rolling along Canada's supply lines. In details, such as the tender, coupler and buffer these follow the European style.

The locomotives are being constructed at two well-known locomotive works in Canada and arrangements have been made with the Canadian Pacific Railway Company for their inspection. The Canadian Pacific Railway is not only responsible for checking the machining of parts, construction of boilers and tenders and erection of the locomotives but also have to arrange for their dismantling and re-erection on their arrival in India. For shipment each locomotive is dismantled and packed in 17 crates.

Construction of these locomotives began on July 3 last year. Mr. J. Marshall Watson, an erection engineer of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, is coming out to India to supervise the assembly and service testing of these locomotives at a railway workshop. He has been with the Canadian Pacific since 1909,



Mr. J. Marshall Watson.

with the exception of two years when he served in the last war as a member of the Royal Flying Corps.

TO STEP-UP RUBBER PRODUCTION

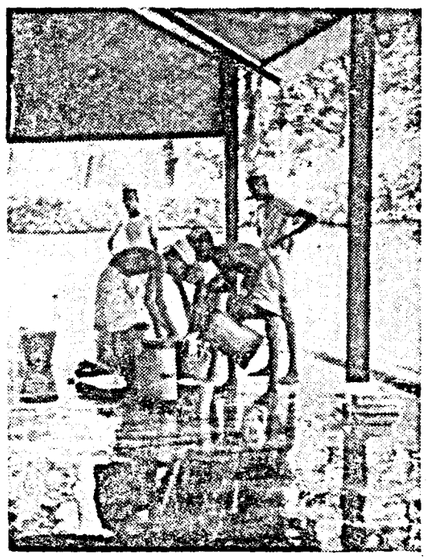
THE Government of India have introduced a Production Bonus Scheme under which bonus payments will be made for rubber, ranging from Rs. 11-1-9 to Rs. 33-5-3 per 100 lbs. over the existing price of Rs. 77-5-0, based on the production achieved during each quarter. The Scheme came into operation on April 10 and will remain in force up to June 30, 1945.

Under the Scheme, a basic annual production figure has been fixed and divided into appropriate quarterly quotas. *Bonus payments will be made in relation to the extent by which production in each quarter and on a progressive basis exceeds the base. If production falls short of the required increase on the base, no Bonus will be granted.*

As production results in 1943 exceeded the base by the necessary proportion, an immediate Bonus of Rs. 11-1-9 per 100 lbs. will be paid in respect of all rubber purchased by Government between April 10 and June 30. If production during the current quarter is not maintained at a high rate, the Bonus will be withdrawn for the second quarterly period beginning on July 1. If, on the other hand, the increase of production on the base is considerably increased, the Bonus from July 1 will be increased correspondingly.



RUBBER TAPPING: The latex, which collects in a cup is emptied into pails to be conveyed to the estate factory... (See picture below).



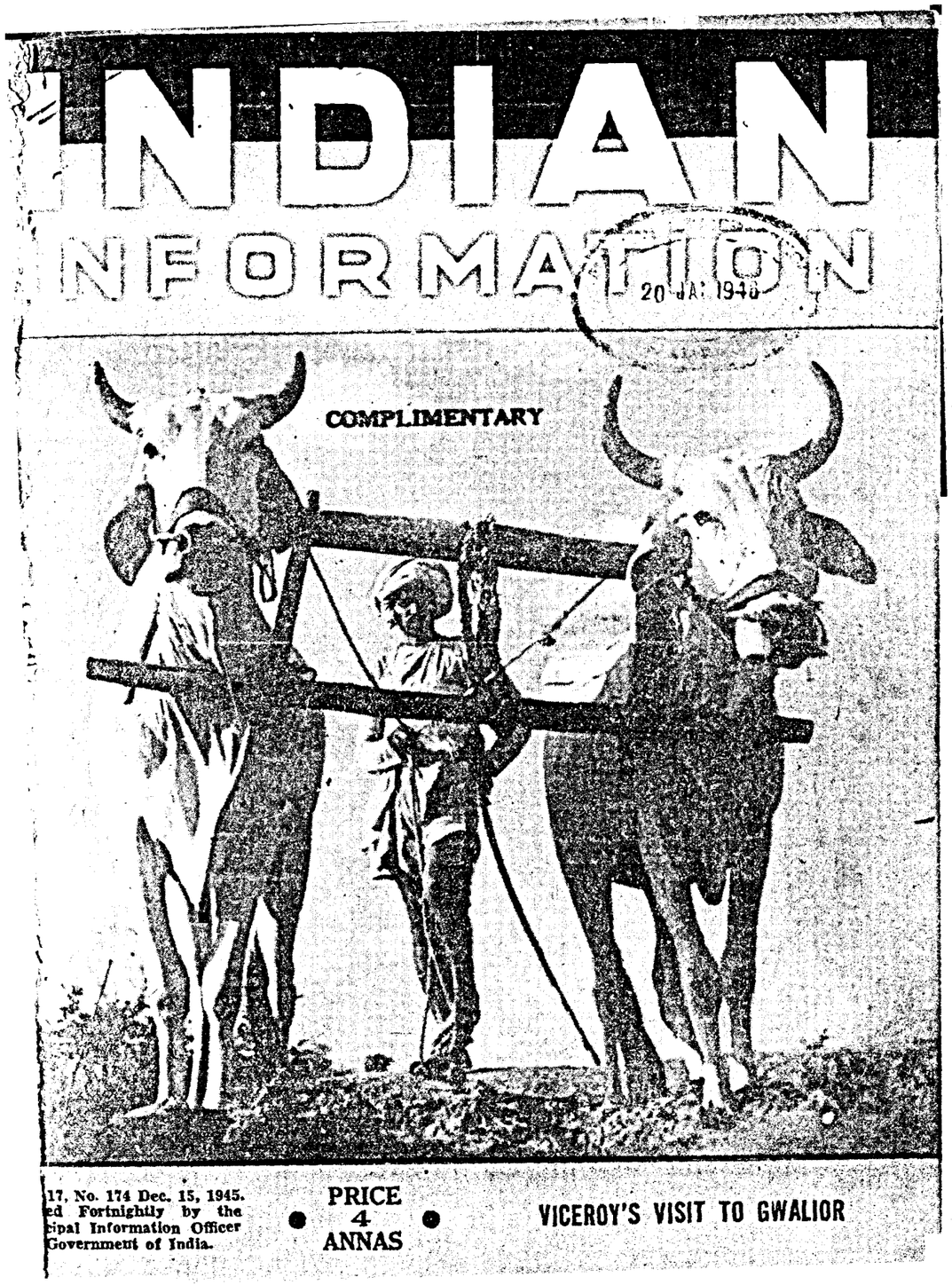
In the factory, the milk is measured and the collector paid.

In view of the fact that stocks have been accumulated in the hands of producers and dealers in anticipation of the introduction of such a Scheme, the first quarterly basic figure has been increased to the extent of the surplus stocks estimated to be in the hands of producers. All such stocks, therefore, should be tendered to the Government Rubber Purchase Officer without delay. If all surplus stocks are promptly tendered and all producers co-operate to secure maximum production, there should not be great difficulty in securing a high rate of Bonus throughout the duration of the Scheme, said a Press Note issued by Supply Department on May 27, 1944.

RAILWAY STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE

The next meeting of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways is to be held in New Delhi on July 17 and 18, 1944.

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cipal Information Officer
Government of India.

PRICE 4 ANNAS

VICEROY'S VISIT TO GWALIOR



W.R.I.N. Cadet officers, with one of their instructors, on board H.M.I.S. "Sutlej."

Vol. 17 No. 174. INDIAN INFORMATION Dec. 15, 1945.

AIM :—To provide a condensed record of the main activities of the Government of India.

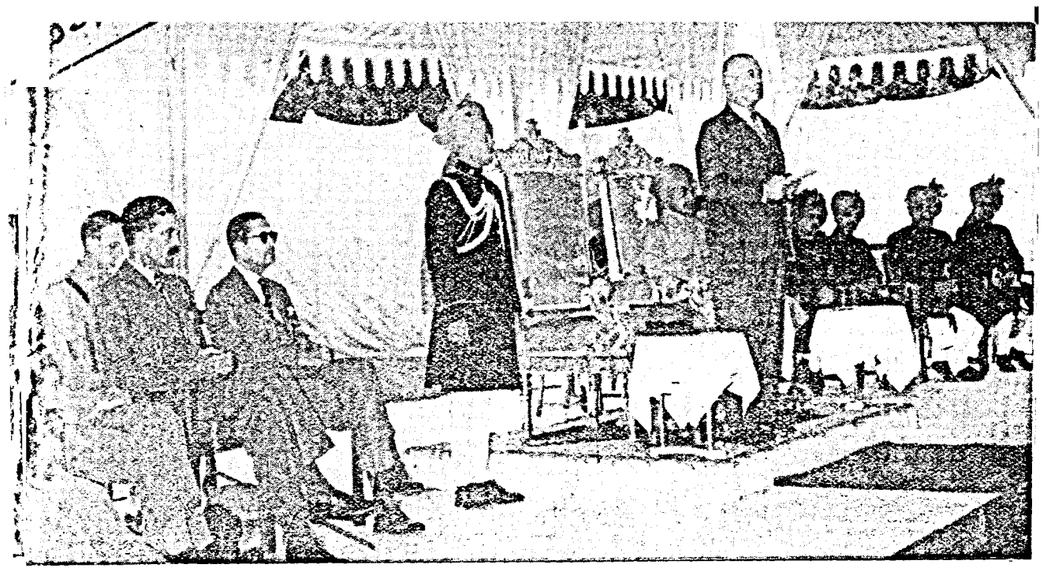
FORMAT:—Headings, sub-titles and bold face passages are inserted to facilitate reading but they should not in themselves necessarily be considered as expressions of official opinion or emphasis.

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.

Edited by Pothan Joseph, Principal Information Officer, Government of India.

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H.E. the Viceroy replying to the welcome address of H. H. the Maharaja Scindia of Gwalior when he laid the foundation stone of the Gajra Raja Medical College.

NEW MEDICAL COLLEGE FOR GWALIOR STATE

Viceroy Lays Foundation Stone

IN all plans for progress the first step must be the education of the teachers and instructors. India is very short of experts in many important fields. I, therefore, congratulate Your Highness on your foresight and wisdom in establishing this medical college. I am sure that it will prove of lasting benefit to the State," said H.E. the Viceroy laying the foundation stone of the Gajra Raja Medical College at Gwalior on November 21.

Their Excellencies Lord and Lady Wavell arrived in Gwalior by air on November 18 and were received at the Maharajpur airfield by H.H. the Maharaja Scindia and the Resident, Lt.-Col. Poulton, and Mrs. Poulton. The Viceregal party included the Hon. Mrs. Astley, Miss Wavell, the Lady Anne Fitzroy and Sir Conrad Corfield, Political Adviser.

The Gajra Raja Medical College is to be built at a cost of Rs. 20,00,000 and will train 35 students annually. Employment for its graduates is more or less certain within the State itself as His Highness has a large post-war expansion scheme of medical relief. Eighteen new hospitals and 44 maternity homes are to be opened in the State. The present number of medical men is considered inadequate for the State's growing needs. Twenty lakhs of patients are treated annually in the State hospitals and dispensaries. The new Medical College will have the Jayarogya Hospital, the Kamla Raja Hospital for Women and Children, two modern operation theatres equipped with up-to-date apparatus and instruments and will be affiliated to the Agra University.

His Excellency, accompanied by the Maharaja, arrived at the Shamiana where all the dignitaries of the State and prominent State subjects were gathered to witness the ceremony. Those present included Sri Rajagopalachari, Vice-President of the Council, Lt.-Col. Sardar Phalke, President of the Medical College Board, Col. Shankar Lal Gargya, Chief Medical Officer, Sir Conrad Corfield and Lt.-Col. Poulton.

Inviting the Viceroy to lay the foundation stone, the Maharaja of Gwalior gave an account of India's war effort and said that Gwalior would collaborate in the Government of India's

post-war schemes just as it had co-operated with British India during the war. "To-day's occasion will be memorable", said His Highness, "as a landmark in the post-war reconstruction plan of the State. The need of a medical college in this part of the country cannot be over-emphasised. In this age, medical science has made stupendous progress in the advanced countries of the world, but vital statistics show that India has not been able to keep pace, with the disinclination on the part of the people to adopt methods at variance with established customs and habits. In Gwalior itself, western medicine and surgery were practically unknown until 1887 when a Medical Department was organised to provide relief accoring to the methods of Western medical science. A modest beginning was made with half a dozen institutions and as these gained in popularity, more hospitals and dispensaries were opened in succeeding years. Today, there are 180 institutions working in the State and they include hospitals, Ayurvedic, Allopathic and Unani dispensaries, a mental hospital, a leper asylum and a mercy home. The two big institutions, Jayarogya hospital at Lashkar and the Civil Hospital at Ujjain, are equipped with all modern appliances. Another hospital for Gwalior—the Kamla Raja Hospital for Women and Children—has been planned and the foundation stone has already been laid by the Marchioness of Linlithgow.



Lord Wavell laying the foundation stone of the Gajra Raja Medical College. (Below) The Viceroy being received by H. H. the Maharaja Scindia of Gwalior.



"In spite of these institutions in my State, I found that the relief offered to the people was not sufficient and that there was still very large room for impovement. Rs. 4 lakhs as recurring grant were sanctioned by my Government on the occasion of the birth of the heir apparent, for better equipping the existing medical institutions and for opening 18 new hospitals and dispensaries and 44 maternity homes in rural areas. But with all these, I find that public health and sanitation require far greater attention than could be devoted at present on account of the paucity of medical staff.

"Students from Indian States have been experiencing very great difficulty in getting admissions into medical colleges in the Provinces even on payment of large capitation fees. To surmount this difficulty, as well as to grant medical relief not only to my subjects, but to the people of neighbouring states and provinces, I have decided upon starting a medical college in Gwalior and it is a happy coincidence that Your Excellency is here to inaugurate this institution, to be named after my dear mother of revered memory. I feel greatly strengthened by the happy augury that at its very inception, our enterprise is receiving benediction at Your Excellency's hands. Before I conclude I cannot help reiterating that the presence of Your Excellency amongst us today fills our hearts with immense gratitude, and while thanking you once again I request Your Excellency to lay the foundation stone of the Gajra Raja Medical College".

VICEROY'S SPEECH

Replying, Lord Wavell said:

"I thank Your Highness for your cordial welcome to Gwalior. My first visit to your State was over 38 years ago, as a slender, sight-seeing subaltern. I am very glad to be visiting again this great Mahratta State at the end of a war in which the State, true to its martial traditions has given so much to the war effort. Your Highness, like your brother Princes, has never failed in meeting our war needs. It is fitting that two renowned raiding forces, General Wingate's Chindits and the Airborne Division, should have had their headquarters in Gwalior, where so many daring military expeditions have been planned in the past.

"I congratulate Your Highness warmly on the birth of your son, and on the wise means you have taken to celebrate it by extending the medical facilities in the State.

"As Your Highness has said, victory in this war and the coming of peace has opened great opportunities to India for industrial development, and for progress in all directions, India is preparing elaborate and expensive schemes for an attack on a broad front against poverty, lack of education, malnutrition and ill-health.

The First Step

"The prospects of advance are almost unlimited; but there are grave errors which must be avoided in the process of industrialization. We know this well in Great Britain, where our industrial revolution, a hundred years or more ago, was based on an under-paid, badly housed, unhealthy working population—a legacy of error from which it has taken us more than a hundred years to recover. I hope that in the industrialization of India the mistakes we made will be avoided; and that the working man will get a square deal in the matter of wages, health and housing. Quite apart from the questions of justice and morality, there can be no doubt that good treatment of workmen pays in the long run.

"I am glad to see that all the indications point to the State of Gwalior being determined, under Your Highness' guidance, to adopt modern standards of progress. I understand that the first elections to the State Legislative Assembly are now taking place, and I am sure that the Assembly will fulfil a most valuable function in encouraging the expression of public opinion.

"In all plans for progress, the first step must be the education of the teachers and instructors. India is very short of experts in many important fields. I therefore congratulate Your Highness on your foresight and wisdom in establishing this Medical College. I am sure that it will prove of lasting benefit to the State, and that the men to be trained here will go forth, not only with an adequate technical education, but with high professional standards and a lively ideal of service, of which Your Highness has so eloquently spoken. Physicians and surgeons are the warriors of peace, who are always on active service and whose battle against disease and suffering is never ended. I have great pleasure in laying the foundation stone of this Medical College and in wishing it all success."

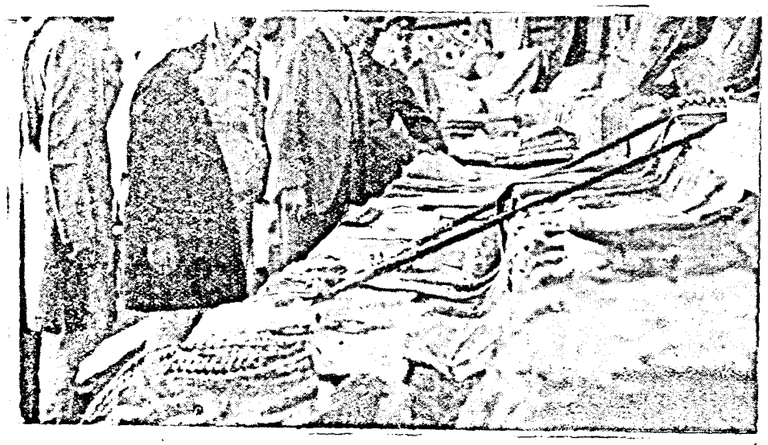
Visit to Pottery Works

On November 18, Their Excellencies visited the Gwalior Pottery Works which was one of the first enterprises of its kind when it was first started in India and, during the war, has been fully employed in meeting the requirements of India's fighting forces. The Viceroy was keenly interested in the technique of spray painting and hand designing employed by the pottery artists.

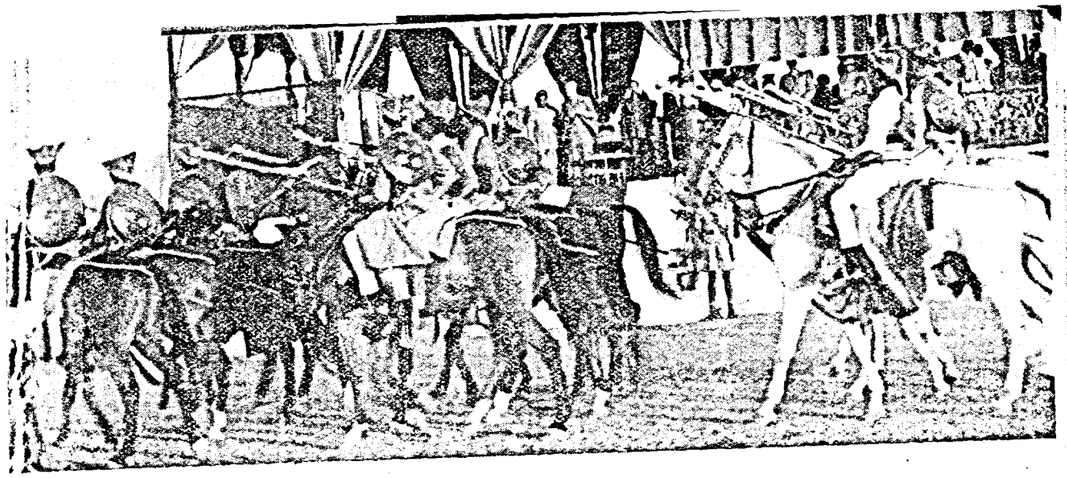
A visit was then paid to the State Engineering Works which undertakes the manufacture of various agricultural and engineering implements, and to the Carriage and Wagon workshops of the Scindia State Railways.

After visiting the State-owned leather, tanning and tentmaking factories, the party moved on to the Industrial Exhibition, where an interesting array of State industrial manufactures, as well as the products of various private industrial enterprises, from pen nibs to lathes, were on display.

In the afternoon, a military sports display, arranged in honour of the visitors, included a thrilling exhibition of horsemanship by the State Lancers. It ended with a brilliant torchlight tattoo and march past in uniforms of all times—from the clinking armours worn in

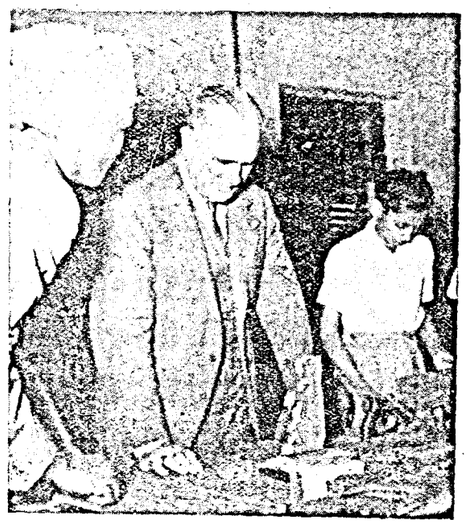


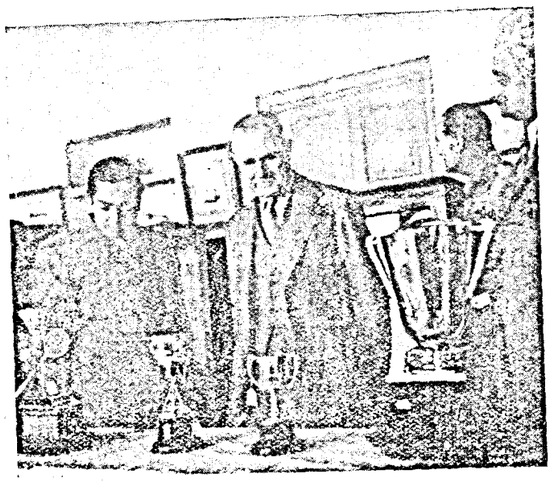
H. E. the Viceroy going round an industrial exhibition in Gwalior (Below Left) Lord and Lady Wavell in the hand-designing section of the Pottery Works (Below right) The Viceroy examines articles made by the boys of the Scindia School.



Lord Wavell watching a pageant of typical dresses and weapons used by the soldiers of the State Army since its foundation. (Left) The Viceroy examines articles manufactured at the Gwalior Engineering Works. (Below) Lord Wavell seeing camouflage of transport equipment at the Army Training Centre.

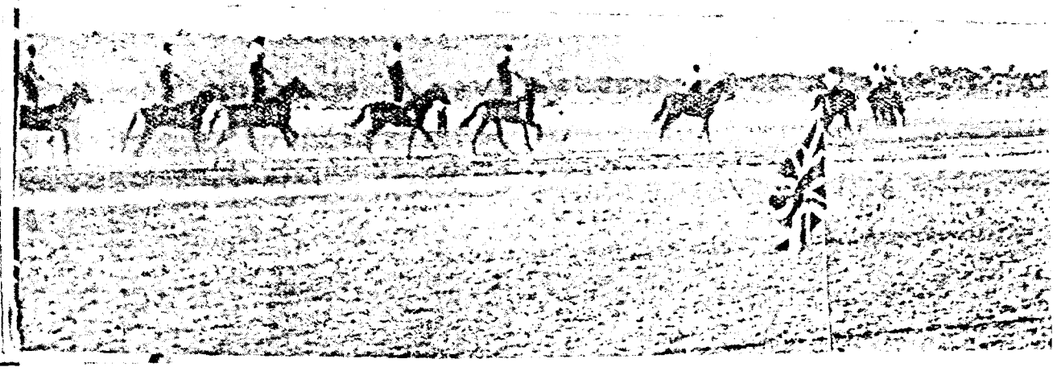


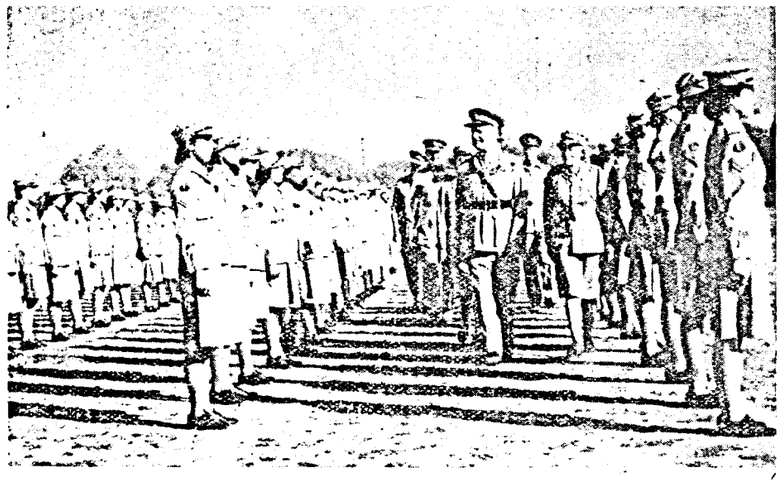




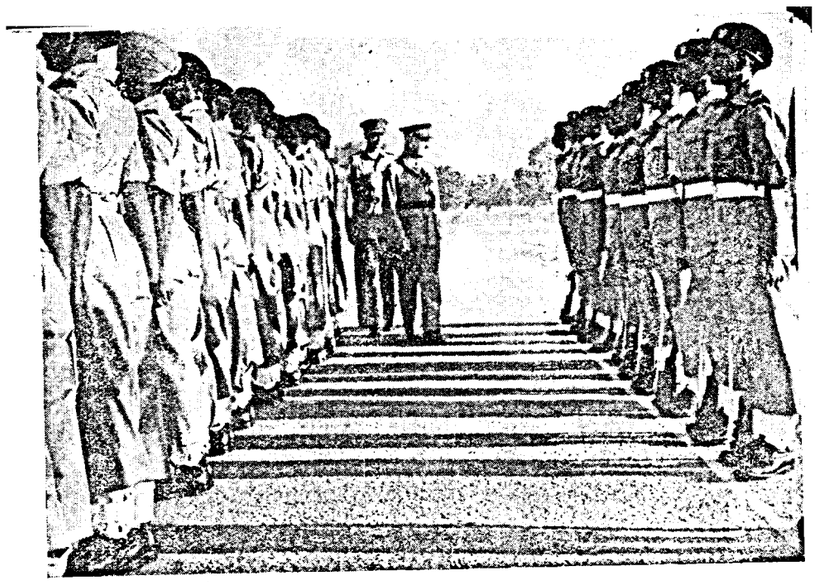


Display of riding by the Gwalior Lancers.





Lord Wavell inspecting a W.A.C.(I)• Unit. (Below) The Viceroy talking to members of the W.A.C. (I) Unit.



Lord Wavell at the indian Armoured Corps Recruits Training Centre. (Below) Lord Wavell presenting the Military Cross to Risaldar Prag Singh, of the 13th Lancers.

Tea at the Collector's bungalow, when members of the Development Board were presented to His Excellency, and a 50-mile drive back to Lucknow completed a full day's programme.

The great strides which the United Provinces have made in irrigation and hydro-electric schemes were explained to His Excellency the Viceroy when he flew to Bareilly on an inspection flight of the Sarda Canal system. The Viceroy was accompanied by the Governor of the United Provinces, Mr. F. H. Hutchinson, Chief Engineer, Irrigation Branch, Eastern Canals, and Mr. A. P. Watal, Chief Engineer Development, Irrigation Branch.

To enable His Excellency to inspect the system and afford a close view of the terrain, an altitude of about 800 to 1,000 feet was maintained throughout the flight. Mr. Watal accompanied the Viceroy to the pilot's cabin, from where they had a complete view of the Kheri branch of the Sarda Canal, the proposed power house, the Sarda Head Works at Banbassa and the Deoka Barage.

The Sarda Canal

The construction of the Sarda Canal was started in 1930 and it was opened for irrigation in 1928. The original estimate provided for 4,146 miles of channels and 1,555 miles of drain. Under this scheme, 13,50,000 acres were to be brought under irrigation. In 1941, another 352 miles of new channels were added, thus adding another 1,25,000 acres to the irrigated area. As part of the grow more food campaign, Government have sanctioned a scheme of a further 800 miles of channels on this system. Till September 1941, 208 miles of channels were brought into operation. The remaining channels are expected to be completed by October 1946. This scheme, it is anticipated, will irrigate an additional 2,40,000 acres annually.

Apart from irrigation, considerable interest attaches to the Sarda system as the main component of the U.P. Electric grid. The Sarda scheme presents an outstanding picture of the U.P.'s bid for a lead in the electric power field. Seven miles below its offtake from the Sarda River at Banbassa, the Sarda main canal picks up the continuous Ganges-Sarda-Gogra watershed overlooking the Sarda "Khadir"—half a mile eastwards and 60 feet below the cliff. Along the present main canal alignment the watershed drops 70 feet in 12 1|2 miles.

During the dry season, the flow of the Sarda River dwindles down, normally to 5,200 cusecs. Although the maximum power that can be generated at the power house is 41,400 kilowatts, the continuous power available at present is only 23,000 kilowatts corresponding to a minimum flow of 5,200 cusecs. The new proposal is to install three sets, each capable of handling 3,170 cusecs and generating 13,800 kilowatts on a drop of 59 feet with another stand-by set generating an equal amount of power. Accommodation at the power house will be provided for receiving the fourth set later.





