

MADRAS INFORMATION



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The object of *Madras Information* is to give a brief record of the Madras Government's activities and to educate the public opinion on the Government's policies.

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MADRAS INFORMATION

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WE SEEK TO SERVE AND NOT TO COMPETE

October 5, 1946

NOTES AND COMMENTS

IN bringing out the first issue of *Madras Information*, we desire to emphasize a few preliminary considerations. *Madras Information* is intended to be primarily a record of the activities of the Government of Madras; it will provide to the reader from fortnight to fortnight a compendious account of the Government's work in the various departments. A Government deriving its existence from and responsible to a popularly elected legislature should find in the ceaseless promotion of public welfare not only its sole justification but its imperative duty. It can derive its strength solely from the unstinted and intelligent support that public opinion will accord to it. It must strive diligently to explain itself to the people and seek as urgently to induce public opinion to explain itself to it in turn. The daily press has been and is indeed helpful in giving publicity to most of the materials in the form of press notes, press communiques, Government Orders and so on, issued by and on behalf of the Government. But with restrictions and limitations imposed by newsprint shortages and with the numerous and irresistible demands on their space made by different items of news, the daily newspapers do not always find it possible to accord to Government viewpoints the quantum of publicity they require.

Madras Information will serve to fill the gap in these respects. An attempt will be made, besides, to educate public opinion on the various aspects of Government's policies, schemes and programmes, which is so essential under conditions in which Governmental activity tends towards an ever increasing expansion consequent on the assumption of office by a popular Govern-

ment; and administrative complexity tends to accentuate, with the accentuation of departmental activities. It is intended as part of this programme of educating public opinion to secure and publish articles written by experts and by other persons competent to write them on the diverse problems that are engaging Government's attention. A section of the magazine will be set apart as a public forum in which an effort will be made to answer enquiries and queries by members of the public seeking clarification of Governmental policies or enactments. *Madras Information*, therefore, is expected to serve a definite purpose and fill a vacuum in the Government's publicity scheme which recognisedly exists. We seek to serve and not to compete. We seek to present facts and explanations of facts and not to cloud issues. In our task we seek the help, assistance and co-operation of everyone willing to render it and hope that these will be accorded ungrudgingly and abundantly.

On the 1st of October, a great social experiment to which the present Government stood committed by its election pledges had been inaugurated, when simultaneously in eight districts prohibition had been ushered into being. On another page is published the text of the broadcast on the subject made by the Hon'ble Sri T. Prakasam, Prime Minister, which clearly, though briefly, expounds Government's standpoint *vis-a-vis* prohibition and which gives also a resume of some of the more important measures that are being taken to ensure the success of prohibition. The Madras Government can legitimately take credit for the fact that they have given a lead in this respect to the other provincial Governments. While in some pre-

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vinces prohibition schemes are still being considered. In Madras we are going rapidly ahead with the scheme. It required resolution of a particularly high order for the ministry to declare eight districts or nearly a third of the presidency dry at one stroke and to be prepared to sacrifice nearly Rs. 5 crores of revenue. But as the Premier pointed out, the social and economic advantages accruing from prohibition in the shape of a large number of persons being rescued from the tentacles of a powerful demon far outweigh the loss of revenue or the administrative difficulties implicit in the enforcement of the measure. No measure of social reform of this magnitude can either be introduced or executed with success without the willing, active and purposeful co-operation of the general public. Much less can it be made a success without that psychology for self-improvement being systematically induced among the people for whose benefit the reform is conceived. Government's scheme provides for attractions to enable the ex-addicts to forget their addiction to drink and also for other ameliorative measures calculated to promote the qualities of self-help and self-improvement among them. Prohibition is a reform which, as the debates in the Legislative Assembly disclosed, is capable of evoking and enlisting all-party support and if the enthusiasm so conspicuously evident in the Assembly debates is translated into a dynamic drive in favour of the measure by all parties, its success is doubly assured.

Another big scheme sponsored by the Government had also been inaugurated on October 2, namely, the Khadi Development and Village Reconstruction scheme. The Khadi scheme which has been described by Gandhiji as being designed "to clothe the entire province with it (Khadi) in time," is proposed to be tried on an intensive scale in eight firkas in the presidency in the first instance and will gradually be extended to the other firkas selected for intensive rural development activity, and ultimately it may gather such irresistible internal momentum that it will automatically be extended to other parts of the presidency too. Criticisms of the scheme from friendly and of course from unfriendly critics have been many and even persistent. But to all these critics the only answer that can be given at present is: Wait and see and do not prejudice. At the moment a powerful *raison de etre* that can be advanced in support of the scheme is that there is so much scarcity of cloth particularly in the

villages and so much evidence of the normal sources of cloth supply being pitifully inadequate to satisfy the requirements of the population that Khadi development has to be regarded as a god-send to relieve the scarcity felt. And since the Government, under the guidance of the Premier, is prone to proceed cautiously and under expert advice in this matter, the prospects of success of the scheme may be regarded as assured.

The Firka Development scheme is of more ambitious and comprehensive scope and is inspired by the motive of recapturing for the villages and the village communities in the country the ideal of self-sufficiency which once characterized their existence. Most of us who are acquainted with the dilapidated and disorganised village economy, village life and village public health of the present day and have also read accounts of the socially and commercially peaceful, and economically self-sufficient and self-supporting villages which once dotted the landscape of India and which used to be the pride of the country, can not only visualise the contrast between the two pictures but will also be impressed with the necessity for the kind of drive that is now contemplated. The scheme is a big one; it is equally unique also. If a great amount of determined and sustained and selfless work has to be accomplished to make the scheme a real success, great too will be the advantages in the shape of national and communal welfare that will flow from it. That it is proposed to enlist the aid of electrical power to implement the rural development scheme particularly in the starting and working of a number of cottage industries is an indication that our ancient ideal of village self-sufficiency is proposed to be broad-based on the solid foundation of a modern innovation like electricity.

Vigorous activity marked the recent visit of the Hon'ble Sri T. Prakasam, Prime Minister and the Hon'ble Sri Raghava Menon, Additional Minister for Food, to Delhi. That the Government of Madras is fighting a strenuous battle on the food front cannot be news to many people in the province. In the face of an overall shortage of rice and the imperativeness the Government of India reconciling conflicting demands from diverse sources, this battle has not been as encouraging so far as Madras is concerned as we would like it to be, indicating

the need for further and more intensive efforts to face the situation as best as we can. On the one hand the Government is trying to consolidate the internal stock position by a vigorous procurement drive. On the other hand by negotiations with the Government of India and with other provincial Governments, it is endeavouring to secure as much rice as possible for the province. Their whole anxiety now is to obviate a further reduction in the rice ration. And if the procurement operations, coupled as they are with the offer of an increased bonus, yield the anticipated stocks, as it is hoped they will, the two lean months ahead can be faced with confidence and strength. The Hon'ble Sri Raghava Menon pointed out in an interview soon after he returned to Madras from New Delhi that "the Government do not consider it immediately necessary to reduce the rice portion of the ration until all their efforts to increase procurement of paddy fail to produce the desired effect of bringing out the hoarded stocks still with the producer." This evaluation of the position has been supported by the statement of the Prime Minister that there will be no further reduction in ration.

As it is, Madras is expected to secure 5,000 tons of rice from the C. P. in exchange

for 5,000 tons of wheat allotted to her and as a result of the consultations between the Orissa Premier and the Hon'ble Sri V. V. Giri, Orissa is also expected to make available some quantities of rice. As a sequel to the Prime Minister's visit to Delhi, the Government of India and the Food Member, the Hon'ble Dr. Rajendra Prasad, have now got a fuller appreciation of the rice requirements of an essentially rice-eating province like Madras, and Dr. Rajendra Prasad's forthcoming visit to the South is presumably in pursuance of the programme of acquiring intimate knowledge of conditions here by personal inspection. While we may be assured of the sympathetic consideration of Madras' needs by the Centre, the situation indicates the indispensableness and imperativeness of provincial self-help in tiding over the ensuing difficult period. Everything depends on the readiness and the promptness with which producers yield up stocks to Government agents which are over and above their requirements at 12 ozs. per head per day and the extent to which the rice supplies available for consumption are replenished thereby. Now is the time when the spirit of patriotism and co-operative fellow-feeling of our population should assert themselves over individual or communal selfishness.

MINISTRY'S ACHIEVEMENTS

Speaking about the achievements of the Congress Ministry during its short term of office, Mr. Bashyam, in the course of declaring the Madan Zamin Ryots Conference, on September 25, said that it was an office at a time of great crisis in regard to food and cloth. Large amounts had been set apart in the Budget for subsidising food supplies and ceaseless efforts were being made to get supplies. Corruption was slowly but surely being brought under control and he was sure the result of the measures would be soon felt. The Budget had on it the impress of the Congress programme and large amounts had been set apart for Khadi and village reconstruction and Harijan uplift. They had undertaken to introduce Prohibition in eight districts. All these were more than what the other Congress Governments had done, such as Bombay and U.P., which were supposed to be much nearer the High Command. Indeed, it might be said, he declared, that Madras

was leading the other provinces in every respect.

In the matter of judicial reform, the Minister said, Government had undertaken the long-felt demand of the separation of the Judiciary from the Executive in right earnest and the scheme would be given effect to before the end of the year. (In the matter of tenancy reform, Government had just passed legislation for the protection of the ryots in Zamindari areas and in Malabar, special steps had been taken so that they might not be evicted from their holdings.) The continuation of controls over essential articles, the house-rent control and certain changes which had been introduced in the law relating to trade disputes were the special features of the last Assembly session. All these were intended for the benefit of both agricultural and industrial workers and the poorer middle class.

INCREASE IN SUGAR PRODUCTION Controller Reviews Prospects

On a conservative estimate, it should be possible to restore 5 per cent out of the thirteen per cent cut imposed on sugar consumption in the country in 1945-46, but in view of last year's experience this would not be before February or March, 1947, observed Mr. N. T. Mono, Sugar Controller for India, addressing a meeting of the Sugar Advisory Committee in New Delhi on Sept. 24.

Outlining the sugar prospects in the coming year, the Sugar Controller estimated the next season's production at about ten and a half lakh tons.

The country was faced with increasing deficits in foodgrains, said the Sugar Controller, and the first consideration of the Central, Provincial and States Governments would be to have an adequate supply of these. Sugar and gur though valuable food must come afterwards. In his view, there was no scope for an indiscriminate increase in cane area.

Some Press Notes of Madras Govt.

HYDROGENATION FACTORY AT KURNOOL

Issued on September 18, 1946.

The attention of the Government of Madras has been drawn to certain statements and comments in a section of the Madras Press about the location of a Hydrogenation Factory at Kurnool by Birla Brothers. In view of the misapprehension that these statements and comments are calculated to produce in the public mind, Government desire to publish the following facts which should clarify the position in that connection.

It is not a fact that this Government granted or recommended the grant of any licence to Birlas. As Birlas placed orders for two Vanaspathi plants in England before the Government of India introduced the scheme for the registration of imported capital goods in December 1944, they were entitled to import the machinery. Further under section 298 of the Government of India Act, 'no subject of His Majesty, domiciled in India shall on grounds only of religion, place of birth, descent, colour or any of them shall... be prohibited on any such grounds from acquiring, holding or disposing of property or carrying on any occupation, trade, business or profession in British India'. In view of the peremptory provisions of this section, Birlas cannot in fact be prevented from putting up their factory anywhere in British India. It must be further clearly understood that the allocation to Birlas does not cut into the Vanaspathi quota of 21,000 tons allotted to this Province by the Government of India.

THE SELECTED SEVEN

In May 1945, the Government of India stated that their immediate plan was to increase the all-India production of vegetable ghee to the extent of a lakh of tons a year and that in that scheme the quota reserved for Madras was 21,000 tons and applications were invited for implementing the plan. The Madras Government then selected seven firms or persons and recommended them to the Government of India. The names of the

companies which have been recommended for the purpose are:

1. The Vizagapatam Vegetable Oil Products Ltd.
2. The Madras Vanaspathi Ltd., Villupuram.
3. M/s. Sudarasan Oil Mills Ltd., Katpadi.
4. Bharat Vanaspathi Manufacturing Co., Tadepalli.
5. M. S. Karnatak Vegetable Oils & Refineries Ltd., Hospet, Bellary.
6. The Vegetols Ltd., Chittoor.
7. M/s. The East Asiatic Co., Madras.

The Government of India accepted this Government's recommendations and granted the necessary licences for the import of machinery and issue of capital. Subsequently the Government of India allotted a further quota of 9,000 tons under the immediate expansion scheme and that enabled three of the companies already selected to establish factories of 20 tons daily capacity instead of 10 tons. Under the immediate expansion scheme only one Company, i.e. M/s. The Karnatak Vegetable Oils & Refineries Ltd., Hospet, was granted an import licence by the Government of India to import the necessary machinery for Vanaspathi Factory.

APPLICATIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED

In 1944-45 the Ceded Districts produced about 6,75,000 tons of groundnuts or about a third of the total production of the Province. There were only 128 expellers, while at least 250 expellers are necessary for converting the entire produce of the Ceded Districts into oil and cake. Further the Karnatak Vegetable Oils & Refineries Ltd., can consume only a little over three thousand tons of oil per annum as against the total oil production of the Ceded Districts of about two lakhs of tons per annum. There is, therefore, vast scope for the expansion of the Vanaspathi as well as oil crushing industry in the Ceded Districts. This Government are willing to

consider sympathetically applications for the establishment of new Vanaspathi Factories in the Ceded Districts when further quota is allotted to the Province by the Government of India.

Birlas originally wanted to build a Vanaspathi factory in Guntur District. The Advisers Government after correspondence and personal discussion with Birlas' representatives suggested that instead of having their factory in Guntur District they may have it in Nandyal or Kurnool.

Subsequently this Government learnt that they were endeavouring to instal the plant in Sandur State. M. S. Karnatak Vegetable Oils & Refineries Ltd., Hospet, complained to this Government that the establishment of a large factory in the State would adversely affect their small factory in Hospet and that this Government should take steps to prevent Birlas from setting up their factory as contemplated.

At this stage the representatives of Birlas again discussed the matter with this Government, and the Government having considered all aspects of the matter came to the conclusion that the establishment by Birlas of a large Vanaspathi Factory in an Indian State within the Province would be against the interests of the Province for the following reasons:

1. That the Province has a very large exported surplus of groundnut kernels and groundnut oil;
2. That the capacity of Birla's factory is outside the quota allotted to this Province;
3. That by locating their factory in an Indian State, Birlas will, while using the groundnut oil of this Province, deprive its people of advantages which could have accrued to the Province by the establishment of a large-scale industry, such as employment of labour, better prices for the local groundnut grower, income from Sales Tax to the Province and Income-Tax to British India;
4. That the Karnatak Vegetable Oils & Refineries Ltd. have found it difficult to raise their capital inside the Ceded Districts; and

5. That by allowing the location inside the Province, Birlas can be persuaded to co-operate instead of competing with the other small factories proposed to be established in the Province.

LOCAL ENTERPRISE TO BE ENCOURAGED

Government are glad to be able to announce that subsequently Birlas have agreed to float a Joint Stock Company in which half the shares will be reserved for the people of this Province and that in respect of sales of Vanaspathi they will co-operate with the smaller units instead of competing with them. They have also agreed to limit their Managing Agency Commission for a large plant like theirs to 10 per cent of the net profits and an office allowance of Rs. 1,000 per mensem, which they will not draw until the factory commences production. They have further agreed to purchase groundnut oil from local millers.

The Government of Madras make it clear that their objective to encourage local enterprise and capital has not undergone any change and that preference will be given to local enterprise and capital at all times in the starting of new industries, regard being had to the interests of the Province.

BONUS TO PRIMARY PRODUCERS

Issued on September 19, 1946

Government have seen criticisms in the press of the recent announcement of bonus to the primary producers to induce them to reduce their rice requirements by recalculating them on the basis of 12 oz. per head per day. It has been suggested that Government's decision is calculated to encourage black-market activity, that Government cannot compete with black-market offers of recompense for paddy for export to Ceylon and that Government's decision would add additional fuel to the flames of inflation.

When Government decided on giving extra bonus to the produ-

cers of short term crop, they coupled it with an earnest appeal to the good sense of the producers in the hope that the latter would realise their responsibility in the present crisis and discharge it patriotically and for the common good.

So far as the danger of speculative blackmarketing in rice is concerned, Government are fully aware of the prevalence of the evil, not only in regard to rice but in regard to other commodities as well and their whole policy is directed towards taking every possible step to eradicate the evil, and those who practise it will not probably find it profitable to pursue a game, the consequences of which are likely to be extremely unpleasant. There is no intention in any case of bidding the blackmarketer out by offering these additional bonuses; the intention is only to ensure the procurement of the maximum possible quantities of rice and paddy by a voluntary sacrifice on the part of producers, so that while they will have four oz. less per head, everyone else can retain his or her present 8 oz. ration per head.

COMMUNAL LANDS

Issued on September 24, 1946

The Government have been receiving complaints to the effect that communal lands in estates are being freely assigned by landholders. Section 21 of the Madras Estate Land Act, 1908, empowers the Collector to evict summarily in the manner prescribed by the Madras Land Encroachment Act, 1905, any person occupying communal lands for purposes other than those for which they are set apart. The Government have instructed Collectors of districts to see that prompt action is taken under that section to evict occupants of communal lands. The Public are re-

quested to bring to the notice of the Collectors or Revenue Divisional Officers cases of assignment of communal lands in estates.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES FOR PROCUREMENT PURPOSES

Issued on September 26, 1946.

Representations have been received by the Government from various quarters to the effect that, on the strength of certain instructions issued by the Government previously, interested parties are attempting to elbow out Co-operative Stores and Societies in favour of private dealers in the field of procurement of food-grains. This is clearly against the Government's intentions. The policy of the Government is definitely to foster the co-operative spirit and encourage co-operative institutions in all fields of activities as far as possible.

Even if a village committee is formed, where there is a co-operative society or store in existence, it should be entrusted with the work of procurement and distribution of foodgrains as well as other controlled commodities. The village committee will only look after the administrative functions like the scrutiny of demand list, issue of ration cards, etc. As and when new stores are formed (in places where they did not exist before) procurement and distribution should be transferred to them. However, if the Collector finds in consultation with the co-operative department that particular co-operative societies are unsuitable for the task, he may in his discretion appoint procurement agents after consulting the village committee.