Power generated at this station will be utilised by transmitting 10,000 kilowatts westwards to be used over the present Ganges Canal hydro-electric grid by linking it with the latter at Moradabad with a 132 kv line through Pilibhit, Bareilly and Rampur. The 132 kv link with Cawnpore and its feeders will supply power in the districts of Naini Tal, Pilibhit, Bareilly, Kheri, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi and Sitapur. This link will not only enable the surplus Sarda power to be carried to Cawnpore during the high stage of the Sarda River from May to November, but would also enable the deficit of Sarda power production during the dry season to be made good with the help of the existing steam plant at Cawnpore power house, thereby firming up the continuous Sarda generation to 41,400 kilowatts and laying the foundation for the electrification of the central districts of the Province such as Unao, Lucknow, Rae Bareli, Barabanki, Gonda, Farrukhabad and Fatehgarh.

The Sarda Canal hydro-electric scheme would, besides assisting the Ganges canal hydro-electric grid to the extent of 10,000 kilowatts,

the days of Mahadji Scindia to the pure white of some of the State Forces of the present day.

Her Excellency Lady Wavell found time during the day to visit the Yayarogya hospital which forms the nucleus of a novel network of district hospitals throughout the State. The State spends upwards of Rs. 12 lakhs annually on medical relief.

The following day, His Excellency, accompanied by the Maharaja, visited two army training centres at Gwalior. At the Artillery Training Centre, the Viceroy and the Maharaja were received by Major-General Rane, Commander, Gwalior Army. Among the officers who accompanied the distinguished visitor on the round of inspection were Brigadier Lemon, Chief of the Military Staff, Gwalior, Lt.-Col. Rigg, Military Adviser, Indian States Forces, and Major Dube, Deputy Quartermaster General. Major Kolhatkar explained to His Excellency the methods they were employing in training artillerymen.

At the Transport Training Centre, His Excellency saw a demonstration of the sheltering of transport animals in tunnels in "battle zones".

The party also visited the Army Recreation Hall.

Her Excellency Lady Wavell had coffee at the Ladies Club, where the ladies of Gwalior were presented to Her Excellency by the Maharani of Gwalior.

VICEROY'S TOUR IN U. P.

On November 12, leaving U.P.'s concrete roadway, His Excellency the Viceroy motored along miles of dusty roads to see for himself Cawnpore's "Parampurwa Workmen's Settlement," which is to house the labour employed in the local industry.

Built at a cost of Rs. 30,00,000 this housing project is designed to provide cheap, well-built, airy accommodation well within the reach of the poor workmen. Each of the 2,400 tenements has two main rooms with a small verandah in front. A communal washing place has been provided for general use, while each little place has its own water tap and India-type sink.

Sir Edward Souter, the President of the Urban Area Development Board, was presented to the Viceroy by the Governor of the U.P. He accompanied His Excellency on his tour of the Southern City Extension Area and explained the genesis of the scheme and the benefit it would bring to the workmen by providing *pucca*-built accommodation at a rental of Rs. 4 per month. Typically solicitous of workmen's welfare was the Viceroy's immediate and pertinent query: "Have you consulted the workmen?"

The J. K. Industries had another workmen's settlement which Lord Wavell visited. He was received by Sir Padampat Singhania, head of the J.K. Group, and conducted round the settlement.

These tenements presented a better appearance than those of the Parampurwa Settlement. The rent, however, was in keeping with the appearance, and ranged from Rs. 12 for 'B' type quarters to Rs. 20 a month for 'A' type quarters.

H. E. the Viceroy arrives at the Izzatnagar airfield in the United Provinces.





During his tour of the United Provinces Lord Wavell visited the Indian and British General Hospital rehabilitation centre. *Picture* shows Lord Wavell in one of the wards.

After an alfresco lunch in the peaceful sylvan atmosphere of the Lake House in Allengarh Forest, His Excellency drove to the Agricultural College where the Governor presented Dr. T. S. Sabnis, the Principal of the College. After seeing the College at work, His Excellency visited the dairy, the butter house, the milking shed and the students' farm.

An interesting feature of the afternoon's tour was the heartening sight of Indian soldiers and N.C.O.s in uniform expending their martial ardour in peaceful occupations, like farming and dairying. A dozen men were busy filling manure pits, while two N.C.Os were teaching sepoys the art of driving a straight furrow. One look at those cheerful men handling unaccustomed implements and doing unusual tasks was enough to convince any one of the great adaptability of the Indian soldier.

The Viceroy watches a patient taking bed exercises.



supply cheap power to the extent of about 30,000 kilowatts in 16 districts of the province.

After the inspection of the Sarda Scheme, the Viceroy alighted at Izzatnagar airfield, four miles from Bareilly. The Governor of the U.P. presented Mr. M. H. B. Nethersole, Commissioner, Rohilkhand Division; Brigadier Marsland, Commander, Bareilly Area; Mr. D. J. K. Coghill, Collector, Bareilly; Mr. W. M. G. Dawson, Chief Engineer, Irrigation Branch, Western Canals; and Mr. Majidullah Khan, Superintendent of Police, Bareilly.

The Viceroy, accompanied by the Governor and the rest of the party, drove to well number 46, in the Aonla tube-wells group, on the Bareilly-Budaun Road. Mr. Hutchinson, the Chief Irrigation Engineer, explained to His Excellency, with the help of maps and plans, the extent to which the tube-well system of irrigation had been developed in the province.

Tube-Wells

The tube-well scheme was suggested in 1930, and investigations were undertaken shortly after; nine tube-wells were constructed a year later. By the end of this year, 1,685 wells would be in operation. During the last three years three batches of 200 wells have been sanctioned by the Government and, when these have been completed, 2,256 wells will be in operation.

Each tube-well irrigates roughly an area of one and a quarter square mile. This will bring approximately 2,00,000 acres under tube-well irrigation. The original project for 1,656 wells forecast a revenue of Rs. 49.3 lakhs in the year 1952-53. Gross receipts for the current year are likely to be Rs. 52 lakhs compared with the previous maximum of Rs. 44.6 lakhs. The increase over the previous maximum is 16 per cent. and over the project forecast, 6 per cent.

The Viceroy, after a picnic lunch at Izzatnagar airfield, returned to Lucknow where, he granted interviews to Sir George Thomas, Chief Judge of Oudh, Mr. W. F. Walker, Chief Engineer, West, Mr. S. N. Chakravarti, Chief Engineer, East, Mr. W.T. Hall, Chief Conservator of Forests, Rai Bahadur Dr. Banerjee, Director of Public Health, Mr. D. Walley, Deputy Commissioner, Lucknow, and Mr. Saloway, Director of Resettlement.

AMERICAN AWARDS FOR INDIAN SOLDIERS

At an impressive ceremony at Gorizia, northern Italy, Brigadier-General J. C. Fry, Commanding 88th United States Division, presented the American Distinguished Service Cross to Lance-Naik Sher Ali, 1/2 Punjab Regiment, of Ferozepore, for heroism at San Clemente, Italy. High-ranking officers, including Lt.-Gen. Sir John Harding, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., 13th Corps Commander, attended the ceremony, writes an Army Observer.

Three further awards for gallantry in action were conferred on men of the 10th Indian Division at the same time: the American Silver Star was awarded to Subedar N. Thangarju, 61 Indian Field Company, I.E., Madras Sappers and Miners, whose home is in Bangalore; and the American Bronze Star to Subedar Mian Khan, 4th Baluch Regiment, of Jhelum district, and Sepoy Seemuragh Khan 3/1 Punjab Regiment, of Ajmer, Hazara district, North-West Frontier Province.

After making the presentations, General Fry said he hoped that they would be regarded not only as a recognition of valour, but also as one of the many ties of friendship, which, established in war, would be pursued in peace.

General Sir John Harding spoke of the great honour of receiving these American decorations and added: "In my opinion this parade serves so well to remind us of the great spirit of comradeship and co-operation, which was as inspiring in battle as it is today."

BRITISH EVACUEES FROM GREECE

Information has been received from His Majesty's Government that British evacuees from Greece who have guaranteed employment in that country may now return. Their return is, however, subject to the prior concurrence of Headquarters Land Forces, Greece.

Proof of guaranteed employment in Greece has to be submitted in writing to the Principal Refugee Officer, Government of India, Commonwealth Relations Department, New Delhi, along with the applicant's passport.

It must be clearly understood that even when all formalities have been completed, delays are almost certain, due to the acute shortage of shipping. Direct service to Greece is extremely limited, and, if the journey has to be broken at Suez, further delays are inevitable, due to the necessity of obtaining Egyptian transit visas before sailing.

FOOD SECRETARY ON NUTRITION AND FOOD PLANNING

"THE establishment of improved and universally accepted standards of quality, the use of rationing to introduce new and alternative foods, the provision, as in the Bombay Milk Scheme, of special food for women and children, the fortifying of bread or flour with milk powder or food yeast, the production of vitamin compounds, are all examples of what the future may hold and should hold for India," declared Mr. R.H. Hutchings, Food Secretary to the Government of India, in a broadcast on "The Future of Food" from A.I.R., Delhi, on November 10.

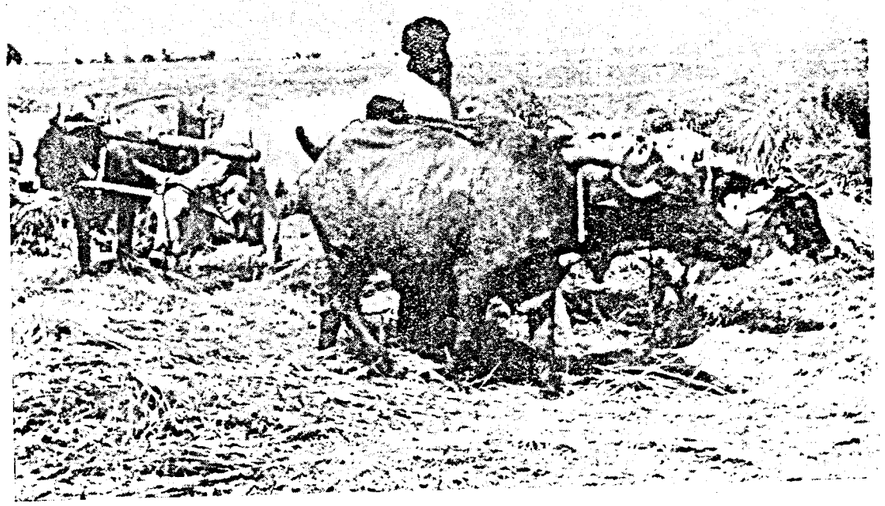
"I suppose most of you would ask me the question how long, and how much, is Government going to attempt to control the production and distribution of Food?" said Mr. R.H. Hutchings. "Well, the answer to that depends on a good many things; it depends, for instance, on what is meant by the statement so often made that Government should accept responsibility for the people's food. Taken to its logical conclusion, that statement means that Government has to plan and control production and decide to what extent India, or its component units, should be self-sufficient.

"If you compel people to grow certain crops or produce certain foodstuffs according to a general plan, because their land is the best suited for that particular crop, you may have to guarantee the supply to them from somewhere else of produce which they need and would otherwise have grown themselves. You have to assure them of the offtake and of the price they are going to get.

Government Intervention

"This necessitates Government at some stage or other being ready to intervene and buy enormous quantities of the produce if prices fall. If you buy the crop, you have got to be ready to distribute it. Even if you store it against a rainy day, you have got to ensure its turnover. That implies interference by Government on a big scale with the normal processes of marketing and movement.

"I know very well that nobody likes controls, especially when, as is sometimes the case, they have to be operated by improvised staff. You will, I think, appreciate that no Government lightly accepts or continues responsibility for the purchase, storage and movement of vast quantities of highly perishable commodities like foodstuffs. Nevertheless, war forced this upon us, and the result has been something in the nature of an economic and



Wheat being harvested in the Punjab, the chief wheat growing area in India.



Paddy being transplanted.

social revolution. Families, towns, countries and continents have been compelled to stop grabbing for how much they can get of the world's most important raw-material, namely, food, and have had to learn to pool their own, and the world's resources, and make them available to all on the basis of essential needs. Individuals have had to accept rationing without regard to class, wealth, or privilege.

"Well, there may be much that is inconvenient and unpleasant about it, but I suggest to you that we should at least pause, before we throw all this away. I sometimes think that, what we have done under stress of war in the disribution of food, may be a pointer to what could be done with other necessaries of life, if we are really determined to secure social justice and world peace. Whatever may be your answer to that question in its long-term aspect, I am afraid that we have no choice so far as food is concerned in the immediate future.

"The reopening of the rice markets in Burma, Siam and French Indo-China is an undoubted blessing. But we are not yet free to make unrestricted use of what they can offer. Production and movement all over the world will take time to restore to normal levels, and, in the meanwhile, world allocations must continue to be made by the Combined Food Boards at Washington, and the shipping will have to be carefully planned to make these allocations effective. While that continues, neither the Government of India, nor Indian traders can operate as free agents in procuring supplies from abroad, and our own resources must be carefully husbanded.

"Perhaps, then, we should make a virtue of necessity, and see how all this regimentation of the people's food can be turned to eventual benefit. One of the automatic benefits, already visible, is that people have begun to think about food in a different way. They are beginning to be anxious to know what they should eat, and why. Governments are, therefore, paying more and more attention to the science of nutrition, active steps are being taken to stimulate thought and knowledge on the subject of correct diet and to produce and supply individual items of diet, which are necessary to remedy deficiencies.

"We in the Food Department have found a ready and growing response to facilities, which we have offered through the kindness of Dr. Aykroyd, himself one of the most distinguished nutrition experts in the world, for short classes of instruction in nutrition for food officers and social workers. We have found a similar response to our campaign for the provision of meals for industrial workers, and we are now working on plans for model public restaurants designed to provide cheap and well-balanced meals prepared in up-to-date kitchens with modern hygienic methods and equipment.

Prevention of Waste

"Besides planning increased production, which is, in the main, the concern of our co-workers in the Agriculture Department, another way of making more food available is to prevent waste. Government has had to take responsibility for the purchase, storage and movement of enormous quantities of grain. Properly planned movement avoids waste in transit as well as waste of coal, and reduces the ultimate cost of the product to the consumer. Properly planned storage can literally prevent millions of tons of food from being spoilt by heat and damp, or being eaten by weevils and rats.

"There is another form of prevention of waste, namely, the processing of fresh foodstuffs, so that they do not go bad. Fish for instance, can be quick frozen so that years after it is caught, it can be brought to your table indistinguishable from last night's catch. If you do not freeze it, you can dry and salt it, you can powder it, or *can* it, and by so doing gluts can be avoided and surpluses preserved for consumption out of season, or at great distances from the source of supply.

"Moreover, the valuable liver oils can be extracted and added to the diet of mothers and children, and the offal and by-products converted into fertilisers to grow more food. Processes similar in kind and purpose can be applied to fruit, milk and vegetables, and we and our colleagues in allied Departments are working hard to see how and where Government can bring science to bear in food industries to secure a better fed India.

"The establishment of improved and universally accepted standards of quality, the use of rationing to introduce new and alternative foods, the provisions, as in the Bombay Milk Scheme, of special food for women and children, the fortifying of bread or flour with milk powder or food yeast, the production of vitamin compounds, are all further examples of what the future may hold and should hold for India. We aim to give you the best, we ask you to help us."

NO GOING BACK TO PEACETIME FOOD ECONOMY

"IF in Great Britain, where the people are far better fed than in India, the Government has assumed a direct responsibility for food for the people, the necessity for assumption of a similar responsibility in India must be obvious", said Mr. B. R. Sen, Director-General of Food, inaugurating in Delhi, on November 13, an instructional course on storage for officers from Provinces and States. "There can be no question of our going back to the peacetime economy of pre-war days, to leave supply of foodgrains in all its aspects to private enterprise."

"In Great Britain they have decided," he said, "that the Ministry of Food set-up at outbreak of the war to deal with food problems under wartime conditions will become a permanent department of government."

Storage Programme

Explaining Government's five-fold programme of storage, he stated that it was first, to increase, with all possible speed, both temporary and permanent storage accommodation under the control of Government, in markets at railheads and in consuming centres.

Secondly, to establish reserves in producing areas, for long storage, e.g., of paddy or wheat in bulk, which will serve, during the period of emergency, as buffer stocks.

Thirdly, to set up officially controlled inspection agencies and analysis laboratories as a means of establishing and enforcing high quality standards for food distributed to the people.

Fourthly, to encourage by all possible means, such as assistance with material and advice, the construction by private interests of good foodgrain storage, whether for commercial, agricultural or domestic purposes.

Fifthly, to inculcate as widely as possible in all members of the public who grow, handle or consume food, the main principles of hygienic conservation of foodgrains and with that view, to run courses at the Centre for the training of officers nominated by Provincial and State Governments.

"After the fall of Burma", he continued, "the food situation in India compelled Government to take over the responsibility of procurement, movement and storage through its own official machinery. With increasing difficulties

in railway and other transport and shortage of accommodation and building materials due to wartime conditions, the losses in foodgrains naturally became even greater under official management which was unaccustomed to trading practices and was lacking in experience of the grain trade. In the circumstances, the problem of preservation of grains by good storage assumed special importance.

"While some progress has already been made," said Mr. Sen, "particularly in the construction of storage by the Central and Provincial Governments, the necessity of a wide and continuous campaign, using all methods of publicity, the precept and example of leading citizens and the initiative of Government Departments, to increase the conservation of foodgrains and to improve their quality remains as urgent as ever."

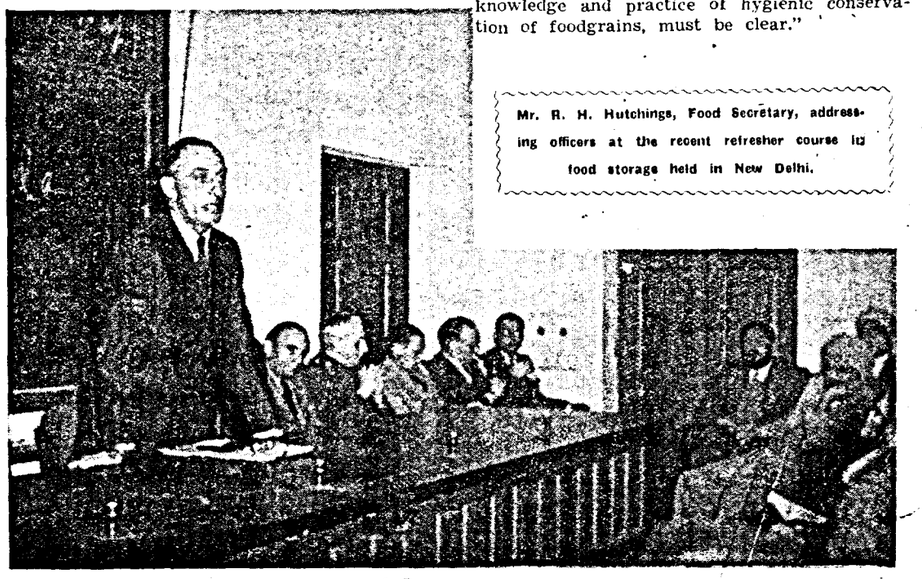
Future of Food

"With the end of the war", continued Mr. Sen, "the whole problem of food control must require a full review. The Government of India have already stated that food controls in their present form will be gradually relaxed on a co-ordinate basis having reference to the prevailing conditions regarding food supply.

"The Famine Inquiry Commission have dealt with this point in their Final Report. They have also pointed out that Governments in India have within the last 100 years contented themselves with the duty of preventing widespread deaths from famine, but had not assumed the obligation to provide enough food for all. This responsibility, according to the Commission, the Government in India must now recognise, as, with the rapid growth of population in India, a policy of *laissez faire* in the matter would end in catastrophe.

"What form peacetime controls will take, I am not in a position to say. But I am quite clear in my own mind that an integral part of post-war food administration in India must be the provision, at suitable places throughout the country, of Government grain storages scientifically constructed and under proper technical supervision. Such storages could be used to maintain buffer stocks to meet local shortages,—and it must be remembered that the food position in India is now so precariously balanced that a failure of the monsoon in any considerable area in any year creates conditions of scarcity and famine—to support the minimum prices guaranteed to producers, to provide a means of expanding agricultural credit and generally to help in preventing the appalling wastage which has been a feature in food economy in India in the past.

"In the circumstances, the necessity of continuing instructional courses such as the present one, which will help to spread the knowledge and practice of hygienic conservation of foodgrains, must be clear."



Mr. R. H. Hutchings, Food Secretary, addressing officers at the recent refresher course in food storage held in New Delhi.

FOOD SITUATION IN BENGAL

Sir J. P. Srivastava's Statement

AT the conclusion of his visit to Bengal, the Hon'ble Sir J. P. Srivastava, Food Member to the Government of India, recorded the following impressions in a statement issued to the Press before leaving for Patna:

"I came to Bengal to study the food situation at first hand. Through the kindness of H.E. the Governor, who took me and my Secretary, Mr. Hutchings, with him on a two-day tour by air of four of the five divisions of the Province, I have been able to meet officers of no less than 15 districts. I have also been able to confer with officers of the Bengal Civil Supplies Department in Calcutta, and with a large number of representative non-officials.

"I have also, during my journey by air over an area comprising practically the whole of Western, Central and Eastern Bengal, been able to see for myself something of the condition of crops. As a result, I am convinced that prospects of the winter rice crop have been improved by late rains and that the distress which was at one time apprehended, if weather conditions continued unfavourable, is not now likely to occur. Nevertheless, there are certain areas of 'Pockets' where the crop is not up to normal, and where special assistance is needed. This assistance can, and will be provided. The situation calls for unremitting vigilance which will, I am sure, be forthcoming.

Import of Rice

"Regarding imports I would repeat what I have already said, namely, that I feel justified in hoping that India will, in 1946, receive from abroad substantial additional quantities of rice greatly in excess of 160,000 tons which has already been allotted, and that we can now say that the total quantity of rice which will come under the Central Government's Control, will enable us to hold working stocks in Calcutta or near about, to guarantee the ration requirements of Calcutta as well as to give additional relief



H. E. the Governor of Bengal (left) and the Hon. Sir J. P. Srivastava, Food Member, (centre) at the Alipore aerodrome.



Mr. R. G. Casey and Sir J. P. Srivastava in one of the jeeps acquired by the Bengal Government for the use of district officers.

to other deficit areas. I do not think that I need emphasise the influence of Calcutta's potential demand on the Bengal rice market; the effectiveness of a similar step was amply demonstrated in 1944. I will only add that I shall spare no effort to see that necessary imports are provided.

"The contacts which I have been able to make during my visit have satisfied me that, not only is the Civil Supplies Department of the Government of Bengal alert to the needs of the situation, and in a greatly improved position to discharge its responsibilities in respect of procurement, movement, and storage of foodgrains, but also that the district officers are fully aware of their responsibilities, and are taking a keen interest in the situation in every corner of their districts. Godowns have been built, and stocks located, in every part of the Province, and the provision of jeeps for the use of district staff together with mobilisation of other forms of transport, has greatly improved their capacity to move about and keep in touch with the situation.

"The difficulties at present being experienced with regard to the supply and distribution of mustard oil, and the Bengal sugar quota, have been brought to my notice, and I shall depute a senior officer of my Department to go into both these questions as early as possible.

"My own official interest in the recent tour was primarily related to matters connected with the food situation; but many other topics—health, the cloth situation, relief in all its aspects—were discussed with local officers, and I should like to pay my tribute to H.E. the Governor for the close attention which he is paying to all these matters. His interest and drive were an inspiration to all who attended the Conference, and the value of his close personal touch with officials responsible for handling matters of vital importance for the welfare of the people will, I venture to prophesy, be amply demonstrated in the future. I leave Calcutta confident that, under his watchful leadership, nothing will be left undone that can be done, to ensure adequate supplies and improve the health and nutrition of the people"

NO DRASTIC REDUCTION IN RAILWAY PERSONNEL

Sir Edward Benthall's Assurance at I. R. C. A. Session



Sir Edward Benthall.

"I HAVE seen references in the Press to the impending discharge of 2½ lakhs of railway workers—a figure based apparently on the difference between the labour strength in 1939 and today," said the Hon. Sir Edward Benthall, Member for Railways and War Transport, at the opening of the 48th Session of the Indian Railway Conference Association held in Delhi on November 29.

"There seems no reason to believe," he continued, "that the number for whom we are eventually unable to find work will be anything like this figure. In fact, we hope that this traffic holds up and our plans for rehabilitation go on as we now anticipate that the number of workers to be discharged will in the end prove to be a very small percentage of our staff. It is impossible to prognosticate with precision, but, so far, not more than 8,000 workers, largely workers engaged on direct war work such as munitions or aeroplane repair, are in the process of being discharged. This is less than one per cent. of our total strength; and it does not appear as if many more will become surplus up to the end of December. I know that the railways are doing their very best to provide alternative work for those whose posts have become surplus, while close contact with the newly formed Employment Exchanges set up by the Labour Department will, it is hoped, assist those who have to be discharged in finding employment outside the Railways."

Scope for Work

Sir Edward Benthall said:

I need hardly say that it gives me great pleasure to be invited once again to attend the annual meeting of the Indian Railway Conference Association, whose deliberations, I am convinced, are a very convenient method of coordinating railway problems in an atmosphere of free speech and informal discussion. In spite of, or perhaps even because of, the acquisition of all the major railways in British India by the State there is still a great field of work for the Association and it would be a pity, for any bureaucratic reasons, to lessen the importance of these meetings.

It gives me great pleasure also to congratulate Mr. Nanda, as the first Indian President, on a successful year of office. It has, as he points out, coincided with the termination of hostilities and I am proud once again in this year of victory to offer congratulations to you all on your wartime achievements. During these strenuous years there have been many anxious moments, not only for the railway administrations but also not less for the users of the railways. Nevertheless from my contacts in Delhi, in London and in my peregrinations round the country I can sum up the general opinion in the words: "The railways have done a good job". No railwayman asks for more than that, and you and your men can look back on these past years of struggle for the freedom of India and the world with genuine pride and satisfaction. And now, as your President points out, we must turn to the equally strenuous problems of the present and the future.

Mr. Nanda raises a number of interesting points in his speech (see page 679) commencing with his comments on the rates problem. The emphasis laid by him and his two predecessors on this question shows the awareness among the senior officers of the railways of the importance of this problem and incidentally emphasises the commercial nature of the railway undertaking. The acquisition by the State of all

the major railways in British India clears the way in many respects for a more rational rates structure, and that progress towards this objective may still lag a little behind the expectations of the public, in spite of the close attention you have been giving the subject, is due entirely to the extremely complicated nature of the problem.

It is, as the President indicates, one thing to decide in principle on a simplification of the structure and on the application of telescopic scales to be applied on continuous mileage but quite another in terms of time and labour to work out the scheme in detail and to assess its implications. Nor is it quite the time to settle finally what the post-war rates will be, because we are still faced with the inescapable fact that railway rates have not been raised during the war to anything like the general level of prices and it remains to be seen whether the increased post-war volume of traffic will more than balance the rise in operating cost due to the continued increase in the wages and coal bills and all the other cost of operation.

Difficulties in Planning

This is one of the inevitable difficulties of planning on a boom. But great progress can be made and is being made with the necessary details, and with the study of their effect on revenue, and there is no doubt that, when the work is done, the merchant and industrialists should be able to look with confidence to the removal of long standing grievances about the complications with which he may have been faced in the past in understanding and applying the old structure. It would not, at this point, be amiss for me to say that such investigations as I have been able to make do not seriously support today the oft-repeated cry that the present structure has seriously handicapped internal industry.

Sweeping innovations affecting so deeply the prosperity of the country's largest commercial asset, the railways, and of all the interests which depend thereon, naturally demand most careful examination and, at the appropriate time, the widest publicity and consultation with those whose interests are likely to be most affected. It is natural and proper, therefore, that some of those charged with safeguarding the earning capacity of their railways should look many times with a critical eye at the effect of the changes proposed, but there is no doubt that we have to take a broad view of the issues. I am confident that we can rely upon officers of the commercial departments taking such a view.

On the subject of road-rail co-ordination I do not propose to dwell over long, not because there is not much still to say, but because we have recently debated the subject very fully in other meetings. We have made great strides in the last year and, with the goodwill and co-operation of the Provinces, within whose sphere road transport lies, have over a very large section of the field reached a quite surprising degree of co-ordinated policy between road and rail. We have now indeed come to the stage of carrying out that policy in our respective fields. For success to be achieved in implementing policy the paramount necessity is a continuance of sympathetic understanding of, and co-operation over, each other's problems between the Provincial Governments, the railways and the road operators in order to achieve the highest measure of efficient transport service to the public with the maximum justice to all concerned. There is every evidence that the representatives of the railways appreciate the need for this and are acting accordingly.

The railways have, of course, a large programme of construction of new lines, one which in pre-war days would have been looked upon as very substantial indeed and they will get ahead with this work as rapidly as possible. Those who complain that the programme is not large enough do not appear to have realised that the development of road transport in the last decade or two has virtually brought a new factor into inland transport problems, which in other countries besides this has altered old ideas, particularly about rural transport facilities.