The same agency, whether it be co-operative stores and societies, or selected dealers, will be entrusted with the distribution of import quotas also, since different agencies, one for handling local procurement and one for import quotas, cause confusion and is uneconomic to either. These instructions will come into effect immediately.

Co-operative societies or stores include sale societies and such other co-operative organisations which are willing to undertake the work and get the bye-laws amended if necessary to enable them to do so.

PROHIBITION OBJECTIVES EXPLAINED

PREMIER'S BROADCAST

The objects of the prohibition scheme inaugurated by the Government of Madras in eight districts of the province on Oct. 1, 1946, were explained by Mr. T. Prakasam, Premier, broadcasting from the Madras Station of the All-India Radio on September 28.

The following is the text of the broadcast.

October 1, 1946, will be a red letter day in the history of the Madras Presidency. On that day will be inaugurated one of the most important and most significant social uplift schemes formulated by the present Madras Government—name-

MADRAS GOES AHEAD WITH KHADI SCHEME Premier Inaugurates it in Two Centres

The Madras Government's intensive khadi production scheme has been inaugurated in two centres, Errangondapalem and Guruvareddipalem by the Hon. Sri T. Prakasam. The first step has thus been taken in the Government's effort to promote village self-sufficiency as a preliminary to village prosperity.

ly—prohibition. Prohibition had been introduced by the last Congress Government in four districts of the Presidency—namely—Salem, Chittoor, Cuddapah and North Arcot, between Oct. 1937 and Oct. 1939. But the scheme had been scrapped with effect from Jan. 1, 1944, on the ground that excise offences had gone on increasing and as it was considered by the then Government that public enthusiasm which greeted the enactment of the Prohibition Act had waned.

The present Government, pledged as it is to the furtherance of the

Congress programme and to the promotion of the Congress ideology, reconsidered the matter immediately after they took office. They have, as a vital part of the programme of social and economic uplift and amelioration of the population, decided to reintroduce prohibition, not only in the four districts in which it was in force between 1937 and 1939, but in four more districts also—namely—Coimbatore, Kurnool, Ahantapur and Bellary. The financial implications of prohibition, the administrative difficulties involved in enforcing it, may all be there; we will be giving up a revenue of more than Rs. 5 crores a year by the extension of prohibition to eight districts. Nevertheless we are determined to proceed with the scheme, because we feel that the financial loss or administrative difficulties with which we are faced are as nothing when compared with the large-scale social and economic benefits that emancipation from the drink evil is bound to confer on the people, particularly the poorer sections thereof. It is an experiment in social reform of far-reaching implications, which we have decided must be undertaken on its own incontestable merits.

The Prohibition Act, in accordance with the provisions of which this scheme is going to be launched now, provides not only for the enforcement of prohibition of intoxicating drinks and drugs by the usual official agency, but also for active, purposeful non-official co-operation. The prohibition staff will of course be there to perform an essential and important duty. But an equally or more important duty will have to be performed by the non-officials and the general public. Successful enforcement of prohibition demands the complete eradication of the practice of illicit distillation and illicit sale of intoxicating liquor. Complete eradication of the evil demands, in its turn, the co-operation of all sections of the

people, rich and poor, zamindars and tenants, those who had never tasted drink and those who may be classified as ex-addicts. Government have instructed Collectors and local officials to form non-official prohibition committees and I would emphasize and impress on everyone of the officials the fact that it is as much their duty to seek and enlist public co-operation as it will be the duty of every member of the public to give it wholeheartedly and ungrudgingly. I earnestly hope that such co-operation will be forthcoming in an abundant measure. The Act provides for penalties for offences like illicit distillation and sale of liquor, possession of intoxicating

EIGHT DISTRICTS IN MADRAS GO DRY Prohibition Inaugurated on October 1.

On October 1, 8 districts in the Madras Presidency have gone "dry". From reports received by the "Madras Information," the inauguration of prohibition had been hailed with delight and enthusiasm everywhere. (For full details see next issue.)

drinks and so on, but, as you all know, penal provisions are meant to be negative deterrents to evil-doers, not positive aid to people intent on self-reform. By their helpful and exemplary conduct, therefore, everyone can help in rendering those penal provisions superfluous.

The Government realise that the enforcement of prohibition will entail loss of occupation to a good number of people who had been making a living by toddy-tapping and sale of arrack and toddy and allied intoxicants. It is their earn-

est desire and intention to find alternative means of employment for these people which will enable them to make an honest and industrious living. Government have sanctioned a number of schemes for employing these people in various beneficial activities like road-construction, manufacture of sweet toddy and jaggery and other cottage industries.

It has been decided that prohibition of alcoholic liquors should be accompanied by some positive measures to enable the ex-addicts to improve themselves economically and to invest their savings on drink in providing for themselves better houses, better farming and better living generally. There is also provision for the entertainment of the people in the prohibition districts, to relieve the tedium of the evening hours. It will be for them to derive the fullest advantage from these various measures intended to ameliorate their condition, to improve their lot and to afford them amusement and instruction. I trust that the officials entrusted with the ameliorative side of prohibition work will devote themselves to the service of the people in the right and proper spirit, with a full realisation of the missionary duty they are called on to perform. It is on their successfully and sincerely performing it that the well-being and betterment of a few millions of people, men, women and children so largely depend. In service to humanity they should seek their reward.

It is the first and primary intention of the present Government to serve the masses and to improve their conditions in every possible way. Saving the people from the tentacles of the evil of drink, which has been holding them in the deadly grip for generations and which has been the cause of the ruin of innumerable homes and the destruction of the domestic peace and happiness of innumerable families, is one of the most important methods by which the objective mentioned can be attained.

The introduction of prohibition in eight districts, as is well-known, is only an initial step. We are determined to go ahead with the scheme and to extend it to the whole presidency in the course of the next three years.

When that has been done and the drink demon has been effectively destroyed throughout the province, we will have accomplished the big-



Boiling Sweet Toddy for Jaggery

gest and most important social reform that any Government has achieved anywhere. We will then have the satisfaction of having introduced light into thousands of homes where darkness prevailed before; we will have the satisfaction of having spread joy into thousands of families where destitution and poverty reigned supreme before. But the success of the scheme. I once again repeat, depends on the capacity for self-help and the desire for self-improvement of the people themselves. All moral reform in this world has to proceed from within and can only be aided and encouraged by pressure of external

influence. While the Government and Government officials entrusted with the enforcement and ameliorative sides of prohibition will help and assist in every possible way the people must assist themselves and influential non-official gentlemen, members of the Congress Committees, members of the Prohibition Committees and everyone else, individually and collectively, must act as agents in making the great cause a success. May God help us in this great humanitarian task and give us courage, resourcefulness and strength to fight and kill the demon of drink.

PROHIBITION CRITICS ANSWERED

A LEAF FROM THE PAST

"The sign of a tavern shall be imposed with a red-hot iron on the head of the man who drinks spirituous liquor....."

"Excluded from all fellowship at meals, excluded from all sacrifices, excluded from instruction and matrimonial alliances and from all religious duties, let the offenders wander on the earth."—(Manu—IX—238).

Now that the prohibition experiment is under way in eight districts in this province, it may be worth-

while to recall how far it has been able to produce valuable results in the past when it was enforced in

some districts in this province. Salem has been singled out for treatment here, because it typifies many of the features of a wet area and the results achieved there can fairly be taken to be possible in other prohibition districts too.

According to statistics collected round about the first prohibition period, there were seven lakhs of drink addicts, out of a total population of twenty-four lakhs, and of these seven lakhs, five lakhs were toddy addicts. Roughly there was one shop for 2,221 persons and in terms of villages, every alternate village had a toddy or a drug shop. On an average more than thirty-five per cent of the total family expenses went for liquor and forty per cent of the families ran into debt on account of intemperance.

Thus Salem was a typical field for prohibition experiment. The experiment however had a mixed reception. Some doubted its feasibility, others questioned its propriety, while the public at large found themselves suddenly confronted with what appeared to them a revolutionary experiment. All the same, the results achieved were truly remarkable.

A HAPPY VILLAGE

Here is a scene from Salem as eye-witnesses saw it eight years ago when Prohibition was first introduced in that district by the Congress Ministry.

"A cottage covered with dry leaves and enclosed with mud walls. A group of villagers gathered around a flickering lamp and squatting opposite a picture of Mahatma Gandhi begin a programme of Bhajana with a song in praise of prohibition.

"These villagers acknowledge the benefits they have received from this reform. A slice of their in-

come, which had been formerly spent on drink, is now being utilised for better expenditure.

"The labourer returns home early at night, the evening programme of insobriety having been removed from the daily routine. He brings his wages home in full; the housewife is able to provide him with better food than she was able to formerly; the children are clothed well. The family has a hearty meal; the elders meet at the village common place in a bhajana party. This has a moral effect on the village. The whole village knows that this change has been wrought by prohibition.

"People are living better lives than before, and some of them have

invested their savings from prohibition in purchasing sheep or goats, setting up poultry and similar supplementary sources of income. On the whole, the tone of village life has improved..... The family which had suffered formerly for the indiscretion and helplessness of its principal breadwinner, is now happy. For when he was a moral wreck the family could not receive from him the right guidance; nor could the children be brought up in the right ways of life. The divinity in man was lost and the possibilities of man rising to his full stature were too few. Now that the wastage has been arrested, the economic condition of the family has improved. The re-

form has effected a valuable change in the psychology of man—when he realises the benefits of the reform in his everyday life and in the improvement of his family, he repents his folly.....

"This scene of healthy social life is a common feature of the village in the Salem district and of slums and other residential areas of the poor and the backward....."

This extract taken from the book entitled "Towards Dry India" by "Atreya," should set at rest the misgivings expressed by the doubting Thomases who are sceptical about the benefits of prohibition. Prohibition will be a success: it has been a success in Bhavanagar; it has been a success in Salem. There is no reason why it should not be a success in other districts as well. Read what the then District Collector of Salem (Mr. A. F. W. DIXON, I.C.S.) had to say in his report on the working of prohibition: "I am convinced," says he, "after three months' experience, that prohibition is proving a great boon to the poorer classes." He continues to point out that 90 per cent of the persons formerly addicted to drink have become teetotallers in the fullest sense of the word. Only a small percentage of them, especially those on the frontiers of the prohibition district, were trying to evade the law. Minor crimes came down in Salem to about 50 per cent of the pre-prohibition days. More than 30 per cent of the families recorded a rise in the standard of living, while 20 to 25 per cent were able to clear off their former debts.

VERDICT OF SCIENCE

People there are who still argue that alcohol, after all, is not so deleterious to health as is often made out by the temperance enthusiasts. But listen to the story that Arthur Mee relates in his 'Golden Year.'

"It was in the Pasteur Institute that Science became a teetotaller, for it was here that Metchinkoff made his immortal discovery of what alcohol really does.

"It is worth while to tell the story once again, lest we forget. Through our bodies a river of blood flows ceaselessly through thousands of miles of living walls, and in this river swim more living cells than there are people on the earth. There are red cells and white cells. Each time we breathe our lungs receive a fresh supply of oxygen, the source of life, and it is the business of the red cells to call at the lungs for



They Sing in Praise of Prohibition.



These Copper And Brass Vessels Were Bought Out of Savings From Prohibition



A Coconut Tope Tapped Formerly for Toddy And Now for Jaggery.

oxygen to be distributed throughout our system. Every red cell in our body pays 20,000 visits to our lungs, and makes 20,000 journeys throughout our system, in the course of its short life. At the end of a fortnight it lays down its life and another red cell takes up its work.

"The thing that was proved in the Pasteur Institute is that alcohol makes it hard for the red cell to carry out its work, so that the body is ill and white cells come into play. They are the great defenders of our body, our army and navy, ever watchful for invaders, and never pausing till they have fought them back or perished. So it is that, when illness comes, the white guardians of our life are most needed to drive off evil microbes, but the alcohol that cripples the red cell cripples the white cell too, and paralyses these defenders of our body, so that we are helpless against attack.

"Again and again the great ocean of knowledge has swept onward in these famous rooms of Pasteur—here it was that men first learned the parts that microbes play in industry and disease; but no more precious discovery has ever been made in Paris than this. For we know now, once for all, that our bodies are battlefields in which are living cells for ever fighting microbes, and the indictment on which

science has sentenced alcohol to death is that it hinders the red cells in distributing life and hinders the white cells in resisting death."

MORE MEDICAL EVIDENCE

The International Conference on Alcoholism held at London in 1909



Prohibition Enabled These Harijans to Displace a Thatched Mud Hut

and attended by scientists and experts in medicine declared as follows:—

"Exact, laboratory, clinical and pathological research has demonstrated that alcohol is a dehydrating protoplasmic poison and its use as a beverage is destructive and degenerating to the human organism. Its effects on the cells and the tissues of the body are depressive and anaesthetic. Therefore therapeutically its use should be limited and restricted in the same way as the use of other poisonous drugs."

And pray, what more is prohibition?

SCEPTICS TO REMEMBER

Everytime the critics of prohibition trot out the stock argument that total prohibition has been tried in many western countries but has failed. Therefore it will fail in India, too.

But the critics fail to realise that India is not America or any other western country. The following points of difference are worth remembering.

(a) There is no traditional taboo on drinks in the West. Even women use it and they are not considered any the worse for it. Drinking is a fashion there, almost a social virtue. But in India, for thousands

of years, the drinking of liquors has been condemned. The Rig Veda condemns it: the Sruthis and Smritis condemn it. Manu calls it the personification of sin. Not only has it been condemned, but society has accepted this condemnation and has tabooed drink completely. Ever since 1894, when Mr. Alfred Webb raised the issue for the first time in his Presidential Address, prohibition has been one of the most important planks in the Congress programme. Gandhiji made prohibition a burning issue before the public and mobilised public opinion in every corner of India in favour of prohibition. Today, therefore, public opinion is strongly and solidly behind prohibition in India in a manner in which it has never been in the West.

(b) The club and social life in America and other western countries is most encouraging to the contracting and perpetuating of the drink habit. But the attachment of the ordinary Indian to his family

and to home life and the comparative absence of club life down here is a potent weapon against liquor, once the addict can be saved from the clutches of the frothing demon and time is given to him to strengthen his will-power.

(c) In America, when you think of imposing prohibition, you think of imposing abstinence on almost the whole nation, since the number that drinks runs into several crores. But in India, it is not millions that drink but only individuals, just a small fraction of the total population.

(d) One reason why prohibition failed in America is the fact that the fabulously rich and powerful liquor interests (brewers and distillers) were able to launch a powerful, organised campaign against prohibition. But in India these liquor interests are not so powerful and public opinion will not countenance any campaign against prohibition.

AN APPEAL

So it would seem that all that is required for the success of prohibition in this province is the wholehearted co-operation of the people. People should not take it for granted that prohibition will succeed, but should organise vigorously for its success. Otherwise we will be committing the same folly that American prohibitionists committed. They thought that everything would be alright once the Prohibition Act was put on the Statute Book. Once that was done they relaxed and the enemies nefariously killed the Prohibition Act. Those who have belief in prohibition must ever be on the alert.

The Government have faith in the people of this province, and with the peoples' co-operation the Government are confident that the policy of prohibition will be a success.

INVESTIGATION INTO LAND TENURE SYSTEMS

Government Invite Public Opinion.

In order to find out the existing conditions of tenants particularly with reference to fairness of rent, duration of lease and security of tenure, the Government have decided to conduct an enquiry into the present system of land tenure in the ryotwari areas of this Province. With this purpose in view, they have prepared a questionnaire for non-officials and Associations. The following are the important points:—

(1) *Nature and conditions of the tenancy.* Full information is invited on agreement between Pattadar and tenant, special conditions in the lease, interest of the landlord in the cultivation, vacant lands, and, disputes between landlord and tenant (if any).

Rent. Fair or otherwise, tenants' margin of profit, regularity or otherwise of rent, interest charged for the arrears, remission for failure of crops, if no remission is granted, how does he pay the rent,

any debts to pay rent, and any suits filed in civil courts for recovery of rent.

Fixing of Fair Rent. Is the fair rent to be fixed on existing land assessment or produce of the land?

Tenure of the Tenancy. Period of tenancy in general. Is eviction of tenants frequent? What are the reasons? Is it desirable to secure fixity of tenure by legislation?

General Condition of the Cultivating Tenant. Are not the tenants cultivating sufficient extent of lands to secure them a living? Are they generally in debts? On what account? Is there any difficulty in getting tenants? What are the reasons?

Cost of Cultivation. Information and data are requested on costs of cultivations and gross outputs of important crops, preparations of soil, cost of ploughing, seeds, manures and labour on different operations.

Agricultural Wages and Employment. What are the customary rates of wages in money and in kind? Days and hours of employment available for the Pattadar, the tenant and the labourers.

Prevention of Fragmentation of Holdings. With a view to prevent excessive fragmentation of holdings, which reduces the productivity of lands, would you prefer legislation to change the law of inheritance and succession and or limitation of unrestricted right to transfer by compelling right of pre-emption to co-sharers on equitable principles and or compulsory consolidation and redistribution of holdings.

General. Particulars about the selling prices of land are invited. How far is the transfer of land common? What is the number of such transfer for a few years? What are the common causes of transfer?

FOOD FRONT :

"A LITTLE SACRIFICE BY EACH FOR ALL"

THE WAY TO MEET FOOD CRISIS

Dr. RAJENDRA PRASAD'S BROADCAST

Broadcasting from Delhi on September 23, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the Food Minister, Govt. of India said that though the overall picture of the food position was gloomy, it was not altogether dark. The critical period is short, and the current crop promises to be normal. If only the people all over India make a pull, a strong and determined pull, we can successfully pass the crisis.

In the course of the broadcast Dr. Prasad paid a handsome tribute to the Madras Ministry on the way in which they have dealt with the food problem. The following is the full text of the broadcast:—

"I took over charge of the Food portfolio only three weeks ago. I, therefore, hope that my listeners will not be very critical if I do not give them the details of the present food problem and food administration in the country. The broad facts of the situation are, however, well known. Even before the war, India, to meet her requirements, imported over a million tons, sometimes two million tons, of foodstuff, principally rice, mainly from Burma. India this year has had the misfortune of a major failure of both the kharif and rabi crops due to drought, causing an estimated loss of rice and millets in Southern and Central India, of three million tons and of rabi crops in Northern India, of four million tons—a misfortune which the country experiences only once or twice in half a century.

THREE WAYS OF MEETING CRISIS

"There were only three ways of facing up this calamity. The first was to increase production of crops, which could be grown between the major harvests; the second was to secure assistance from abroad; and the third was to distribute the incidence of shortage as evenly and equitably as possible.

"As regards the increase of production to aid which is the function of the Department of Agricul-

ture, it will suffice to say for the present that encouragement was given both by the Central and Provincial Governments to grow short-term crops; subsidies were granted to cultivators and concessions were given in the form of revenue remission, water supply and free manure. It was, however, not expected that these subsidiary crops could really break the edge of the scarcity except to a very limited extent in local areas.

In our efforts to secure adequate imports of grain from abroad we have had a series of disappointments. That was inevitable in a world desperately short of food. At the time of the visit of the Indian Delegation to Washington, the world's wheat demands were twenty million tons against supplies of twelve million tons, and the demands for rice for the second quarter only were two million tons, against supplies of 23,000 tons. It has, therefore, never been possible for India to get a quota from abroad sufficient to meet her demands; nor has it been possible for her to get firm allocations of wheat or wheat substitutes such as maize. The International Emergency Food Council has had to proceed month by month programming such supplies as became available.

"Of rice we were allocated for the second quarter of the year 146,000 tons, against a demand for 500,000 tons and for the second

half of the year the allocation was 270,000 tons against a demand for 700,000 tons. Against the minimum import demand of 40 lakhs of tons, India has till now received only 12½ lakhs of tons, of which only 173,000 tons were in rice.

TASK OF ALLOCATION

"Since April last, the Food Department has been hard put to it to make monthly allocations of the resources available within India and from overseas to the deficit Provinces and States, so that at the end of a month each has a reserve of about six weeks' requirements. That a wholesale breakdown has so far been avoided has been due largely to the efforts made by the people and by the Provincial and State Governments to secure their own internal surplus and to economise their internal consumption. I must pay here my personal tribute to the Governments of U. P., Madras and Bombay. Within the short time that the new Ministries have been in office they have shown what popular Governments can do to mobilise public opinion and enlist public co-operation in dealing with such a difficult situation. The position on September 1 was that the over-all stocks held by the deficit Provinces and States represented about six weeks' reserve. The position, has deteriorated since then.

"A major development has been the seamen's strike in U. S. A.

Even if the news of the end of the strike is true, already we have lost many days, which in terms of tonnage means a short-fall in the October arrivals of nearly 100,000 tons, if not more. We had been hoping on large imports of maize and other grains from Argentine and to expedite matters, we had sent out a Mission headed by Dewan Chamanlal. In spite of the efforts made by the Mission, export licences have not been made available yet for all our purchases and the short-fall in arrivals against our previous calculations in October will be no less than 60,000 tons. The diversion of three ships by UNRRA carrying about 24,000 tons of wheat, which was announced a few days ago would have been a great help to us, if they arrived in time, but the seamen's strike will affect the loading of these ships also. Again supplies of rice from Brazil have been delayed. The supply position in the Far East has also deteriorated. We had been allotted 207,500 tons by the International Emergency Food Council from Burma and Siam for the second half of this year. We now estimate that we are not likely to get more than 137,000 tons out of this allocation, which will thus result in a short-fall of 70,000 tons. The short-fall from Siam is due largely to internal difficulties and lack of sufficient facilities of transport, some of which we have tried to meet.

SUPPLIES FROM EAST

"On the day that I took over office, I had the opportunity of impressing upon the Siamese Delegation, who had come to sign an agreement for a loan from India of five crores of rupees, the serious situation in this country and the absolute necessity of Siam speeding up her exports to the utmost. The prospects from Burma are a little better than estimated a few months ago but as the supplies from Siam, Burma and Indo-China are treated as a pool by the International Emergency Food Council, the excess supply from Burma will not all come to us. There has been one source to which we have been looking, and that is the offer of the Indonesian Republic to give us five lakhs tons of rice or seven lakhs tons of paddy. The formal agreement with the Indonesian Republic and the Netherlands East Indies Government was concluded last month. The main problem there has been to move the rice from the interior to rail heads and to the ports. For

this coal and motor trucks are required. India could supply these. But some difficulties have arisen and we are not able to take full advantage of the generous offer and our supplies from that source so far have been inconsiderable and may not be very appreciable in the critical months ahead.

"With the failure of crops in our country, short allocations from abroad, a heavy short-fall in the arrival of these allocations, difficulties of transport in Siam and Java, and non-materialisation of expected imports from Argentine, we are faced with a grave situation within the next two or three months. This can be met only to a limited extent by imports from outside. While we are grateful to the countries which have helped us so far and must continue to appeal to them and to hope for the best they can do for us, we must realise that we have to depend mainly on ourselves to prevent a breakdown and this we can do and must do. Let us grow whatever we can and wherever we can, and there are many vegetables, roots, tubers and fruits apart from grains, which can be raised in a short time.

ADVICE TO RICE-EATERS

"It requires only a little attention, fore-thought and labour to grow them and we know that our Kisans are resourceful. There are areas which are better off than others, and they must offer whatever they can to those in trouble. The country as a whole must be prepared to make sacrifices. The difficulty is mostly in the rice-eating areas. I must ask the areas which can manage to do without rice, even though it be at some inconvenience and discomfort, to confine themselves to wheat and its substitutes and to spare as much rice as they can. I must ask the rice-eating areas to accept and adapt themselves to wheat and its substitutes and reduce their consumption of rice. If they take to unpolished rice, which is undoubtedly more nourishing and which can therefore be taken in a small quantity without detriment to health, the deficit in the supply of rice can be met to some extent. Wheat and maize may be ground and converted into flour, of which bread can be baked or which can be boiled and made into balls. They may be also broken and cooked like rice. Maize and barley and gram can be baked

with hot sand and easily ground into flour and eaten with salt or jaggery without any further cooking, as is done in Bihar. It may become necessary, and our people must be prepared for a further reduction in the ration cereals, particularly of rice.

NEED TO SHARE STOCKS WITH OTHERS

"Above all we must each and all be prepared to share whatever we have with others. Each one of us must examine his little store and spare what he can out of it even at inconvenience to himself. Those who have any large stock, either as producers or as traders, must realise the seriousness of the situation and produce it for being pooled for the common good. They need have no fears, as they will get a fair price for it which is not likely to be permitted to rise any further. On the other hand, there will be real risk in stocking when others are starving.

"The overall picture, although gloomy, is not altogether dark. The critical period is short. Although floods in some parts and short rainfall in others—which were inevitable in a big country like India—have caused some damage, nature on the whole has been kind during the current season and we are expecting a normal crop. Some of the minor rainy season crops like the *Aus* rice of Bengal and adjoining provinces and maize in Bihar and other provinces are already harvested or in the process of being harvested. They can and will relieve the pressure to some extent in the areas concerned. The principal millet and rice crops will be available by the end of the year if not before. Our people have a knack of facing up the calamities, which may well break others. We need all the skill and determination we can muster to produce more and save what little we can, remembering that every little addition to the common pool is going to make a difference to the man in difficulty. We need to show in a practical way fellow-feeling and sympathy for those of our countrymen who are in distress. We all have to make a pull, a strong and determined pull, and we shall have passed the crisis. We refuse to be defeated. Courage, discipline, fellow-feeling and a little sacrifice by each for all and by all for each cannot fail to see us through."

"CALCULATE YOUR REQUIREMENTS AT 12 OZS. PER DAY"

DELIVER BALANCE TO GOVERNMENT

—:O:—

Premier's Appeal to Producers

As the public are aware the Government reduced with effect from 4-8-1946 the rice portion of the ration to 8 oz. per adult per day for insufficient and non-producing rice eaters with great reluctance, as the prospect of getting imported rice in sufficient quantities to maintain the 10 ozs. rice ration was uncertain. It was my avowed intention at that time to restore the rice ration to 10 oz. as soon as circumstances permitted; but the information since received shows that the prospects of imports of rice are not favourable and it is now considered extremely unlikely that outside help to the extent required will be forthcoming and in time even to maintain the 8 oz. ration. It has therefore become even more necessary than before to conserve the stocks as long as possible and make them last until the crop from the next main harvests become available in January.

It has been suggested that the rice portion of the ration should be cut still further to 6 oz. for non-producing rice eaters, but I am reluctant to take this step unless and until all other methods available have been tried and exhausted and our local resources have been fully mobilised. A proposal to purchase from America 75 lakhs of rice dinner packets as an emergency reserve at a cost of Rs. 24 lakhs was considered. Calculations showed that the rice content in these packets was worth only

about Rs. 2 lakhs and it was decided not to pursue the proposal of purchasing them on Government account as Rs. 24 lakhs was considered to be too heavy a price to pay for so little rice even to tide over the emergency. It seems to me much better that money should be spent for the benefit of our own producers rather than to purchase stocks from outside the province at exorbitant rates.

All producers have now been allowed to retain the paddy required for their family consumption calculated at the rate of 1 lb. of rice per adult per day. If the rice portion of the ration is reduced to 6 oz. for persons who have to purchase their rations there will be great disparity between the quantity which the producers are allowed to have and the rice ration which is available to their neighbours. I feel sure that the producers themselves will be quite unhappy at the privation and suffering that will follow the reduction of the rice ration to cardholders to 6 ozs.

FURTHER SACRIFICE REQUIRED

I therefore appeal to the producers of our province to reduce their consumption of rice by recalculating their requirements for the rest of the year at 12 oz. of rice per adult per day. I appeal to them to reduce it still further if possible and to sell all the rice

or paddy that they can spare to the agents of the Government. The response of the producers to the appeals made by me in the past to release the stocks have so far been magnificent but a further sacrifice is required of them now.

RACE AGAINST TIME

As time is of the essence of the matter I request producers to make their stocks available immediately. In recognition of the sacrifice that this involves I have authorised the payment upto 31-10-1946 of a bonus of Rs. 2 per imperial maund of paddy and of Rs. 3 per maund of rice over and above the price fixed for purchase from producers, inclusive of the bonus already announced of Re. 1 per imperial maund of short term paddy delivered in September and October and up to the middle of November.

I assure the producers that this sacrifice will be appreciated and that no action will be taken against them for stocks now sold even though they be in excess of what they were entitled to hold.

The season promises to be favourable and there is no need for the producers to be apprehensive about the future. If they make this great sacrifice now we should be able to pull through these difficult months and may reasonably look forward to raising the rice ration as soon as the main harvests come on to the market.

COMPARATIVE NUTRITIVE VALUES OF RICE, MAIZE, BARLEY AND WHEAT

All natural foodstuffs contain what are known as certain food factors. These are proteins, fats, carbohydrates, salts, vitamins and water. These food factors are present in varying proportions in different foodstuffs. Now let us compare rice with maize, barley and wheat.

PROTEINS:

Rice contains on an average about 7.5% proteins while maize contains 11.1%, barley 11.5% and wheat 12.1%. Protein supplies building material to the body and makes good the loss of tissue which occurs during every moment of our existence. Protein is also a source of energy. As compared with foodstuffs like maize and barley which are usually uncommon in this Presidency you would see that rice is a poorer source of protein. If it becomes necessary to substitute rice partially by maize or barley it must not be forgotten that only more nutritious food stuffs are replacing rice partially or wholly.

Fats.—Rice 0.6%; Maize 3.6%; Barley 1.3% Wheat 1.5%.

Fats are utilised by the body in a number of ways and are good sources of energy. Weight for weight, rice contains about half the fat content of barley, one-sixth of maize and about 2/5 wheat. Thus even as regards fat content, maize, barley and wheat are not inferior to rice and are definitely richer food stuffs.

As regards carbohydrate and calorie content of these four grains, there is no appreciable or significant difference between them. For instance the calorie value of one ounce of rice is 99, while that of maize is 97, that of

barley 95; whole wheat yields 98 calories.

The important salts are distributed in the different grains as given below.

	Calcium	Phosphorous
Rice	0.01	0.17
Maize	0.01	0.33
Barley	0.03	0.23
Wheat	0.05	0.32

Thus maize, barley and wheat are not inferior to rice in their content of some of the most important mineral elements.

	Thiamin in micrograms. per 100 grms. of edible matter	
Rice (whole)	240	300/-
Maize (dry)	200	300/-
Barley (whole)	400	300/-
Wheat (whole)	500	600/-

	Riboflavine in micrograms. per gm.	Nicotinic Acid in micrograms. per gram.
Rice (whole)	0.6	2.78
Maize (dry)	0.6	1.07
Barley (whole)	figures not available	
Wheat (whole)	0.8	5.33

Thus it will be seen that maize is not inferior to rice in thiamine or riboflavine contents while is inferior to others in nicotinic acid content. Deficiency of nicotinic acid in the dietary is likely to cause pellagra. Sherman says in his book on Chemistry of food and nutrition that "Nicotinic acid alone does not enable the typical pellagrins to become a healthy person for the food supplies which have been and are still responsible for the illness of most pellagrins are certainly often deficient in other things as well as nicotinic acid". The typical diet of the poor pellagrins contains so little of anything else than milled cereals, sweets and fats or fat meat that it is all too

apt to induce other nutritional deficiencies at the same time with that of nicotinic acid." No one in this province is likely to be forced to subsist on maize alone, as maize alone will not be the only cereal ration available to the public. If maize and wheat or maize and rice are given in equal proportions or the proportion of maize is less than half there is no fear of pellagra occurring anywhere.

Even if enough rice were available for consumption, it is not desirable that the cereal ration should be in the form of rice alone. It is preferable that two or three cereals are consumed, not necessarily at the same meal but at different meals though the main cereal might be the cereal to which one is ordinarily accustomed. If the dietary of a population consists of more than one cereal, such a dietary is likely to give more nutrition to the consumers than any single cereal. Every cereal has some defects or other and a mixture of cereals will make up the defects of individual cereals and contribute to the making of a better diet. The introduction of maize, barley and wheat into the dietaries of the people of the Madras Presidency cannot be considered, from a nutritional point of view, as likely to affect the health of the population adversely, but on the other hand would improve the health of the people. Customs die hard, but our people do adapt themselves to new conditions and will try to derive the maximum benefit by any likely changes in the composition of their cereal ration. If only they are made fully aware of the advantages resulting from such changes.

(By The Nutrition Officer,
Food Dept., Govt. of Madras.)

COTTAGE INDUSTRIES TO BE REHABILITATED

NEW DRIVE TO REVIVE DROOPING VILLAGES

The heart of India lies in its villages. This is true of Madras, too. But this heart is today feeble and inarticulate; its beat is almost imperceptible.

Much of the countryside is merely a rural slum, where life is stagnant and the air heavy with languor and apathy. For generations the villagers have been languishing in utter poverty, ignorance and superstition, weighed down but rarely cared for by a top-heavy, centralised administration which by its very nature permitted little scope for local initiative. The sudden impact of western mass-production system has shattered the village economy and the villagers have been cut away from their ancient moorings hoary with the glorious traditions stretching back to thousands of years.

Today this huge, amorphous mass we call the rural folk, enormous by the sheer weight of their numbers—they come to over 40 millions, out of a total population of 50 millions in this province and they live scattered in over 35,000 villages—form a dark and ominous cloud looming large on the horizon of our polity and economy, apparently indifferent to the red pageant of the Country's history, but in reality holding out a challenge to the popular Governments all over the land—a challenge the Governments dare not ignore.

The Government of Madras have taken up the challenge and intend removing the threat—the threat of half-starving, withering millions. The Government are convinced that if ever we are to be a full-blooded people, these drooping villages must be revived: Villages or groups of villages must be put back on the map as more or less independent units, self-sufficient and self-directing.

This is the idea behind the Government's sweeping plan for rural reconstruction. The plan for the

time being envisages the creation of 25 self-sufficient firkas, one in each of the 24 mofussil districts except Vizagapatam which because of its big size will provide two. When the plan will have been completed, it is expected, these firkas will be self-sufficient in all the normal needs of the villager. The creation of pockets of self-sufficient firkas in the various districts is only the first step; they are the spearhead, as it were, of the new movement which has for its final goal village republics of the type which flourished in India till some decades back.

Cottage industries or village industries are but one item in the comprehensive plan for rural uplift. It is true that this is not the first time that the Madras Government have directed their attention towards resuscitating the village industries. But what few steps have been taken to improve cottage industries have not proved particularly fruitful since, in the words of Mr. Prakasam, "no attempt was made to relate the plans for the rehabilitation of cottage industries to a pre-determined objective. Failure was inevitable when the whole approach to the question was fundamentally wrong".

The present Government take their stand on the principle that as far as possible each village or group of villages should be made into a more or less balanced and complete economic unit. It follows that the village industries and the craftsmen engaged in these industries are regarded as an integral part of the village community.

One of the essential needs of the villages at all times, and more particularly today, is cloth. A scheme for the production of Khadi in selected firkas has already been formulated by the Government. (See the article on Khadi scheme) Similar blue prints are not ready yet for other cottage industries. It will take some time to draw up

a complete scheme for these other industries as conditions vary from village to village and what is suitable for one village may not be suitable for another.

However, a rapid survey of the present condition of cottage industries has just been completed in the 25 firkas selected for reconstruction work. A study of the data collected shows that there are as many 84 cottage industries in these firkas. These cottage industries are not developed on any uniform basis in the different areas. In a few firkas some of the cottage industries are conspicuous by their absence; in others they occupy an important place in the rural economy of the particular area.

On the basis of the information collected so far, six industries have been chosen, to begin with, in each firkas, and the Government have decided to devote special attention to their development. Of these industries some are already in existence, while others are new to the area concerned. There are, of course, certain basic needs which have to be satisfied in every village. Cloth is one: carpentry, blacksmithy, and pottery are others. These trades will therefore receive universal attention. As for others, one guiding principle is that, wherever there is a tradition for hereditary skill in any particular industry, attempts will be made to develop that industry in that area. Training units will be established in four to six places in each firkas to train local workers in up-to-date methods of manufacture on a cottage industry basis. There will be in all some 150 Demonstration Units working in different parts of the Presidency, covering as many as 30 cottage industries.