Road Development

This is indeed a petrol age, if indeed we are not on the verge of a new era of atomic energy. To my mind, therefore, the immediate big development of transport lies without question mainly on the roads. The expansion of roads and road transport, is, we hope, going to be one of the big things in India's post-war development. The railways have accepted this fact loyally and have done their best to work out with the Provinces a code of principles and practice to mitigate to a reasonable extent, the effects of this development on the railways and to secure the right of the railways to get on to the roads. While the code does not give the railways by any means all they asked and they have had to give way on many points to reach a workable agreement, it is good enough protection to the railways to justify whole-hearted aceptance by them of the policy of a wide development of roads and road transport. And I know you and your officers are putting all you know into making it a success.

We certainly stand at a most important cross-road in the history of transport and have, I believe, taken the right turning. The decisions made offer a very reasonable compromise between State and private ownership and between protection of the State's financial interest and management by those who have been brought up in the intricate business of road transport operation. Finally, in this connection, it is worth saying that the development of the road transport side of railways is no longer a side-line of railway operation. The Road Department of railways is now a key department. It may indeed for the time being, until the pattern of things to come have been evolved, be the key department, calling for the brains, energy and tact of the best men within your administrations. The road departments are on their mettle and have a fine chance to show their abilities and to render public service.

The Human Factor

The reference by the President to the human factor in railways is to me particularly interesting, for it is indeed a factor of paramount importance in any large undertaking, whether it be a governmental or business concern. The last few years have been years of great strain but those to come hold out an equally strenuous promise, though the difficulties before us may be obscured to some extent by the present rather fortuitous prosperity of railways. The problems of the future will be very different from those of the last few years but they will call for the highest degree of skill, balance and determination. Perhaps I may be permitted therefore, at this juncture, to make a few observations upon various aspects of the personnel problem resulting from the experiences of a layman over the last three years.

To me it seems, in the first place, that the officer cadre is none too strong for the volume of work which they will have to face in modern conditions. It is no good burking the fact that nationalisation of the railways and much new legislation of various kinds has resulted in a very considerable increase in paper work which prevents officers from getting out on the job as freely as they were able to do in the past. Either means must be found to reduce this paper work or there must be an increase or reorganisation of staff to deal with it or a combination of both these measures.

Much can, I suspect, be done in the first sphere and officers with ideas on the subject should be encouraged. The recent decision by the Board to arrange for the training up of a special cadre of officers, specialising in personnel work, is a step in the right direction in the second respect. But one striking fact thrown up by the war was that whereas the Army have about one officer for 50 men, in the railways we have only about one to 450. It follows that the railway cadre should be a *corps d'elite*. Standards of efficiency must be kept at the highest level. I find myself in agreement with your President that the training of the staff is a factor of the highest importance and one which is having and must have increasing attention.

The Railway Board have for some time felt that they must finally jettison any reliance on Aristotle's observation that a man becomes a builder by building and a harp-player by playing the harp. They have for long been impressed with the urgent need for extension of training facilities for both officers and subordinates and they are now able to initiate positive steps for the establishment on all railways of suitable training institutions; and they envisage that in the future it will be necessary to revive the idea of a Central railway college.

But there is another point. To expect the highest level of efficiency from the supervisory staff presupposes that they are contented with their lot and it will be the purpose of Government to see that they have reason to be contented. Government is, of course, aware that staff on the revised scales of pay are not satisfied with their position and prospects, which will be reconsidered as soon as practicable. But the problem is one which applies to all services of Government and which cannot be finally solved until we know roughly at what level the cost of living will settle when the world in general, and India in particular, return to more normal conditions.

Technical Branches

Meanwhile, the situation will continue to be dealt with by wartime dearness allowances and relief in kind. But this does not mean that investigation is not now being made into the structure of salaries and wages, a problem that has become greatly complicated by the taking over of company railways. I can, however, give an assurance that no time shall be lost once the fundamental bases have been determined to bring the new scales into effect for both gazetted and non-gazetted staff.

There is one other observation that I must make in connection with the efficiency of Indian railways. It seems to me that, in many respects, the Indian railways have a very high level of efficiency, their civil and mechanical engineering in particular challenges comparison with that of any other railway system. But I am not sure that sufficient attention has been paid to the

very high standards required in modern conditions in the traffic and transportation departments. In a sense they are or ought to be the truly specialist technicians of the railway service, operating a technique which can only be learnt and taught on the railways and in the railway training establishments. I am not, of course, suggesting that they have not done a very fine job. They have, a very remarkable job. If they had not, the war traffic could not have been carried out.

Efficiency, Energy and Merit

It seems to me that very special attention should be paid in future to this technical branch if railways are to get the best in future out of their equipment. This is where the human element comes in and it would be proper for this department to feel, as all departments should that it is the key department and that efficiency, energy and merit will be generously recognised in promotion. My experience in the war was that good operating men were at an even higher premium than good engineers. All the more credit then to those outstanding men who have borne the heat and burden of the day and shown the results. But the Indian Railways have got to be tip-top in operation as they are in other spheres, and this is a matter of training and departmental *esprit de corps*—in fact of the human element.

As regards the non-gazetted staff, the same remarks *mutatis mutandis* apply equally to them. For success a high state of *esprit de corps* is necessary throughout the service and for this the men must feel that they are getting a fair deal financially and that they are receiving just treatment between individuals in their daily work. Government has tried to give the railwaymen a square deal and the response of the railwaymen during the war leads one to believe that, on the whole, they appreciate that Government have tried to do so. Few, of course, are 100 per cent. content: it would be rather pathetic if they were. And as regards just treatment in their daily work I have examined numerous cases of complaints of unfair treatment, both arising out of discussion in the Legislature and elsewhere, and I am convinced that on the whole the railwaymen get fair treatment within the rules, although of course no one would deny that there are occasionally miscarriages of justice as inevitable in an undertaking of this size and in a world as harsh as this one.

If, however the railwayman should ever cease in the main to get fair treatment and if ever nepotism or undue communal considerations were to get a real hold on the railways, India will surely see a surprising deterioration of discipline and consequently of efficiency and travel will not be as safe, or even as speedy, as it is today. Railwaymen have maintained a very high state of discipline during the war and it will necessitate the most consummate leadership and attention to the human factor to maintain this in the difficult years ahead.

There is no doubt, however, that while railwaymen are all things considered reasonably contented with their past treatment, there is grave anxiety among temporary men regarding their future. It is not surprising, although in my opinion their fears have been exaggerated in numerous public statements. Government have every sympathy with their anxieties and intend to do their utmost to take care of their servants who have served them well in times of crisis. This is not, of course, an undertaking that nobody will be discharged but it is an undertaking that so long as the railwaymen play the game by Government, Government will play the game by them and the process of transition from war to peace conditions will be handled with the maximum consideration for the men having due regard to the railways' obligation to the country.

Discharge of Railway Workers

There are, of course, serious problems. It goes without saying that the adjustment of non-gazetted cadres to post-war requirements will present peculiar difficulties during the next two years. On State-owned railways for instance, we have, in accordance with Government's policy, to recruit about 70,000 ex-servicemen and our ability to absorb the railwaymen who will thus be displaced, as well as temporary staff recruited for wartime activities which have now ceased, will depend not only on the tempo of rehabilitation and the speed with which new projects are taken in hand, but also of course on the level of traffic offering. So far this is holding up quite well.

I have seen references in the Press to the impending discharge of 2½ lakhs of railway workers—a figure based apparently on the difference between the labour strength in 1939 and today. There seems no reason to believe that the numbers for whom we are eventually unable to find work will be anything like this figure. In fact, we hope that this traffic holds up and our plans for rehabilitation go on as we now anticipate, that the number of workers to be discharged will in the end prove to be a very small percentage of our staff. It is impossible to prognosticate with precision, but, so far, not more than 8,000 workers, largely workers

engaged on direct war work such as munitions or aeroplane repair, are in the process of being dicharged. This is less than one per cent. of our total strength; and it does not appear as if many more will become surplus up to the end of December.

I know that railways are doing their very best to provide alternative work for those whose posts have become surplus, while close contact with the newly formed Employment Exchanges set up by the Labour Department will, it is hoped, assist those who have to be discharged in finding employment outside the Railways. And the railways will also play their part to the best of their ability in maintaining the general industrial activity of the country. This statement is in direct line with statements already issued by some General Managers and I hope it will go some way to allay the very genuine anxieties of the workers affected.

Finally, gentlemen, if I may end on a very personal note, I should like to thank you with all the sincerity at my command for the way you have made my path easy. No one, thrust into my post at the crisis of a great war, could have had more loyal and thorough backing from start to finish and from top to bottom and I am very deeply sensible of my own debt to you railwaymen as well as that owed to you by the country which you have served so well. I thank you and wish you continued success in your deliberations and in the tasks which lie before you.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Mr. J. N. Nanda, General Manager, H.E.H. the Nizam's State Railway, in his presidential address, after paying a tribute to Sir Edward Benthall and congratulating those whose services had been recognised by the award of honours in the Birthday Honours List, said:

During my period of office has come the victorious end of the most destructive war in history. Every one of those attributes which helped us to surmount the difficulties which lie behind will be needed to tackle the problems which now lie ahead and while we can look back on a job well done, we have little or no breathing space before we must contend with the tremendous difficulties of reconstruction and expansion.

Since our last meeting the work of our Association in both the Wagon Interchange and the Conference Branches has gone on as usual. On the recommendation of the Association, the Northern Metre Gauge Wagon Pool, which was inaugurated as an emergency war measure, has been made permanent. Our special thanks are



Mr. J. N. Nanda.

due to Mr. West for his supervision of the operations of Wagon Interchange, and to Mr. Simpson for his work as Director of Wagon Interchange.

Particular interest attaches to the investigation being carried out by the Association through Mr. K. L. Crawford in connection with the Post-War Rating Policy, and I think a brief reference to what is being done may not be out of place. Of fundamental importance is the proposed change over from the flat class rate scales applying today to telescopic scales to be applied on continuous mileage. Such telescopic scales would simplify the procedure so that it could be readily understood by the trading community. Though it is the intention that as many commodities as possible be charged over all railways at a common basic rate, in a country of the size of this sub-continent of ours, no telescopic schedules can be devised which will cover all traffic offering. The tapering scales would be expected to bring the structure closer to what the traffic can afford to pay for transport. This would eliminate the quotation of large numbers of non-standard rates which now complicate the position.

There are, of course, rates distinct from the basic class rates which it will always be necessary to quote. For example, rates which will

ensure a steady supply of raw material to factories, which will assist new industries and enable producers to enter new markets beyond their immediate territories. In other words, special rates to suit special contingencies would continue to be quoted by railways but a large volume of traffic will, it is expected, move under the basic rate structure than hitherto. If this can be secured much will have been achieved apart from the simplification of calculations and procedure.

The achievement of the task is, however, no simple matter. A close analysis has to be made not only of thousands of rates in force over the different railways, but of all statistics of station-to-station commodity movements that are available. The revision of the classification alone involves the collection of detailed information from all railways relating to three distinct groups of commodities—

(i) those at present classified at a level *above* the standard class rate minima;

(ii) those for which exceptional class rates *below* standard maxima are quoted; and

(iii) those which may be able to bear an increase in classification under post-war conditions.

Long-Range Policy in Transport

Other allied subjects, such as the standardisation of terminal charges and the question of allowing a percentage rebate off the scale for what our American friends would refer to as "Traffic in Car Loads", are also under special study. As is only to be expected, there must be a large-scale revision of Conference Rules, and of General Rules in the I.R.C.A. Goods Tariff.

It is our intention, as soon as matters have progressed sufficiently, to invite the views of Chambers of Commerce, Trade Associations and recognised representatives of industries and agriculture on our proposals.

With the cessation of hostilities, it will not be long before far-reaching schemes for industrial and agricultural expansion begin to materialise and at the same time we can expect the rapid development of road motor transport services. The best interests of the country as a whole demand a long-range policy in respect of transport development generally. This has been fully recognised by the Central Government and as a result of the time and attention they have paid to this vital matter, they have already achieved a considerable measure of agreement with the Provincial authorities in regard to the need for the co-relation of rail and road services and for the co-operation of the railways with the road operators. Everything will now depend on the goodwill and efficiency with which the Code of Principles and Practice, which has been formulated in consultation with the Provincial Governments, is applied and enforced.

It might be felt that the railways are inimical to road transport interests. If such an impression exists we must do our utmost to correct it. No one realises better than the railways that road services must play an essential part in the future economy of the country or that properly conducted road services can be a source of considerable benefit both to themselves and to the railways. All they ask is that the supervision of the road services in the future will be just as strict as the Railway Act enforces on the railways. India is large enough to provide more than ample scope for the development of both forms of transport.

Road Traffic

In view of the success which has attended the efforts of the Centre and the Provinces to reach agreement on fundamentals, the railways look for similar success in the regulation of future road traffic. If this is achieved—and given the whole-hearted co-operation of all concerned, there is no reason why it should not be—the facilities which will be offered to the public will be a very welcome contrast to the kind of services which were operating before the war in respect of safety, regularity, punctuality, comfort and economy. In Hyderabad, a few years before the war, H.E.H.'s Government decided upon a policy of regulating road motor transport and co-ordinating it with rail and, although both forms of transport are Government-owned and worked by the same agency, the advantages to the travelling public are likely to be approximately the same wherever adequate regulation and co-ordination apply.

It may be of interest, therefore, to mention some of these advantages. The obvious benefits are, of course, the introduction of modern, well-equipped vehicles which are maintained at a high standard of mechanical efficiency and their adherence to scheduled advertised timings. New routes are opened up which were not tackled previously because small operators were not prepared to run the risk of losing money. The most important benefit, however, is probably a standard fare. In Hyderabad up to September 1943 this was O. S. 6 pies per passenger mile, the fares previously charged by unregulated traffic varying from 3¼ to 12 pies with an average of 7.35. The saving to the public was, therefore, 1.35 pies per passenger mile which on the 1944-45 bus mileage of nine million, amounts to nearly Rs. 11 lakhs a year. The passenger fleet consisted of 290 buses operating over 4,200 route miles. In addition 211 goods lorries were worked.

The public are also concerned in the benefit they are likely to obtain from the co-ordination of road and rail services. In Hyderabad, bus services are made to connect with trains and at present some 440 connections are made daily. This enables through passengers to make use of station waiting halls, refreshment rooms and water supplies. Without co-ordination, bus services would have avoided railway stations and the through traveller would have been inconvenienced. With co-ordination, however, through booking will rapidly become a popular feature especially with pilgrim traffic when it ensures a seat in the connecting train or bus.

Railway stations and bus depots serve as information bureaux for both services and railway booking offices have been opened at certain central road traffic points. Trains have been speeded up by cutting out halts at less important stations and serving these by road. Train timings have been altered where they do not suit a particular interest served by road. Where two points are served by both rail and road, co-ordination has been achieved by adjusting the timings of both services so that convenience ensures the shorter distance traffic being catered for by road and the longer by rail. We have also introduced collection and delivery services and established out-agencies in the districts. To cope with the movement of foodstuffs six mobile lorry units, each consisting of 16 vehicles have been formed. These units are capable of operating anywhere without a fixed headquarters and in co-ordination with rail moved roughly 116,000 tons during the year 1944-45.

Road vehicles have been used to advantage when railway lines have been breached. They have also been of the greatest assistance in moving goods to relieve pressure on a particular short section of rail. This does not exhaust the possibilities of co-ordination and fresh ways of bringing this about will constantly present themselves with increasing advantage to the transport user. I am sure that there is growing appreciation in the public mind of the need for a rationalised transport system throughout India and, to achieve this, the most strenuous efforts must be made by all concerned to retain, for the good of the country as a whole, an equitable and economic balance between road and rail interests and to prevent from becoming rivals what should really be complementary services.

The rationalisation of transport is, however, only one of the problems facing the railways. Commencing with run-down equipment and war-weary personnel, they have now to contend with a period when vast industrial schemes and intense agricultural activity will make tremendous demands on their capacity. The Government of India Railway Board is already pursuing its plans for the rehabilitation of the railways and a great deal of attention is being paid to the material side. Such expenditure by itself, however, will not achieve success. Neither will our post-war rating policy nor a satisfactory outcome of the road-rail problem alone determine our prosperity. What is equally necessary is the rehabilitation of the Human Factor—and without the full weight of that factor we spend money on new equipment in vain. The problems before us—problems every bit as difficult as those with which we have had to grapple during the war years—will demand a greater degree of efficiency from the undertaking. This in turn will necessitate a higher average efficiency from the individual. Can we educate the staff to realise that it is in their own interests to increase their own personal efficiency? This means on the one hand that they must value their employment for the economic benefit it confers and on the other that they must be given an adequate opportunity of improving their individual skill. In other words a contented mind and skilful hands.

Private Management

In the business world the view is widely held that private management is more efficient than State control and one reason for this is that in many private concerns the employee is made to feel that his own interests are identified with those of the firm. This outlook should not prove impossible of achievement on Indian Railways. If they are to function successfully as commercial concerns—as they must if they are to keep pace with the times—they cannot be managed on the orthodox lines of a government department. The problem is far from simple, but if it is tackled in the way that other problems have been faced, a solution will undoubtedly be found.

The steps we are planning to meet the needs of the staff in respect of housing, health, welfare and education need no special comment and the Board has already decided on the formation of separate Personnel Departments on the railways which must inevitably result in the better and speedier handling of representations with a corresponding growth of confidence. We have not yet tackled, however, the problem of increasing individual efficiency, and for this I believe we must extend our training schemes until they can really be said to provide "training for all." There is a right and a wrong way of doing even the humblest task and we must be prepared to provide special instruction in the particular duties we expect a man to perform. It is *not*

sufficient to assume that through constant repitition the man himself will evolve the best method of doing the job. We must also train him to become "Transport Minded". An extended goods yard can easily become merely a trap for wagons unless the staff from station master to pointsman have also been taught the implication of an hour lost or gained.

To get the best out of our training schemes we must pay a great deal more attention to recruitment. We must adopt scientific methods which have met with such remarkable success elsewhere, in determining the job for which a person is most suitable. We must have a clear indication of a man's special capabilities and aptitude and employ him accordingly. Of the actual training schemes very little need be said. Each railway should carry out its own basic training bearing in mind the results achieved by the war-time schemes opposed to the old apprenticeship methods. If we are prepared to spend money on instructors and equipment we can train more effectively and in less than half the time considered necessary under the old system which does very little more than move a man from section to section at certain fixed intervals and expect him to teach himself.

Advanced Training

For more advanced training a system might be created whereby certain railways would become training centres for an aspect of operation in which it had already specialised or had produced outstanding results. Our future training schemes must also help in other directions. They must eliminate the square peg in the round hole and the small peg in the big one. They must also show us the big peg which has been forced into the small hole. We have a special responsibility towards such men.

Parallel with our training schemes we should make sure that effort is not being wasted in unnecessary labour. I have in mind particularly the mass of routine clerical work in which the railways are almost submerged. Much of this has arisen out of the inability of the staff to take responsibility and as the efficiency of the individual improves it should be possible to make appreciable reductions. We *must* do so if we are to give modern service in a modern world. Centralisation creates work and if we are to achieve our end the advantages of decentralisation must not be overlooked. If it involves risks let us take them. I would suggest the setting up of a group of specially trained men whose duty it would be to investigate the clerical work on railways. I am convinced that there is a wide field both for improving efficiency and also for reducing expenditure.

Turning for a moment to the superior establishment, it is amongst these men that war-weariness is most apparent and since the responsibility for direction rests with them some special action is necessary to combat the effects of war and to revive flagging interest. A very great deal has been learned in the railway world under the stress of war and results have been achieved which hitherto would have been thought impossible. We in India should not hesitate to take advantage of the progress made in other countries. It should not be difficult to determine where pre-eminence in a particular subject is to be found and I believe that, commencing now, we should make a regular practice of sending senior officers to Europe, America and elsewhere to study other peoples' methods at first hand. I doubt if there is a better way of turning men into enthusiasts who would strive to reproduce here the good they found elsewhere. Such a scheme should, of course, be in addition to an increased number of centralised training schools for junior officers at which refresher courses at frequent intervals should be specially provided. When we are selecting men for training as officers we would do well to remember that the qualities of leadership and initiative are of greater importance to us than mere academic attainments.

If these and other proposals towards the same end are adopted it should not be long—given one important proviso—before average technical efficiency shows considerable improvement and with it the efficiency of the whole undertaking.

Opportunities for Promotion

If training schemes are to be really effective, however, some prospect of reward must be held out to those who make the best use of their opportunities. What inducement is there to the individual to devote himself to the improvement of his technical knowledge so long as promotion comes only through seniority and by waiting for dead men's shoes? It is easy to say "You cannot keep a good man down" but it is hardly true. I feel most strongly that we *must* provide ample opportunities for accelerated promotion to those who show exceptional ability. If we do not, or if we bow to the inevitable protests, we are simply asking for railway service to be shunned by the competent and intelligent man in favour of other opportunities.

The large new industrial schemes which are being planned will require an appreciable number of technical men to convert them into realities and it is probable that industry will offer more than generous salaries to attract the right men. If railways are to be considered as commercial concerns then their personnel must not be paid on a level below that of industry. This applies from the top to the bottom and at once suggests the necessity to determine whether or no existing scales of pay will prove sufficient inducement to permit the recruitment of the right type of man in competition with industry. Failing this, the railways will find it difficult to retain good men and they will also be embarrassed by the dissatisfaction created.

Lastly, the "Human Factor" in our relations with the travelling public and the commercial community. As Railwaymen, we are the first to acknowledge that both the travelling public and the commercial community have had a great deal to put up with during the past six years. Before very long the boot will be on the other foot and we shall be looking for custom. But we shall not find it easy to restore lost goodwill and we shall have competitors. It is most important, therefore, that the re-establishment of public relations should not be considered as a matter of routine to be handled by anyone who happens to be available. Let us not make the mistake of underrating the job. Expert Public Relations Officers will be essential and once again this means training.

Let me summarise by expressing like this the idea I have been trying to convey. If the "Human Factor" is the mainspring of the railway machine, then training is the key that winds it and contentment its lubrication.

Finally, I wish to record my appreciation of the invaluable assistance given me by Mr. Simpson, the General Secretary, during my term of office. The thanks of the Association are also due to him and to his staff for the able manner in which they have conducted its business during the year. The Association has every reason to be proud of the way the difficulties met with during the war years have been overcome.

SELLING PRICES OF ARTICLES TO BE MARKED

Dealers in a large variety of articles ranging from antenna wire to woollen fabrics, who were required by a previous notification to mark the selling price on every such article exposed for sale, have now been further directed, by an amending notification published in the *Gazette of India* on December 8, to mark the selling price on the bundle, or box, or packet as the case may be, where the article is sold in bundles or boxes or packets.

If, owing to the size or material of any article, it is impracticable to make any marking thereon, the marking may be made on a paper label pasted on the article. The directions in respect of maintaining a price list shall not be applicable to any dealer to whom an exemption therefrom has been granted in writing by the Controller General of Civil Supplies.

INDIAN DELEGATIONS TO INDUSTRIAL COMMITTEES

THE Government of India have decided to send delegations for the Industrial Committees on Coal Mining and Inland Transport, convened by the International Labour Office beginning from December 5 and 13, 1945, respectively, in London, said a Press Communique issued by the Labour Department, Government of India, on November 15.

It added: The delegations will consist of: Coal Mining Committee: *Government*: Mr. M. Ikramullah, I.C.S., Joint Secretary to the Government of India, Supply Department, and Mr. M. T. Raju, I.C.S., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Labour. *Employers*: Mr. K. Basu and Mr. S. C. Ghose. *Workers*: Mr. V. B. Barnik and Mr. Nirmal Das Gupta.

Inland Transport Committee

Inland Transport Committee: *Government*: Khan Bahadur Z. H. Khan, Director (Establishment) Railway Department, and Mr. M. T. Raju, I.C.S., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Labour. *Employers*: Mr. Nurmohammad M. Chinoy and a nominee of the Employers' Federation of India. *Workers*: Mr. V. R. Kalappa and Mr. B. K. Mukherjee.

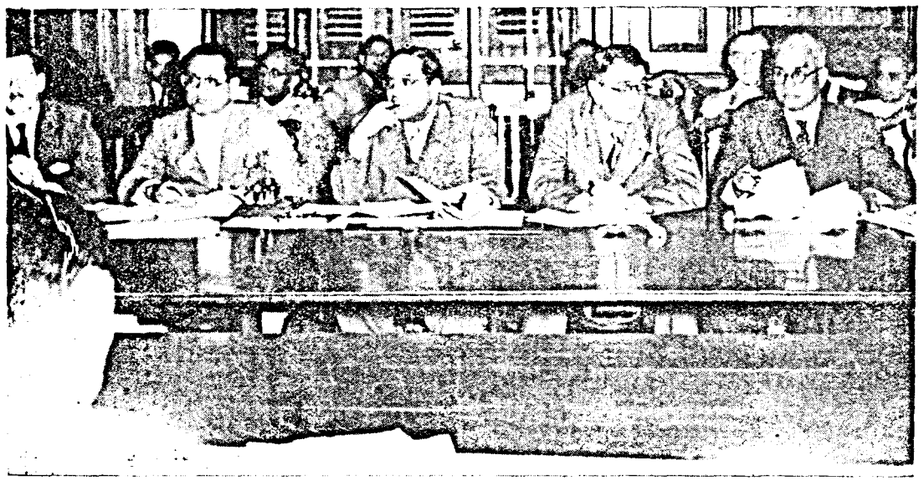
The delegates representing employers and workers have been nominated after consultation and in agreement with the most representative organisations in the industries concerned.

RAW RUBBER PRICES

The question of the revision of purchase prices of raw rubber has been under the consideration of the Government of India and it has now been decided that the present purchase prices shall stand up to January 31, 1946. From February 1, 1946, onward, however, the prices of No. 1 RMA Sheet (Group-1) will revert to the basic price of Rs. 77-5 per 100 lbs. delivered at the Government Purchase Depot, Cochin.

The prices of other groups will likewise revert to those prevalent in June, 1943, as published in Notification No. 16(2) I.P./43 dated June 5, 1943, for Group 1 to 7.

The Government of India have made this decision after careful investigation of the production cost, local conditions and having due regard to producers' interests.



Representatives from different parts of India ttended the 7th Indian Labour Conference which was held recently in New Delhi. Picture shows (from L. to R.) the Hon. Mr. S. Burugohaim, Labour Minister, Assam; the Hon. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Labour Member; the Hon. Mr. H. C. Prior, Labour Secretary, nd Mr. S. C. Joshi, Chief Labour Commissioner.

DR. B. R. AMBEDKAR ON STATE'S OBLIGATIONS TO LABOUR

PRESIDING over the Seventh Labour Conference, which will in future be called the Indian Labour Conference, held in New Delhi on November 26, the Hon'ble Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Member for Labour, struck a balance-sheet of the State's obligations to labour and urged legislation for raising Indian labour standards to the international level.

Taking stock of Government action on the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labour and the ratification of I.L.O. conventions Dr. Ambedkar said there were actually only ten recommendations which were still outstanding, whereas India had yet to ratify 49 out of the 63 Conventions. "But", the Labour Member pointed out, "this is due not so much to the unwillingness of the Government" but to "the rule which requires that a Convention must be adopted without change or modification . It should be possible", remarked the Labour Member, "for the I.L.O. to draft a Convention so as to provide for stages."

Welcoming the gathering, Dr. Ambedkar said:

"I am sure we are all happy to see that peace has come. It has cost us six years of hard struggle involving incalculable destruction of life and property, not to mention the hardship and the misery which all had to undergo in order to win victory. It is a matter of great relief to us that we have no longer before us the problem of war and of war effort which required us not only to make things ready, but to make them ready at the shortest notice. Thank God that all our worries are over. But you all know that, though the problems of war are no longer there to trouble us, there are before us problems of peace, such as the reconstruction of the social and economic life of the people. These problems affect India no less than they do other countries of the world.

State's Liabilities

"Among these social and economic problems, this Conference will be concerned with the most important of them, namely, the problems effecting the welfare of labour and the relations of Capital to Labour. In order that the Conference may know what work lies before it, I think it would be desirable if I use this occasion to enter upon what might be called 'stock-taking', so that all of us may have a correct estimate of what has been done and what remains to be done in the field which is ours.

"For the purposes of this stock-taking, I would like to begin with our liabilities first. Our liabilities are derived from two different quarters. Firstly, they are derived from the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labour which reported in the year 1930. The second source of our liabilities is the Conventions of the International Labour Organisation of which India has been made a member from the very beginning.

"The Royal Commission on Labour made 357 recommendations—a formidable total which serves to show how far behind India was in 1929 as compared with other countries in matters of labour legislation. Of these 357 recommendations 133 (in whole or in part) involved legislation. Of these 133, no less than 126 were accepted by the Government. Only seven were rejected out of 126 which were accepted, 106 have generally been given effect to. Only 20 are still outstanding. Of these 20, 10 relate to legislation for workshops for which discretionary powers already exist with the Provincial Governments under section 5 of the Factories Act. Really speaking, there are only 10 recommendations which are outstanding. Our liability on this account is therefore very small.

I. L. O. Conventions

"Turning to the second source of our liabilities, it will be noticed that the I.L.O. has between the years 1919 and 1943 passed altogether 63 Conventions on various matters effecting labour. Of these, India has ratified only 14. India has yet to ratify 49 Conventions.

"You will notice how the balance-sheet stands. Our Royal Commission account is better than our I.L.O. account. That is of course likely as the Royal Commission recommendations have specific relations to the conditions of India while the I.L.O. Conventions are general in character.

"The fact, however, remains that there is very little outstanding liability on account of the Commission and the magnitude of our liability on account of the Convention is great. Among the Conventions not ratified, there are some which are very important and it behoves us to examine these most carefully and raise our labour standards, in so far as national conditions allow, to standards laid down internationally.

"This brief survey will, I hope, enable you to see what is outstanding in the matter of legislation. I need hardly say that this debt we shall have to discharge. I am sure you will agree with me when I say that we do not wish to escape it. Permit me to say that we cannot escape it. World public opinion will not allow us to escape it.

"If I have made a point of our honouring our liability it is because one hears in this country many misgivings being expressed about the



Representatives at the 7th Indian Labour Conference.



Mr. K. R. Malcolm, Labour Commissioner, United Provinces, and Mrs. Shanta Mukherji, of Calcutta.

necessity and urgency of labour legislation. There is always somebody to ask us to copy the British example. It is said that the British people have waited for a century, before they had their present Labour Code. There are others who urge that it would be unfair to put the cost of labour legislation on Indian Industries, which are at present in an infant stage, and point to the example of Russia where the working class was forced to accept very low standards in order to enable industries to grow. One also hears it said that the administrative machinery necessary for enforcing labour legislation is not in existence in India and that, therefore, it is useless to enact laws which must remain a dead leter. There is also the plea, commonly raised, that India is a poor country and that it cannot afford the luxury of high standards of labour.

Labour Legislation

"I am not sure that these arguments will satisfy world opinion. Far from accepting them as good and valid reasons for holding back labour legislation of which we are in arrears, labour is sure to regard them as so many excuses.

"Labour may well say that the fact that the British took 100 years to have a proper code of labour legislation is no argument that we should also in India take 100 years. History is not to be studied merely with a view to know how well to imitate the mistakes of other countries. We study history with a view to know the errors people have made and how they could be avoided. History is not always an example. More often it is a warning.

"Labour is bound to say that the example of Russia is entirely out of place in a discussion about labour standards in a country in which industries is run as a private enterprize working in pursuit of private and personal gain. In Russia, industry is a State enterprise and the profits of industry go to fill the Treasury of the State and not to swell the private fortunes of individuals. Where the profits of industry belong to the State, the subjects of the State may well be asked to undergo, during an interim period, reduction in wages and other standards of life in order that the State industries may be stabilised. No worker would mind such a sacrifice knowing that, in the end, the industry would belong to the State and that he would be able to share in the prosperity of the State. How can the workers be asked to agree to reduce standards of life in an economy in which the profits which are to result from such reduced standards are to go to private individuals. I am sure you will agree that an argument on these lines has great force.

Funds for Labour Welfare

"The plea that we have no administrative machinery to give proper effect to labour laws cannot be admitted to be a strong plea. It is liable to be attacked by labour from many points and you will find it vulnerable at every point. The State maintains a large body of police force to maintain law and order; the State maintains a body of Revenue Officers to collect taxes. Labour may well say, why should not the State maintain a force to see that labour laws are given effect to? Is the duty of the State to be confined merely to collecting taxes and punishing persons who disobey its laws? Does not the duty of the State extend to the maintenance of terms and conditions of employment, which are in consonance with civilised life? If that is the duty of the State, is it not obligatory on the State to create and sustain such machinery? The lack of machinery is too weak a plank to stand on.

"The argument about the capacity to bear the burden of the cost involved in labour legislation is an argument of very serious import, and labour will have to take note of it. At the same time, the question is about the faith behind the argument. Is it a *bona fide* argument? or it is merely a cloak for avoiding liability? Labour may well say that this argument about cost loses much of its force when one thinks of the money spent on war. All of us know what a colossal amount of money has been raised for the war and how the monied classes have borne the crushing weight of high and heavy taxations for carrying on the war.

"Labour may well ask statesmen to say how many houseless persons could have been decently housed, how many naked persons could have been properly clothed, how many hungry men and women could have been given full nourishment, how many uneducated persons could have been educated, how many sick persons could have been restored to health, if the money spent on war had been spent on public welfare? Labour may ask monied classes a very pertinent question saying, if you do not mind paying taxes to meet expenditure on war, why do you object to raising funds when their purpose is to raise labour standards? I am sure these are not very easy questions to answer.

"I have given you an estimate of the labour legislation which is outstanding. I have shown why we cannot escape it. That being so, I do not think it necessary to make any apology for the large Agenda that has been placed before you. The Agenda includes eight items. Some of them are very important, particularly item II, which deals with reduction of working hours, item III which deals with minimum wage legislation and item VIII which deals with the Recognition of Trade Unions.

Anti-Slump Measures

"You can well imagine why I have singled out these items for particular emphasis. The peace we are glad to have will be bringing on its plethora of problems. The most serious of these will be the dreadful problem of unemployment. We must do our best and do it immediately to mitigate it and to prevent it from lowering labour standards. I believe three things are necessary to ease the situation. Firstly, to reduce hours of employment so as to provide employment for many. Secondly, to provide machinery for fixing minimum wages. The absence of such machinery combined with unemployment is bound to cause labour standards to slump, which ought to be prevented. Thirdly, to provide the employers and workers with a resolve to collective bargaining and learn to work together in the solution of other common problems. Nothing in my judgment can bring this about more effectively than sound and responsible Trade Unions.

"I do not propose to go at a break-neck speed. But I am determined to see that the Labour Department does not linger on. I must mention I find one great handicap in pursuing our goal. It arises from the provisions of the I.L.O. with regard to Conventions. I said that our liability arising out of non-ratification of the Conventions is indeed very great. I must at the same time point out that this is due not so much to the unwillingness of the Government to recognise the essential good underlying the Conventions. It is due largely to the rule which requires that a convention must be adopted without change or modification. It must be adopted as a whole, or not at all. I am sure it is this provision, forcing on us a policy of 'all or none' is not very helpful. It does not permit us to realise our goal by progressive stages which is the only one by which vast and backward countries like India can hope to advance.

Stage by Stage Progress

"I want to press for a modification of this rule, as being very necessary for Asiatic countries which have a long and a different journey to cover. It should not be impossible to get a change made in the existing provisions. It should be possible for the I.L.O. to draft a Convention so as to provide for stages. It should also be possible for the I.L.O. to lay down that the convention should be carried out stage by stage, coupled with the provision that the whole list of Conventions should be carried within a given period. I am sure you will agree with me that a change which permits progressive realisation of international conventions is to be preferred to a rule which makes them so many dead letters.

"There is one other matter to which I must make some reference lest you should misunderstand. You remember, the Conference last year appointed a Committee to consider some of the proposals I had made for changing the Constitution of the Conference. You might like to know what action Government propose to take on the report of the Committee.

"As recommended by the Committee, Government do not at present propose to make any changes in the Constitution of the Conference. Government think it enough not to do anything more than to change the name of the organisation as recommended by the Committee. The Conference is meeting under different names, such as Ministers' Conference, Tripartite Conference and Plenary Conference. I am glad that the Committee decided to call it the 'Labour Conference'. Notwithstanding what Shakespeare has said there is much in a name. The name 'Labour Conference' may not have a sweet smell. But it cetainly has the merit of being simple and less loud than the name 'Tri-

partite' or 'Plenary'. The only comment I have to make is that the name as proposed by the Committee lacks colouring—a defect which could be easily removed if instead of calling it 'Labour Conference', we decided to call it the 'Indian Labour Conference'. I take it that you are in agreement with me on this point.

"There is another thing which Government propose to do, which is quite independent of the report. It is to enlarge the functions of this Conference.

"At the last I.L.O. Conference held in Paris the delegate of the Government of India gave an undertaking to place all recommendations and Conventions passed by the I. L. O., before, this body for discussion. The Government of India have decided to honour that undertaking. I am sure you will welcome this extension of your powers and functions. It will enable the Provinces and States to know what was done at each Session of the I.L.O. and profit by the views of the employers and employees in regard to it."

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

The Indian Labour Conference, consisting of the representatives of Central and Provincial Governments, important states and employers' and workers' organisations unanimously supported the principle of the 48-hour week in India's factories at its meeting on November 27. There was, more or less, complete agreement in regard to the Government's proposals for the statutory provision of industrial canteens and for the amendment of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1934.

The Labour Department's memorandum on the reduction of working hours pointed out that it was both unjust and unwise to deny the workers a reasonable amount of spare time away from the factory, which was indispensable for the building up of citizenship and for the maintenance of his physical efficiency. It emphasised that the present was an opportune moment for taking up this question because there was a need for giving relief to factory workers who had been put to a great strain during the war. Moreover, shorter hours would lead to greater employment. The memorandum made it clear that the reduction in hours should not be accompanied by any reduction in basic wages or dearness allowances unless there was a fall in prices. The rates of piece-workers should be adjusted on the principle that a piece-worker should earn not less than a time-worker.

The Conference also discussed the organisation and functions of the Employment Exchanges set up by the Labour Department to help the resettlement and employment of demobilised Services personnel and discharged war workers during the transition period.

The Labour Department's memorandum on the subject recorded that Employment Exchanges can only give useful assistance if they are in possession of information regarding the employment opportunities available or likely to be available. The use of the Employment Exchange organisation, it continued, will prove of mutual benefit to employers and employment-seekers and will ensure satisfactory distribution of manpower among various branches of production. It will also facilitate the mobility of labour, both occupational and geographical, and will obviate any bottle-necks in the supply of various categories of workers.

The attitude of Employment Exchanges during strikes or lock-outs and the question of compensation to the workers during involuntary unemployment resulting from controls were the two other subjects considered in today's session. The first subject was adjourned after some discussion for tomorrow's session, and on the second the Conference was not able to arrive at an agreed decision.

Minimum Wages

When the Conference assembled on November 28 to conclude its seventh session, the Hon'ble Dr. B.R. Ambedkar announced that a committee consisting of two representatives of employers and two of employees will be formed shortly to advise, the Government in drafting legislation for fixing minimum wages for labour and for amending the Indian Trade Unions' Act, 1926.

Though the principles of these two measures were agreed to by the Conference, various points of view were expressed during the discussions. The appointment of the Committee is to meet the point raised by many speakers at the Conference that, in view of the importance of these two measures, they should be examined in detail.

The Conference was unanimous in its decision regarding the framing of standing orders in industrial concerns and on the attitude that should be adopted by the Employment Exchanges during strikes or lock-outs. It was agreed that, during strikes or lock-outs, Employment Exchanges should accept vacancies and inform suitable applicants of the existence of the trade dispute before submission. They should register workmen and submit them for other employment, informing the prospective employers that they are unemployed as the result of an existing trade dispute.

SIR S. RUNGANADHAN ON SOCIAL SECURITY IN INDIA

ADDRESSING the I.L.O. Conference in Paris on October 23, Sir Samuel Runganadhan, India's High Commissioner in London, welcomed the holding of an Asiatic Regional Conference and declared that the Government of India would be happy if the governing body were to decide to hold the Regional Conference in India at the earliest date after November, 1946.

After referring to the enormous strain to which the industrial economy of India had been subjected during the war, Sir Samuel said:—

"I now turn to what India has done during the last year in regard to matters covered by the recommendations on employment and social security adopted by this Organisation at Philadelphia. In the first place, mention must be made of the introduction of an employment exchange scheme which involves the establishment of an employment service with a number of directorates, an immense task in a country of the size of India that a few years back had nothing of the sort.

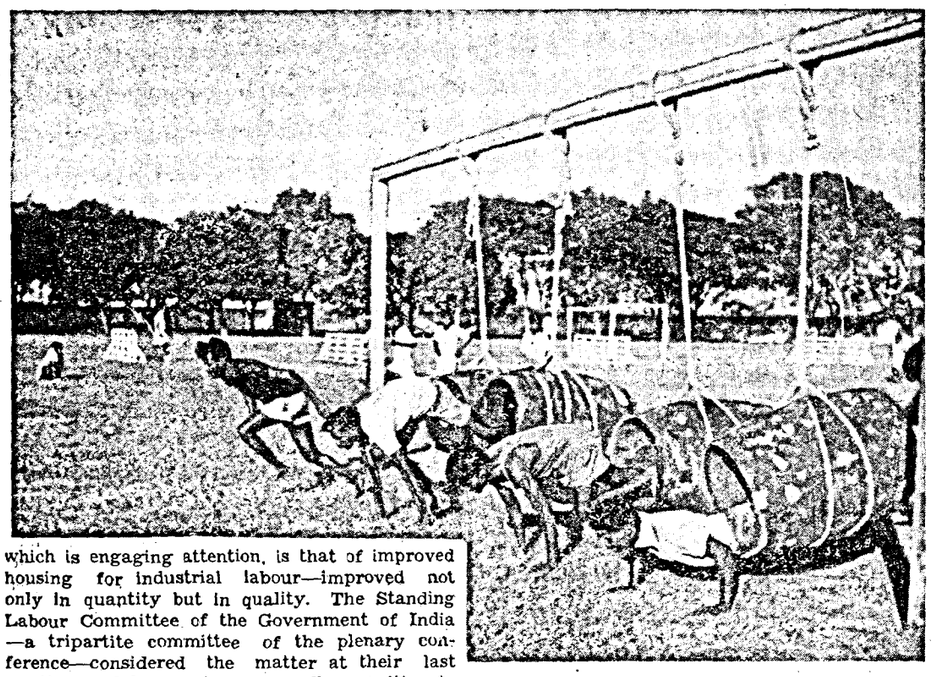
"The scheme, though designed, in the first instance, to deal with the resettlement and re-employment of those who have been occupied, whether as combatants or otherwise, in India's war effort, will, it is hoped, eventually develop into a permanent employment service directed towards achieving full employment and higher living standards for the people of India. This scheme has involved the setting up of training schemes to provide the necessary staff and the whole is being pushed forward rapidly so that the target of 71 exchanges may be reached by next March.

"Next I would refer to a scheme for the health insurance of industrial workers, prepared under the orders of the Government of India by Dr. Adarkar, which aimed at the establishment of compulsory health insurance for industrial workers. After this report was prepared, the Government of India were fortunate to obtain the assistance of experts from the staff of the International Labour Office in the persons of Mr. Stack and Mr. Rao, who visited India in the Spring of this year, and we are most grateful for that assistance. They pointed out the opportunity that existed for including at once, and not later as had originally been proposed, with the health insurance scheme, employment injury and maternity benefit to make one uniform scheme. This has been done, and a most up-to-date scheme has been prepared which is now under consideration by the Government of India.

"Another important post-war problem of great importance to industrial workers, and

Much welfare work is carried out in India for the benefit of mill-hands and their children. Picture shows a nurse examining the children of workers at a village clinic.





Sports, held from time to time, help considerably to brighten the otherwise humdrum life of a mill worker.

which is engaging attention, is that of improved housing for industrial labour—improved not only in quantity but in quality. The Standing Labour Committee of the Government of India —a tripartite committee of the plenary conference—considered the matter at their last meeting and have set up a small committee to examine the whole subject and the manner in which it may best be financed, and it is expected that, as supplies and materials become available, progress will be found possible.

"Further evidence of progress in social legislation is provided by the passing by the Indian Legislature of a bill to ensure holidays with pay for industrial workers. This measure will come into effect from the beginning of 1946 and provides for a longer holiday than the minimum laid down in the International Labour Convention dealing with this subject, as such a longer holiday is clearly necessary in conditions in India to enable the worker to travel the long distances that frequently are necessary to reach his home and yet have a reasonably long holiday.

"Another recent development has been an improvement in the industrial relation machinery. Generally speaking, the governmental administration responsibility in respect of all factory workers is that of Provincial Governments who have Labour Commissioner organisations to deal with industrial relations. The Centre has, however, responsibility for labour employed in Central Government factories (and the Central Government is a very large employer) and in mines. To meet this responsibility on the industrial relations side, it has this year set up a comprehensive industrial relations department under a Chief Labour Commissioner which is just getting under way.

Co-ordinated Labour Policy

"This brings me to a subject which has been under discussion in Committees at this Conference regarding the position of Federal Governments, and the Government of India have, in the past few years, been giving a good deal of consideration to this aspect and they are convinced that it is only by co-operation between the provinces and the Centre that a co-ordinated labour policy can be effectively followed in conditions in India. They have been taking steps to secure this co-operation, recognising that the position of the Centre can, under the present Constitution, only be that of a legislator, advisor and, possibly co-ordinator.

"They have, as I stated last year, set up a Tripartite Labour Conference at which representatives of the Centre, provinces, employers and workers sit together and discuss labour problems, and it seems to me that it might be well if recommendations, resolutions and conventions passed by the International Labour Office were, as opportunity offered, discussed in this body. That would ensure that all provinces knew what had been done here and had before them the views of labour and employers in India on what had been done.

"Another method which the Government of India are just starting, with a view to giving assistance to provinces in the execution of labour legislation passed by the Centre, is the establishment of an advisory organisation at the Centre composed of experts in factory administration and inspection who would be available to advise provinces and to ensure that what was being done well in one province was brought to the notice of other provinces—in fact that there was a general co-ordinated effort. The body can only be advisory, but it is hoped that, if it is sufficiently authoritative and composed of persons who really know their business, provinces will welcome the opportunity of taking its advice, which should tend to improvement in factory conditions in India.

Asiatic Regional Conference

"At last year's Conference at Philadelphia, the Government Delegates were gratified to note the enthusiasm with which the suggestion, so long in mind, that the time was approaching when an Asiatic Regional Conference might be held, was received. The Government of India believe that there is a definite advantage in having regular regional discussions amongst those who may look on labour problems from the same angle, and who may thus be able to frame their policies on lines which may be within the reach of all in that region.

"The progress of the war encouraged the Government of India to give some further thought to this project and, at the Quebec session of Governing Body, the Representative of India took the opportunity to inform his colleagues that, while the holding of such a Conference might, to a large extent, depend upon the general international situation, the successful termination of the war in Europe and the progress which was being made in the hostilities with Japan, led to the hope that an Asiatic Regional Conference might be held at a not too distant date.

"In the circumstances, the Government of India had given some preliminary consideration to the type of agenda which might be proposed for such a Conference and desired to suggest for the consideration of the Governing Body that reports might perhaps be prepared well in advance by the Office on the following subjects:—

(1). Background for social security, that is proposals suitable to conditions in Asiatic countries, with reference to their application both to industrial and agricultural labour.

(2). Labour policy in general in South East Asia.

"The Government of India trusted that these general subjects would commend themselves to other countries who might be expected to participate, and the Acting Director had signified his general agreement, adding as one further subject the question of how best Asiatic regional activity could be co-ordinated with the general activities of the International Labour Office.

"The war with Japan has now happily come to a successful termination earlier than any of us could have anticipated, and the Government of India are anxious that such a conference should be held and consider it appropriate that a decision should be taken in the near future and would be happy if the Governing Body were to decide to hold the Regional Conference in India at the earliest date after November 1946 as may be found convenient.

"Before concluding I would like to mention one matter in the minds of all of us present here. I refer to the future of our Organisation. The forces of evil have been crushed by the United Nations. We are on the threshold of a new era wherein our Organisation must take its due and dignified place. We may not be able to complete details of constitutional amendments at this Session. but we must give a clear mandate to the Governing Body to enter, subject to the approval of the Conference, into such agreements with the United Nations as may be necessary to ensure full co-ordination of our Organisation with the objectives set forth in the Charter of the United Nations.

"While we are proud of our achievements in the past, it is not unnatural that, after a quarter of a century's existence in a period which has seen such vast changes in the social and industrial fields, some measure of internal reform is called for. We have to bring the Organisation to a higher pitch of efficiency and make such modifications as appear necessary for the proper and effective discharge of our heavy and increasing responsibilities. Let us proceed with this task in a spirit of high endeavour and unswerving determination that social justice be achieved for the millions of men, women and children in all parts of the world, and that through our labour we contribute our best towards peace and prosperity for this and future generations."

MULTI-PURPOSE PLAN FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ORISSA'S RIVERS

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's Speech at Cuttack

"ORISSA wants to get rid of the evils of floods. Orissa wants to get rid of malaria and other—to use American phraseology—'low-income' diseases causing ill-health and corroding the stamina of her people. Orissa wants to raise the standard of living of her people and advance their prosperity by irrigation, by navigation and by producing cheap electrical power. All these purposes can fortunately be achieved by one single plan, namely to build reservoirs and store the water which is flowing in her rivers."

Thus observed the Hon'ble Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Labour Member to the Government of India, in his presidential address at a conference held in Cuttack on November 8 between the representatives of the Central Government and the Governments of Orissa, the Central Provinces and the Eastern States, to discuss the possibilities of developing Orissa rivers.

Orissa's Problems

Referring to the problems of Orissa, the Labour Member observed: "To say that the problem is one of floods is both an oversimplification and an understatement of the problem. I see the problem in a somewhat different light. When I think of Orissa, the picture that comes to my mind is that of a people subject not to one affliction, but many.

"One such affliction, which is on the lips of everybody, is the constant exposure of her people to floods which cause damage to life and property and, in a general sense, insecurity. This affliction is due, not merely to floods, but also to droughts and famines. Damage by droughts and famines can be as great as that caused by floods. It is said that in the drought of 1866, nearly 40 per cent of the population of Puri district perished.

"Deterioration in health is another affliction of the people of Orissa. The total population of the province of Orissa is 77½ lakhs. According to the health report of the province, the total deaths in 1944 were 2,35,581. Of these, 1,30,000 died from some kind of fevers and a majority by malarial fever. This means that three per cent of her people died in 1944, and of these nearly half died of malaria. This is a very high figure. In 1944, 19 per cent of the student population was found to show distinct signs of malnutrition and 8.7 per cent showed signs of vitamin deficiency.

"If these facts are true, Orissa cannot be said to be above the poverty line. The third affliction of Orissa—I think it could be called an affliction—is its want of internal communications. Orissa is a locked-up country. Except for the solitary railway line, running along her eastern sea coast, there is no means of communication either by railway or by canal to connect the vast hinterland with the sea coast."

"Should Orissa continue to be in such a wretched state as it is today?" Dr. Ambedkar asked. "It need not. It has natural resources, and they are by no means meagre. Orissa has coal, Orissa has iron, chrome, graphite, bauxite, limestone, mica, and Orissa has also bamboo, to mention only some of its important natural resources.

"There is another precious possession which Orissa has, namely her water wealth. The amount of water that passes through the Orissa delta is just vast. The delta—comprising roughly the three districts of Cuttack, Puri and Balasore and covering an area of about 8,000 square miles—is traversed by a network of distributaries arising mainly from three rivers, the Mahanadi, the Brahmani, and the Baitarani.

"Two more rivers—the Burabalang and the Subarnarekha—of relatively lesser importance, also pass through the delta. The three main rivers referred to above drain an area of 69,000 square miles above the delta, lying in the Eastern States, Central Provinces and Bihar. Of these the Mahanadi—the largest of the three—drains 51,000 square miles. Between them, these three rivers carry each year to the sea a discharge of about 90 million acre feet."

Use of Water Wealth

The Labour Member continued: "Given the resources, why has Orissa continued to be so poor, so backward and so wretched a province? The only answer I can give is that Orissa has not found the best method of utilising her water wealth. Much effort has undoubtedly been spent in inquiring into the question of floods. As early as 1872, there was a general enquiry by Mr. Rehnand. I do not know what happened to his report. Nothing seems to have been done thereafter till 1928. From that year down to 1945, there have been a series of committees appointed to tackle this problem.

"The Orissa Flood Enquiry Committee of 1928 was presided over by the well-known Chief Engineer of Bengal, Mr. Adams Williams. In 1937, the enquiry was entrusted in the able hands of Sir M. Visvesvarayya, who submitted two reports—one in 1937 and another in 1939. His work was followed by the Orissa Flood Advisory Committee. The Committee submitted a preliminary report in 1938 and continued its work till 1942, during which period it submitted three interim reports. The latest effort in that direction was made as recently as March 15, 1945, when a Flood Conference was convened at Cuttack by the Government of Orissa.

"With all respect to the members of these committees, I am sorry to say they did not bring the right approach to bear on the problem. They were influenced by the idea that water in excessive quantity was an evil. that, when water comes in excessive quantity, what needs be done is to let it run into the sea in an orderly flow. Both these views are now regarded as grave misconceptions, as positively dangerous from the point view of the good of the people.

Conservation of Water

"It is wrong to think water in excessive quantity is an evil. Water can never be so excessive as to be an evil. Man suffers more from lack of water than from excess of it. The trouble is that nature is not only niggardly in the amount of water it gives, it is also errratic in its distribution—alternating between drought and storm. But this cannot alter the fact that water is wealth. Water being the wealth of the people and its distribution being uncertain, the correct approach is not to complain against nature but to conserve water.

"If conservation of water is mandatory from the point of view of public good, then obviously the plan of embankments is a wrong plan. It is a means which does not subserve the end, namely conservation of water, and must, therefore, be abandoned. Orissa delta is not the only area where there is so much amount of water and there is so much amount of evil proceeding from that water. The United States of America had the same problem to face. Some of these rivers—Missouri, Miami and Tennessee—have given rise to the same problem in the U.S.A.

"Orissa must, therefore, adopt the method which the U.S.A. adopted in dealing with the problem of its rivers. That method is to dam rivers at various points to conserve water pemanently in reservoirs. There are many purposes which such reservoirs can serve besides irrigation. I am told that if it were possible to store the entire run off of the Mahanadi it will be enough to irrigate thereby a million acres, provided that much area was available. Water stored in the reservoirs can be used for generating electric power.

"If in the midst of its natural resources, Orissa has remained an industrially undeveloped area, it is due to want of cheap power to run its factories. Here there will be abundance of electric power, more than Orissa can hope to consume for a long time to come. Another use to which this water could be put to is navigation.

"Navigation in India has had a very chequered history. During the rule of the East India Company, provision for internal navigation occupied a very prominent part in the public works budget of the Company's Government. Many of the navigation canals we have in India today—and you have one in Orissa itself—are remnants of that policy. Railways came in later, and for a time the policy was to have both railways and canal navigation. By 1875, there arose a great controversy in which the issue was railways *versus* canals. The battle for canals was fought bravely by the late Sir Arthur Cotton—one of the few engineers with big ideas. Unfortunately supporters of Railways won.

"I am not quite happy about this victory of railways over canals. Much more annoying is the ignorant opinion of supporters of railways than canals must go because they do not pay, without knowing that if the canals do not pay it is not because they cannot pay but because their capacity to pay has been terribly mutilated by leaving them uncompleted. I am sure that internal navigation cannot be neglected in the way in which it has been in the past. We ought to borrow a leaf from Germany and Russia in this matter and not only revive reconstruction of our old canals but make new ones also and not to sacrifice them to the exigencies of railways."

Special Feature

The Labour Member reiterated that the storage scheme, as applied to the rivers of Orissa, will have this special feature, namely, that it will not only give irrigation and elecricity, but also provide a long line of internal navigation. "I am told it may be possible to connect Chandbali to Sambalpur and beyond by a navigable inland waterway by construction of, say, some three dams at (1) the point of its debouche from the hills (seven miles above Naraj), (2) Tikkirpara and (3) above Sambalpur. If this plan works out, there will be a navigable channel for 350 miles which could be maintained all the year round, affording a cheap and convenient artery for passenger and goods traffic. Imagine the possibility of coastal craft or light vessels going right into the interior on a canal extending from the sea *via* Cuttack to Sambalpur, and beyond into the Central Provinces. Here is a scheme which converts forces of evil into powers of good.

"Orissa wants to get rid of the evils of floods. Orissa wants to get rid of malaria—and other—to use American phraseology—'low-income' diseases causing ill-health and corroding the stamina of her people. Orissa wants to raise the standard of living of her people and to advance her prosperity by irrigation, by navigation and by producing cheap electrical power. All these purposes can fortunately be achieved by one single plan, namely, to build reservoirs and store the water which is flowing in its rivers.

Multi-purpose Reservoirs

"I am, therefore, glad to note that the Orissa Flood Protection Committee held in 1945, struck the right note when it said that the final solution of Orissa's water problem should be sought in the construction of multi-purpose reservoirs. My comment is that this should be regarded as the only method and treated as an immediate programme rather than as an ultimate aim. The potentiality of this project may not be clear to everybody. But it is indeed very great. It is desirable that some idea of its immensity should be conveyed to the Government of Orissa, the representatives of the States of Orissa and the people of Orissa as well, so that their interest in the project may be aroused.