Moreover, arrangements will be made for the supply of raw materials and for the marketing of the products through co-operative societies, emporia attached to indus-

trial museums, etc. The responsibility for procuring materials and finding a market will be cast on a central organisation with headquarters in Madras. As the artisans will be relieved of the responsibility of finding a market for their wares, it is expected that they will work with enthusiasm and that every village in course of time will be a humming unit of indigenous industry untainted by the smoke and din of gigantic factories.

It is interesting at this stage to peep into the future for a second and visualise the picture of the cottage industries as they will be after they are modernised. Take for instance the village blacksmith. There he stands under the spreading

banian tree (or, is it the margosa tree?) His work does not provide him with occupation for more than a few hours every week, and he is practically idle during the rainy season. The Government's new drive is to give this man a workshop equipped with the latest implements and tools. If such equipments are given he will not only be repairing axles and tyres, but will also be turning a precision lathe, casting from a mould and making utensils from sheets of metals. And then it will be time enough to open in a few selected villages in each firkas a second workshop where provision will be made for the training of young men in smithy, metal-casting, welding, image-making, etc.,

etc. It is wrong to think that village industries do not admit of labour-saving devices. On the other hand they welcome such devices upto a limit. The fact is village industries are averse only to those labour saving devices that will eliminate the labourer and make the villages deserted.

In the upsurge of modernism we in India should not forget one thing. The problem before India is not just how to increase the volume of production: the problem is also how to provide work to the millions who are unemployed or under-employed. But a discussion of these points and the general theory of cottage industries will take us far afield. Such a discussion is reserved for a future occasion.

N.-G. O'S WITHDRAW STRIKE NOTICE

Following an interview between the Hon'ble the Premier and the office-bearers of the Non-gazetted Officers' Association on September 30, 1946, the latter have withdrawn

their strike notice. In return the Government have restored recognition to the N. G. O's Association and have dropped all disciplinary action against the office-bearers.

It is understood that the Premier has agreed to consider all the demands of the N. G. O's sympathetically.

NO NEW TEXTILE MILLS IN MADRAS

PREMIER ANNOUNCES GOVT'S POLICY

Inaugurating the Khadi and Rural Reconstruction Scheme at Erragondapalem and Guruvareddipalem, the Premier made an important announcement about Government's policy with regard to the starting of new textile mills in the province. He said:

"The Government are launching the Khadi programme of theirs with complete faith in its efficacy as a beneficial scheme for our people, and confidence as to its success, if given a trial under fair

conditions. They must therefore take steps to remove all the handicaps in the way. It has accordingly been decided not to allow any new cotton textile mills to be set up in this Province; even expan-

sion of the existing mills will not be permitted, and the Central Government will be informed that the allotment of spindles and looms made to this Province under the Post-War Plan may be cancelled."

MADRAS GOVT.'S KHADI SCHEME

Rs. 2 MILLION ESTIMATED FOR 1946-'47

VILLAGES TO BE MADE SELF-SUFFICIENT

"Now that we are in office in the provinces and at the Centre, it is our bounden duty to encourage khadi and village industries," said Mr. T. Prakasam, Premier of Madras, addressing a prayer meeting at Sewagram on September 27.

"Mahatma Gandhi's constructive programme is bound to improve the future of the villagers by making them self-sufficient and economically independent so far as food and cloth are concerned," Mr. Prakasam added. "As a believer in village reconstruction, I, as Premier will do whatever is possible to give an impetus to khadi and other village industries and basic education which are inter-related.

"With Gandhiji's blessings and the co-operation of the people, the Madras Ministry hopes to march forward to success in this direction".

With the advent of the Gandhian era in Indian politics about a quarter of a century ago, the development of village industries, otherwise styled as cottage industries, began to take some definite shape. It was Gandhiji's earnest intention to make the manufacture and spread of khadi an integral part of the development of cottage industries. When he found later that development of cottage industries could not, for want of strong public opinion, make any headway, he switched his all-absorbing attention on to the production and popularisation of khadi. For some time past, next to Harijan uplift, khadi has been the very life breath of Gandhiji.

Self-Sufficient Villages

The khadi scheme of the Government of Madras is a vital and fundamental part of their comprehensive plan to make the villages of the Province self-sufficient economic units. Since the hereditary craftsmen like hand-spinners and hand-weavers have been, and are being, drawn, with the advent of the era of machinery, into towns and cities in search of employment in textile mills, the old village organisation in hand-spinning and hand-weaving has been completely

dislocated. It is the intention of the Government, with the co-operation of the public, to revitalise the village life and economics and restore them to their glorious past. And to this end the production on a fairly large scale of khadi will, in the opinion of the Government, contribute in no small measure.

Intensive and Extensive Aspects

The khadi scheme has two aspects—intensive and extensive. The extensive part will, for the present, be tried in all the 25 firkas selected already by the Government for rural uplift work. Free instruction in hand-spinning, weaving and anterior processes will be arranged. Adult spinning and weaving schools will be organised and basic education will be introduced in many centres. Self-spinners will also be enlisted.

The Government will give assistance to institutions working for the spread of khadi in the shape of local manufacture of charkas, other khadi implements, supply of wood and cotton against payment of full value.

The intensive part of the scheme aims at self-sufficiency in cloth in terms of khadi and will be confined to seven selected centres in which the khadi ideal has already spread.

The work in these areas will be conducted on the direct responsibility of the Government as set out below. The seven selected centres are the following:—

TAMIL NAD

- (1) Vellakoil.
- (2) Avanasai.
- (3) Pullyankurichi.

ANDHRA DESA

- (4) Tuni (Urutta cum Tuni).
- (5) Guruvareddipalem.
- (6) Erragondapalem.

WEST-COAST

- (7) Payyanur cum Nileshtar.
- The total population of these 7 centres is 2,88,000.

For the purpose of effective working of the scheme, the Government will take over the All-India Spinners' Association's assets and liabilities at each centre as at the date of transfer.

ENOUGH FOR ALL

The immediate objective of the scheme is to arrange to produce in the selected centres sufficient khadi for the entire population at the

rate of 20 yards per adult and 10 yards per child per annum.

The scheme will be executed, by village and centre khadi committees, consisting entirely of non-officials, who are picked khadi enthusiasts.

They will of course work under the supervision of the All-India Spinners' Association.

HOUSE-TO-HOUSE PROPAGANDA

One of the functions of the centre and village committees will be to do house-to-house propaganda for the success of the scheme in the respective villages. It will also be their duty to create a strong opinion among handloom weavers in the centre against the use of mill yarn.

The All-India Spinners' Association will make arrangements for the training of workers at Government expense.

CONCESSION TO HARIJANS

The Government will, as far as possible, assist the local committees in the supply at cost price of locally manufactured charkas, and carding and slivering equipments.

From Harijans and bona fide poor persons the price will be recovered in 12 monthly instalments.

The spinners will have to grow their own cotton and attend to ginning, carding and slivering themselves. The Government will assist where the spinners are unable to make their own arrangements.

EVERY FAMILY TO WEAVE ITS CLOTH

Every family will be encouraged to use the yarn spun by its members for the production of khadi for its consumption.

All cloth not so used will be sold to the families living in the centre by the Centre Khadi Officer at prices fixed by the Provincial Textile Commissioner.

SUBSIDY BY THE GOVERNMENT

A subsidy at a flat rate of 0-4-0 per yard will be given by the Centre Khadi Officer on the quantity of khadi woven by the applicants' family out of yarn spun by its members.

SUPERVISION

The Provincial Textile Commissioner will, in consultation with the

Regional Khadi Officers (the local branch secretaries of the All-India Spinners' Association), exercise financial and administrative supervision over the entire scheme.

EXPENDITURE ON INTENSIVE KHADI SCHEME

The expenditure on intensive khadi scheme is estimated at Rs. 23,44,805 for 1946-47 & Rs. 93,90,026 for 1947-48. This expenditure covers, among others, the cost of charkas, spindles, cotton, weavers' wages, staff, training of weavers and spinners, and furniture.

The cost of special training classes is estimated at Rs. 1,00,679 for 1946-47 and Rs. 2,31,335 for 1947-48.

Full khadi production will be reached in all the centres in 1948-49, when the total expenditure will be about Rs. one crore. All expenditure will be recovered except that spent on training courses and subsidy.

RECEIPTS

The receipts by way of sale of charkas, implements, cotton, slivering charges, cloth and weaving charges are estimated at Rs. 14,41,947 for 1946-47 and Rs. 62,99,629 for 1947-48.

INTERIM GOVT. ISSUE ORDINANCES

Five Ordinances (Nos. XVIII to XXII of 1946) have been promulgated in a Gazette of India Extraordinary issued on September 25.

The new Ordinances (Nos. XVIII to XXII of 1946) provide for (A) the continuance, during a limited period, of powers to control the production, supply and distribution of, and trade and commerce in, certain essential commodities, including foodstuffs, textiles, paper, coal, iron and steel. (B) for the continuance of certain emergency

powers in relation to lands and buildings which are under requisition including the power to acquire room for public purposes; (C) the continuance of certain provisions of the Defence of India Act of 1939 and the Defence of India Rules; (D) the extension of the life of the Foreigners Act of 1940 until March 25, 1947; and (E) the constitution of a special police force for the Chief Commissioner's province of Delhi for the investigation of certain offences committed in connection with matters concerning departments of the Central Government.

The objects of the first three Ordinances were explained in a Press Note issued by the Legislative Department on September 14, 1946.

The present Foreigners Act of 1940 is due to expire on September 30, 1946. It is proposed to replace this Act by a permanent measure and a bill is under preparation for submission to the Legislature. In the meantime to cover the intervening period, Ordinance XXII entitled the Foreigners Act (Amendment) Ordinance, 1946, has been issued extending the life of the present Act upto March 25, 1947.

DRINK AND PROHIBITION

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

- (1) Drink is a ruinous evil.
- (2) It is against the tenets of all religions.
- (3) It impairs physical efficiency and reduces longevity generally.
- (4) It plunges addicts into debts, misery and domestic unhappiness.
- (5) It destroys social harmony and kills initiative and enterprise.
- (6) It lowers addicts in the estimation of others.
- (7) It spoils the coming generation by bad example and unwholesome environments.
- (8) Prohibition is in accordance with the tenets of all religions.
- (9) It is conducive to social harmony and domestic happiness and assists in the promotion of national welfare.
- (10) It prevents the social and economic degeneration of the future generation.

SUPPORT PROHIBITION

*It is your duty to yourself, to your
family, to your religion and
to your country.*

WHO IS WHO IN MADRAS CABINET

The Hon. Sri T. PRAKASAM	.. The Premier (Home & Public).
" " V. V. GIRI	.. Labour & Industries.
" " RUKMINI LAKSHMI- PATHY	.. Public Health.
" " K. BHASHYAM	.. Courts & Prisons.
" " K. KOTI REDDI	.. Hindu Religious Endowments.
" " DANIEL THOMAS	.. Local Administration.
" " K. R. KARANT	.. Revenue.
" " M. BHAKTHAVATSALAM	Public Works.
" " P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA	.. Agriculture.
" " T. S. AVINASILINGAM CHETTIAR	.. Education.
" " V. KURMAYYA	... Information & Harijan Uplift.
" " B. VEERASAMY	... Forests.
" " R. RAGHAVA MENON	.. Food & Motor Transport.

MADRAS INFORMATION



PRICE 4-As.

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MADRAS INFORMATION



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PRICE 4.-As.

MEMORANDUM INFORMATION



PRICE 4. As.

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ADVERTISEMENT TARIFF

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- (4) Khadi Scheme
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- (9) Engineers & National Development
- (10) Questionnaire On Education

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The object of *Madras Information* is to give a brief record of the Madras Government's activities and to educate the public opinion on the Government's policies.

However, the views expressed and the articles published in this journal do not necessarily represent the official opinion.

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VOL. I
No. 2

WE SEEK TO SERVE AND NOT TO COMPETE

October 19, 1946

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Its objectives are:—

- (1) To develop a broad human interest in the progress of mankind in general and of India in particular;
- (2) To develop in the pupil a proper understanding of his social and geographical environment and to awaken the urge to improve it;
- (3) To inculcate the love of the motherland, reverence for its past and belief in its future destiny as the home of a united co-operative society based on love, truth and justice;
- (4) To develop the individual and social virtues which make a man a reliable associate and trusted neighbour;
- (5) To develop a sense of the rights and responsibilities of citizenship;
- (6) To develop mutual self-respect for the world religions.

AN important and comprehensive questionnaire has been issued by the Minister of Education to elicit information from educationists, public men and others interested in the problem of reform and re-organisation of the present educational system. The questionnaire is intended not so much to supersede earlier efforts at educational reconstruction as to supplement them. Granted that such re-organisation is imperative and urgently called for, the answers which the questionnaire would elicit should prove a substantial contribution towards facilitating it along right lines. Government have no preconceived notions relative to the proposed re-organisation, except of course to the extent that they desire to give a fair trial to the Basic system. The questionnaire, which is evidently the product of much anxious thought, is expected to evoke a corresponding amount of helpful thinking from all those anxious for educational re-organisation of the right type and in the right direction. They should give the benefit of their time, thought and experience to the Government to enable them to undertake a major reform on the bed-rock foundation of consolidated public opinion.

As regards the basic system it is wrong to regard it as the product of the imagination of a dreamer or of an impractical idealist. It is based, on the other hand, on sound educational experience and inheres the quintessence of modern educational theory assimilated to the present-day set-up of Indian national economy. It is easy to cavil at it from this standpoint or the other but difficult to refute its essentially sound foundations.

Considering these aims without prejudice and prepossessions, it is difficult to discover in them any basis for the vehement opposition whipped up against the scheme. On the other hand, in its broad outlines, the Basic system bears a remarkable resemblance to the recommendations of the Wood-Abbot Committee on Vocational Education, appointed by the Government of India. The Wood-Abbot Report suggested, among other things, that the education of children in primary schools should be based more upon the natural interests and activities of young children and less upon book-learning,

that the curriculum of rural middle schools should be closely related to the children's environment and that manual work should constitute an essential part of curriculum of every school. These constitute more or less the pivotal objectives of the Basic Education scheme too. Basic Education is in other words National Education.

Reports received about the inauguration of the prohibition campaign in eight districts (a summary of which is published elsewhere) indicate unstinted public enthusiasm for this great measure of social reform decided upon by the Government. Eight Ministers of Government inaugurated the scheme in each one of the districts while the Premier visited Kurnool for the purpose along with the Hon'ble Sri. K. Kotireddi, the Minister who is in charge of the portfolio. The inauguration of the campaign synchronized with the outright closing down of all toddy and arrack shops in the prohibition districts and intensive efforts to educate the people on the benefits of taking to alternative drinks which are as healthy in their effects as intoxicating drinks are unhealthy and debilitating. The implementation of the prohibition programme and the weaning away of large sections of human beings addicted throughout a lifetime to intoxicants is obviously a difficult proposition, as it will take some time for the benefits of abstinence to sink into the psychology of the ex-addict. To the extent that the speed of the reform corresponds to the provision of alternative attractions as aids to forgetfulness of a long practised habit, the latter should be expedited. Enforcement of prohibition and measures for the amelioration of ex-addicts should, therefore, proceed side by side. The official staff employed in these works have been exhorted by every Minister, who helped in ushering in the dry era on October 1, to work wholeheartedly for the success of the scheme and the response has been ready and enthusiastic. More than everything else, the public enthusiasm that greeted prohibition is a tremendous asset. Messrs. Prakasam and GfI, among others, have testified to the widespread prevalence of this enthusiasm; and with public co-operation assured, the success of prohibition is also assured.

Much controversy has been raging over the announcement made by the Prime Minister

apropos of the Madras Government's policy regarding textile mills expansion. That policy is intimately connected with the Khadi development scheme approved by the Madras Legislature and is a logical corollary thereto. A simultaneous process of Khadi development and textile mills expansion would appear to be an inherently and obviously irreconcilable proposition and could not afford the requisite fillip to Khadi development as a means of ensuring rural sartorial self-sufficiency. The volley of criticisms directed against the Premier's announcement proceeds partly from misapprehension, partly from fear of what the policy implies and partly at least from self-interest. A fundamental and legitimate point for consideration, however, is as to how in the interim period between the Khadi scheme's attaining its full and complete bloom, and the present time when we have an admittedly difficult cloth situation in the province, the population of Madras are going to have their cloth requirements fulfilled. This point has been effectively answered by the Prime Minister in his press statement in which he said:—

"While the Khadi development scheme of Government is being worked, the province will not fare any the worse than is the case now. In fact arrangements will be made to secure a considerable improvement over the existing position in the following ways: (i) by introducing three shifts in the mills to the utmost extent practicable; (ii) by switching over the handlooms in this province as far as possible to varieties useful for the consumers here, and (iii) by implementing a proposal, which is now under the active consideration of the Government, for ensuring adequate supplies of yarn to our handlooms."

Other aspects and implications of the policy against which critics have directed their ammunition have also been dealt with in the Premier's statement. A policy of rural self-sufficiency of which Khadi development is an integral part and its counterpart of imposing a check on mill expansion has both long-range and short-range aspects, and while time should be permitted to discover its own answers and solutions in regard to the long-range effects, it is initiative, will, determination, and drive that will largely determine the success or failure of the scheme in its short-range aspects. Of such will and determination there is obviously no lack so far as the present Government is concerned.

While an important and major reform of the kind contemplated is bound to create some fears among those who never had any faith in its efficacy, undeviating faith in the cause and a resolution to succeed should make for success in the end. Attention may be drawn here prominently to the collateral announcement made by the Premier on Government's policy regarding large-scale industries. He said:—

"Sufficient attention has not been paid by the critics to the fact that Government are not opposed to all large-scale industries. I made it clear in my Erragondapalam speech that this Government realise that many key and large-scale industries are essential for our economic development and that they will encourage them. The Government's declaration of policy is directed only against further development of power textiles (cotton)."

We have here a refutation of at least some of those criticisms which took it automatically for granted that because Government have decided to stop further establishment of textile mills they are opposed to all large-scale industrialisation as such.