"A comparative statement may well give such an idea. One hears of the lake made at the Boulder Dam in the U.S.A. as the biggest man-made lake in the world. We also hear of the Mettur Dam in Madras and the proposed Tungabhadra Dam in Hyderabad, which are likely to be its rivals. Compared with the first, the total volume of water that flows annually through the Orissa rivers will fill three times the lake mentioned. Compared with the Mettur Dam in Madras and the Tungabhadra Dam in Hyderabad, it may be pointed out that the Mahanadi alone carries over 65 million acre-feet, which would be 30 times the capacity of the reservoir at the Mettur Dam in Madras and 20 times the capacity of the proposed Tungabhadra Dam. How much of this water we can economically and effectively store is a matter for investigation. The Government of Orissa, the States in Orissa and the people of Orissa should, therefore, regard themselves as lucky and proud of this project and determine and endeavour to make it a reality."

Dr. Ambedkar continued: The agenda for the meeting is a very modest one. It is (1) to consider the disirability of undertaking forthwith surveys and investigations of Orissa rivers with a view to the preparation of schemes of unified and multi-purpose development comprising (a) flood control, (b) navigation, (c) irrigation and drainage, (d) soil conservation, and (e) power development; (2) to consider the desirability of concentrating, in the first instance, on surveys and investigations on the Mahanadi river for control and development of that river; (3) to examine the desirability of surveys and investigations being carried out by provincial governments in conjunction with, and under the general direction of, the Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission."

"Our main purpose today is to see if we can agree on the necessity for a thorough survey and investigation of the natural resources and physical features of the region with a view to prepare a comprehensive scheme for its development. For a balanced appreciation of the situation it is necessary to carry out comprehensive surveys and investigations with a view to ascertain the possibilities of irrigation, navigation, power development and their facilities in the delta as well as in the drainage area as a whole. Investigations so far carried out have been mostly limited to the delta, although some work had been done in 1862 on the survey of dam sites for small reservoirs on the five tributaries of the Mahanadi, namely, the Telcoma, the Ibcoma, the Maudcoma, the Hasd and the Jonk.

"The Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission constituted by the Government of India under the chairmanship of the able and well-known irrigation engineer, Rai Bahadur Khosla, is shortly going to initiate hydrological and other surveys of Orissa rivers as part of their enquiry. It will be necessary for provinces and states to undertake connected surveys in conjunction with, and under the general direction and supervision of, the Commission.

Submergence of Areas

"Before closing", Dr. Ambedkar observed, "I would like to draw the attention of the parties which have met at this conference to two points. They are intimately connected with the success of the project and about which they will have to make up their mind at an early date. First is their readiness to consider the question of submergence of land. Reservoirs formed by construction of dams will submerge large areas of land, both in Orissa and the Eastern States. If these dams are carried higher up the river or its tributaries, certain areas in the Central Provinces will also be submerged. This question will need to be considered in detail in relation to the over-all benefits of the integrated scheme."

"Submergence of areas will be inevitable if the waters of the rivers have to be conserved for beneficial use instead of being allowed to run waste and to work havoc *en route*. The resulting benefits from a scheme of united and multi-purpose development should far outweigh loss of lands due to submergence. This project can be a success only if it is treated as a regional project. It cannot succeed with a local treatment. The province of Orissa will fail if it were to take up a project confined to its own boundaries. The same will be the result if an Orissa State were to make a similar attempt.

"The project being essentialy regional, it raises the question of submergence of State and Provincial sovereignty to the extent necessary. This is the second question to which I wish to refer. It is for the Orissa States and the Government of the Province to come together in order to shed a part of their sovereignty over different sections of the rivers that are flowing through their territory so that the project could be undertaken, planned, devised and run by a single authority without disturbance either from the province or from the states once it is established. I need hardly say that the welfare of the public is far more important both to the Government of Orissa as well as to the Rulers of Indian States affected than sovereignty. Their sovereignty should be used for advancing the welfare of the people and not for blocking it. With co-operative and co-ordinated effort on the part of the Central Government and the Provincial and State Governments, it should be possible to harness for beneficial use this perennial source of wealth waters of Orissa rivers—which are at present running to waste and causing untold suffering on their way to the sea."

SURVEY OF ORISSA RIVERS:

CONFERENCE DECISIONS

The Conference decided to undertake a preliminary survey of the Orissa rivers to prepare schemes of unified and multi-purpose development. Multi-purpose schemes which may be prepared after this preliminary survey are intended to comprise flood control, navigation, irrigation and drainage, soil conservation and power development.

The Conference agreed that, in the first instance, the possibilities of controlling and developing the Mahanadi river should be surveyed. It was further agreed that surveys should be carried out by the Provincial Governments concerned in conjunction with and under the general direction and supervision of the Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission.

It was explained that the Commission would, in the beginning, carry out a preliminary reconnaissance over the entire length of the Mahanadi, and if, as a result of such reconnaissance, a *prima facie* case for the development of the river for the benefit of the provinces and States concerned was established, further detailed survey and investigation would have to be undertaken. It would only be at this stage that full participation of parties concerned, both administrative and financial, would be necessary. Till then the Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission propose to carry on preliminary reconnaissance with the help of the recently created Orissa Rivers Division of the Provincial Government. It was agreed that the C.P. Government and the Eastern States would supply the Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission with all such data and information as they already possessed and would co-operate fully with them in order to explore the possibilities of the Mahanadi river.

Mr. GOKHALE'S SPEECH

Mr. B. K. Gokhale, Adviser to H.E. the Governor of Orissa, welcoming the plan outlined by Dr. Ambedkar, said: "Orissa is perhaps the most backward part of India and no single project is likely to do more to improve the conditions of the people than the multi-purpose development which we have under contemplation". He outlined the history of Orissa up to modern times, and said that Orissa expected that the thought which had been given to planning and regional development would start her on an era of happiness and prosperity.

"The province of Orissa", he continued, "literally consists of four islands surrounded by the Bay of Bengal on the South East and by four provinces and 28 Orissa States in other directions. We cannot even go from one place to another without crossing through other provinces and states. The mineral and forest wealth of Utkal is concentrated in the Orissa States. The province of Orissa mainly consists of the outer fringes of various States and we have to subsist anyhow on a subvention of Rs. 40 lakhs per annum from the Centre. In the circumstances, it is quite impossible to contemplate large-scale developments without generous assistance from the Centre and the closest co-operation and co-ordination with the neighbouring provinces and States. We are, therefore, greatly obliged to you for bringing about this Conference which holds out a promise of fruitful co-operation between all concerned."

Referring to the problem of floods in Orissa Mr. Gokhale observed: "It is not merely a question of the enormous quantities of water coming down from the Central Provinces, Bihar and the Orissa States, but the more difficult question of very large quantities of silt which the rivers are not able to carry. Alternate floods and drought with periodic cyclones have reduced the people to the state in which they

are at present. We are moreover a single-crop province as there is inadequate water for irrigation in winter months. Our most urgent need, therefore, is to hold up water during rains, to prevent disastrous floods and utilise the same during the rest of the year for rabi irrigation and other purposes".

"For a poor province", he said, "it was almost like crying for the moon to demand multi-purpose development. Thanks, however, to a new orientation of thought and a very sympathetic and cordial attitude taken by the Government of India, I hope that multi-purpose developments may well be expected in the near future. The question has really to be approached from the larger point of regional development, the production of foodgrains for the increasing population and the alleviation of human suffering, than from the old points of view of security of Government revenue and net return on capital investment.

Electric Developments

"Indeed, electric developments have now made large-scale developments highly remunerative. It is electricity which is going to help us in the transformation of this backward area, with its potential mineral and forest resources, into one of the most prosperous areas in India. There is now dawning a new era of collective security and co-operation which makes it possible to hope that very close co-operation will be forthcoming in the economic field as between the Centre, the provinces and the States".

Mr. Gokhale concluded: "The Orissa States, in particular, will benefit to a considerable extent if the Mahanadi is made irrigable up to Sambalpur, if not right up to Bilaspur, in the Central Provinces. The problem of soil erosion in these States and in the Central Provinces will be checked to a large extent. New areas will come under irrigation and the production of foodgrains will enormously increase. A large amount of electric energy will be generated which should result in the rapid industrialisation of the Orissa States and the Central Provinces with consequent benefit to the whole of India. Orissa with its mighty rivers contains enormous potentialities of hydro-electric development. If all rivers in Orissa are properly harnessed, I believe there will be a considerable surplus of electric energy for other provinces.

"All of us have, thus, something to gain, and I hope and trust that the necessary co-operation and co-ordination will be forthcoming to enable us to go ahead with multi-purpose developments on the Mahanadi and possibly on the Baitarani in the not too distant future".

REGULATION OF ELECTRIC UTILITY FINANCE

To promote the healthy growth of electric supply services and to standardise their rates profits and reserves, the Labour Department in the Government of India have prepared a draft code of rules and regulations, which is now to be scrutinised by a representative Advisory Board, as suggested by the Policy Committee on Electricity and Public Works held in February 1945, said a Press Note issued by the Labour Department, Government of India, on November 15.

It added: the Board will be constituted as follows: (1) Mr. H. M. Mathews, Electrical Commissioner with the Government of India, Chairman; (2) Mr. D. L. Mazumdar, Joint Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Labour; (3) Mr. P. B. Advani, Special Officer (Electric Grid), Bombay; (4) Mr. K. V. Karantha, Chief Electrical Inspector to the Government of Madras, and, (5) Mr. A. R. Colley, Commercial Manager of the Calcutta Electricity Supply Corporation Ltd., as members.

The draft code contains the general principles relating to the control of the finances of Public Utility Electric Supply services and provides for the proper maintenance of reserves. The underlying object is to ensure that the rates fixed for the use of electricity are neither excessive to the consumer nor insufficient to the undertaking. The draft code was prepared by the Electrical Commissioner to the Government of India some time ago and the views of Provincial Governments, Federation of Electric Supply undertakings, some selected public utilities and two well-known firms of chartered accountants on the provisions of the code have been lately obtained.

The Board will be competent to call in as assessors, technical experts and representatives of special interests, if necessary.

EXPORT QUOTA FOR HARD COTTONWASTE

The Government of India have decided to allow exports of hard cottonwaste on the basis of the following annual quotas:

United Kingdom, 8,400 tons; U.S.A., 2,000 tons; South Africa, 2,000 tons; Australia, 1,500 tons; New Zealand, 100 tons; Ceylon, 300 tons; European countries, 1,000 tons; all other countries, 300 tons. These quotas will be worked on a quarterly basis with effect from January 1, 1946.

POST-WAR IRRIGATION AND HYDRO-ELECTRIC SCHEMES

"THERE is no doubt whatever about India's lead to the world in irrigation. Nor of its vital importance to India; with our rapidly increasing population we must irrigate to live," said H.E. the Viceroy opening the 16th annual meeting of the Central Board of Irrigation held on November 26 in the Council Room of the Viceroy's House, New Delhi. Besides the experts of the Government of India and the Chief Engineers of Provinces and States, the Hon'ble Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Member for Labour, and the Hon'ble Mr. H. C. Prior, Secretary, Labour Department, attended.

The Viceroy said:

"I am very glad to be able to open the 16th Meeting of this Central Board of Irrigation. Your branch of engineering is an ancient, important, and very honourable one. Irrigation engineers are the oldest experts in the world. The 2nd Chapter of Genesis tells us that 'A river went out of Eden to water the garden' obviously the first recorded example of irrigation. The two ancient civilizations of Egypt and Mesopotamia were of course built entirely on irrigation; and the forerunners in your craft were presumably a much honoured guild or fraternity in those countries.

"Amongst the most eminent of the early irrigation experts must be numbered Moses, of whose achievements in the art of irrigation we know at least two; when he smote the rock at Horeb, bidding drink and live the crowd beneath him; and when he sweetened the bitter water at Marah, presumably by building a dam to keep out some brackish element.

India's Achievements

"Other engineers may give us speed in travel or comfort in our dwellings; your gift is that of life itself. If you want a text for your labours you will find it in a verse of Isaiah: 'I give waters in the wilderness and rivers in the desert, to give drink to my people'.

"India's great achievements in irrigation have never been fully realised by the world; you and your predecessors have for the most part done your work unadvertised, unsung, unproclaimed. Few people probably realise that the irrigated area in India—70 million acres—is more than three times that of the United States, the next most irrigated country; and more than the whole combined total of the next ten countries with most irrigation—the United States, Russia, Mexico, Japan, Egypt, Italy, Spain, France, Chile, and Java.

"I am told that Indian canals, if placed in one line would be sufficient to go three times round the world. I don't know whether that fact—if it is a fact—conveys much to anyone; perhaps a more striking illustration would be that they would suffice to go at least six times round the planet Mars, about whose hypothetical canals most people have probably heard more than about India's very real ones.

"There is no doubt whatever, therefore, about India's lead to the world in irrigation. Nor of its vital importance to India; with our rapidly increasing population we must irrigate to live.

"I have been deeply interested in irrigation projects ever since I undertook some responsibility for India's administration. I have visited a number of existing irrigation works; and I have studied, as intelligently as a layman can, many of the important projects now under consideration. Some of these, for instance the Soni river project, the Damodar river scheme, and the Sarda river extension, I have seen from the air, while an expert shouted explanations to me. I shall be very interested to see the list of existing and proposed projects which you have on your agenda.

New Projects

"I fully endorse what your President has said about development on a regional basis, and not on a purely parochial or provincial plan. It may interest you to know that the new Governor of the United Provinces, Sir Francis Wylie, spent a considerable portion of his leave in visiting America and studying at first hand the Tennessee Valley Administration.

"The nature of the new projects is changing and many of them are being developed on an extended and ambitious plan, to provide great storages of water, hydro-electric power, and flood control, as well as irrigation. I am glad to hear that you have included in your Board experts on hydro-electric works and on waterways. May I venture to suggest another expert whom you might include, a malaria expert, to see that all possible precautions against the spread of malaria are taken from the beginning?

"I am sure that you are right to insist on the indirect benefits provided by your schemes being taken into consideration when the financial implications are being worked out. I am convinced that irrigation is of such vital importance to India and of such lasting benefit that we must adopt a much bolder policy in

the matter of finance than we have sometimes done in the past.

"Gentlemen, I will not detain you any longer with the remarks of an uniformed layman, quite illiterate in your profession. I do most sincerely wish you success in your discussions and in your subsequent work; and I can assure you that I will, so far as lies in my power, give you support in your plans. You will have long and difficult struggles with many elements; with unseasonable weather, with insufficient transport, with ignorant labour, with intractable materials and still more intractable contractors, with storm, with disease, with disaster, and with the Finance Department. But I am sure that you will not be discouraged by all these obstacles and trammels and will go ahead with your vital work, bringing your schemes to successful fruition and thereby giving India relief from the perils of starvation and poverty. Good fortune to you in your great enterprise."

Requesting His Excellency to open the proceedings, Mr. F. H. Hutchinson, Chief Engineer, U.P., and the President of the Board said: "The Board in its present form has been in existence for a period of 15 years and has achieved a reputation of which we have reason to be proud. Its publications are valued both in this country and abroad. The Library and the Information Bureau are rendering very valuable service. Departments, other than Irrigation, in increasing numbers are availing themselves of the facilities offered."

Referring to the change in the Constitution of the Board by which Chief Engineers of Hydro-Electric departments and Chief Engineers working with the Government of India on matters connected with Indian waterways are now *ex-officio* members of the Board, and the large development of our waterways which is certain to take place in the post-war period, he emphasised the need to reorganise the Office of the Board and its Information Bureau. "In order to render efficient service to the public we must dertermine some way of increasing our income and for our valuable library, we must find permanent accommodation worthy of the country which possesses the most extensive irrigation works in the world."

Indirect Benefits of Irrigation

Referring to two important aspects of the future development of irrigation in this country, he said: "The first of these is the need for changing the present system of classing as productive only those projects which show a direct profit. It has been accepted for a long time that the benefits that accrue from irrigation and hydro-electric projects cannot be measured only in terms of direct addition to revenue; our works bring a large number of indirect benefits to the community, to local bodies, to provincial Governments and to the Central Government. I trust that the Board will make a definite recommendation to the Government of India, to set up a machinery by which these additional benefits can be assessed and taken into account in determining the productivity of irrigation and hydro-electric works.

"The second is the importance of development on a regional basis as opposed to isolated schemes by individual provinces and States.

Multi-Purpose Projects

"We have on the agenda for the first time this year, the subject 'Projects Existing and Proposed'. I trust that the discussions on this item will draw the attention of all to the enormous potential possibilities of multi-purpose projects on some of the great rivers in India. The catchment area of these rivers extends in many cases into more than one administration and there is little doubt that if each province or state is left to act on its own many of the rivers will not be fully developed, or may even be left entirely undeveloped.

"I view with great alarm some of the projects which are under consideration at the present time for the construction of isolated works on our rivers. The warning uttered by Mr. David E. Lilienthal, Chairman of the T.V.A., on this subject is so pertinent that I am taking this opportunity of quoting from his book. He says:

> Not far from where I write are other rivers developed by private interest or public agencies. They will serve to illustrate the contrast. On these rivers it is the common practice in public projects as well as private to build a single dam without first having fixed upon a general plan that will ultimately insure the full use of the whole river as a unit. There are dams built for the single purpose of power development. Such individual dams, in order to yield an immediate return in power, impair or destroy the river's full development of power at other sites, for they were not designed or built with the whole river thought of, as it is in nature, as a unit. These power dams are not built or operated to control floods, and do not provide a continuous navigable channel. The full usefulness of that river is lessened. Similarly, hundreds of millions of dollars in public funds have been expended for the single purpose of navigation on some of our rivers but most of the dams constructed will not control the river's floods or create electric energy. They now stand as massive barriers against the erection of multi-purpose structures.

"I hope that the discussions by the Board on this subject will lead to a recommendation being made to the Government of India which will ensure that each catchment will have its potential resources fully examined before an individual administration ruins the possibilities of future development by undertaking works not designed for the ultimate utilisation of the entire available resources on a long-term policy."

The Central Board of Irrigation was recently expanded so as to include the Irrigation Adviser to the Government of India and the senior officers of the Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission and the Central Technical Power Board, representing the Central Government, and the Hydro-electric Chief Engineers of the Provinces. Constituted in 1927 by the Secretary of State as a panel of Chief Irrigation Engineers of the provinces, the Board has developed, since 1931, active liaison between the provinces and co-ordination of research. Its library is well-stocked with the latest literature on Irrigation —both Indian and foreign—and is available to Irrigation officers in the country.

CLAIMS RELATING TO PROPERTIES AND ASSETS IN BURMA

In a Press Communique issued in December 1942, the Government of India announced that claims which were *prima facie* registrable and related to properties and assets in Empire territories then under enemy occupation could, in the case of Burma, be sent to the Government of Burma at Simla direct, or through the Department of Indians Overseas (now the Department of Commonwealth Relations), said a Press Note issued by the Department of Commonwealth Relations, Government of India, on November 29.

It added: As the position has changed with the reoccupation of Burma and the re-establishment of the Civil Government, it has been decided that all persons who have not already submitted their claims should now send them to the Government of Burma direct, addressed to the Secretary to the Government of Burma, Finance and Revenue Department, Rangoon.

SEA PASSAGES BOARD FORMED

IN order to discuss and collate the demands which should be placed on London to meet the passage requirements of both civilians and military personnel, it has been decided to set up a Sea Passages Board in India.

Working under the administrative control of the War Department, the Board will also determine the allocation of sea, passages in the light of shipping and air lift available from time to time, after providing for recovered prisoners of war and internees and released and tour-expired personnel.

The President of the Board will be the Secretary, War Department. Members will consist of representatives of the Defence Department, the Home Department, the Industries and Civil Supplies Department, the Adjutant General in India, B.A.F., S.E.A., the Sea Transport (representing also the Royal Navy and the Royal Indian Navy) and the Ministry of War Transport.

Allocation of Passages

The Civil Passage Controller, Defence Department, and Lieut.-Col B.A.E. Maude, of the Quartermaster General's Branch, have been nominated to act as joint Secretaries of the Board, who will implement the decisions of the Board and make the actual allocation of passages.

Accommodation on commercial ships will be allocated to civilian passengers only, but will come within the purview of the Board.

CHROME COMPOUND CONTROL ORDER

The sale and disposal of chrome compounds, such as potassium or sodium chromates and bichromates and chrome alum except under a valid licence issued by the Director, Chemicals, Directorate-General of Supply or by the Textile Commissioner, Bombay, is prohibited by a notification under the Defence of India Rules published in the *Gazette of India* dated November 3, 1945.

Licences to acquire chrome compounds for use in textile industry will be issued by the Textile Commissioner and in other cases by the Director, Chemicals, Directorate-General of Supply, and manufacturers, holders of stock, consumers and dealers in chrome compounds are required to maintain accounts of stocks and disposals for inspection by authorised persons.

POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION PLANS OF TRAVANCORE AND COCHIN

REVITALISATION of agriculture to augment the food resources, extension of irrigational facilities, planning and development of industries, promotion of social services like medical aid, public health and education, and the development of communications are some of the items included in the Post-War Reconstruction Scheme of Travancore and Cochin States. This was stated by Mr. G. Parameswaran Pillai, Reconstruction Officer, Government of Travancore, in a talk broadcast from the Delhi Station of All-India Radio on November 17.

The basic idea of the reconstruction plans of Travancore and Cochin States is to raise the standard of living of the common man and to ensure freedom from want, said Mr. Pillai. Schemes have been formulated, not only for the intensification of agricultural production and industrial development, but also for the improvement of the efficiency and equipment of the average man.

Revitalisation of Agriculture

Revitalisation of agriculture to augment the food resources of the States is the foremost aim of Travancore and Cochin, Mr. Pillai pointed out. He added: "Notwithstanding the programme to increase the area under cultivation by the reclamation of backwaters, and by throwing open for cultivation suitable lands out of the reserve forests in Travancore and Cochin States, no tangible results can be achieved without the introduction of intensive and improved methods of production and the extension of irrigational facilities."

The Travancore Fertilisers and Chemicals, started with a capital of Rs. three crores, is making good progress in the installation of plant and machinery for the production of fifty-thousand tons of ammonium sulphate.

Nearly Rs. one crore has been set apart by the Travancore Government for the construction of the Perunchani Reservoir and for raising the level of the Kodayar Reservoir and for the restoration and improvement of major irrigation tanks. Estimates are being prepared also for other major irrigation works, such as the Neyyar Scheme and the combined irrigation and hydro-electric scheme known as the Pambayar Scheme. The Cochin Government have undertaken the investigation of major irrigation works such as the Chalakudi River Division Schemes, the Naduthodu, Peechi and Pillathodu Schemes, besides two important drainage schemes.

The Travancore Government have already initiated, said Mr. Pillai, a five-year programme of development of the Pallivasal Hydro-electric Project costing over Rs. three crores. The Travancore Project now supplies electricity to Cochin. The Cochin State has decided upon a programme of development of its power resources at Poringalkuthu.

Development of Industries

Over eighty per cent of the total production of rubber in India is from Travancore, pointed out Mr. Pillai, and the Travancore Government are interested in establishing a factory for the manufacture of motor tyres. There is already a rubber factory working in the State, which was operating for war purposes. The production will now be turned over for civilian use.

A cement factory to meet the demands of Travancore and adjoining areas will soon be established and steps are being taken to develop the Ceramic Factory on a cottage industry basis. The natural resources abundant in Travancore for the starting of a rayon factory are being exploited, and it is hoped that the etablishment of a rayon factory in north Travancore will soon be an accomplished fact. The existing plywood factory and glass factory are being developed.

The coir industry plays an important part in Travancore's economic activity. Picture shows coir being sorted.



A geological survey of Travancore and Cochin forms a prominent item of the reconstruction schemes of Travancore and Cochin States. The Government of Cochin have started an Industrial Development Fund to give financial help to industrial undertakings. Prominent amongst the industries sought to be developed in Cochin are those based on forest and fishery resources, sugar, cotton textile, rope, paints and glass.

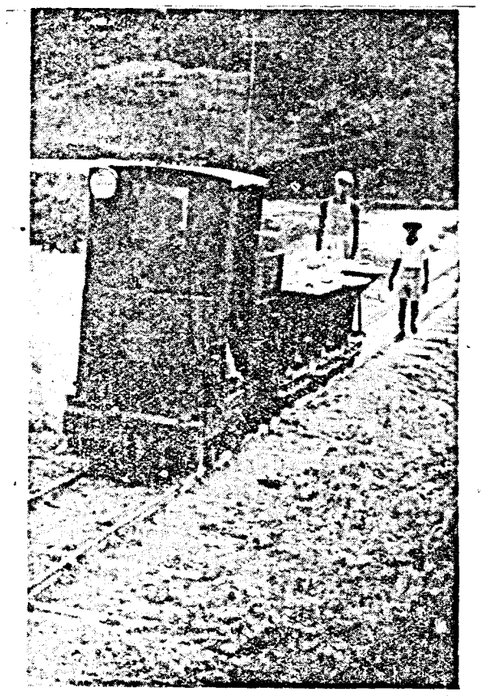
The aim of Cochin State is to provide road communication so that every village group can be brought at least within half a mile from a main public road. The road development programme of Travancore State, in addition to connecting villages with the main centres of trade, will also be co-ordinated with the traffic routes along canals and internal waterways.

The Government of Travancore and Cochin States have lost no time in devising measures for the resettlement of demobilised personnel in avocations which will ensure an improved standard of living and will add to their usefulness as efficient units in the economy of the two States, said Mr. Pillai. Steps have been taken for the organisation of Sub-Regional Exchanges. Large-scale public works, such as hydro-electric expansion, irrigation schemes, construction and improvement of roads and communications, reorganisation of workshops and establishment of technological institutes are being undertaken, added Mr. Pillai, with a view to giving employment to a large proportion of demobilised personnel who may return within the next few months. Agricultural training has been given to military instructors with a view to equiping ex-servicemen for better farming.

Travancore and Cochin have extensive programmes, concluded Mr. Pillai, to promote medical aid, public health and education also. These States constitute two of the most educationally advanced units in the country and they are reorganising their educational programme in order to equip the youth successfully to face the changing demands of post-war economy. Travancore has already enacted legislation making primary education free and compulsory. Emphasis is laid by the State on scientific research and technological studies. The Cochin Government are taking steps for the establishment of a Technological Institute at Trichur.



The extensive forests in Travancore yield first class timber for a large-scale timber industry. Picture shows teak barrels being hooped.



Clay from the clay-mines being taken to the "mixing tanks". (Below) A worker filling up a mould with semi-fluid clay.



A general view of the Travancore

In A Travancore



Automatic machines are used for the manufac machine in the centre can make

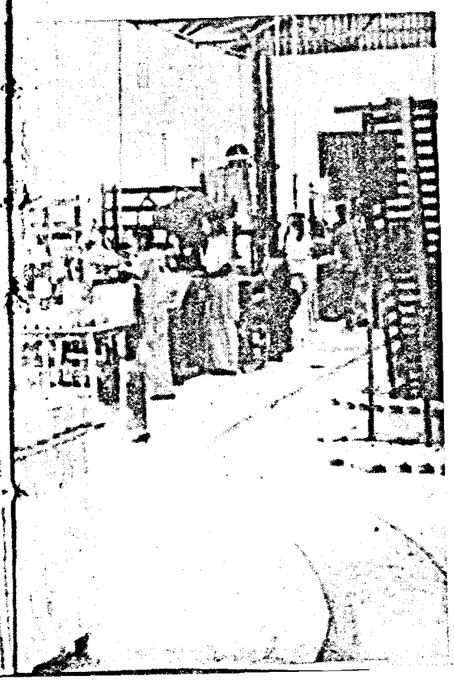


Ceramic Factory.

Ceramic Factory

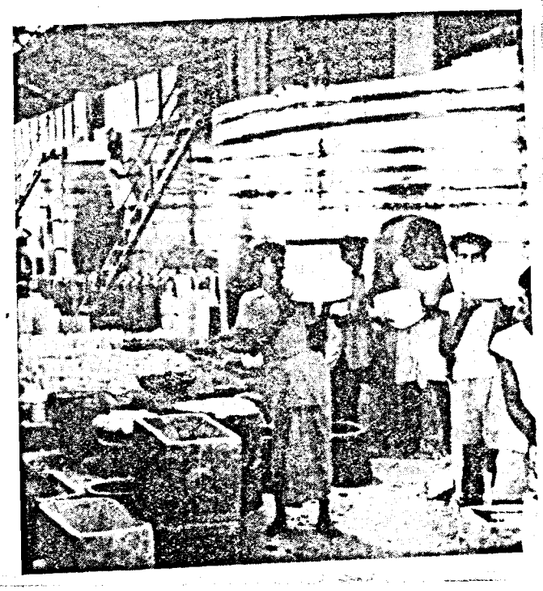
...s of various articles on a mass scale. The ...0 cups in an hour.







A modeller giving the finishing touches to a figure of "Saraswati." (Below) The articles to be baked are placed in the seggars which in turn are put in the specially designed furnaces.



DR. P. S. LOKANATHAN ON THE FUTURE OF INDUSTRY IN INDIA

"REVISITING England after nearly 12 years, one is struck by the enormous increase in the number of women in factories and in various new occupations and trades," said Dr. P. S. Lokanathan in a talk recently from All India Radio, giving his impressions of industry abroad "The bus conductors in London and other towns are largely women," he continued, "and apparently they have made such a success of their job that I was told they would continue in such employment after the war."