Agreement is reported to have been reached as a consequence of the conference of the representatives of the Madras and the Hyderabad Governments held in Hyderabad recently on the finalisation of the Ramapadasagar and Tungabhadra projects. The Madras Government was represented at the Conference by the Hon. Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam and Sir S. V. Ramamurthy while the Hyderabad Government was represented by Sir Mirza Ismail, President of H.E.H. the Nizam's Executive Council. In a press interview the Hon. Sri Bhaktavatsalam pointed out that the understanding between the two Governments pertained to the principles of sharing the waters of the River Godavari and other technical details, which would enable them to proceed with the further steps essential for the execution of the schemes. Speaking of the potentialities of the Ramapadasagar project, with the initiation of which he had a great deal to do, Sir S. V. Ramamurthy stated a few days back that with its fruition, there would be no question of any food famine in this province. When the Tungabhadra irrigation and Ramapadasagar hydro-electric projects are completed

and commence working, they will serve to bring under cultivation immense stretches of land now subject to submersion or are suffering from absence of irrigation facilities. In terms of cost and the engineering skill that will be required to execute them, the two projects will rank very high in comparison with similar projects elsewhere in the country. The Ramapadasagar project alone is expected to involve a capital expenditure of Rs. 60 crores while the Tungabhadra irrigation project is estimated to cost about Rs. 13 crores as the Madras Government's share. In the pursuit of a self-sufficiency-in-food programme for the presidency, the present Government are not likely to permit any impediments to stand in the way of the fruition of these projects at the earliest possible date.

That the food procurement scheme in Malabar is working satisfactorily and that it is well ahead of last year's return by about 35 per cent has been testified to by the Hon. Sri T. Prakasam, Premier, in the course of an address at Palghat. The Premier also testified to the spirit of welcome co-operation that marked the constitution and working of the co-operative societies entrusted with procurement work. A fundamental and encouraging aspect of that work is the active participation of the Muslims therein through liberal subscriptions to the share capital of the co-operative societies and through vigorous assistance in official efforts to ensure maximum procurement of foodgrains. The Premier expressed the hope that not only would Malabar prove that it could be self-sufficient in regard to its food requirements but that it would be in a position to export foodgrains to other districts too. Recent reports about the food stocks in that district provided occasion for some amount of concern to Government, particularly as a situation like that alleged lent itself to dangerous and insidious exploitation by trouble-mongers out to discredit Governmental endeavours to keep the district supplied with its essential requirements. But the situation is obviously well in hand now; and if the spirit of helpful co-operation of all sections of the population in dealing with the situation persists, all cause for anxiety will vanish. If on the other hand disruptive elements persist in their game of fomenting trouble, the Premier's warning that action will be taken against them, will have to take effect.

Some Press Notes of Madras Govt.

ELECTORAL ROLLS

Issued on 30th September, 1946

Complaints are being received by Government that some of the rolls of the territorial constituencies of the Madras Legislative Assembly contain the following defects:—

(1) Names of persons eligible for inclusion in the rolls have been omitted; (2) Names of voters have not been shown under the municipal or panchayat wards in which they reside; (3) Names have been wrongly spelt or the name of the father, Kanavan or husband has been omitted altogether.

To rectify defects (1) and (2), the persons concerned have to apply to the Registration Officer (the Collector in respect of European and Anglo-Indian constituencies and the Revenue Divisional Officer in respect of the other territorial constituencies) and to remit a fee of Rs. 10 with each such application. The applicants should have possessed the prescribed qualifications on the 31st October, 1945. All such applications received up to the 20th of a month will be published on the notice board of the office of the Registration Officer concerned on the working day immediately succeeding that date. Any objections to such application should be presented within a week of the publication. After the expiry of the period, the Registration Officer will submit the applications to Government with his recommendations. H. E. the Governor will pass orders on the applications on their merits. All such orders will be communicated to the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards, who will see that the orders are taken into account when the electoral rolls for municipal councils and local boards are prepared and published.

The errors and omissions referred to in item (3) above will, however, be rectified by the Registration Officer himself on application from the parties concerned which may be submitted at any time and for which no fee need be paid.

ESSENTIAL ARTICLES CONTROL ACT

Issued on 30th September, 1946

The Governor-General has given

his assent to the Madras Essential Articles Control and Requisitioning Act, 1946 as passed by both Houses of the Madras Legislature. He has also given his assent to the Madras Buildings (Lease and rent Control Act, 1946).

It may be pointed out that under the provisions of the Essential Articles Control and Requisitioning Act, the Madras Government have taken powers to control the sale and purchase, among other things, of both new and used motor vehicles. All the rules and regulations governing the sale of new cars which were in existence under the old Control orders continue to vest in the Provincial Government under the present Act. It shall not be legal for dealers to sell new motor-cars except to those who have obtained permits from the Provincial Government.

As regards the used motor vehicles, for regulating the sale of which the Madras Government have also taken powers under the Act, rules will be formulated in the near future. The public are informed that they should not sell or purchase new or old cars without the permission of the Provincial Government.

PRESS REPORT CONTRADICTED

Issued on 30th September, 1946

The attention of the Government has been drawn to the statement published in the issue of "Swatantra", Madras, dated 7th September, 1946 under the caption "Government People and the Police" that an old scavenger woman by name Ankammal died as a result of the injuries received at the hands of the Police.

The statement is inaccurate and misleading as it has been reported to Government on post-mortem examination that the death of the woman was a case of natural death.

PERMITS FOR MOTOR-CARS

Issued on 1st October, 1946

The Government understand that certain motor companies are under the impression that from 1st October, 1946, they can sell motor-cars without permits as the Control Order under the Defence of India

Rules ceases to be in force from that date.

The Madras Government hereby draw the attention of the public to the fact that under Section 9 of the Madras Essential Articles Control and Requisitioning (Temporary Powers) Act, 1946 read with item 12 in the Schedule thereto, all the Control Orders regulating the sale and price of motor vehicles, issued by the Central and/or Provincial Government continue to be in force until modified by action taken under that Act. Permits are therefore still necessary, as hitherto, for the purchase of new cars or trucks.

A BAN EXPLAINED

Issued on 2nd October, 1946

Representations have been received that the ban imposed on the growers of cane in certain areas in the vicinity of sugar factories is causing considerable hardship to the producers who are thereby prevented from cutting cane and using it for making jaggery themselves. The position is that Madras is deficit in sugar and has to import nearly half its requirements from other parts of India. To relieve acute shortage which is being experienced during the last 2 or 3 years, it is necessary that the production of sugar in factories should be increased to meet at least the minimum requirements of sugar. The factories in the province have been taking steps to increase their production accordingly and to do this they have to go farther and farther afield for the cane required for crushing. Additional areas have, therefore, to be brought under the ban from time to time.

The public will thus realise that in the interests of the community this prohibition is necessary. The chief basis for the grievance is that the prices of jaggery are soaring and this prohibition deprives the producers of the benefit of the rise in prices of jaggery. But jaggery is the poor man's food and its price should be within the resources of the poor. Now it is not so. The Government therefore propose to fix the prices of jaggery for the next season commencing from the first of November. The prices thus fixed will give the producers a reasonable profit and will not be unduly attractive to divert lands now used for food crops to sugarcane cultivation. These prices will be fixed with reference to the all-India price of sugar which is expected to be shortly announced by the Government of India. The

prices of cane which the producers will be required to deliver to the factories under the ban orders referred to above will be fixed by the Government and the producers are assured that the prices so fixed will be reasonable and will not put them out of pocket or give them less than what would be derived by converting cane into jaggery. They are requested to wait till the prices are announced and not to feel hurt at the ban orders which are issued against them. Government will consider the question of making sugar a cottage industry in due course.

BUILDINGS ACT

Issued on 2nd October, 1946

The Madras Buildings (Lease and Rent Control) Act, 1946 has come into force on the 1st October, 1946. This Act provides for the continuance of control over rents and eviction of tenants hitherto done under the Madras House Rent Control Order and the Madras Non-Residential Building Rent Control Order. The following are the main differences between the provisions of the Act and of the Rent Control Orders:

(1) The Rent Control Orders extended to the whole of the Province of Madras. But the Act applies only to the City of Madras and to all municipalities within the Province with a provision for extension to other areas, if necessary.

(2) There was no provision in the Rent Control Orders enabling a landlord to apply to the Controller for the fixation of fair rent for his building. But such a provision has now been introduced in the Act.

(3) Under the Rent Control Orders, in fixing the fair rent for a building, the Controller could allow only an increase of 81.3% over the prevailing rate of rent or the municipal rental value of the building during 1939-40. In the Act, different rates of increase have been allowed for residential and non-residential buildings. The increase in the case of residential buildings constructed before April, 1940 may not exceed 25% of the rent for the same or similar accommodation in 1939-40 and the increase in the case of non-residential buildings built before April, 1940 may not exceed 50% of the rent for the same or similar accommodation in 1939-40. These maxima may be doubled for buildings constructed after the 1st April, 1940.

Unfamiliar Foodstuffs

WORK IN THE CITY AND DISTRICTS

In accordance with the orders of the Government that the campaign for the popularisation of unfamiliar foodstuffs should be intensified for a period of two months in the City and the districts, reports have been received so far from 19 Collectors and the wheat Propaganda Officer, Madras. Reports from other districts are awaited.

THE DISTRICTS

Preliminary steps have been taken in the following districts regarding such questions as appointment of lady propagandists, cooks, demonstrations, discussions at food committee meetings etc. etc. Coimbatore, Nilgris, Salem, Kurnool, Tanjore, Anantapur, North Arcot, South Arcot, West Godavari, Cuddappah, Ramnad, Chingleput, Chittoor, Tinnevely, East Godavari, Trichinopoly, South Kanara, and Malabar.

Some tangible spade work has been done in the Madras City and in the District of Guntur.

MADRAS

A Committee was formed to work out details. The City has been divided into three divisions for demonstrations and propaganda purposes. Thirty-three demonstrations with a larger number of lectures were held covering the whole of the Greater Madras City. Booklets on maize preparations were distributed free of cost. The lectures and demonstrations were held in schools I.W.C. centres, Ration shops, Police quarters, Child Welfare Centres and Y.M.C.A. The attendance at these meetings and demonstrations was encouraging.

CONVICTION FOR SATYAGRAHA NO BAR TO PUBLIC SERVICE

Issued on 11th October, 1946

The Government of Madras have ordered that no conviction for any offence committed in furtherance of the satyagraha campaign of 1940-41 or the civil disobedience movement of 1942 shall hereafter constitute a bar to appointment in the public service.

(4) Under the Rent Control Orders, a landlord could apply for the eviction of a tenant for the reasons specified therein. The scope of this provision has been enlarged in the Act and it has been provided that a tenant can be evicted if he transfers his right under the lease or sub-lets even a portion of the premises or commits such acts of waste as are likely to impair materially the value or utility of the building or is guilty of such acts and conducts which are a nuisance to the occupiers in the neighbourhood.

(5) It has further been provided that the tenant, who has been evicted on the ground that the landlord requires the building for his own occupation, can apply to the Controller for the restoration of his tenancy in the building if the landlord does not occupy the building within one month of the date of obtaining possession.

(6) A new provision has been introduced in the Act authorising the Controller to direct the payment of compensation not exceeding fifty rupees to the tenant by the landlord if his application for the eviction of the tenant is frivolous or vexatious.

(7) Under the Act no residential building shall be converted into a non-residential building except with the permission in writing of the Controller.

(8) In the Rent Control Orders, there was a provision enabling the Government to call for the records of a case and pass such orders in revision as they thought fit. This provision has been omitted in the Act.

(9) A provision has also been introduced in the Act, requiring the landlord to give notice to the Controller whenever a building, which fetches a monthly rent exceeding thirty rupees, falls vacant so that the Government may take the building on lease if necessary for any Governmental purposes or for use by any public institution under Government Control or any officer of the Government.

(10) The machinery for enforcing the Act will for the present be the same as that which enforced the Rent Control Orders. The Collector of Madras will be the Accommodation Controller for Madras City while the Rent Controllers will be the Accommodation Controllers in the municipalities in their jurisdiction.

WAR AGAINST LIQUOR DECLARED

Enthusiastic Scenes in Districts

Ministers Emphasise Public Co-operation

On October 1st, 1946, eight districts—about one-third of the Province—went dry. The direct cost of this war against spirituous drinks to the Exchequer is over Rs. 5 crores per year. And then there are the indirect costs of enforcing the Prohibition Regulations. However, on the other side, the benefits of this bold and sweeping reform to the people at large are incalculable. The simple folk in towns and villages do realise this. That is why they came in their thousands to the meetings held in connection with the inauguration of Prohibition. Those who have witnessed the enthusiastic scenes at these meetings—the happy faces of men, women and children with eyes wet with tears of joy, presenting to the onlooker a thin film through which could be seen in immeasurable depths the agonies caused by the demon of drink—yes, those who witnessed this would pause many times before they open their mouth against Prohibition. The following is a brief account of the inauguration of Prohibition in the eight districts.

AT SALEM

The Hon'ble Mr. T. S. Avnashilingam Chettiar, Minister for Education, inaugurated on October 1, Prohibition in over 18 centres in the Salem District. The villages at which Prohibition was introduced were Trichengode, Komaramangalam, Chittalandur, Kandampalayam, Nandanthal, Paramathi, Velur, Olapattai, Mohanur, Namakkal, Pudukchatram, Andalur, Salem, Kondalampatti and Konganapuram.

In all the places processions with school children and adults were taken out to the accompaniment of bands and nathaswarams. The old toddy shops were converted into refreshment shops and free drinks of coffee, tea, butter-milk and panagams were offered to the ex-addicts.

In some places, effigies of the demon of drink were set fire to. Meetings were held in several places in which the Hon'ble Mr. T. S. Avnashilingam Chettiar spoke on the evils of drink and appealed for the support of the people in making Prohibition a success.

AT COIMBATORE

The Hon'ble Mr. V. V. Giri, Minister for Industries, inaugurated Prohibition at Coimbatore. Processions led by decorated bulls, horses and elephants arrived at the Coronation Park in the morning, and the processions converted themselves into a huge public meeting presided over by the Hon'ble Mr. Giri. Officials, non-officials (Congressmen, Leaguers, and Communists) were present.

Speakers were drawn from all political parties including the Dravida Kazhagam.

In the evening, about 10,000 ex-addicts and their families were served with refreshments. Tickets for admission into the local theatres were also provided for some of them.

AT CHITTOOR

At the local Congress House, a public meeting was held in the morning on the Prohibition day and was addressed by Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Iyengar, M.L.A. (Central), and the Hon'ble Mr. R. B. Ramakrishna Raju and the Personal Assistant to the Collector of Chittoor.

In the evening, the Hon'ble Mr. Daniel Thomas, Minister for Local Administration, addressed two meetings at Penumur village and at Chittoor Municipal Office. The presence of women who were all smiles at the impending benefits of prohibition, lent an additional charm to the picturesque scene with their multi-coloured flowers tucked on their jet-black hair.

AT ANANTAPUR

A procession with school children, college boys and girls, officials and non-officials led by band was taken out from the Taluk Office to the Public Park in the old town. The Hon'ble Mr. K. Bashyam, Minister for Law, and Mr. A. F. W. Dixon, Commissioner of Prohibition, accompanied the procession.

Presiding over the public meeting held at the Park, the Hon'ble Mr.

K. Bashyam appealed for the co-operation of officials and non-officials in the successful working of the Prohibition Act.

In the evening, distribution of sweet drinks to ex-addicts and enactment of a comedy and other items of sports were gone through under the presidency of the Hon'ble Mr. Bashyam.

In Hindupur Taluk, Khan Bahadur Budhan Sahib, a former Akhari Contractor, distributed sarees and Re. 1 in cash to 1,000 poor women.

AT KURNOOL

The Hon'ble Mrs. Rukmini Lakshminipathy, Minister for Public Health, inaugurated the Prohibition campaign in Kurnool Town.

At about 10 in the morning, a public meeting was held at the Queen Park. Mr. N. Sankara Reddy, Parliamentary Secretary, addressed the gathering on the benefits of Prohibition. The Hon'ble Mrs. Lakshminipathy made a stirring appeal to the public to carry on the Prohibition campaign with vigour.

AT VELLORE (NORTH ARCOT)

On the Inauguration day, the Hon'ble Mr. P. S. Kumaraswami Rajah, Minister for Agriculture, accompanied by the Revenue Divisional Officer and the Prohibition Chairman started the morning campaign in the morning. The Hon'ble Minister visited about a dozen centres. In two or three centres school girls gave demonstrations of Kummil and Kolattam.

(Contd. on page 21.)

Towards Self-Sufficient Villages

Khadi Pivot of Govt.'s Scheme

Premier Explains New Deal For Villagers

(Inaugurating the Khadi Scheme at Erragondapalem on October 2, 1946, the Premier, Mr. Prakasam, made an impassioned appeal to do justice by the villages which have been sadly neglected hitherto. The full text of the speech is given below.)

The vast bulk of our people have to live, and will continue to live, in villages, but the conditions prevailing in our villages are deplorable. We have sadly neglected our villages. The Government have been taking from them far more money than has been returned to them in the shape of schemes designed for the material well-being of the villagers, not to speak of amenities. There can be no true progress unless this decay of our villages is arrested and measures are taken to put them back again, on the map, so to speak, as live centres in our body politic and as the real source of our wealth and strength. The Government have, therefore, taken up, as their first duty, this most important task of rural reconstruction and development. The sufferings of our people since the commencement of World War II will have been in vain, if we have not learnt the lesson that the correct policy for a country like ours is to build up villages which will be self-sufficient in regard to as many needs of the villagers as possible, and particularly in regard to their primary needs of food and clothing. The Government have accordingly sanctioned a comprehensive rural development plan which will, for the present, be tried in selected areas of the Province—two firkas in the Vizagapatam District and one firka in each of the other twenty-three mofussil districts. Two other firkas, one in the Vizagapatam Agency and the other in the Godavari Agency have also been since selected. The scheme provides for the development of Cottage Industries and all other vital items of rural reconstruction work.

CENTRES OF GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Under this plan the villages will become, as they should be, the centres of all beneficent Governmental activities, and their neglected economic resources and enormous man power will both be utilised to the permanent advantage of the community as a whole.