Dr. Lokanathan said that working conditions in British factories had greatly improved despite—or because of—the war. "The work places are clean and well lighted and arrangements for seating while at work greatly improved. In 1930 canteens had been established in quite a few factories, but to-day almost all of them have canteens where workers get food, wholesome and nourishing food at cheap and controlled prices. The health of the workers has not only not declined but markedly improved. The British workers are undoubtedly far more efficient than workers in our country. I found visiting a cotton mill a girl winding six sides of 220 spindles each as against 2 sides in India. Similar differences in efficiency are noticeable in every other type of work; my friends of the industrial mission who visited the factories with me ascribed the difference to a number of causes, but of the fact of difference in efficiency there was no dispute."

U. S. Workers

Dr. Lokanathan, however, thought that the efficiency of British industry not only of cotton or coal but in general, was low compared with that of America. "It is not merely that in America there is more capital equipment for workers. The distinctly favourable attitude of the American workers to the use of machinery is an important factor. I had this vividly brought home in visiting an American factory. When any new work is assigned to a worker, if he feels that it could be rendered easier and less arduous by putting up a mechanical device he would go to the foreman and have it set up.

"His demand for higher wages is never put forward at the expense of larger output; he hardly thinks that increased output means less employment for him. There is, again, a whole series of social relationships which in America are most congenial to efficiency. The sense of equality which the worker feels with the employer is too visible and marked in the U.S.A. to be missed. The cab driver and the hotel waiter hold their heads quite erect. The competitive spirit is still so keen that every worker thinks he too will have his chance and that, God willing, he will take it."

Pointing out that everything in America was better planned, Dr. Lokanathan said: "The Management helps the workers to achieve their tasks in the quickest possible time and does not leave everything to the initiative of the workers. Indeed, this has led to the criticism which I often heard in Britain that labour in America lacks initiative and has to be spoon-fed. There may be something in it, perhaps, and labour at top levels is not more efficient than in Britain; but in respect of 99 per cent. of the workers, it does not contribute to their efficiency not to get the tools and materials in quantities and times that they are needed. Working conditions in American factories are decidedly better than in Britain, and so are wages. The American worker is paid nearly twice as the British workers, and yet, except in some kinds of products, the unit cost in America is lower than in Britain. This is largely to be explained by the mass production methods adopted there as against the specialised work in vogue in Britain."

British Industrialists Confident

Despite the striking differences in efficiency between American industry and British industry, Dr. Lokanathan said that British industrialists were far from being dismayed or overwhelmed by the magnitude of the difficulties facing them in the post-war world. They were prepared to face the world with confidence in their ability to meet world competition and to be able to increase their exports by 50 per cent.

"Some of the confidence is perhaps misplaced, unless they set their houses in order by being prepared to spend enormous sums on capital equipment and remodelling their plans. During the years 1939 and 1944 while industry in U.S.A. had spent as much as 4,000 million in equipping itself, British Industry had spent less than 650 million. But Government and industry are now fully alive to the imperative need of reconditioning and reconstruction."

Dr. Lokanathan went on to emphasise the importance of industrial research, in which, he said, both Britain and America were miles ahead of India. "Wherever we went and whichever factory we visited", he said, "we were impressed by the importance assigned to Research in industry. Metropolitan Vickers at Trafford Park and Lever Bros., Port Sunlight, have large organisations for research and have excellent training schemes. At the Dyestuff Factory of the I.C.I. at Huddersfield there were more than 1,500 chemists at work in their laboratory. In America research has advanced to an even greater extent. The sums spent by some famous firms in the U.S.A. run into millions of dollars. Between 1938 and 1940 there was an increase of 41 per cent. in the personnel employed in industrial research in the U.S.A. Between 1930 and 1940 expenditure for industrial research increased from 116 million dollars to 240 million."

Help to India

Referring to the help that India might expect in her rapid advance towards industrialisation, Dr. Lokanathan said: "In the first place, the world to-day has been starved of many types of goods and the demand for consumption and capital goods has come from all over the world. India is not the only country which has ambitious plans of economic development. All these demands have to be met mainly by America and partly by Britain which have also their own internal demand to meet. The world is thus a sellers' market, and we have to take our place in the buyers' queue. With the best will in the world America may not be able to satisfy us fully in the next one or two years. But after this transition period, conditions will change rapidly and there may come a time when she will be only too anxious to supply India.

"Secondly the terms of co-operation which we have been prepared to offer are found to be not sufficiently attractive. We are prepared to pay for all the technical assistance and know-how patents and process right which we shall import. We would also allow some financial participation by British and U. S. capitalists provided control and management are retained in Indian hands. But they say that, profits apart, unless they have a determining voice in the maintenance of production standards and the quality of goods that are manufactured, their goodwill and reputation, built up after years of toil, would suffer. However, there are, in both countries, industrialists, not perhaps of the front rank, who may be willing to enter into participation with India on a minority basis."

Prospects not Bright

Dr Lokanathan drew attention to the existence in both Britain and U.S.A. of a great deal of goodwill and desire to have our young men trained in their Universities and factories. "We are already taking advantage of this, but much more can be done if we strengthen the High Commissioner's Office in Britain for this purpose. As regards the importation of British and American technicians, at present there is scarcity and those that are available are too dear. But here again in a couple of years conditions will improve."

Concluding, Dr. Lokanathan thought that the prospects of immediate industrialisation based on import of foreign machinery equipment and skill were not very bright. But he said we should not despair. The enormous productive capacity developed in U.S.A. during the war combined with the pressure to maintain full export was bound to force a search for outlets to dispose of capital goods in other countries. "Britain's need for increased exports can be matched with our need for imports. Then will India be wooed; and if we know how to play our part shrewdly, we shall be able to achieve our goal."

"LANDED COST" DEFINED

Further amendments to the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance have been published in the *Gazette of India*. These amendments are based on experience gained in the working of the Ordinance during the last 11 months. The effect of the more important of these may be summarised as follows:

The definition of "landed cost" has been altered so as to permit the Controller-General of Civil Supplies to fix the landed cost of an article at such an amount as he thinks equitable having regard to the landed costs of similar articles, if it appears to him that the figures of the landed cost submitted by an importer have been unreasonably inflated in any particular case.

The restrictions on possession of articles by dealers or producers have been extended to such of those also as were not in business in 1939 or in one of the three years 1940, 1941 and 1942 respectively.

Memoranda of Sale

Restrictions similar to those already prescribed regarding possession of articles under the Ordinance by producers have also been made applicable to the possession of raw material required for the manufacture of finished articles.

Producers and dealers are required to issue memoranda of sale even where the transaction is on credit and not for cash and the Controller-General has been authorised to prescribe different particulars in respect of different classes of transactions in the memoranda of sale. The Controller-General further has been authorised to direct dealers to maintain their records in such a manner as he may specify.

INDIA SHOULD EXPORT ONLY THE BEST

Marketing Officers' Conference Recommendation

THAT only such products as could compete in quality with the products of other countries should be exported from India, was one of the recommendations made to the Government of India and Provincial Governments by the 9th All-India Marketing Officers' Conference (including representatives of major Indian States) held in Delhi recently.

Sir Phiroze M. Kharegat, Secretary, Department of Agriculture, presided over the Conference. The Hon'ble Sir Jogendra Singh, Member in charge of the Department of Agriculture, attended one session and addressed the Maketing Officers on various problems and the future work of the Marketing Department.

In the discussion on the grading and standardisation and quality control of agricultural products which are exported from India or have an inter-provincial or intra-provincial trade, it was emphasised that, in the larger interests of developing foreign trade, it was desirable that products of indifferent quality should not be exported. There were commodities like sann hemp and tobacco which were already graded under the supervision of the Central Marketing Department before export; there were others no less important such as wool hides and skins, oilseeds and nuts which should also be graded. The Conference strongly recommended that grading of these commodities and measures for the control of quality be taken up at the earliest possible moment.

Standard Contract Terms

The position in respect of standard contract terms for buying and selling commodities like wheat, linseed and groundnuts was reviewed and it was considered that action should be taken towards enforcing the standard contract, by legislation, if necessary. The position in respect of regulated markets and weights and measures was also discussed and it was realised that, unless regulated markets were working in all provinces and major States and all operations in such markets regulated and the weights enforced as already laid down under the Standards of Weight Act, it would not be possible to give effect to several measures for improvement of the marketing of agricultural produce. Formation of producers' co-operative societies, warehousing of agricultural produce, and cold storage, improved containers for agricultural produce, and revision of specifications for graded eggs were also discussed.

In the absence of a training Institute, it was decided to prepare a scheme under which Marketing Officers could be trained by the Central Agricultural Marketing Department to meet demands for personnel from Provinces and States undertaking important development work. The Conference also reviewed the sphere of activities of the Central and Provincial Marketing Staffs.

Agmark Publicity

It was considered that Agmark products should be publicised more extensively, among the media mentioned being posters at railway stations and in restaurants, advertisements in newspapers and short films. The Marketing News Service (collection and dissemination of market prices and stocks of agricultural produce) required to be developed further and should be treated as one of the major functions of the marketing departments.

Maps showing crop distribution, charts on production, posters, Agmark products, and scientific instruments used at the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, the Central Laboratory at Cawnpore and the Harcourt Butler Technological Institute, Cawnpore, were on display at a small exhibition organised on the occasion of the Conference.

PAPER CONTROL ORDERS TO REMAIN IN FORCE

A conference of representatives of Provincial Governments and Indian States was held on November 14 in the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies, Government of India, and a joint meeting of those representatives and the members of the Paper Control Advisory Committee in the afternoon.

The question of the retention or modificatoin of Paper Control was considered and it was agreed that the Paper (Distribution) Control Order and the various orders controlling the prices of paper and board should remain in force, but that, consistently with the supply position, all possible relaxations should be made so far as the Paper Control (Economy) Order was concerned. In particular it was decided that restrictions on the consumption of all kinds of boards, including strawboard, should be removed. The decisions of the Conference will be implemented as soon as possible.

TRADING CONDITIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

TRADING conditions in the Middle East countries at the end of August 1945 did not show, according to a report of the Government of India Trade Commissioner in Alexandria, any perceptible improvement either in respect of stocks or prices. Strenuous efforts on the part of the authorities and the importers to improve the supply position did not produce any tangible result the situation remaining, in consequence, as tense as ever. There was a slight fall in prices in July; but there was a spurt again in August and the index touched in that month was the highest for the previous four months.

Limited quantities of certain lines reached Egypt from the U.K. and the U.S.A., but they were far too small to meet the demand. Most of the importers, states the report, are looking forward to increased supplies from India.

Nature of Demand

The nature of the existing demand is seen from the numerous enquiries received in the Trade Commissioner's office. Egypt is in need of cotton piecegoods, woollen piecegoods, silk piecegoods, artificial silk piecegoods, cotton yarn, silk yarn, woollen yarn, carpets, helmets, herbs, essential oils, linseed oil, castor oil, coconuts and coconut oil, colophane (white gum), turpentine, copal, jute bags, jute twine, castor seeds, semi-precious stones, brush fibres (manufactures), cotton sewing thread, perfumes and essences, glass bottles, glassware, plywood, fishing rods, fishing equipments, fishing nets, gums and gum lac, brushes, mica, glue, paints and varnishes, paint brushes, cotton ropes, cordage and ropes, tea, paraffin wax, acetone, amyl acetate, amyl butyrate, anethol, benzaldehyde, benzophenone, benzyl acetate, benzil butyrate, butyl acetate, citronellol, diethyl phthalate, diphenyl oxide, ethyl butyrate, eugenol, geraniol, genranyl acetate, linalyl acetate, musk amtrette, musk ketone, musk xylol, oil of mybrane, terpineoil, terpinyl acetate, thymol, vanillin, zinc oxide, mosquito nets, hosiery, spices, tamarind, shellac, ginger, coir mats and matting, coal, fuel, copper, wires and chemical products (for paints).

Palestine wants cotton piecegoods, chemicals, foodstuffs, pig iron, electrical goods, sanitary ware, hardware, paints and varnishes, machinery (industrial), jute bags and cloth, cotton thread, handkerchiefs, tea, shellac, hides and skins (raw and tanned), spices, rubber goods, cotton (raw), khaki drills, cotton yarn, woollen yarn, ready-made clothing, building material, glassware, household goods, beverages, druggist's sundries and pharmaceutical articles, cosmetics, toilet preparations, iron and steel bars and plates, spices, tea, pig iron and mild steel.

Turkey's Requirements

Turkey requires cotton piecegoods, jute bags, pepper (black), cinnamon, henna (leaves and powder), cotton thread, razor blades and fishing hooks.

Iraq has asked for cotton piecegoods, cutlery, crockery, brassware, dry fruits, condiments, provisions, coir goods, wood carvings and patent medicines.

Bahrain Islands mainly need chemicals, toilet requisites and optical goods. Syria and Lebanon chiefly want tobacco, while Sudan has enquired for tea, cotton piecegoods, helmets, leather goods, spices and sports goods.

IMPORTS OF CAPITAL GOODS

A Press Note issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on November 23, stated:

To facilitate early consideration of applications for registration of requirements of capital goods for the cotton textile industry, it has been decided that the Deputy Chief Controller of Imports, Bombay, who is the licensing authority for cotton textile machinery, mill stores and component parts, should receive such applications on behalf of the Chief Controller of Imports, New Delhi.

Applications for registration of such goods should, therefore, in future be addressed to the Deputy Chief Controller of Imports, Bombay, in the first instance, in the prescribed form.

It has also been decided that imports of capital goods for stock and sale, whether for the requirements of the cotton textile industry or any other industry, will require registration only if the value of any of the individual units included in the stock order is Rs. 25,000 and over (or Rs. 10,000 and over in the case of machine tools), irrespective of the total value of the order.

It has also been decided that, in future when once an application has been accepted for registration, an import licence will be issued as quickly as possible after issue of the Registration Certificate, from whatever country import has been registered and whatever the goods concerned. In other words, acceptance of registration carries with it automatically the right to an import licence.

INDO-AUSTRALIAN TRADE PROSPECTS

MR. R. R. Saxena, Government of India's Trade Commissioner in Australia, during his recent tour in Bombay, contacted various Chambers of Commerce and discussed with them problems relating to Indo-Australian trade. He held discussions with the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, Millowners' Association, Indian Merchants Chamber, All-India Manufacturers' Association, Indian Exporters' Association, Textile Stores and Machinery Merchants' Association, Far East Indian Evacuees Merchants' Association and All-India Muslim Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

The main problems discussed were general prospects of Indo-Australian trade, need for a share for Indian shipping in that trade, the prospect for Indian textiles in Australia, possibility of importing capital goods and textile stores from that country, Australia tariff policy and conditions for opening branch offices of Indian commercial firms in Australia.

On the general question of expanding Indo-Australian trade, Mr. Saxena pointed out that prospects were good in respect of a number of lines and that Indian and Australian economy could be dovetailed into one another. He stressed the importance of competitive prices, good quality and the adoption of fair business methods.

Prospects for Indian Textiles

Prospects for exporting Indian textiles to Australia formed the main subject of discussion, particularly with the Millowners' Association. Mr. Saxena narrated the history of the Indo-Australian textile trade during the last five years and indicated a few complaints made by the Australian market which, he said, should be eliminated if Indian textile goods were to receive an enduring place in the Australian market. He was of the opinion that there was a good market for medium and lower grades, while he was doubtful about the finer qualities. If India wished to retain this trade, too, special efforts would be required.

The Muslim Chambers enquired in particular what the market was for Indian carpets. Mr. Saxena replied that it was favourable provided the prices were reasonable and the quality good.

There were numerous questions regarding the possibilities of getting capital goods from Australia, Mr. Saxena pointed out that it was possible to negotiate with that country and secure certain classes of such goods. On the question of competitive prices, he was of the opinion that the Australian prices might be higher than those of the U.K. and U.S.A.; but when capital goods could not be secured from the latter two countries and Australia was in a position to supply them, the price factor was not a matter of primary consideration. He assured the Chambers that he would place every possible information regarding the availability of capital goods in Australia at the disposal of merchants and manufacturers in this country.

The Textile Machinery Association, in particular, wanted to know what possibilities there were for ordering textile stores from Australia, particularly mutton tallow, wood for bobbins and textile machinery. Mr. Saxena stated that tallow was in short supply just at present, but expected the position to become easier after about three months. Suitable wood for the manufacture of bobbins was not available in Australia; but he promised to try the New Zealand market after the receipt of samples. It would be possible for him to negotiate for procurement of textile machinery and to secure estimates, he said, provided specifications were supplied to him.

Share for Indian Shipping

The Indian Merchants' Chamber stressed the need for a fair share for Indian shipping in the Indo-Australian trade. Replying Mr. Saxena pointed out that the mercantile community in India should ask for increased shipping facilities for direct trade between India and Australia and leave to Government the broader question of getting a proper share for Indian shipping in the carriage of this trade.

There were numerous questions bearing on Australian tariff policy. Mr. Saxena explained that there were two organisations in Australia dealing with this question—the Tariff Board which was a fact finding body and the Secondary Industries Commission which decided questions of policy. India was accorded the intermediate tariff, but not the preferential tariff which was accorded to the U.K. It was not possible to secure the preferential tariff rates so long as there was no trade treaty between India and Australia.

Finally, Mr. Saxena indicated that there was no bar in Australia against Indian commercial houses opening branch offices in that country for trade purposes.

IRAN'S DESIRE FOR INCREASED TRADE WITH INDIA

A meeting of the Teheran Chamber of Commerce was recently held in Teheran at which Major Hassan, India's Trade Commissioner in Iran, and several officials of the Chamber and the Persian Ministry of Commerce stressed the need for an expansion in Indo-Iranian trade. Besides Major Hassan, Agha Neekpur who presided on the occasion, Agha Ovaisie, Under Secretary to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Dr. Amini, who has been deputed to India by the Iranian Government to investigate the question of extending trade relations between the two countries, Agha Ahmad Akhwan Member of Iranian Parliament and Vice-President of the Chamber, Agha Hajee Md. Nawazee, who has been deputed to England and America on behalf of the Chamber to investigate the possibilities of increasing Iran's trade with those countries, and others participated in the discussion.

Stressing the desirability of expanding Indo-Iranian commercial relations, the Chairman said that the two neighbours—India and Iran—were very good markets for each other. Unfortunately, during the war, the long established and numerous commercial links that bound the two countries were loosened to some extent. It was the desire of the Chamber and the Iranian merchants to strengthen these connections, now that the war had ended.

The Iranian Government, too, were determined to improve Indo-Iranian trade and, with that object in view, had deputed Dr. Amini to visit India. The Chamber was hopeful that, as a result of these official and non-official efforts, Indo-Iranian trade would expand and be strengthened.

Trade Commissioner's Assurance

Other speakers, too, spoke in a similar strain. Agha Ovaisie, the Government spokesman, referred to the "great industrial and agricultural activity' going on in India and age-long trade relations between the two countries and said "we are the customers of India and India is ours". He pointed out that the more goods Iran exported to India the more would be the purchasing power of the Iranians to take Indian goods. Such a consummation should be brought about by the co-operation of the Governments of the two countries. He was of the opinion that, once it was determined what goods Iran required from India and what it could send to that country traders should be left free to do the job.

Dr. Amini was confident about the success of his mission to India, now that the Iranian merchants were ready to increase their trade with that country. Agha Ahmad Akhwan, Member of Parliament, also emphasised the desirability of increased trade relations.

Replying to the discussion, Major Hassan, after thanking the merchants for their sentiments regarding the expansion of Indo-Iranian trade relations, said that India, too, on its part, was keen on promoting these relations. India would endeavour to overcome the difficulties that were still outstanding as a legacy of the war. India and Iran were geographically and naturally very close to each other and should, more than previously, take steps to expand their mutual trade. This result could be achieved by the common efforts of the merchants of both the countries. India, therefore, hoped that the Iranian merchants would make greater use of her expanding industrial activity.

MARKET FOR INDIAN GOODS

"Although, as a result of controls now in force in India and Iran, the Iranian market is quiet at present, there is a great demand in Iran for all sorts of consumer goods," observes a letter from the Government of India Trade Commissioner in Iran. Efforts are being made, according to him, by that country to stimulate and develop trade between the two countries for which purpose the Iranian Ministry of Finance have recently deputed Dr. Ali Amini to tour India.

Iran takes from India cotton textiles, dyeing and tanning materials, cement, sugar, tea, raw jute and jute manufactures, drugs and medicines, spices, soap, electrical goods and leather goods. It sends to this country asafoetida, saffron, dates, almonds, pistachios, gums and resins, carpets and floor rugs, mineral oil and furs.

India's position as a buyer of Iranian goods has remained fairly high in the past; but the Trade Commissioner suggests that, "for the development of permanent relations between the two countries, it is necessary that India should buy from Iran as much as possible."

Discussing the prospects and possibilities ahead, the letter observes:

"There is a great demand for all sorts of consumer goods in Iran. Iran's indigenous industry is not capable of supplying all her requirements, with the result that she has to depend on other countries for the imports of these

articles. Before the war, Germany and Japan were two of the main exporters to Iran, and now that these countries are out of the picture, India, which has developed her industries to a remarkable extent during the period of the war, has an excellent opportunity of establishing firm trade relations with Iran. It should not, however, be overlooked that the Iranians are an artistic people, with a fairly developed aesthetic sense. They like good and fashionable things. The goods that are to be exported from India should, therefore, be of a fairly high standard."

NO MARKET FOR GUMS

Although details are not available regarding the volume and extent of gum production in Iran, it is known that that country does not need any large-scale imports of this commodity. Only negligible quantities of Arabian gums are imported from Hedjas, Nejd and Egypt.

On the other hand, there has been an appreciable export trade from Iran during the ten years 1935-1944, the volume ranging between 1,204 and 4,060 tons and value between 34 million and 82 million Rials The main varieties exported are gum tragacanth, gum notra, galbanum, white galbanum and turpentine, the main destinations being Great Britain, British India, the U.S.A., Iraq, U.S.S.R. and Ireland. Owing to little demand in the local market, 70 per cent of the whole product is available for export.

INDO-BURMA TRADE

With the liberation of Burma, Enemy Trading Regulations no longer apply to that territory. Business and financial correspondence is now permissible subject to the postal regulations issued from time to time.

As regards trade in and with Burma, the Government of Burma have issued the Timber Project Order, 1945, with a view to controlling the extraction, conversion and marketing of forest produce in Burma and the Civil Supplies Order 1945, for the management and control of the distribution of essential supplies to the civil population of Burma. Control of rice, edible oils (groundnut and sesamum), pulses, cotton, salt and sugar and regulation of imports and exports are also planned.

These measures are intended to reconstitute the industries in Burma so as to ensure smooth return to normal conditions.

The Government of India are in touch with the Government of Burma with a view to securing for Indians their due share in the business both during the transitional period and when normal trade relations become possible.

INDIA'S TRADE WITH LIBERATED EUROPE

FROM particulars available in the Commerce Department, it is now possible to give a connected account of the present position regarding India's export trade with some of the liberated European countries. The question of allowing exports to most of the liberated countries is under the active consideration of the Department.

Private trade is now permitted with France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Holland, Greece, Corsica, Italian and French overseas territories in Africa, subject to export, import and exchange control regulations. It is expected that trading with Italy, Finland and Denmark on private account will also be permitted shortly.

The names of commercial concerns in Italy and France, as well as in certain neutral countries in Europe which would be in a position to take up business with India, have been published in the *Indian Trade Journal* dated October 11, 1945.

Business Correspondence

Yogoslavia, Monaco, Norway and the Channel Islands have also ceased to be enemy territories, and although there is no objection to private trade being resumed with these countries, certain essential facilities e.g., exchange, banking and freight are at present lacking.

Business correspondence is also permitted with Bulgaria, Finland, Rumania, Italy (including Sicily and other Islands under her sovereignty) Denmark, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, provided it does not authorise the supply or the obtaining of goods to or from these countries as the case may be.

POSTAL BAN LIFTED

The ban on postal articles originating in India and intended for transmission to any destination outside India or within the Portuguese possessions in India, has now been removed by the Government of India, said a Press Note issued by the Public Relations Directorate, G.H.Q. (India). It added:

Imposed for security reasons, the ban debarred the acceptance by post of a postal article enclosed in a used cover, or a postcard with an address label or a slip pasted on it for address purposes or a postcard on which a sheet of paper had been gummed.

CURRENT TRADE TRENDS IN AMERICA

Indian Trade Commissioner's Review

IN a review of business conditions in America in September, 1945, Mr. S. K. Kirpalani, Government of India's Trade Commissioner in New York, observes that, "despite the fact that the War Production Board and other Government agencies, with the exception of the Office of the Price Administration, have been rapidly 'getting out of the way of industry', reconversion is running into snags owing to the aggressive demands of labour for increased basic wages."

On the question of Indo-American collaboration, he observes that, "generally speaking manufacturers who have plans for establishing production in India in partnership with Indian nationals, do not propose to proceed further until the currency, exchange and tariff situation is cleared up. Meanwhile, they will seek opportunities to send individual representatives to India to survey the situation first hand. The manufacture of various consumer goods in India through American-Indian collaboration remains a practical proposition, but opinion is hardening on the issue of major capital share resting with American partners."

India will benefit most, he observes in his report, from the technological advances made by America by obtaining the services of key technicians as and when this may prove feasible. For the present, however, practically speaking, no technicians are available.

Export Trade

The report advises that, meanwhile, "every effort should be made to develop the export trade of India with this country by testing the markets for new products like silks, woodware, ivoryware, brassware, and silverware and by exporting as large quantities as possible of commodities in which the trade is already established."

According to the report, the market in second-hand surplus machinery remains bright for spot purchases. "Two or three months hence the picture may change radically, for many other countries have a vigilant eye fixed on every promising opportunity that comes by."

Discussing business trends in America at the end of September, 1945, the report refers to labour strikes, current and potential, and the serious labour trouble that was brewing at that time in the motor car and the steel industries. The Secretary of Labour had summoned a Four-Party Labour-Management Conference to develop new policies and new formulæ conducive to smooth relations between employers and employees and to assist the rising tide of reconversion into a full flood of peace production.

"But events have moved rapidly," states the report, "and unless the Administration can secure some kind of interim compromise until the Four-Party Conference meets, large-scale stoppage of work is probable in the motor car and steel industries." The Director of Economic Stabilisation announced that it was the policy of the Administration to permit increases in wages provided there was no increase in prices.

Employment Position

Owing to heavy cut-backs in war production consequent on the abrupt ending of the war over two million workers were laid off from war factories by the beginning of September and about 900,000 had been absorbed by industry for civilian production. More workers were being rapidly laid off from war industry and a large number of enlisted men demobilised. It was estimated that about eight to nine million enlisted personnel would be discharged from the Service by June 1946. Anything between four and six million men might be unemployed by the end of the year and the extent of re-employment on civilian production depended on smooth relations between management and labour.

The Labour Department has been reorganised. Three separate agencies, the War Labour Board, the War Manpower Commission and the United States Employment Service, have been brought under the control of the Secretary of Labour who now exercises broad powers to cope with the automobile strike and other labour disputes endangering the reconversion programme.

Discussing current prospects for various Indian commodities, the report observes that as regards burlap, the Foreign Economic Administration is contemplating turning over the purchase to private trade channels. The shipping position is likely to become easier, but there is no present indication of the restrictions being removed. In the slightly altered circumstances, private trade may be willing to take up the purchase of burlap provided India can give an assurance that at least 190 million yards will be available for January-March shipment at prices within the ceilings which have been operative hitherto for American Government purchases.

The demand for spices is fairly keen, but a large consignment recently received was found to be heavily infested with weevil. Importers

are averse to placing further orders unless they are assured that the turmeric available in India is clean and in good condition.

Mechanically shelled cashew nuts from Brazil are beginning to arrive in New York. Some experts in the trade believe that with proper machinery, Brazil will eventually be able to compete with India. The situation is being watched.

As regards coir, it is felt that American importers would henceforth have no difficulty in picking up the quantities which industry may require from time to time.

Since the end of the war, the situation regarding the American Navy's demand for kapok had changed. Future purchases are not likely to be made from India both on grounds of quality and price. Indian kapok has a malodorous smell and the price rules round about 25 cents per pound. It is understood that kapok is available from France and Ecuador at 15 or 16 cents a pound.

Arts and Crafts

Some time ago there was a keen demand for cotton waste, particularly hard waste. Importers would like to know the supply possibilities over the next six months and the probable export price range.

Interest has been evinced in certain quarters in the prospects of imports of India silk. This is a favourable moment to send in samples and quote prices and to test the market with the help of trial consignments.

There have been important enquiries regarding a wide range of arts and crafts products. Necessary information has been furnished, which will enable prospective importers to get in touch with likely suppliers in India.

AMERICAN VISA TO BE OBTAINED IN INDIA

All persons resident in this country who visit the U.K. and then wish to proceed to the U.S.A. are advised, in their own interest, to obtain a visa from the American authorities in India before leaving this country, said a Press Note issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on November 24.

It added: The American Embassy in London entertains applications for visas but does not give facilities without reference to their Consulate in India. This inevitably causes delay and inconveniences to all concerned.