A special fund of rupees three crores has been constituted for financing the Rural Reconstruction and Khadi Schemes. Cottage industries suitable for each of the villages in the selected areas will be revived or developed, as the case may be, and special attention will be paid to the improvement of village industries essential for the life of the village communities. The hereditary and potential skill of village artisans will be fully utilised, and modern methods will be introduced and adapted to the extent necessary. The supply of electric power to these areas will receive high priority so that modernisation of existing cottage industries (other than spinning and weaving of textiles) and introduction of new ones may be facilitated. Units for giving training in cottage industries will be constituted. Arrangements will be made for the supply of raw materials and for the marketing of the products of these industries through approved agencies like Co-operative Societies. Special attention will be paid to increasing the productivity of the lands in these areas and the programme will accordingly include the sinking of wells and lifting of water for irrigation purposes with electric power. A depot will be constructed at the

headquarters of each of the selected areas for the storage of the requirements of the villagers like agricultural implements, tools, seeds, manure etc., and for their distribution to the villagers through the village committees.

POLICY IN REGARD TO LARGESCALE INDUSTRIES

Let there be no misapprehension as to the policy of this Government in regard to large-scale industries. They will encourage such industries, regulating their establishment and development to the extent necessary in the national interest, and having due regard to the protection of economically sound cottage industries.

KHADI SCHEME

As a vital and fundamental part of their comprehensive plan for the development of our villages, the Government are also launching a Khadi scheme with the kind and whole-hearted co-operation of the All India Spinners' Association and the blessings of our revered leader, Mahatma Gandhi.

EXTENSIVE & INTENSIVE ASPECTS

The Khadi scheme will be divided into two parts, intensive and extensive. The intensive part of the scheme, which will aim at securing self-sufficiency in regard to cloth in terms of khadi, will be confined to specially selected compact areas in which khadi has already made substantial progress under the All-India Spinners' Association, and in which, therefore, the

self-sufficiency ideal can be attained very quickly. The work in these areas will be conducted on the direct responsibility of the Government.

The extensive part of the scheme will, for the present, be tried in the twenty-seven firkas referred to above along with the general scheme of rural reconstruction. Free instruction in hand-spinning and weaving, together with the anterior processes, will be arranged in all educational institutions in these areas. Adult spinning and weaving schools will be organised, and Basic Education will be introduced in as many centres as possible. The enlistment of as many self-spinners as possible will also be attended to. In consultation with the All-India Spinners' Association, the Government will also give suitable assistance to institutions engaged in the development of khadi in the area, such assistance not involving, however, financial responsibility for the Government. The local manufacture of charkas and other khadi implements, supply of wood and cotton against payment of full value by these organisations, are among the items in respect of which such assistance will be given.

The division of the scheme into two parts, as I have just indicated, has been designed in order to achieve rapid progress in the most hopeful areas, at the same time preparing the ground for a large extension of the scheme, before long, to other areas under conditions which will guarantee quick success in those areas also.

Even in the areas selected for intensive khadi work, the development of cottage industries and other items included in the Government's general Rural Reconstruction Plan will also be carried on to the fullest extent practicable. Preparatory educational work, including Basic Education, on the lines indicated by me, will also be arranged for the training of students and others who have not yet received instruction in the processes involved in khadi production.

MORE ABOUT INTENSIVE DRIVE

I shall now say something in detail about the intensive part of the khadi scheme, which will be confined, for the present, to seven centres which have been selected by the Government in consultation with the All-India Spinners' Association as being the best compact areas for the operation of the scheme. Vellakoll, Avanashi and

Pullyankurichi will be the three centres in the Tamil Nad area, while Erragondapalem, Guruvareddipalam and Tuni are the three centres in the Telugu districts. The Tuni centre comprises the Urala area of the Vizagapatam district and some villages in the neighbourhood of Tuni in the East Godavari district. On the West Coast, there will be one centre consisting of nine villages in the Payyanur area of the Malabar district and five villages in the neighbourhood of Nilshwar in the adjoining area in the South Kanara district.

The immediate objective of the scheme is to arrange for the production, in each of the seven selected centres, of sufficient khadi to enable us to make available, for the entire population of the Centre, supplies of khadi at the rate of 20 yards per adult and 10 yards per child per annum.

This scheme, which has been prepared by the All-India Spinners' Association and finalised by the Government in consultation with them, will be executed, under the instructions and guidance of the Association, by suitable Village and Centre Khadi Committees which will be constituted shortly.

HOUSE-TO-HOUSE PROPAGANDA

The scheme cannot be a success unless these committees work enthusiastically and systematically and never allow their enthusiasm to flag. It will not only be their duty to hold public meetings, from time to time, in different parts of the centres, but also conduct, what is even more important, house-to-house propaganda for securing the successful working of the scheme.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL

Within their respective regions, the local Branch Secretaries of the All-India Spinners' Association will be the Honorary Regional Khadi Officers, and the day-to-day administration of the centres will be conducted by the Centre Khadi Officers under their instructions and guidance. The Provincial Textile Commissioner will, in consultation with the Regional Khadi Officers, exercise the necessary financial and administrative supervision in respect of the entire scheme.

All staff required in connection with the scheme will be appointed by the Government in consultation with the Honorary Regional Khadi Officers. The object of the Government in making these appointments

is only to provide wholtime staff to assist the committees in executing the scheme.

The village and Centre Khadi Committees will secure the following objectives by intensive propaganda.—

(1) Every family in the centre will be expected to equip itself with at least one charka and contribute at least one efficient spinner.

(2) The yarn spun in each village should, as far as possible, be woven into cloth by the weavers residing therein. Looms in the nearest villages outside the Centre will be utilised only to the extent necessary to make up for any loom deficiency within the centre itself. The Weavers' Co-operative Societies in the centre will be expected to give a lead in the matter by switching over all their looms to the production of khadi.

(3) As an essential part of the scheme, every endeavour will be made to increase the weaving capacity of each village by arranging for instruction in khadi weaving, so that the ideal of getting all the yarn spun in the village woven into cloth in the village itself, may be reached as soon as possible.

Suitable action will be taken from time to time to eliminate uncertified traders in hand-spun yarn and khadi in order to safeguard the development of khadi on sound lines.

The scheme will succeed only to the extent to which the village and Centre Khadi Committees create public opinion in all parts of, and among all classes of persons residing in, the centres, against the supply to the Centres, of mill cloth or handloom cloth woven out of mill yarn. Similarly, they should create a strong opinion among the handloom weavers in the centres against supply of mill yarn.

PROVISION FOR TRAINING

(1) It is of the utmost importance that the paid workers employed under the scheme should have received adequate training. Arrangements will accordingly be made for running ten training Centres for running ten training Centres in the province—four in the Andhra area, four in the Tamil Nad area, one in Malabar and one in South Kanara. These months' special accelerated three months' courses in spinning. Forty pupils will be trained at each session at each centre.

(2) The Khadi Pravesika Course (one year course for khadi craft and science) will be conducted at Tirupur for the Tamil Nad area

and the West Coast and at Masulipatam for the Andhra area. Thirty persons will be trained at Tirupur and twenty-five at Masulipatam.

(3) Bunayi Karyakartha Courses (one year special course in khadi weaving) will also be arranged, one at Tirupur and the other at Masulipatam. Fifteen persons will be trained at Tirupur and ten at Masulipatam.

(4) The All-India Spinners' Association have kindly agreed to arrange for conducting all these courses. The entire expenditure will be borne by the Government, and suitable stipends will be paid for the trainees who will be recruited, as far as possible, from the thirty-four centres selected for both parts of the scheme.

In each of the seven centres selected for the intensive khadi work, arrangements will be made for giving training in spinning as well as khadi weaving to the persons residing in these areas who have not already learnt these arts or become proficient in them. The training will be given for two hours daily for two months in the case of each trainee. Three classes will be conducted daily by competent instructors. The instruction in khadi weaving will be given in each centre by three weaving instructors stationed at important sub-centres. All this instruction will be given free.

OTHER ASSISTANCE

The Government will give the assistance asked for by the local committees in regard to the supply of locally-manufactured charkas, carding and slivering equipments required for the families residing in the centres, etc.

All the equipment supplied by the Government will be sold at cost price, but in the case of Harijans and other poor persons the price will be recovered in not more than twelve monthly instalments. As an incentive to self-carding, guts will be supplied to all spinners at a concessional price.

The spinners will be encouraged to grow their own cotton and attend to ginning, carding and slivering themselves. The Government will assist in regard to these matters only where the spinners are unable to make their own arrangements.

Hand-ginning will be encouraged.

Every family in the selected centres will be encouraged to

utilise the yarn spun by its members for the production of khadi for its own consumption, the Government arranging for the weaving, if the family is unable to make its own arrangement in the matter. All hand-spun yarn not so utilised by the family may be exchanged for khadi bought by, and for, the spinner's family from the Centre Khadi Officer, or may be sold to that officer. All yarn thus coming into the hands of the Centre Khadi Officers will be got woven into khadi and made available for sale to families residing in the centres in accordance with the principles followed by the All-India Spinners' Association in regard to such sales and at the prices specified in this behalf by the Provincial Textile Commissioner in consultation with the local Branch Secretary of the All-India Spinners' Association.

In order to encourage effectively the utilisation of the yarn spun by members of each family for the production of khadi for its own consumption, a subsidy will be given on the quantity of khadi woven for the consumption of each such family out of yarn spun by its members. The subsidy will be given at a flat rate of four annas per yard on application, which may be either oral or written, presented to the Centre Khadi Officer. It is hoped that the poorer families particularly will avail themselves of this concession and thus pave the way for the attainment of the ideal of each family becoming self-sufficient in regard to its clothing.

FINANCE

Only a rough estimate of the expenditure under the scheme can be given now. The aggregate expenditure under the intensive Khadi scheme will be about Rs. 24 lakhs in the current year 1946-47 and about Rs. 96 lakhs in the next year, that is, 1947-48. Full khadi production is expected to be reached in all the seven centres in 1948-49 when the total annual expenditure will be about Rs. 1 crore. Under the scheme, all the expenditure will be recovered except what is spent for the training courses and on the subsidy and the concession in respect of guts. The annual cost to the Government of these excepted items in 1948-49 will be about Rs. 3 lakhs, Rs. 2.5 lakhs and Rs. 70,000 respectively.

NO MORE COTTON MILLS

The Government are launching this Khadi programme of theirs

with complete faith in its efficacy as a beneficial scheme for our people, and confidence as to its success, if given a trial under fair conditions. They must therefore take steps to remove all the handicaps in the way. It has accordingly been decided not to allow any new cotton textile mills to be set up in this Province; even expansion of the existing mills will not be permitted, and the Central Government will be informed that the allotment of spindles and looms made to this Province under the Post-War Plan may be cancelled.

It is a matter of indescribable pride and joy to me to be able to inaugurate this khadi scheme on behalf of the Madras Government on the Gandhi Jayanthi Day. There is nothing dearer to Mahatma Gandhi's heart than khadi, and it is wholly appropriate that this scheme, which has been framed in the light of his advice and which has received his blessings, should be inaugurated on his birthday and that in a year which will go down to history as the one in which our country achieved unmistakably its greatest triumph so far in its march to its cherished goal of Independence under his unique and incomparable leadership, and in a manner without a parallel in history, from the point of view of the means employed and the moral plane on which a large-scale national struggle has been conducted.

APPEAL FOR PUBLIC COOPERATION

This khadi scheme cannot succeed without the co-operation of the general public, and I am sure that every family will extend its co-operation in full measure, regarding it as a point of honour to make its contribution for securing the success of the scheme. Please remember that this is the first large-scale khadi scheme to be tried in our country and that the whole of India is watching us. There are many persons who are sceptical about the success of the scheme and it is up to us to prove them wrong. Let us demonstrate to them that their scepticism is the result of their own diffidence in themselves. Let us not fail ourselves and Gandhiji in this important test of our professions in respect of a vital and fundamental part of the Constructive Programme for which we have been pleading eloquently on many a platform, year after year.

FUTURE OF POWER TEXTILES

GOVT. OUTLINE POLICY

EXISTING MILLS UNAFFECTED

The Hon'ble Mr. T. Prakasam, Prime Minister, Madras, has issued the following statement about the policy of the Government in regard to the future of Power Textiles (Cotton) in the Province:

I have seen the criticisms which have appeared in the newspapers against the Madras Government's policy in regard to textile mills. These criticisms have emanated either from persons who have frankly and honestly no faith in Khadi Development on any large scale or from those who have accepted Khadi for merely political reasons. To the critics falling under the former category, I can only say that the Government do not share their scepticism about the success of the Khadi Development Scheme worked under the necessary fair conditions, and that the Government have every reason to think that their faith in the Khadi Programme is shared by the bulk of the people in the Province. I shall presently say more on this point but before I do so, I must correct certain unwarranted misapprehensions and misstatements which have been given wide publicity. I am sure the second category of critics will agree with the policy enunciated by the Government on further consideration.

IRRELEVANT ISSUES

It is wholly misleading to suggest, as some of the critics have done, that the present cloth and yarn shortage has any relevance in this discussion of the merits of the policy announced by me in regard to the erection of new mills and expansion of the existing mills in this Province. Neither existing supplies of mill yarn nor of mill cloth are in any way affected by the Government's policy. No new machinery, whether for new mills or for the expansion of the existing mills, is expected to be received before the end of 1947, so that there is really no hope of the new spindles or looms any-

where in India helping us to increase the production of yarn and cloth, to any extent worth the name, before the middle of 1948. While the Khadi Development Scheme of this Government is being worked, this Province will not fare any worse than is the case now. In fact, arrangements will be made to secure a considerable improvement over the existing position in the following ways:—

(1) by introducing three shifts in the mills to the utmost extent practicable;

(2) by switching over the handlooms in this province as far as possible to varieties useful for the consumers here; and

(3) by implementing a proposal, which is now under the active consideration of the Government, for ensuring adequate supplies of yarn to our handlooms.

OVERDRAWN PICTURE

Any criticism that the policy announced by the Government will lead to any deterioration in the existing position in respect of our handloom production or supplies of mill cloth whether from mills in this Province or outside it (about 4,000 bales come to us every month from mills in the South Deficit Zone and about 8,000 bales from the mills in the Bombay Surplus Area) is, therefore wholly unwarranted. In this connection, I must draw pointed attention to two inaccurate and misleading statements made in Diwan Bahadur C. S. Rathnasabhapathy Mudalliar's statement as reported in the newspapers. His statement that more than 50 per cent of the spindles now allotted to this area under the Post-War Plan are required for replacing old spindles which have become most uneconomical to work on account of the strain placed on them during the war, is not correct. All the spindles that have

been allotted to this area, are either for new mills or for increasing the spindleage of the existing mills. Replacements were definitely declared to be outside the Post-War plan and the Government of Madras have said nothing to give any room for the misapprehension that replacements for maintaining the existing spindleage in this Province will not be permitted. Till Khadi Development becomes fully effective and widespread, Government will obviously want to maintain the existing mills in an efficient condition and maximise their production. Further, most of the mills in this province are not old and they will continue to be efficient for a considerable time to come. The Diwan Bahadur has undoubtedly overdrawn the picture.

HANDLOOM WEAVERS

Another inaccurate and misleading statement of his is that, as a result of the Government's policy, handloom weavers will be thrown out of employment. The Government are quite aware of the inadequate supplies of yarn made to handloom weavers now. The difficulties of the handloom weavers have arisen from the fact that all the yarn produced in the Province is not conserved here, the weavers are forced to purchase from the blackmarket to which mill yarn finds its way. The Government are already considering the steps to be taken to rectify this position. Further, continued employment of handloom weavers in weaving will be helped, and not handicapped, by the Government's ban on any further development of Power Textiles in this Province.

NO UNDUE INFLUENCE

Some of the critics have made themselves responsible for statements which are fair neither to Gandhiji nor to me. My statement of the Government's policy

was not the result of any undue influence exercised on me by Gandhiji. We have accepted his advice and decided to act upon it because we have the same faith as he has in the Khadi Development Scheme and are confident of its success, if worked under fair conditions. Obviously, no appreciable headway can be made in regard to the revival of hand-spinning on a large-scale and the use of khadi unless the necessary psychological atmosphere is created in the minds of not only the would-be spinners and weavers but also among the public in general representing the consumers. So long as people can look forward in the near future to the cloth deficit being met by mill production, it is futile to expect the necessary enthusiasm for the Khadi Development Scheme from the would-be spinners, weavers and consumers. The people will not seriously take up and work the Scheme of self-help, which is the essence of the Khadi Development Scheme, if they find that, if they maintain an indifferent, if not an obstructive, attitude for some time, they will be rewarded by the initiation of a programme or development of Power Textiles. Any Government worth the name must act according to its best judgement of what is good for the people and must have the courage to act according to its faith and convictions.

NOT OPPOSED TO LARGE-SCALE INDUSTRIES

Sufficient attention has not been paid by the critics to the fact that this Government are not opposed to all large-scale industries as such. I made it clear in Erragondapalem speech (since published in the newspapers) that this Government realise that many key and large-scale industries are essential for our economic development and that they will encourage them. The Government's declaration of policy is directed only against further development of Power Textiles (Cotton). The Government feel that there are very good reasons for distinguishing between Power Textiles (Cotton) and other large-scale industries. It is a matter of history that India enjoyed a reputation till less than 200 years ago for a highly efficient and pioneer Handloom Cottage Industry based cent per cent on hand-spun yarn and weaving on handloom. We have not yet lost either of these arts of hand-spinning and handloom weaving, and India was famous at one time not only for hand-spun yarn of coarse and medium counts but also of fine and superfine counts. As I said in my Erragondapalem speech, the sufferings of our people since the commencement of World War II will have been in vain, if we have not learnt the lesson that the correct

policy for a country like ours, is to build up villages which will be self-sufficient in regard to as many needs of the villagers as possible, and particularly in regard to their primary needs of food and clothing. For a country like ours, growing plenty of cotton in its villages, and with plenty of skill in regard to both hand-spinning and handloom weaving, the Khadi Development Scheme is obviously the appropriate method of achieving self-sufficiency in regard to clothing. I would say to my genuine critics, therefore, that they should suspend their judgment till the Khadi Development Scheme which is in consonance with our traditions and for which our country is specially fitted has been in operation for a fair period. The Government have under consideration schemes for the establishment of many large-scale industries in the Province to provide for the employment of people who cannot be absorbed in the several economically sound Cottage Industries for the development of which the Government's Rural Reconstruction Scheme has been designed.