Government's Disposal Organisation

Advisory Committees Set Up

IN accordance with the policy announced by the Hon'ble Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, Supply Member, Government of India, at the First Meeting of the Policy Committee, Disposals, of associating advisory bodies of particular trades, businesses or manufacturers with the Disposals Organisation in order to advise on policy generally, and in particular on price formulæ, the channels to be selected for disposals, the quantities that may be disposed of and the rate of distribution, the following committees have been set up:

Central Advisory Committee, New Delhi: Director-General, Disposals (Chairman), Sir John Burder, Sir Robert Menzies, Sir Shri Ram, Sir A. H. Ghuznavi, Dewan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabapathi Mudaliar, Mr. D. P. Khaitan, Mr. Manu Subedar, Sir Sobha Singh, Sir Padampat Singhania and Mr. A. D. Shroff.

Regional Advisory Committee, Calcutta: Regional Commissioner, Disposals (Chairman) Sir John Burder, Sir Biren Mukherjee, Sir A. H. Ghuznavi, Messrs. I. G. Kennedy, D. P. Khaitan, N. R. Sarkar, M. L. Shah, M. A. Ispahani and J. K. Mitter.

Functions

Regional Advisory Committee, Bombay: Regional Commissioner, Disposals (Chairman), Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar, Sir Rahimtulla Chinoy, Sir Chunilal Bhaichand Mehta, Messrs. E. C. Gwilt, E. W. A. Richardson, S. R. Kirloskar, A.M.M. Vellayan Chettiar, Manu Subedar, M. L. Dhanukar and B. S. Dabke.

The Central Advisory Committee will advise the Director-General, Disposals, and the Regional Advisory Committees will advise the Regional Commissioners on any general question on which their advice may be sought.

They will serve as a link between the Supply Department and the Commercial communities, will reconcile any conflicting interests so as to facilitate the disposal of stores in accordance with the general policy, laid down by the Disposals Board and will bring to the notice of the Director-General, Disposals, any matter concerning disposals that appears to require action by the Government of India.

DISPOSAL OF AMERICAN SURPLUS STORES IN INDIA

Agreement with U. S.

THE Government of India have concluded an agreement with the U.S. Government regarding the disposal of American surplus property in India by the Foreign Liquidation Commissioner of the U.S. Forces, India, and Burma.

Under the American Surplus Property Act, all surpluses are to be handled by the Foreign Liquidation Commissioner who retains custody of the property until it is transferred to the purchaser, but the policy of the Disposals Board, set up by the Government of India relating to the prices, rate of release, total quantities to be released, the methods and agencies to be employed and other incidental matters will be complied with by the Foreign Liquidation Commissioner.

The general effect of the agreement is that American surpluses will be dealt with in exactly the same way all other surpluses arising in India and there will be no discrimination.

Order of Priority

It is the policy of the Foreign Liquidation Commissioner to observe the following order of priority:—

First: U.S. Government agencies and U.N.R.R.A.

Second: Religious, charitable, educational and medical institutions.

Third: Manufacturers or their agents, representatives and distributors for branded goods.

Fourth: Governments other than U.S. Government.

Fifth: The general public.

Goods falling under the first category, will not be available for general consumption in India.

As regards the second category, the Foreign Liquidation Commissioner is prepared to consider requests for direct sales to charitable institutions of surplus property urgently required by them in their work. Such sales will be made at commercial rates in accordance with the policy of the Disposals Board.

Institutions which depend wholly or partly on Government assistance or public funds are not entitled to approach the Foreign Liquidation Commissioner direct and all their demands should be placed on the Director-General, Disposals, Shahjahan Road, New Delhi.

As regards the third category, the quantities and prices of surplus property released to U.S. manufacturers, or their agents, representatives and distributors will be regulated by agreement between the Disposals Board and the Foreign Liquidation Commissioner.

Public Utilities to Benefit

The bulk of the property will fall under the fourth and fifth categories. The Foreign Liquidation Commissioner has agreed to offer to the Government of India the right of first refusal on all surplus property located in India and not allotted by him in higher priority. The Government of India propose to satisfy from such surpluses the requirements of the Government of India, Provincial Governments and State Governments and of public utilities. Surplus goods acquired in this way must be used by the body acquiring them and must not be resold.

If surplus goods are not required by the Government of India, they will be offered by the Foreign Liquidation Commissioner to the general public by auction or by advertising, with an indication of ceiling prices, sealed bids being invited.

All items purchased will be liable to pay Customs duty and possession will not be given until the appropriate duty has been paid into the Customs House Treasury or into the local Civil Treasury. Detailed instructions regarding the procedure for paying duty have been issued to all Collectors of Customs.

NEW ORGANISATION FOR LABOUR WELFARE

The Labour Department of the Government of India have recently set up a new organisation to advise the Central and Provincial Governments on the improvement of working conditions in factories. The Chief Adviser, Factories, is the head of the organisation, which will not only give technical advice on the design and layout of factories, on standards of housing, on the most suitable working conditions to assure efficiency of production and welfare of the workers, but also arrange for the training of managements and workers in safety measures and welfare methods adopted in progressive countries. The establishment of an industrial museum on the lines of the one in the U.K. is also contemplated.

PROVINCES TO GO AHEAD WITH PLANS FOR TRANSITION PERIOD

New Technique of Central Assistance Evolved

As a result of the Finance Member's (Sir Archibald Rowlands) recent tour of the provinces and his discussion with the Provincial Governments, a technique of Central financing of Provincial schemes for the transition period has been evolved with the object of enabling the Provinces to go ahead immediately, pending the finalisation of their five-year plans and the formulation of a co-ordinated master-plan for the whole of India, which will necessarily take some time, with their schemes, self-financing and otherwise and selected from their five-year plans, with the main object of ensuring a high employment level during the transition period.

This selective method of planning and execution for the immediate transition period will be in harmony with the final planning for the long-time period, since the fundamental objective of both would be the same, *viz.*, raising the standard of life of the people and providing them with a widening scope for remunerative employment. It is stated that such a method has become necessary because of the urgent need to tackle the problem of general unemployment that is likely to arise in the transition period, provide employment to personnel released from the Defence Services and from war and wartime occupations and thus effect a smooth transition from war to peace. If immediate action is not taken and India has to wait till the comprehensive long-term plans are finalised, it is pointed out that economic conditions in the transition period might so deteriorate as to defeat the long-term objectives.

Development of the Country

As regards development, there is such a tremendous leeway to be made in various directions in respect of the full-scale economic exploitation of the country, in the light of its requirements and possibilities, that this immediate launching of selective schemes of development would be conducive to the realisation of the ultimate objective through comprehensive planning and methodical execution over a long period. In short, it is the considered opinion in financial circles that the arrangements now contemplated, as a result of the Finance Member's visit to the Provinces, have laid the foundations for an expansionist financial policy designed to ensure conditions for a high level of employment in the transition period.

With this object in view, Provincial Governments have been asked to furnish the Central Government with a list of schemes which they propose to start immediately by the middle of December this year. This will enable the Government of India to examine such schemes from the all-India perspective and give them their general approval as quickly as possible. Meanwhile, Provincial Governments have been asked to go ahead with all the necessary preliminaries.

In order that purely financial considerations may not stand in the way of adequate measures being taken, Government of India have decided to offer the Provincial Governments the following assistance:

(1) Loans to the extent necessary for financing projects which the Provincial Governments may decide to debit to loan money. All self-financing schemes —i.e., schemes which, on completion and the lapse of the necessary time for their full operation, will yield adequate revenue to cover the interest on capital at charge, working expenses and maintenance and depreciation charges are likely to be so debited.

(2) Pending a decision on the methods to be adopted for the distribution of Central grants for the Provincial development plans, payments to the extent desired by the Provincial Governments during the years 1945-46 and 1946-47 for the execution of unproductive schemes selected from the Provincial plans and approved generally by the Central Government, but not exceeding the expenditure actually incurred up to and inclusive of 1946-47. Unproductive schemes are those which, while considered to be of economic importance, are not likely to be self-financing. Such schemes are, for instance, minor irrigation, roads, anti-erosion, agricultural measures, afforestation, etc. Payments by the Central Government in regard to schemes of this nature will be treated as advances made to Provincial Governments. They will not be recoverable but will be adjusted against the scheme for grants for post-war development as a whole.

(*Continued on page* 725)



Trainees at work in the smithy of the Orissa School of Engineering at Cuttack.

RESETTLEMENT SCHEME FOR DEMOBILISED TECHNICIANS

IN order to facilitate the settlement in civil life of demobilised technicians and secure an adequate supply of skilled personnel for post-war development plans, both Government and private, the Labour Department of the Government of India have decided to utilise the existing centres under the Technical Training Scheme to provide 30,000 seats a year for training demobilised servicemen, said a Press Note issued by the Labour Department, Government of India, on November 10. The scheme which has been sanctioned for three years in the first instance, embraces a large number of engineering and building trades and the average period of the training will be 12 months. Some adjustments will also be made in the capacity of the training centres to include certain new trades which are not catered for in the existing schemes.

The following categories of demobilised persons who have completed six months' approved service will be eligible for training:—

(i) those whose training was interrupted as a result of war service;

(ii) those who have acquired a new trade during their war service and need further training for suitable civil employment;

(iii) those who need up-grading or higher training in order to secure suitable civil employment;

(iv) those who wish to take up a trade for which there is an urgent demand, provided they have the basic qualifications for undertaking such training; and

(v) those who need apprenticeship and industrial or practical training before they could be effectively employed.

Trainees will be given free board, lodging and workshop clothing, a monthly allowance of Rs. 15, free travel facilities from the demobilisation centre or their homes to the training centre and facilities for recreation, games, physical training and medical treatment.

The Budget session of the new Central Assembly will commence at New Delhi on January 21, 1946, and as at present arranged will continue up to April 2, 1946. Three days, namely, February 12, March 6, and April 2, 1946, have been allotted for the disposal of non-official bills. Four days, namely, January 28, February 4 and 11, and April 1, 1946, have been allotted for the disposal of non-official resolutions.

RESETTLEMENT AND EMPLOYMENT OF EX-SERVICEMEN IN BENGAL

"WE will have to resettle and employ in civil life in Bengal some 50 to 60 thousand ex-servicemen," observed Dr. N. Das, Regional Director of Resettlement and Employment, Government of India, at a conference held on November 6 in Calcutta, with representatives of trade, commerce, communications and transport organisations.

Dr. Das said: "We cannot speak in such precise figures about discharged war-workers, as the term has been variously interpreted by different authorities. If, however, we include within its ambit, not merely persons who are actually employed in factories, offices and establishments engaged in war work, but also contract labour and persons engaged in offices and departments various small establishments and consumers' services which owe their origin to the conditions created by the war, we may have to find employment for another 3 to 3-1/2 lakhs of men.

"Let not these figures overwhelm you, gentlemen. Firstly, these are only intelligent guesses and, in making these guesses, the authorities concerned have striven to err on the side of caution, i.e., they have overestimated the magnitude of the problem instead of underestimating it. Secondly, this manpower will not be thrown on the employment market all at once; both demobilisation and discharge will be spread over months and years. Thirdly, it is certain—this has been proved by the replies to a recent questionnaire issued to some of the persons concerned that many of them would go back to the land or to village crafts and trades.

Employment Schemes

"You may now rightly ask me what the Government's plans are to deal with this problem. I should say, at the very outset, that both the Central and Provincial Governments are going ahead with the detailed examination of their respective post-war development plans, and necessary steps are being taken to secure early implementation thereof. Roughly speaking, the Government of Bengal's *immediate* post-war schemes should be able to resettle in civil life some one lakh men. The Central Government's *immediate* schemes for the Bengal region, including their various public works projects, should also absorb an equal, if not a larger number of men. Then again, there are schemes exclusively for resettling ex-Servicemen in new tracts of land, in co-operative business organisations, etc. One such scheme alone will cater for 10,000 ex-Servicemen. Additional schemes for the Gurkhas are under active consideration and will, I hope, soon be taken up.

"Government cannot, however, provide employment to all the persons who require resettlement. Both before and during the war, it was private industry and trade, and the various transport organisations, consumers' services, etc., that had absorbed the largest number of men. With the end of the war, we must again look to them to share the general responsibility. And I have every reason to hope that, barring a certain degree of frictional unemployment during the period of transition from war to peace economy, all the demobilised and discharged personnel will ultimately be suitably resettled in civil life. There is, therefore, no cause for pessimism, which appears to have been created in certain quarters by a Press message published a few days ago.

Regional Directorate

"At present, the Regional Directorate set up by the Government of India discharges three functions:

"Firstly, it keeps in constant and continuous touch with the Government Departments, both Central and Provincial, in charge of the execution of post-war development schemes, and urges upon them that schemes having definite employment value should be taken up at suitable stages so as to absorb persons thrown on the employment market.

"Secondly, it arranges, again in close co-operation with the Central and Provincial Governments, for suitable vocational and technical training of employment-seekers so as to make them better fitted for various kinds of civil employment. The Provincial Government have already drawn up their schemes in this respect and the Central Government's schemes will also be released shortly.

"Thirdly, it provides a co-ordinating agency which would bring about the necessary contacts between employers and employment-seekers in various fields of productive activity. In Bengal, this agency consists of the Regional Employment Exchange at Calcutta, the various Sub-Regional Exchanges in the mofussil and the recruiting and employment officers of the Defence Department.

"Your co-operation is solicited in the discharge of all these three functions. The Government of India have decided that an Employment Advisory Committee should be set

u at the headquarters of each Regional Directorate to advise the Director on these matters. It has also been tentatively decided that this Committee should consist, among others, of representatives of Government employers and workers, and of the organisation of ex-Servicemen and discharged war-workers. Your advice on the composition of this Committee and of a second Committee, should you consdier it necessary to be attached to the Calcutta Regional Employment Exchange, would be welcome.

"Your co-operation is also solicited in a more direct manner, viz., by your making regular and full use of the services of the Employment Exchange machinery. The idea of Employment Exchanges is new in India, although Great Britain has had them since 1911. But I hope and trust that you will not object to making use of this machinery merely because it is new.

"You were good enough to make use of the Employment Exchange attached to the National Service Labour Tribunal during the years of the war. At that time, the Exchange catered only for technical personnel who were in short supply. Our figures show that some 5,000 technicians and skilled workers out of a total registered 8,500 at the Calcutta Exchange found employment in mills, factories and war establishments, during the last three years of the war. Even after the end of the war, i.e., during the months of August, September and October, 1945, when reduction and retrenchment had started and employers had no difficulty in getting any number of men at the gates, some 160 persons were placed through the Calcutta Exchange.

"I desire that this co-operation between the employers and ourselves should not only continue, but be further extended and strengthened: that employers should make the maximum use of the prompt, efficient, free and impartial service that we offer.

Co-operation of Employers

"You may ask: 'In what way would the co-operation of employers in this particular respect help to solve the problem of unemployment?' I should say very frankly that in no country has the Employment Exchange machinery been expected to 'solve' the probelm of unemployment. If, however, all employers make the maximum use of the service it offers, to it will come all categories of employment seekers. It will then be possible to assess at any particular time the volume and nature of unemployment prevalent, and to suggest suitable remedial measures to tackle it.

"In due course, this Employment Exchange machinery can also be made use of, as in Great Britain, for the payment of unemployment insurance benefits, when Government decide on a policy of unemployment insurance in this country. In any case if employers do not make use of this service or make use of it only half-heartedly, after the lapse of a certain period employment-seekers will hardly come to the Exchange and the figures on its registers will lull us and Government to a false sense of security.

Employment Exchanges

"The utility of the Employment Exchange machinery cannot, therefore, be denied even from the narrow point of view of its being able to function as a barometer of unemployment.

"There is a further advantage. The Employment Exchange machinery helps to canalise both the supply of, and demand for labour (I am using the word 'labour' in a very wide sense). On the employers' side, it will place before them promptly, impartially and without any obligation, men they require for their various jobs. On the employment-seekers' side, it will provide a centralised agency through which everyone can have a fair, prompt and efficient deal; it will obviate the necessity of having to beg from door to door for jobs; it will conserve the energy and time of every employment-seeker and give him the confidence that some impartial agency is trying its best to settle him in life.

"Before I conclude, I should put in a word specially on behalf of disabled ex-Servicemen. As you know, these men have served the country well and are entitled to our gratitude in their present unfortunate predicament. In Great Britain, there is special legislation which requires that every employer should employ a certain percentage of disabled ex-Servicemen, otherwise fit for work. We have no such legislation in this country, but I appeal to employers to come forward voluntarily and agree to appoint on their establishments a small percentage of these unfortunate men."

In pursuance of their policy of liberalising the export trade, by reviewing the Export Control from time to time in the light of changing circumstances, the Commerce Department, by a notification published in the *Gazette of India* dated November 17, have entirely decontrolled the export of coir, both raw and manufactured.

Coir and coir goods can now be freely exported to all destinations with which facilities for private trading exist without a licence from the Chief Controller of Exports.

RELEASES FROM FORCES TO CIVIL FIRMS

MANY members of the Forces who were previously employed by civil firms in India and conscripted in India, are being released under Class "A" and class "B" release schemes in order to return to their former occupations, says a Press Note issued by the Public Relations Directorate, G.H.Q. (India). It continues:

More than 1,500 officers and other ranks have already been released in India under Class "B" or its wartime equivalent, of whom 700 have gone to Government departments and 800 to civil firms. Concurrently many have been released under Class "A" and have taken up civilian employment in India.

Before the cessation of hostilities it was found necessary to refuse many applications for class "B" release on the grounds that the individual could not be spared from the Forces. Since the end of the war against Japan, however, the position has changed considerably.

Class "B" Release

The present policy is to grant release to every case, provided that the Government of India are satisfied that the civil employment for which release is sought is in the national interest, and so long as the individual is willing to accept Class "B" release, and where he is not occupying a key position in the Forces, his immediate removal from which would not be in the national interest. Refusals by the Services for the latter reasons have been reduced to an absolute minimum since the termination of hostilities.

To illustrate how the operation of Class "B" release has been speeded up, the number of officers and other ranks released to civil firms between June, 1942, and August 15, 1945, was at a monthly average of only 15. Since that date, the rate has increased to 78 per month and is still increasing. At the same time firms have been benefiting by the increased numbers being released under Class "A".

The problem is one of balancing the vital needs of civilian firms, of which the authorities are fully aware, with those of the Armed Forces in India, who continue to be faced with heavy commitments.

The next session of the Chamber of Princes (Narendra Mandal) will open at New Delhi on January 17, 1946, said a Press Communique issued by the Political Department, Government of India.

REHABILITATION OF DISABLED SERVICEMEN

A SCHEME for the rehabilitation and resettlement of disabled Services personnel has been sanctioned by the Government of India. It aims at equipping them for skilled work and securing civil employment for them, said a Press Note issued by the Labour Department, Government of India, on November 20.

It added: Post-Hospital Rehabilitation Centres, now being set up by the War Department, will treat disabled personnel who have not yet been discharged from the Services and such disabled ex-Servicemen as wish to utilise these facilities. Resettlement Advice Officers will guide convalescents in the selection of suitable occupation and employment.

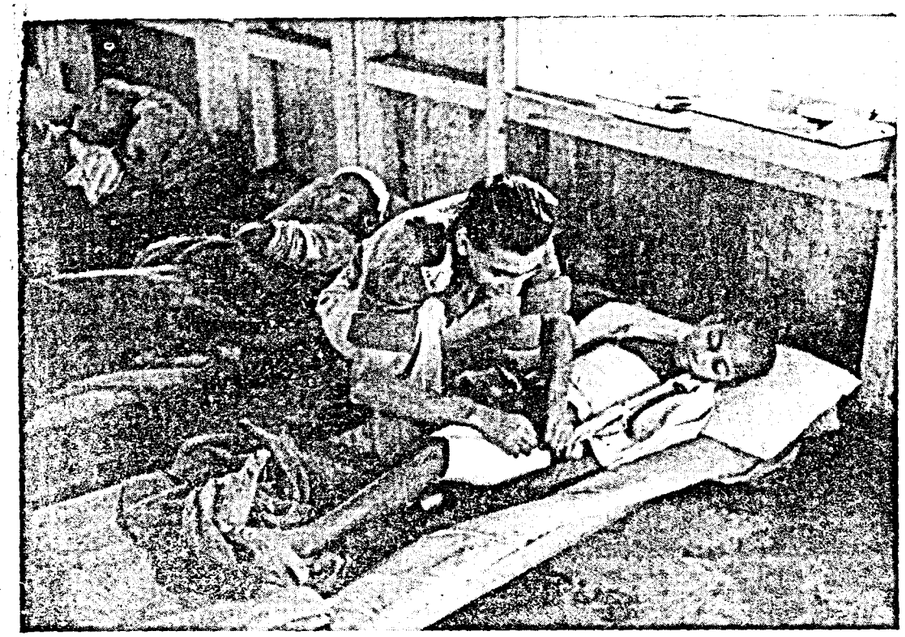
Training at the Labour Department's centres will be given in clerical and commercial occupations; engineering, building and other technical trades; agriculture, cottage industries and allied occupations; and professional or semi-professional occupations. After the training, the Employment Exchanges will register their names and help to find them suitable employment. Those requiring apprenticeship or professional training will be sent to appropriate Government and private factories or establishments.

Additional Amenities

During post-hospital treatment and training, disabled ex-Servicemen will receive, in addition to their pension, free board, lodging, workshop clothing and a special allowance admissible for a period of 18 months after the cessation of hostilities with Japan. Disabled Servicemen will continue to draw their pay and other concessions for the same period of 18 months. After this, disabled Servicemen and ex-Servicemen under training will be given a stipend in addition to their pension. During the period of training they will, under certain conditions, be entitled to free travel facilities.

The disability pension will not be affected in any way by their increased earning capacity.

The Government of India in the Department of Supply have by a notification in the *Gazette of India* of December 1, 1945, fixed the ceiling prices of 'Factory Seconds' cycle tyres and tubes. This is practically a re-issue of the original order with all amendments up-to-date.



A wounded boy being attended to by an officer of an Indian Beach Medical Unit.

RESETTLEMENT OF MEDICAL AND NURSING PERSONNEL

SPECIAL organisations to assist in the resettlement of medical and auxiliary medical personnel on their release from the Army are described in an Indian Army Order published recently.

The principal feature of the scheme is a Central Medical Resettlement Committee which will deal with resettlement policy matters and will also serve as a medical employment bureau for medical and auxiliary medical personnel, such as nurses belonging to centrally administered areas and for appointments under Central Government administration.

This Committee will also act as an inter-provincial clearing house and assist the Indian States to obtain ex-army medical officers and nurses.

Many of the provinces have also constituted medical employment bureaux, while others have arranged to discharge the functions of these bureaux through their administrative medical officers.

Generally, their function will be to supply information, to ascertain vacancies in Government and other service, and to maintain lists of personnel desiring civilian employment, by this means helping demobilised doctors and nurses to obtain employment in the medical and public health fields.

Medical employment bureaux have also been set up in Hyderabad (Deccan), Dholpur, Jaipur, Kotah, Bundi (Rajputana), Cooch Behar and Mayurbhanj (Eastern India), and subjects of these States will receive assistance towards resettlement through these bureaux.

Another batch of Indian troops—comprising 1,700 men of the Alwar Jai Pulten, the Jaipur Infantry and the 4|8 Punjab Regiment—have returned to India after more than three years overseas. They served in many theatres including Eritrea, Abyssinia, Egypt, Syria, the Dodecanese and Cyprus.

A number of Naval and Army officers were present at the West Wharf, Karachi, where the troops disembarked, to give a fitting reception to the men. The pipe band of the Baluch Regimental Centre played the troops ashore.

POSITION OF NURSING IN INDIA

"FIFTY years ago it might have been possible to plead that social prejudices and the lack of education among women made it impossible to obtain an adequate nursing staff. I am sure that this plea cannot be put forth today. I have no doubt that, given suitable accommodation and satisfactory conditions of service, educated Indian women will be forthcoming in sufficient numbers to staff our existing hospitals", observed the Hon'ble Sir Jogendra Singh, Member in charge of the Departments of Agriculture, Health and Education, at the opening of the 34th Conference of the Trained Nurses' Association of India, in New Delhi on November 20. Sir Jogendra Singh said:

"The influence of a professional Association of this kind depends very largely on the extent to which it looks beyond narrow professional interests. I know that your Association has this wider outlook. The Exhibition which you have organised here bears witness to your many-sided activities.

Hospital Staff

"I need hardly dwell before this audience regarding the position of nursing in India. It is unfortunately true that the development of the nursing and other auxiliary services has not kept pace with that of the medical services. There are roughly 51,000 hospital beds in the larger hospitals of the country. If these hospitals were staffed according to the standard generally reached in Western countries, there would be one nurse to about three beds.

For 51,000 beds there would, therefore, be 17,000 nurses. The actual number is 7,000, of which only about half are trained. In the small hospitals the position is still worse; there is roughly one trained nurse for 20 beds. Fifty years ago it might have been possible to plead that social prejudices and the lack of education among women made it impossible to obtain an adequate nursing staff. I am sure that this plea cannot be put forth today. I have no doubt that given suitable accommodation and satisfactory conditions of service, educated Indian women will be forthcoming in sufficient numbers to staff our existing hospitals.

"One reason for the lack of adequate nursing staffs is, I fear, that many authorities responsible for staffing the hospitals, whether they are Governments, local authorities or governing bodies, have not sufficiently appreciated the necessity for skilled nursing. Your Association has done a great deal already in safeguarding the honour, the safety and the welfare of the nursing profession. It can do much to bring home to the authorities and to the educated public the need for providing improved living conditions for trained nursing staffs.

"Unfortunately, as you know ,there are serious deficiencies in these matters in many places. Indian parents will not permit their daughters to take up the nursing profession unless reasonable accommodation is provided and proper arrangements are made for their protection and welfare. The Government of India suggested to Provincial Governments last year certain standards that should be aimed at, and I understand that some Provincial Governments have taken an active interest in the matter. I am glad to say that Bombay and the U.P. have created and filled the appointments of Superintendents of Nursing Services. Madras filled this post in 1941 and Bengal has also sanctioned it.

"The improvement of accommodation and conditions of service is a matter of particular urgency as, now that demobilisation is taking place, the opportunity will occur of securing the services of a very considerable number of trained and partially trained candidates for employment in the civil nursing services. Unless increased establishments are sanctioned, conditions of service settled, and arrangements for increase of accommodation put in hand without delay, these potential candidates will inevitably find the prospects unattractive and take up other employment.

"Another matter which requires urgent attention is the education and training of nurses. We have a Bill under preparation to establish an All-India Nursing Council which will be authorised to lay down minimum standards of education and training. I hope that this Bill will be introduced in the next session of the Legislature. We also have under consideration plans for the establishment of an Indian School of Higher Nursing which may grow into a College to provide courses in hospital administration and for nursing instructors, and also to make a beginning in the provision of training in public health nursing.

"Until the establishment of the School of Nursing Administration in Delhi to meet the requirements of the Military Nursing Services, there were no facilities for higher training for nurses in India. I have no doubt that it is necessary to establish this School on a more permanent basis and to raise the standard, so that the training which it can give will rapidly result in an improvement in hospital administration and the training of probationer nurses in India. As General Hance has pointed out, we have been able to make arrangements for the training of nurses abroad on a small scale. With the co-operation of some of the leading hospitals in the United Kingdom, we have made arrangements for 32 probationer nurses to be trained early from next year.

"These probationers will receive their training alongside and under exactly the same conditions as British probationer nurses. The great majority of nurses must, of course, be trained in India, but I am sure it will be of advantage to have a limited number trained abroad till adequate facilities for higher training are available in India itself. Arrangements have also been made for the higher training of a few selected certificated nurses, and five students have already gone to the United Kingdom, three to take sister tutor courses and two for courses in hospital administration.

Health Reconstruction

"The development of the nursing services must undoubtedly have early priority in the health reconstruction plans. As you know, the Government of India appointed the Health Survey and Development Committee under the Chairmanship of Sir Joseph Bhore two years ago to review the existing medical and public health services and to suggest future lines of development. I understand that the Committee has now almost completed its immense task and we are looking forward to receiving its report in the near future.

"We are exceedingly grateful to the members of the Committee, the majority of whom are non-officials with many other pre-occupations, for the assiduous care which they have devoted to this public work at much personal sacrifice. I have said we are eagerly awaiting their report because the improvement of the health services must be a vital part of our reconstruction plans, which I am anxious to see complete before I retire from the scene of my labours next spring.

"The Famine Inquiry Commission pointed out recently that an agricultural community which is weakened in mind and body by disease will never be a prosperous community and the same can, of course, be said of urban communities. Our curative services must be improved and extended and brought within the reach of the vast rural population. The so-called environmental health services, water supply and sanitation, which are the first essential for the health of any community, need radical improvement; the preventive health services, which are still in their infancy, urgently need development.

"It is distressing to read of forty or fifty thousand deaths from preventable diseases,—not only in Bengal but in other provinces also. The organisation of health services will cost money, but health pays dividends, and when this comes to be realised, the money will be forthcoming, perhaps not all that is needed, but enough to make a very substantial advance on the present position. Little can be achieved, however, until Governments are so convinced of the importance of the health services that they are prepared to allot an adequate proportion of their revenues to health measures.