The Government will spare no efforts to secure the industrial development of this Province and the public are fully aware of the energetic steps that have been and are being taken in regard to the development of electric power.

NEW NICKEL COINS

Almost imperceptibly a new type of coin is coming into use in India. It is the new half and quarter rupee pure nickel coins, the minting and issue of which was authorised by the Government of India on May 23, 1946, and which are being issued to the public from the offices of the Reserve Bank and some branches of the Imperial Bank of India. The new coins have begun to circulate in towns although some time may elapse before they penetrate into rural areas. The issue of these coins marks an important landmark in the history of the coinage system in India. Although an alloy of nickel and copper, known as cupro-nickel, is in use for the two, one and half-anna coins, it is the first time that pure nickel coins have been introduced in the country.

The first pure nickel coins were issued by Switzerland in 1881. The Swiss example was followed by France, Belgium, Italy, Canada and Austria and 29 countries have now adopted nickel coins as part of

their currency.

DIFFICULT TO COUNTERFEIT

One of the chief advantages of pure nickel as a coinage medium is its high melting point (viz. 1452°C) on account of which it can only be processed by using specialised equipment. It cannot, therefore, be used by the counterfeiters who must employ a non-ferrous alloy with or without a percentage of nickel. If even one-fifth of its weight of non-ferrous alloy is added to pure nickel, the metal loses its magnetic properties and the counterfeit can readily be detected by a magnet.

Apart from this merit of being difficult to counterfeit, pure nickel is superior to any other metal or alloy for coinage purposes on account of its resistance to corrosion, durability, maintenance of bright appearance and adaptability for artistic designs. Pure nickel is particularly free from tarnishing and coins which are covered with dirt and finger marks can be wiped clean with a dry rag. The fluidity

of the nickel under pressure enables coins of artistic designs to be produced in the mints.

Besides being made in a new metal, the new coins have several new features and characteristics. In the first place, as counterfeiting is almost impossible, the security edge has been dispensed with for a plain milled edge. Secondly, they bear on the reverse side (see page 14) an entirely new and delightful design—that of the Indian tiger—which has appeared for the first time on Indian coins. The words "India 1946" are inscribed below the tiger and the legend "Half Rupee" and "Quarter Rupee" is given in Roman, Urdu and Devanagari characters. On the obverse side is the King's effigy with the words "George VI King Emperor". Thirdly, unlike the previous coins, the nickel coins do not ring but as already stated they are magnetic and any small boy equipped with a cheap magnet can distinguish genuine from counterfeit. The Government are providing Treasuries and Village headmen with magnets to test these coins.

TWO-PRONGED DRIVE AGAINST CORRUPTION

Government's Drastic Measures

PUBLIC COOPERATION EMPHASISED

The question of stamping out corruption among the public and Government servants has been by no means an easy one for the Government to tackle, since corruption has existed in some form or other in all walks of life from the times known to us. But this is certainly no defence for perpetuating the evil, particularly on the part of the Government servants, who are paid for their work and who ought to set their faces resolutely against any attempts on the part of a section of the public to get some extra concession by offering them illegal gratification in cash or kind.

HOW THE PUBLIC CAN HELP

Certain legal remedies for combating corruption among public servants are under the consideration of the Government. But the Government are fully aware that without the close co-operation of every section of the public, who contribute one of the parties to the bribe-taking business, it is impossible to stamp out the evil of corruption. Unless bribe-giving is stopped, it is idle to expect bribe-taking to stop. A strong public opinion must be created against temptations to bribe public servants.

INDIAN TRADITIONS AGAINST IT

In ancient India, bribery of officials was at a minimum, as revealed by evidence in our classics. It is said that the punishment meted out by kings to corrupt officials was death. No wonder we read in Indian History that in the spacious days of King Vikramaditya, the outer doors of houses were not closed during nights. At the present day also public opinion is certainly not in favour of corruption. There is a very strong popular conviction that tainted money, in other words, money got through foul means, does not remain with the

wrong-doer for long. And to illustrate their opinion, local instances of once-rich persons now in the streets are graphically cited.

GOVERNMENT MEASURES

To eradicate corruption the Government have prescribed, among others, the following administrative remedies:—

- (1) The greatest care should be taken in selecting officers entrusted with the grant of permits and the rules for granting permits should be drawn with the greatest precision.
- (2) Public servants, convicted once of corrupt practices, should be instantly dismissed without any kind of compassionate gratuity.

The Government have requested all Heads of Departments to draw the attention of their subordinates to instructions on corruption issued in G.O. No. 902 Public (Services), dated May 28, 1938, and warn them that Government will not hesitate to act according to them when occasion arises.

In launching a drive against corruption among Government servants the Government have been influenced by the view that no officer who has got a bad reputation and abundant suspicion against him has any right to be kept in service, even though guilt is not formally established against him as in a criminal case.

The Government however, realise that it is always difficult to procure direct evidence in cases of corruption on the part of public servants. A combination of circumstances stands in the way of procuring such evidence. One who has paid a bribe and got what he wanted will never come forward as a witness. And, as for the other people who might be in the know of things, they will naturally hesitate to give evidence against an

official, who has familiarised himself with them during his stay in the locality and to whom they may have to go for some obligation or other. Another reason for their unwillingness to testify to the local officials' corruption is their fear of a protracted judicial trial. In the meanwhile, the corrupt official, protected by these factors, plunges head-long into his nefarious career of misdeeds.

SPECIAL STAFF

But it is not in the nature of evil deeds to secure a merry-go-round with impunity. The Government have provided the means by which it is possible to dismiss corrupt officials without definite proof. A special secret staff has been appointed to investigate suspected cases of corruption on the part of the Government servants.

ONUS OF PROOF ON OFFERER AND RECEIVER

In this connection, the Government of Madras have further directed that the principles involved in the following two legal remedies suggested by the Bengal Administrative Enquiry Committee (1944-45) should be applied forthwith in all Departmental enquiries relating to cases of corruption pending the question of amending the law, which is under the consideration of the Government of India.

- (1) The law should be amended so as to provide that where any money, gift, or other consideration has been paid or given to any person in Government employment by any person or agent of a person holding or seeking to obtain a contract, the money, gift or consideration, shall be deemed to have been paid or given or received corruptly unless the contrary is proved. In brief, this means that, if money, etc., has passed between a public servant and a member of the public with whom he is in official relations, the onus of proof that the

(Contd. on Page 34)

MARKETING OF PADDY

FIVE-YEAR PLAN FOR MADRAS

"CO-OP." REGISTRAR'S SCHEME

Provision for increasing the existing Co-operative Marketing Societies from 187 to 200, for constructing 250 big godowns costing Rs. 20,000 each and 280 small godowns of Rs. 10,000 each, and appointing Marketing Panchayatdars for helping in giving loans on produce and for constituting federations of paddy-growing districts for marketing purposes is made in the Five-Year Plan of Marketing Agricultural Produce prepared by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Madras.

New Societies to be organised: There are now 187 Co-operative Marketing Societies. The number should be raised to 200. Thirteen more sale societies should be organised. Each Sale Society should have roughly one taluk for its jurisdiction. Deputy Registrars may now give a list for the organisation of 13 new sale societies in the Province.

Classification of big and small societies: The 200 marketing societies will be classified as big societies and small societies. All the 13 new marketing societies will be put down as small societies. The remaining 187 societies will be classified as big or small on the basis of share capital. Those having or likely to have Rs. 50,000 as share capital should be classified as small societies. Those having or likely to have over Rs. 50,000 as share capital should be classified as large societies. The classification should be done now on the basis that big societies do not exceed 100 in number.

Allotment of staff: The 100 big marketing societies will be given the free services of one Senior Inspector each in the first year and the 100 small marketing societies will be given the free services of one Junior Inspector each in the first year. In subsequent years, the cost of the Inspectors may have to be borne by the societies on a graduated scale. At present, some marketing societies are having Government staff either under Fundamental Rule 127 or under foreign service terms or under special terms from Government. These will all have to be replaced, by the staff that will be sanctioned under the new scheme. But, there

are no men now to fill up these posts. Consequently, Government should be approached to sanction a special recruitment of 200 Junior Inspectors for working this post-war scheme. The staff so recruited will have to be trained at the Central Co-operative Institute for four months and given a practical training of one month. They may not therefore be available for appointment in the sale societies till October 1, 1946. (The staff sanctioned under the scheme may therefore join the societies from October 1, 1946.) If they do so, they will be ready for the groundnut season commencing in September 1946.

GODOWNS FOR PADDY AND GROUNDNUT

Godowns: The big societies may construct 250 big godowns costing Rs. 20,000 each. The small sale societies may construct 280 small godowns costing Rs. 10,000 each. All the godowns will cost Rs. 78,00,000. Government will give 50 per cent of the cost of the godowns as a free grant and 50 per cent as a loan free of interest. The construction of the godowns need not wait until the Inspectors are appointed. It may be taken up forthwith. The Registrar is getting two type of designs and estimates therefore for each of the large godowns and for each of the small godowns and they will be communicated to the Deputy Registrars in due course for adoption by the respective societies.

Allotment of godowns among sale societies: The Deputy Registrars should now give a list of godowns to be constructed in each

small society and each big society. In preparing that list they should take account of societies which already have their own godowns. They should also take into account the list of the Government groundnut godowns which have been taken over or likely to be taken over by sale societies. In no case should a small society or a big society have more than three godowns under this post-war scheme. The programme is to construct 100 godowns in the first year, 100 each in the second, third and fourth years and 150 in the fifth year. The Deputy Registrars should indicate now the societies which will construct godowns in each of the five years.

Purchase and acquisition of sites: The construction of godowns is usually delayed for lack of sites. Having in mind the size of the godown to be put up, sites should be selected by the sale societies concerned and the Deputy Registrar at once. The location of the site is very important. It should as far as possible be near the market centre, because the object of the scheme is 'marketing' and not 'lending' on stocks, although lending on stocks may be done incidentally. If the site is far away from the markets traders will not go to the godown for bidding at auctions or for purchase by private negotiation. Having selected the site, it should be purchased without delay by the sale society. Usually, private purchase goes quicker and purchase under Land Acquisition Act is tardy. The purchases of site should be completed by June 30, 1946 in all cases.

Collection of share capital: For the speedy purchase of sites share

capital should be collected expeditiously. The target of Rs. 50,000 for small societies and the target of Rs. 1 lakh for big societies should be worked up to, before the end of March 1946

PROVISION FOR ADVANCING LOANS ON PRODUCE

Appointment of Marketing Panchayatdars: When the godowns are completed, the stocks will not generally flow into the godown unless this is secured even at the time of production. Therefore, loans under the controlled credit scheme should be given in rural credit societies binding over the produce for the godowns. Marketing Panchayatdars should be appointed in every marketing society and their help should be taken in giving such controlled credit loans. They should be entrusted with gunny bags, weights and measures and receipt books, to collect the produce and bring it to the godown. Before June 30, 1946, the scheme of marketing panchayatdars should be introduced in every area served by every sale society. Loans for cultivation of groundnut or paddy should be disbursed between July and August so that the stocks reach the centres selected for godowns by October 1 by when the special staff will take charge of sale society. Godowns, no doubt, may not be ready in all societies on October 1, 1946. Societies should hire godowns for the purpose in the meanwhile.

FEDERATION OF PRODUCING DISTRICTS

The scheme provides for four paddy federations. As regards paddy, there are already five federations at Madura, Tiruvarur, Ellore, Guntur and Nellore. Four out of these should be selected for the scheme.

The area of operations of each federation should be specified now. The following is suggested tentatively:—

Tiruvarur Federation: Tanjore, Trichinopoly and South Arcot.

Nellore: Nellore district

Guntur: Kistna and Guntur districts.

Ellore: East and West Godavari Districts.

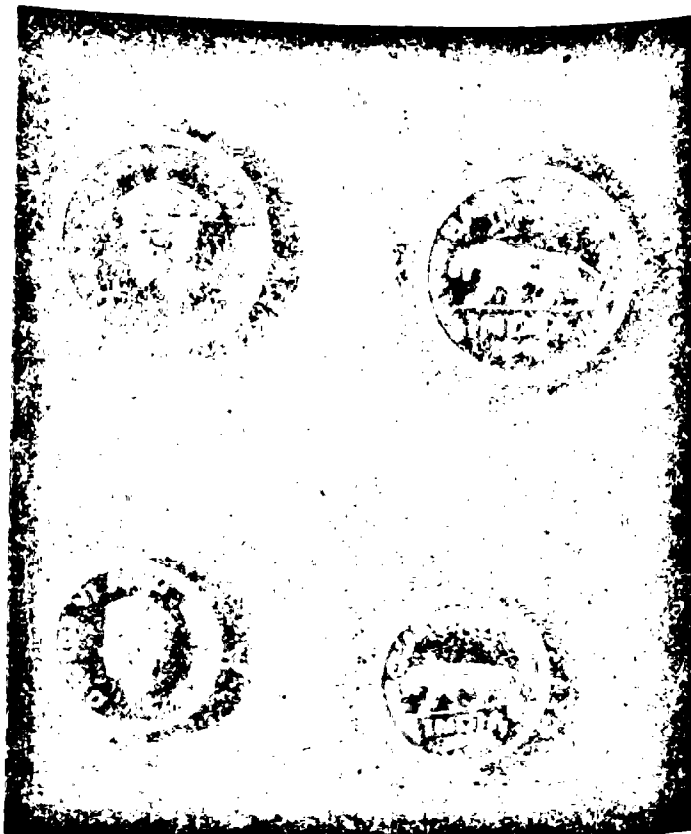
Share Capital of each Federation: Each Federation should build up an owned capital of 2 to 3 lakhs.

Efforts should be taken in this direction from now. The target should be reached by 30th June.

Processing plans: Government have provided an interest-free loan of Rs. 25,000 for each paddy marketing federation for erecting one rice mill every year. At the end of five years, there will be five rice mills for each federation. The location of these rice mills is as important as the location of godowns of sale societies. It is not the idea that they should all be located at the headquarters of the federation. Nor is it the idea that they should be located with reference to the existing business done by the Federation. They should be located with an eye to the development of the future. This should be examined by Deputy Registrars when they return to the districts, at a Joint Conference of Deputy Registrars held at the headquarters of the federation selected. Re-

presentatives of all the sale societies in the jurisdiction of the federation, should be invited to the conference. The Joint Registrar will attend that conference. Further details will be worked out there.

Marketing Federations for groundnut: There are to be five federations for marketing groundnut. The original idea was to locate them at ports through which groundnuts will be exported out of India. The ports selected were Vizagapatam, Cuddalore, Cocanada and Tuticorin. There is now a suggestion from Government that they should be located at places where vegetable ghee factories are being erected namely, (i) Vizianagaram, (ii) Guntur, (iii) Hospet, (iv) Katpadi and (v) Villupuram. This should be discussed at the conference. Each federation is entitled to an interest-free loan of Rs. 50,000 for erecting a decortating factory.



New Nickel Coins



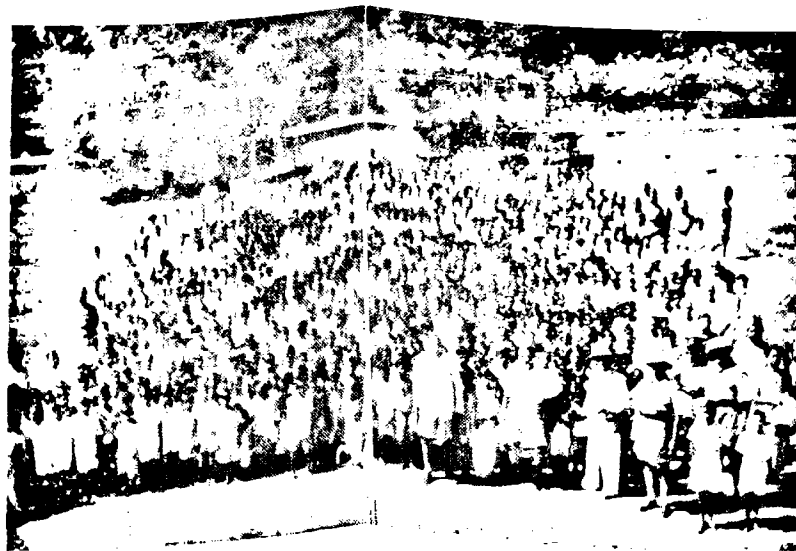
Mr. Daniel Thomas with the Mayor of Madras opening the new Stadium at People's Park.



Sir S. V. Ramamurthy, Chief Secretary to Government, is proceeding to Washington as alternate leader of the Indian delegation on the Food and Agricultural Organisation Preparatory Commission formed to make a world food plan. Sir Sonti has been in charge of food administration as Adviser to H.E. the Governor during 1943-46 and a member of the Famine Enquiry Commission in 1944. He also visited U.K. and U.S.A. earlier this year as a member of the Indian Food Mission. As one of the big nations of the world, agriculturally as well as otherwise, India is bound to have an important share in the design and execution of a world food plan. Sir Sonti is expected to be away on deputation for four months.



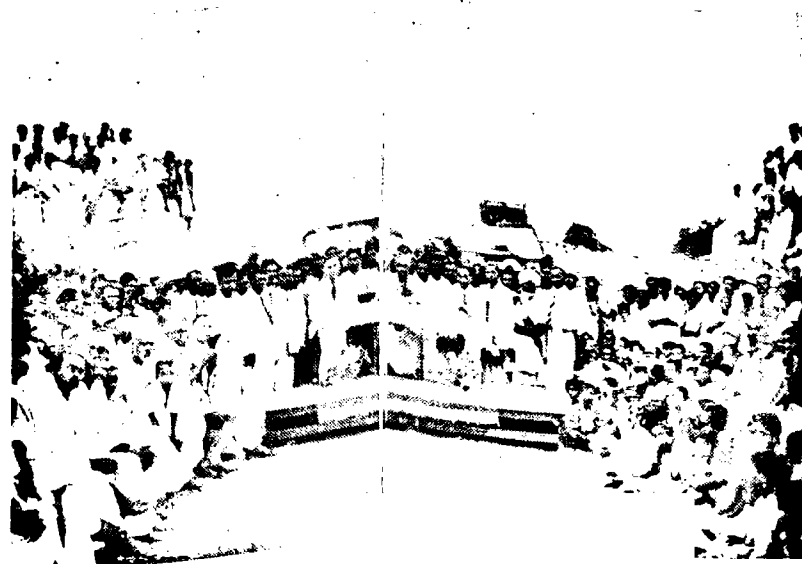
P. S. Kumaraswamy Raja partaking of sweet drinks.