"You will be surprised to learn that the average provincial expenditure on medical relief and public health combined amounts to five per cent. of the total expenditure or a little over 5 1|2 annas per head. I am told that, in other countries, a proportion of something like 15 per cent would be regarded as appropriate. I doubt whether any assistance that the Central Government may be able to give will be sufficient to enable Provinces to develop an intensive health programme without a substantial increase in expenditure from Provincial revenues.

"I am afraid I have travelled some distance from the subject of nursing, but you, as members of one of the important auxiliary health services, are naturally vitally concerned in these wider developments of which the development of the nursing services will form a part. I was reading the other day that the following virtues are expected of a nurse,—courtesy, dignity, obedience, patience, self-control, sympathy, tact, truthfulness, unselfishness, economy and personal neatness. The list may seem formidable, but these virtues are the God-given heritage of women. No doubt most of these are required in daily transactions, but there is perhaps no vocation which requires them in such a large measure and so continuously as the nursing profession.

"Nursing is indeed one of the noblest professions in which the motherly instinct follows the paths of service. The lady of the lamp kindled the light and inspired her countrywomen with the spirit of service and the world owes much to the lead given by the British women who followed her. Now India's womanhood has been called upon to take up this service for their countrymen and women, and I am sure that they will not fail to respond in their hundreds to serve the sick and the suffering.

"We are also beholden to the Rockefeller Foundation for their appreciation of the importance of nursing by the appointment of an experienced Health Administrator in the person of Miss Janet Corwin to the staff of their Far Eastern Bureau.

"In conclusion, I wish your Association every success in the good work you are doing for the nursing profession and the cause of nursing in India. I have much pleasure in declaring the Conference open."

500,000 DIE OF TUBERCULOSIS EVERY YEAR

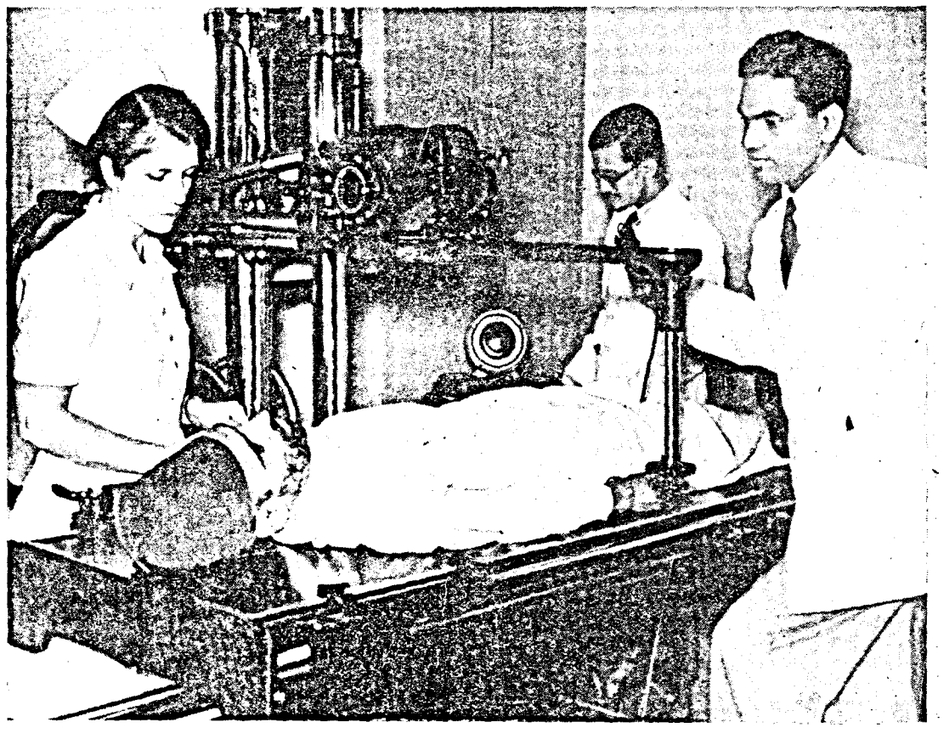
"EVEN now we do not know with any degree of accuracy what the size of the problem is; but we do know that at least 500,000 people die of tuberculosis every year, and that at least five times this number are infected by this disease and are spreading this infection among those immediately surrounding them. It is, therefore, a matter of major and instant importance to this sub-continent that immediate and effective steps be taken to cope with this problem; and if there is one class of workers more than another on which the success of such steps depends it is upon the tuberculosis health visitor."

Thus observed Lt.-General J. B. Hance, Director-General, Indian Medical Service, and Chairman, Tuberculosis Association of India opening the Tuberculosis Health Visitors' Class at the New Delhi Tuberculosis Clinic on November 20.

Lt.-General J.B. Hance said that the case of tuberculosis can be discovered in its early stages, and especially before there are definite signs and symptoms of the existence of the disease, by prompt and efficacious measures it is possible to prevent the progress of the disease, and, in many cases, preserve the patient's earning capacity without the danger of his spreading infection. It is precisely in this connection that the health visitor can do his or her most valuable work.

Health Visitor's Duties

Continuing, Lt.-General Hance said: "In any advance against tuberculosis, the spearhead of attack is the tuberculosis clinic; and the health visitor is or should be the eyes and ears of the clinic. It is the health visitor who follows up the patient who applies for treatment, visits his home, talks to his family, sees how they live and how far their living conditions



The anti-tuberculosis sanatorium at Kasauli, near Simla, has an up-to-date X-ray room. Here a medical officer is examining the chest of a patient.

tend towards the spread of the disease from the patient to his relations.

"It is the health visitor who instructs the patient in the simple measures which can be carried out in the home, which go far to obviate his danger and who persuades those in contact with the patient to submit themselves to the necessary special, but brief, examinations which will establish whether they have escaped infection or are in its early stages. In the former case the health visitor instructs them how to avoid infection, and in the latter case he or she brings them to the clinic for that early and prompt treatment to which I have referred.

Inquiries

"It is not only in attention to individual cases and their contacts that the health visitor can render valuable public service. By her enquiries she keeps the clinic doctor informed as to the spread or otherwise of the disease in the neighbourhood surrounding the clinic, and from her local knowledge of her district she can point out these causes, such as bad housing conditions, overcrowding, malnutrition, etc., which favour its spread. This knowledge, when passed on to the Public Health Department, should enable it to bring pressure to bear upon the local authorities for the removal or improvement of conditions which favour the dissemination of the disease."

Emphasising the need for more clinics, Lt.-General Hance said there were far too few clinics, and, therefore, far too little was known either by the Public Health Department, the local authorities or the public as to the conditions which promoted the spread of tuberculosis. "When we reach the stage of having one clinic for every 50,000 of the urban population and one clinic for every 100,000 of the rural population, a mass of information will be at the disposal of the Public Health Department, local authorities and the general public."

Role of Clinics

"Sanatoria are excellent and necessary institutions—necessary for the treatment of established, and even advanced cases, but they are not the spearhead of attack upon the problem. I have no exact figures, but it is my impression that, in a well-established and efficient tuberculosis campaign, for every case that needs sanatorium treatment there are at least five who could be adequately catered for at the clinic; and of those five, a definite proportion could be controlled with little or no interruption to their earning capacity.

"Equally important with the establishment of sanatoria is the provision of tuberculosis beds in general hospitals, and the provision of comfortable institutions where patients for whom nothing can be done can spend their remaining days in pleasant surroundings, secure of infecting those nearest and dearest to them."

Concluding, Lt.-General Hance said: "Sanatoria by all means; and with each sanatorium an ex-patients' colony and a home for incurables; but also, and primarily for each sanatorium several clinics, each of them employing several well-trained, capable and enthusiastic health visitors."

ANTI-TUBERCULOSIS CHALLENGE SHIELD

The Tuberculosis Association of India have this year awarded the Suhrawardy Memorial Challenge Shield to the I.R.C.S., Provincial Centre, C. and M. Station, Bangalore.

The Shield is awarded annually to a corporation, municipality, district or any other organisation for the best anti-tuberculosis activities carried out during the year. Twelve entries were received this year.

The recipient of the Shield was adjudged to have carried out the best anti-tuberculosis programme during the last twelve months. The Bangalore Centre have a clinic and a sanatorium for contact examination, home visiting, care and after-care work. The Care and After-Care Association helps necessitous patients with extra articles of diet and medicine. The Centre also gives financial assistance to patients to attend clinics or sanatoria. It is a voluntary organisation raising money by subscriptions from philanthropic individuals and bodies.

MISS SUROMA BISWAS

Miss Suroma Biswas has been deputed by the Government of India to the United Kingdom for Post-Graduate studies in Nursing Education at the Royal College of Nursing, London. She is the first Bengali lady to be so nominated.

She has gone to England for the Sister Tutor's Course as a nominee of the Central Government. She was educated in Brahmo Girls' school and Bethune College at Calcutta. She took her nurses training in the Lady Dufferin Victoria Hospital and health course in Sir John Anderson Health School, Calcutta.



Plans have been prepared to raise the standard of the existing medical facilities and public health measure, and to extend them with special reference to their availability to the poorer classes.

MEDICAL FACILITIES FOR THE POOR

A FOUR-DAY conference of Administrative Medical Officers and Directors of Public Health in the various provinces was held under the chairmanship of the Director General, Indian Medical Service in New Delhi recently.

The methods of approaching and the general policy to be pursued in tackling the project which lie ahead were discussed. Plans have been prepared to raise the standard of the existing medical facilities and public health measures, and to extend them with special reference to their availability to the poorer classes. The inadequacy of the nursing services was stressed by the delegates as an insoluble problem until public opinion in India granted to a nurse the social status and dignity which in other countries these women have achieved.

Malaria as a major economic problem was considered in its many aspects. The importance of all large engineering schemes being carried out with due regard to the precautions necessary to safeguard public health during and subsequent to construction operations is to be brought to the notice of the authorities concerned.

Medical education, post-graduate training, supplies of drug and equipment, the possibilities of utilising war surplus materials, were also discussed.

The conference showed anxiety to uphold every medical and public health measure which would increase the standard of the individual's health throughout the country and thereby improve the general economic level.

AWARDS FOR NEPALESE GENERALS

His Imperial Majesty the King-Emperor of India has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards:

G.C.S.I. (Honorary): General Sir Padma Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana, G.B.E., K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., Commander-in-Chief of the Nepalese Army.

G.C.I.E. (Honorary): General Sir Mohan Shumshere Jung Bahadur Rana, G.B.E., K.C.I.E., Senior Commanding General in Nepal.

C.-IN-C. VISITS JAT REGIMENTAL CENTRE

WHEN the Commander-in-Chief in India, Gen. Sir Claude Auchinleck, touched down on the airstrip near Bareilly on November 14 he was returning to one of the earliest milestones in his career. It was about 12 years ago that, as a young subaltern in the Shropshire Light Infantry, the C.-in-C. received at Bareilly his first military training in India.

At the local military hospital and convalescent depot Gen. Auchinleck watched the processes of an ingenious rehabilitation scheme for wounded Indian soldiers. Since the inauguration of this scheme in 1941, large numbers of Servicemen have recovered full use of their limbs by graduated courses of simple exercises and handicrafts.

At the Jat Regimental Centre, the C.-in-C. presented a number of awards to officers and men for gallantry in Burma, writes an Army Observer. He then toured the Centre, which has its own maternity clinic, women's institute, temple and mosque.

Abdul Hafiz School

"India needs another hundred places like this," said Gen. Auchinleck, commenting on the seven-months-old Abdul Hafiz School. We must see to it that it gets the recognition it deserves."

Founded to provide a systematic education for Indian soldiers' sons who intend to make the Army their career, the school is dedicated to the memory of the Jat Regiment hero—the late Jemadar Abdul Hafiz, first Muslim V.C. of the war. It is maintained by the officers and men themselves.

The C.-in-C. also saw how resettlement plans at the Centre dovetail with existing programmes of vocational training. Working on fruit, vegetable and poultry farms and at brick kilns, men about to be released furnish the Centre's day-to-day needs while learning post-war trades. In the afternoon he visited the R.I.A.S.C. clerks training battalion and M.T. unit.

Visit to Cawnpore

Congratulating the officers and men of the 2nd Battalion, the King's Own Royal Regiment, at the conclusion of an impressive parade at Cawnpore on the morning of November 16, General Auchinleck said, "It is 30 years since I myself was on this parade ground and much has occurred since. The British Army has come out of this war better than ever before and your regiment helped in its traditional fashion. Keep up that tradition, now, whatever happens".

The C.-in-C. next visited the R.A.F. and Indian Military hospitals, and stopped to chat with many of the patients.

"The outsider can have no idea of the organisation involved here," said Gen. Auchinleck while inspecting the Inspectorate of Stores, which throughout the war has kept the quality of goods issued to the three Services at a consistently high level.

Interest in Research Work

The C.-in-C.'s interest was focussed in particular on the laboratories where research work has been partly responsible for the all round wartime development of the Indian industry, writes an Army Observer.

At Shahjahanpur Gen. Auchinleck visited one of India's largest clothing factories in production for the Army. Recent orders include a Red Cross consignment of about 4,000 sarees and children's garments for returning internees.

Before his 50-mile road trip back to Bareilly Gen. Auchinleck inspected the garrison company and the I.E.M.E. Training Centre.

PLANS FOR TRANSITION PERIOD

(*Continued from page* 714)

Thus, assured of liberal financial assistance from the Centre, it is anticipated that the Provincial Governments will immediately go ahead, instead of from 1947-48, as originally contemplated when the war was still on, with their schemes designed to secure economic progress and to provide high employment counteract any deflationary tendency and ensure smooth transition to peacetime conditions. Such schemes will be of two broad types: productive or self-financing ones, and those which may be technically unproductive but considered important from the point of view of national economy. They are calculated to provide, *inter alia*, considerable scope for building works, training and research and resettlement of ex-servicemen.

With the fundamental requirement of the transition period in view *viz.*, to provide a high level of employment, the Provincial Governments may naturally be expected to select such schemes as would provide a high proportion of employment relatively to the cost and would be conducive, whether productive or otherwise, to an increase in the national income, which is considered necessary for the success of the planned economic development of the country.



The Viceroy inspects a model cookhouse at the Services Victory Exhibition, held recently in New Delhi.

SERVICES VICTORY EXHIBITION

His Excellency the Viceroy opening the Services Victory Exhibition in Delhi on November 26 said:

It is over 2½ years ago since I came to this same site as Commander-in-Chief to wish success to the War Services Exhibition at the start of its tour over India. Now the same exhibition with an appropriately changed name has come back here for its final display. The promising recruit has come back a trained man, proved and experienced.

The exhibition during its tour of India was visited by at least four million people; and there is no doubt that it was an outstanding success wherever it went. It can justly claim to have made no small contribution to the victory which now forms part of its new title. It was undoubtedly an affective aid to recruitment. It has spread in India a knowledge of India's war effort, of the weapons which have been used on distant battlefields by India's sons, and of India's Army which has earned so high a reputation and so much glory in many parts of the world. It has provided interest, entertainment and education wherever it has gone.

There is no doubt about the effectiveness of this method of publicity, as was shown also by the railway exhibition here, which was organized on the same model. I hope that the same method will be used for illustrating the purposes of peace.

I give my most sincere congratulations to Wing Commander Shaffi and his assistants for the most valuable work which they have so efficiently carried out.

This Victory Exhibition is fully up to standard and I hope it will be seen and enjoyed by very large numbers of the citizens of Delhi. I have great pleasure in declaring it open.



A new gun, designed to be carried in gliders, being inspected by visitors.

REGULAR COMMISSION CANDIDATES TO BE TRAINED AT MHOW

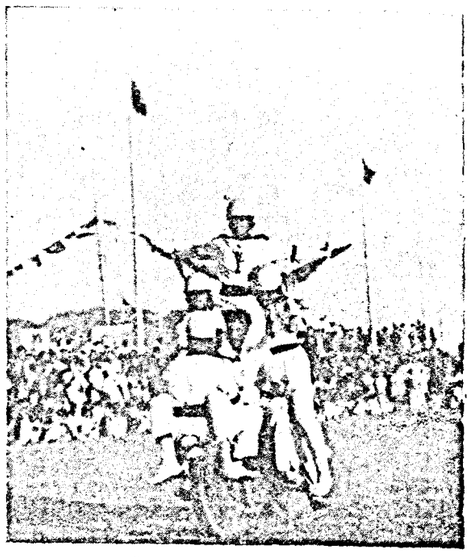
Candidates for regular commissions in the Indian Army will be trained at the Officers' Training Schoool at Mhow, Central India, which hitherto has trained cadets for emergency commissions. As recently announced, only Indians and other persons domiciled in India who are subjects of the King or a prince or chief in India are now eligible for such commissions.

The first course at Mhow will begin early in 1946 and will last for one year. Candidates must be between the age of 19 and 21 years on January 1, 1946, and must have passed the Matriculation, Senior Cambridge or School Leaving Certificate.

The courses at Mhow are part of the interim arrangements being made by the Army authorities pending the opening of the National War Memorial Academy.



Men of the Indian Signal Corps demonstrate the changing of a motor cycle sidecar's wheel at top speed (Below) A demonstration of trick cycling.



INDIA CELEBRATES NAVY DAY

FOR the second year in succession India is celebrating Navy Day, and it is the intention that in future the first Saturday in December each year shall be observed in a similar way.

The British and Dominion Navies hold their Navy Days on October 21, "Trafalgar Day". We would not intentionally choose a different day, but October is a hot month in India and we all feel that people would enjoy themselves more in the cool weather of December.

The Royal Navy has rendered India great service during the war, providing the heavy units that protected India from a major threat by sea. Establishing mastery in the Indian Ocean, it enabled India to be built up as a strong base for our operations in Burma and South East Asia. Throughout the war it gave unstinted help to us in expanding our own Navy and I hope that this fruitful association will always continue.

By Vice-Admiral J. H. Godfrey, Flag Officer Commanding, Royal Indian Navy.

A Broadcast over A.I.R., on December 1.

This day falls in a year of Victory, in which our Navy has fully maintained its ancient tradition of valiant service. India has been able to provide and in many cases to build, just the class of warship of which no country in wartime can have too many. I refer to vessels for convoy escort duties, anti-submarine patrols, minesweeping and amphibious operations.

In January this year our forces began the offensive that led from Akyab to Rangoon and the Royal Navy showed itself admirably suited to fighting in the difficult conditions of the Arakan. The landing craft wing won universal tributes to its skill and courage. India's coastal forces were old enemies of the Japanese on this coast and added to their reputation for daring and enterprise. Our sloops, fresh from sharing in the defeat of the U-Boats, supported the army with their guns, penetrating uncharted waterways far inland on the Burma coast. Minesweepers made safe the waters through which our troops and supplies had to pass.

The Royal Indian Navy was ready to share in the massive operation mounted against the enemy in Malaya at the time of the Japanese surrender. As it was, our minesweepers did, and are still doing, invaluable work in the Straits of Malacca, while sloops and motor launches assisted to the full in the task of reoccupation.



Vice-Admiral J. H. Godfrey

Recently another sloop, the *Narbada* played a prominent part in the liberation of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. We have two sloops, the *Godavari* and *Cauvery*, attached to the British Pacific Fleet and working in the China Sea and Japanese waters.

A Sea-going Force Now

There is now a very well equipped Dockyard at Bombay whose workers have made a decisive contribution to our war-effort. The naval communication service manned by men of the Royal Indian Navy and women of the Women's Royal Indian Naval Services has borne to the full the weight of the imperial wireless traffic to the East.

On a day like this it is appropriate to think not only of the past but also of the future. From small beginnings the Royal Indian Navy has grown considerably in ships and men—but it takes time to build up a strong and balanced Navy, and a great war, with its enormous competition for men and material, imposes obvious restrictions. Nevertheless India's Navy has developed from a Service suited primarily to local defence to one with a sea-going force and proper shore establishments to nourish it.



R.I.N. officers at rifle drill. Seamanship, navigation, gunnery and signals form part of a wide range of subjects which are necessary to make an efficient Naval officer.

There are four stages in the development of a small navy,

(i) The local defence which includes minesweeping and anti-submarine defence of harbours.

(ii) Escort forces against submarine and air attack.

(iii) The provision of small cruisers and

(iv) A fully balanced force like the Australian Navy including escort carriers, destroyers and submarines.

India is just passing out of the second stage and I hope will shortly enter the third stage and acquire cruisers.

The Navy will continue to take recruits from all provinces and states, regardless of race, caste or creed. Our men from all parts of the country work and live together without thought of communal differences. Entry into the service for ratings will be principally through the boys' training establishment at Karachi. An opportunity for enrolment into the fleet reserve will be made available to many of the ratings who joined for war service and are shortly due for release.

Officers reserves are in being as a peacetime institution and, I hope will be expanded and enable many officers who have returned to civil life to maintain contact with the Navy and be a source of strength to it in an emergency.

In the course of reverting to a peacetime basis, a number of reserve officers will be given permanent commissions.

In the future, the main avenue of supply for officers of the Navy as well as other Services will, when it is opened, be the National War Memorial Academy on which I set high hopes for the future.

The status of the Royal Indian Navy has been enhanced by the promotion of Commodore Battary to Rear-Admiral; he is the first officer of the modern Royal Indian Navy to reach Flag rank.

Under the leadership of Senior Controller the Countess of Carlisle and Chief Officer Mrs. Cooper, the Women's Royal Indian Naval Service,



Gunners of an H.M.I. sloop man a twin 4" gun.

known as the Wrins, have done really first class work in administrative and secretarial posts, and in the communication office at Delhi and at all the ports of India. I hope and believe that their service with the Navy will have given them some added quality that will benefit them in civil life and in the increasingly important role that the women of India will play in the future of this great country. I sincerely hope that some means will be found of keeping the Women's Auxiliary Corps, who have rendered such admirable and devoted service during the war, and its Naval Wing, the Wrins, in existence in peacetime.

To those living hundreds of miles inland, the importance of sea power may not be obvious. But it has been a decisive factor in Indian history and will always be so in future. India has an enormous coast line and all but a small fraction of her foreign trade is carried in ships. It is a National aspiration that her shipping industry shall be expanded. Sea power is all-important to this country. India must therefore have a Navy of a size worthy of her position in the world and one with a proper link-up with industry. I hope in particular that the revived tradition of Naval shipbuilding in India will be carried on in peacetime.

My appointment of Flag Officer in Command of the Royal Indian Navy is drawing to a close. Before I go I should like you all to know how very much I have enjoyed my service in India and how touched I am at the thought of the great kindness and boundless hospitality I have received throughout the Indian States and Provinces. I am convinced that there are many British Naval officers who would count it a privilege to help India to develop and nurture her Navy, which although small, has shown itself able to inflict severe blows upon our enemies and contribute in a most effective way towards the defeat of the hateful doctrines of the Axis Powers.

What has impressed me more than anything else is the way that a small and ardent band of senior British and Indian officers has overcome incredible difficulties and with great zeal and devotion have created a force with which the British Navy should be and I am sure is proud to co-operate.

Finally I should like to thank all those who in innumerable ways have helped me by their active and practical assistance and advice in consolidating our Navy during the last 2½ years. Wherever I have gone I have found nothing but enthusiasm for the Naval Service, combined with a desire to know about the sea and what it means to India. This awakening to the realities of sea power will, I feel sure, bear fruit in the years ahead of us, and will convince parents that the Navy must be manned by the best of India's youth and help them to realise what a fine career the Navy has to offer.

I ask you to do all in your power to foster the gowth of the Royal Indian Navy and to make its vital role in India's defence known throughout the length and breadth of this great land.

Verified



Mr. S. K. Chettur.

ASSISTANCE TO INDIANS IN MALAYA

The Government of India are anxious to give all possible assistance to Indians in Malaya. It was recently announced that Mr. S.K. Chettur, Government of India's Agent in Malaya, who was given special facilities for his journey to Singapore, has assumed charge of his duties. He has been instructed to report to the Government of India on the case of Indians now in detention in Malaya and will receive all possible help and facilities from the South East Asia Command.

Mr. Chettur's local contacts and investigations will enable him to put urgently at the disposal of the Government of India authoritative and up-to-date information.

The urgency of the matter is realised but it is emphasised that, in order to give speedy and possible help, it is necessary to have accurate information about the number of Indians arrested, the nature of the charges against them and the arrangements for their trial and defence. This information would enable the Government of India not only to take action for giving their assistance to Indians in Malaya; but also to advise non-official bodies as to how they could proceed to lend their assistance.

RED CROSS WELFARE WORKERS IN THE ANDAMANS

The Indian Red Cross and St. John War Organisation have sent a team of Welfare Workers to the Andamans, to administer civilian relief to approximately 7,000 women and children.

The team consists of a staff officer, supported by two Indian and two European Welfare Workers, a store keeper and subordinate staff. Their equipment consists of one mobile canteen, first-aid outfit boxes, clothing for Indian civilian internees, men, women, boys, girls and babies. Nothing has been omitted which might bring the highest measure of relief to those the Indian Red Cross are serving; for the babies Glaxo and Farex, and the equipment includes toys for the children. Diversional Therapy materials are also included, and will be most useful to invalid and hospital patients.

The team sailed from Calcutta recently and much work awaits it, mainly helping ill-nourished women and children and seeing that they are suitably fed and clothed.

A 400 bed Military hospital has been set up on the Island to which the Indian Red Cross has posted a Welfare Worker in addition to the team already described.

CHANGES IN RECRUITING ORGANISATION

Certain changes and reductions in the strength of the Defence Services Recruiting Staff have been announced by the Government of India. The Deputy Director of Recruiting, Central Area, Lucknow, has ceased to function and his area has come under the control of Deputy Director of Recruiting, Eastern Area, at Calcutta.

The present Ambala area has been abolished, and Delhi and Agra areas have been established. The Lansdowne recruiting area is to merge into the Lucknow area and the Ranchi into the Calcutta area. The special recruiting section for certain Punjab states will be combined with the Jullundur recruiting area.

On December 1, 1945, the separate technical recruiting staffs were closed down and their duties are being performed by recruiting officers. The special non-combatant recruiting organisation will be abolished shortly.

80,000 WOOLLEN GARMENTS SUPPLIED TO TROOPS

Indian Comforts Fund Report

Eighty-three thousand woollen garments ordered for Indian troops in A.L.F.S.E.A. by G.H.Q., India, were completed by the last week of July and all but 9,450 of them were despatched, says the report of the Viceroy's Indian Comforts Fund for the quarter ending July, 1945.

Seamen's bundles numbering 8,248 were issued during this period and expenses of entertainments to 4,081 Indian seamen were met from the Fund. Between 5,000 and 6,000 seamen were in and around Liverpool and Glasgow and the camp at Maghull has had as many as 1,000. Books and periodicals in various languages and games were sent to the camp as well as to other clubs and hostels. Special gift bags were issued to men in hospitals.

Returned P.O.W.'s

The needs of the Reception Unit for returned prisoners of war were supplied till the men were repatriated. An Indian woman supervised the special invalid diet kitchen at the Indian General Hospital with the assistance of two trained cooks from the Indian Pioneer Company. Materials for diversional therapy, hospital clothing, bedlinen, cigarettes, etc., were also supplied.

The tenth batch of 75 industrial trainees were supplied with comforts and entertained in London.

Visitors to the Indian Comforts Fund included H.E. Sir Claude and Lady Auchinleck, Field Marshal Sir Claude Jacob, Sir Ardeshir Dalal, the Marchioness of Wellingdon, Lady Brabourne, Lady Sinha, Sir Homi Mehta and Brig. Cariappa.

The balance in favour of the Fund at the end of July 1945 was £13,047, of which £8,122 was Indian Red Cross money for prisoners of war. A sur[illegible] was received during June from the Aircraft Production as the quota fro[illegible] the [illegible]roy's War Purposes Fund for the quarter ended March 31, 1945.

The Governor-General in Council has appointed Mr. A. A. Waugh, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., to be a temporary Member of the Executive Council during the absence from India of the Hon. Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, K.C.S.I., as India's delegate to the Preparatory Commission, and leader of the Indian delegation to the General Assembly, of the United Nations Organisation.

NEW GOVERNOR OF MAD



H. M. the King has been pleased to approve that Lieut.-General Sir Archibald Edward Nye, K.B.E., C.B., M.C., be appointed to be Governor of Madras in succession to H. E. Sir Arthur Hope, G.C.I.E., M.C., whose extended term of office expires on March 12 next.

Lieut.-Gen. Sir Archibald Edward Nye was born in Dublin and educated at the Duke of York's school, Dover. He volunteered for the Army at the outbreak of the first World War as a youth of 20 and after one year received his commission. While in the Army, he read for the bar and became a barrister of the Inner Temple. But he chose the Army as his profession and his abilities ensured his appointment to responsible posts. He was commanding the Nowshera Brigade at the outbreak of war and was brought to England to become Deputy Director and Director of Staff Duties. Since 1941 he has been Vice-Chief of the Imperial General Staff.

Tireless of both body and mind, Gen. Nye's quick brain and calmness in every crisis produced remarkable results during the last four victorious years of war while he held high office behind the public scenes. Gen. Nye is 50. His wife is the daughter of Gen. Sir Harry Knox.

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