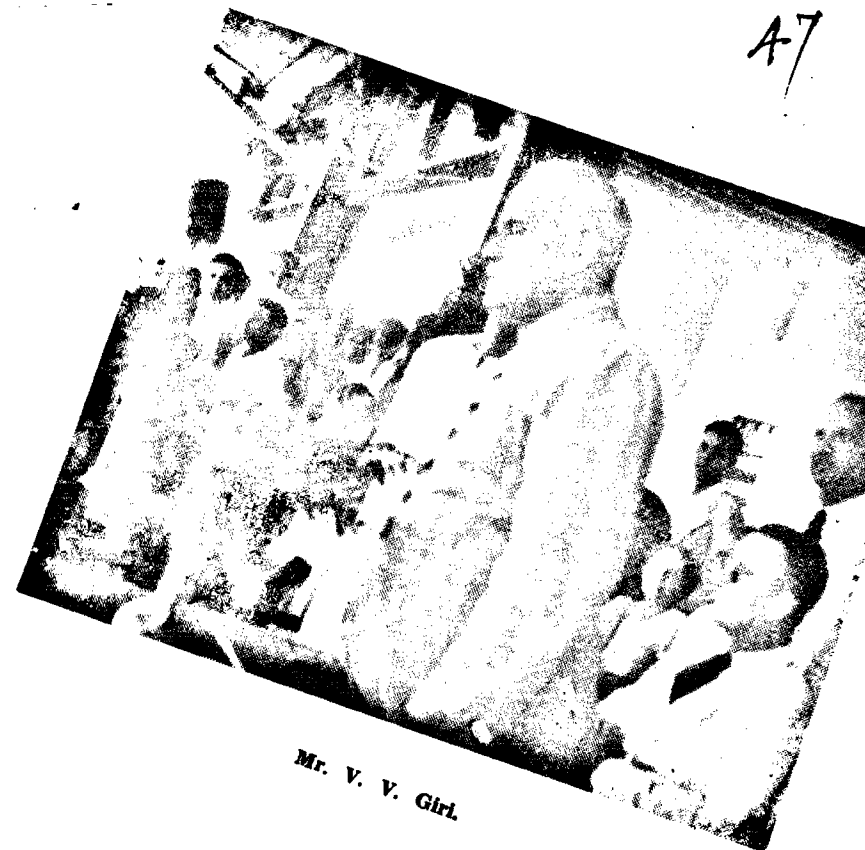
At Collector's Compound, Salem.

WAR DECLARED!

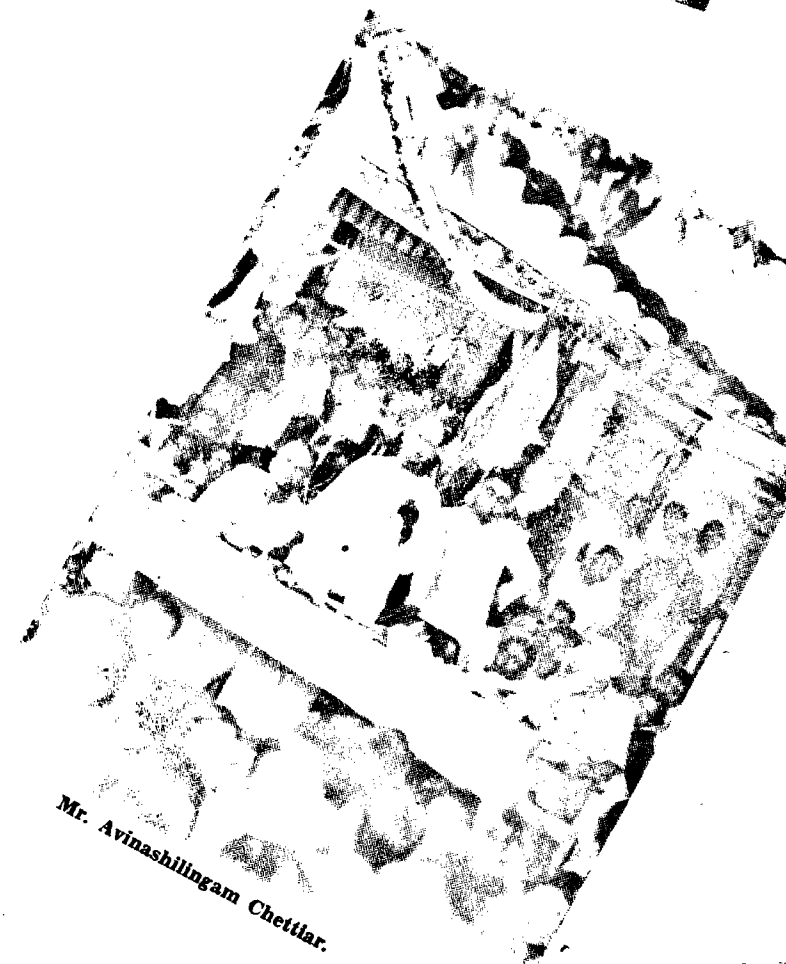
(AGAINST DRINK)



Demon of Drink.



Mr. V. V. Girl.



Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar.

FUNCTION OF CO-OPERATIVE ORGANISATIONS

Link Between Agricultural Producer and Consumer

Mr. V. V. GIRI'S SUGGESTIONS



Mr. K. R. Karant.



He led the procession to the Coronation Park, Coimbatore. See the Congress, Communist and Dravida Kazhakam flags flying side by side.

Addressing the Conference of the representatives of Co-operative Marketing Societies recently held in Madras, Mr. V. V. Giri referred to the five-year plan for the Co-operative marketing of agricultural produce.

He said, "The plan is estimated to cost Rs 1.08 crores. When it is completely carried out, it is expected to confer lasting benefits on the agricultural producers, particularly cultivators of paddy and groundnut which are the major crops of the province.

PRESENT CHAOTIC CONDITIONS

"That the present methods and conditions of agricultural marketing are not all satisfactory and that in some respects they are chaotic, need no saying. The individual cultivator is a small and isolated unit; he is often illiterate. He has to face the highly organised groups of buyers and distributors of the produce. Hence the need for some form of combination of agricultural producers. There are doubtless obstacles in the way of the development of proper marketing, such as heavy indebtedness and the hold of the money-lender over the crop, unsatisfactory state of communications and the difficulty of transport, lack of warehousing facilities and of properly regulated markets and the existing multiplicity of middlemen, of weights and measures, etc. The absence of standardisation and grading due to the ignorance or reluctance of the agriculturists to pool their produce, as well as the absence of a proper system of market intelligence also retard the growth of orderly marketing.

WIDER MEASURES NEEDED

"The complexity of the problem is such that co-operation alone

does not offer an adequate means of improving the conditions of marketing. It is, therefore, well for us to bear in mind the general limitations of co-operative effort in this respect. I may assure you, gentlemen, that the Government are conscious of the great need to devise wider measures for improving the basic conditions of rural economy of the province before co-operative methods can achieve substantial results in the sphere of marketing. As you know, Government have already embarked on a scheme of rural development, and with an improvement in the general economic structure, I am sure co-operative marketing will make rapid progress.

ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR

"I must congratulate you on the results already achieved in this direction. I find that the number of co-operative marketing societies including federations has increased from 66 societies in 1931 to 193 societies on 30th June, 1946, with a share capital of Rs 14 lakhs. The loan business has been steadily increasing and in 1942-43, the societies issued loans for nearly Rs 2 crores. With the return of normal conditions, after the war, I am sure, there will be a steady expansion of their transactions. I am aware that besides advancing loans on produce, the marketing societies have undertaken a variety of activities during the war, of which the distribution of manures including compost, agricultural implements, axes, cart tyres, etc. is most important.

DISTRIBUTION OF AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS

"Regarding entrustment of distribution of these agricultural re-

quisites to the marketing societies. I am aware of the disappointment caused amongst co-operators, when the work of distribution of these articles was taken away from these institutions and entrusted to the Agricultural Department and of the strong desire on the part of co-operators that this work should be handed over to them. It is not necessary for me to refer at length to the reasons which persuaded the Advisors' Government to entrust the distribution to the Agricultural Department. Whatever might be the merits of that arrangement, I consider that the association of non-officials in the distribution of the essential articles is very desirable. As you may be aware, after we assumed office, we have been endeavouring to associate non-officials to the maximum extent in all schemes of distribution of food grains and other essential commodities.

GROUNDNUT OILCAKES

"Under the present arrangements, the groundnut oilcake will be purchased by the Agricultural Department and stocked in the agricultural depots at Taluk headquarters. The village committees will issue permits to the ryots with due regard to the acreage under food crops and the ryot will take the permit to the nearest agricultural depot and obtain his supplies of oilcakes. Similar arrangements have been made for the distribution of iron and steel for agricultural purposes.

"Further in places where local co-operative societies are entrusted with the distribution of food, etc., the distribution of iron and steel as raw materials will also be entrusted to them. The societies will purchase stocks of iron and steel store them on their own account

and sell them to permit-holders, (whether members or non-members). If it is the intention of the delegates who have assembled here that the marketing societies can also come into the picture and if they can put up a satisfactory scheme for decentralised distribution through formation of depots or branches for groups of villages in the place of small independent co-operative units, I and my colleagues will be prepared to give our most sympathetic consideration to it.

PROCUREMENT OF FOOD GRAINS

"I notice that one of the war-time developments is that co-operative marketing societies and federations have undertaken procurement of food grains, particularly in surplus areas. On behalf of Government, let me thank all those co-operators who have been so devotedly participating in schemes of food procurement. If there is anything that Government can do to help you to get over the difficulties in the matter of transport, milling, adequacy of trade margins, I may assure you that your representations will receive due consideration.

STORAGE AND PROCESSING

"Of all the provisions made in the Five-year plan for the marketing of agricultural produce, I attach great importance to those relating to storage and processing of produce before sale, so as to secure a greater return to the producer. As regards storage accommodation, it is admitted that the existing facilities are thoroughly inadequate. Out of a total estimated produce of 60 million tons of food grains in India, about 1½ million tons are estimated to be lost annually due to the absence of proper storage facilities and destruction caused by dampness, fire, rats, pests, vermin, etc. Government have been assisting marketing societies in the construction of godowns by giving them free grants of 25½% of the cost of construction and low interest-bearing loans for long periods upto 30 years to cover the balance of the estimated cost. I learn that 30 marketing or sale societies have got 30 godowns in addition to 28 godowns owned by village credit societies, and the Government have provided from the Government of India Groundnut Fund, 11 godowns of which 6 have already been handed over to marketing societies. If the ryot has to get the benefit incidental to proper storage, marketing societies must own godowns not only at their headquarters but in all market

centres and munities in their jurisdiction. The Registrar, in his original five-years plan, made provision for the construction of 1,000 up-to-date, rat-proof, dam-proof and fire-proof godowns at an estimated cost of 2½ crores of rupees; but in the revised scheme a provision has been made for 530 godowns at a cost of Rs. 78 lakhs, one-half of which will be free grants to the societies and the remaining half interest-free loans for 20 years.

"If the producer is to get his fair return for his produce and if marketing should be successful, it is time that processing should be linked up with marketing; for instance, hulling of paddy and decortication of groundnut should be undertaken by marketing organisations. To assist them in this work, I find, provision has been made for 20 rice mills to be set up by 4 paddy marketing federations and 5 groundnut decorticators, by 5 groundnut marketing federations at an estimated cost of Rs. 7½ lakhs. Whether rice mills should be owned by marketing federations or primary marketing societies is a point which you may carefully consider.

INCENTIVES TO PRODUCERS
"The war-time agricultural conditions have forcefully brought to the notice of all concerned that agricultural production cannot be promoted, unless there are reasonable incentives to the producer and that one such incentive is the provision of an assured market for the produce of the agriculturist at a guaranteed minimum price. It is in appreciation of these considerations that the Government of India have appointed, a committee to formulate proposals for the stabilisation of agricultural prices. Its recommendations contemplate that the State should guarantee that it would purchase all that is offered to it at the minimum price and release supplies from its own reserve stocks at not more than the maximum price. The committee suggests fixation of prices of rice, wheat, jowar and bajra at a level which would be fair both to the producer and the consumer. The producer's minimum price will be fixed taking into account the relevant factors bearing on the cost of production and margins sufficient to maintain the producer and his family at a reasonable standard of life. Any tendency to fall below the minimum price will, it is proposed, be counteracted by way of Government purchases of all supplies offered at that price. The Committee contemplate an All-

India Agricultural Prices Council for the formulation and execution of the price policy. A Commodity Corporation and a Price Fixation Commission are also envisaged."

The object of the Commodity Corporation is that it should enforce the prices fixed by appropriate purchase and sale of operations in the market. This machinery is expected to normally carry out its activities through trade agencies. The Committee suggest that in order to facilitate the execution of the programme of price support, simultaneous measures should be taken towards agricultural improvement.

NOT TOUCHED FRINGE OF PROBLEM

"I think I have said enough for you to set thinking now and to what extent co-operative marketing organisations can participate in schemes of this type. Whether any relations can be established between our marketing societies and federations and the proposed Commodity Corporation, and whether these organisations can act as agents of such Corporation in its purchase and sale operations it is too much for me now to speculate or predict. We have not yet touched the fringe of the problem. I feel that co-operative marketing institutions should embark upon a very bold policy, on a much more effective and extensive scale, of helping the agriculturist in marketing his produce by formulating measures for assembling, transport, storage, grading and processing."

THE MIDDLEMAN'S PART

"What the agriculturist requires is a fair price and this is often denied him for reasons beyond his control. One of the effective methods which is tried in other countries is to combine the producers for purposes of marketing of produce and the advantages of such an association of producers are best realised through co-operative organisations. It is idle to think that co-operative marketing association can eliminate the middlemen root and branch. In the scheme of things as we find, the functions of collection, transport, storage and sales of produce have become specialised and the services of the middlemen in these respects have to be paid for. What co-operative organisations aim at is an elimination of abuses which admittedly exist in the existing arrangements and through efficient organisation, a reduction in the superfluity of middlemen."

REVISED TEXTILE CONTROL MEASURES

CONSTITUTION AND FUNCTION OF POPULAR COMMITTEES

(Continued from page 6)

AT BELLARY

The inauguration of Prohibition was celebrated in the Bellary Town under the presidency of the Hon'ble Mr. K. R. Karant, Minister for Revenue. All Government Offices except the Treasuries were granted a holiday. Messrs. E. E. Mack, District Judge, A. Ramouf Saheb Bahadur, M.L.A., B. Bhima Rao, M.L.C. and Dr. Lakshmi Devi spoke on the benefits of Prohibition.

The Hon'ble Minister for Revenue appealed for the co-operation of the public in helping the officials to put a stop to the drinking habit.

AT CUDAPPAH

Prohibition was inaugurated in Cudappah Town by the Hon'ble Mr. T. Prakasam, the Prime Minister of Madras, amidst scenes of great enthusiasm.

A public meeting was held in the morning at the Muddukrishna Hall at which the Hon'ble the Premier, the Hon'ble the Minister for Excise, and Religious Endowments were present.

PREMIER'S SPEECH

The Premier traced the fall of man from *Kritha Yuga* till the other day, when he was at the lowest depths under an alien rule. Now that a people's government was in power, he said, the path of recovery was in sight and he was sure in a short time Prohibition would be an accomplished fact in the Presidency.

TRIBUTE TO H. E. THE GOVERNOR

The Hon'ble Mr. T. Prakasam paid a glowing tribute to the qualities of head and heart of His Excellency Sir Archibald Nye, the Governor of Madras, who, he said, was a teetotaler. His Excellency gave his consent readily to the introduction of Prohibition in the eight districts.

The Premier appealed to the non-officials and officials to co-operate with each other and make the Prohibition scheme an unqualified success.

the Madras Provincial Handloom Cloth Merchants' Association and representative of the Madras Piece Goods Merchants' Association, Madras Retail Piece Goods Merchants' Association, Retail Cloth Merchant's Association, one wholesale and retail dealer in yarn, one retail and one wholesale dealer in cloth.

CIRCLE COMMITTEES

The City Committee will appoint Circle Committees. Every Town Committee will appoint Circle Committees.

INSPECTION SUB-COMMITTEES

Every village and Town Committee will appoint two Sub-Committees for its area to be called the Cloth Inspection Sub-Committee and Yarn Inspection Sub-Committee.

DISTRICT TEXTILE SUB-COMMITTEES

The full District Committee may meet and discuss any matters within its purview. The District Committee will form the Textile sub-committees.

SCHEME OF DISTRIBUTION FOR MILL CLOTH

The Provincial Textile Commissioner will distribute the provincial quota among the districts. The District and Taluk Committees will fix the quota for the Municipal and Taluk areas and villages and towns respectively.

DISTRIBUTION IN OTHER AREAS

The towns will be classified into A and B classes, the former comprising of the Madras city and the towns where the Textile Commissioner considered it impracticable to link up the circles, all the other towns being classified under class B.

CLASS A

The local Committee will settle a suitable scheme of classification of consumers and fix a suitable cloth ration for each class of consumer.

CLASS B

The same procedure as in Class A towns will be adopted.

VILLAGE COMMITTEES

The existing Food Committees will be enlarged by the addition of two representatives of handloom weavers, one representative of the local master weavers, one local wholesale mill-cloth dealer, one retail dealer in mill cloth and one local wholesale yarn dealer and one retail dealer in yarn.

TALUK COMMITTEES

These will be enlarged by the addition of the Textile Control Officers, two representatives of handloom weavers, one representative of master weavers, one wholesale dealer in mill cloth, one such retail dealer, one wholesale dealer in yarn and one such retail dealer.

MOFUSSIL MUNICIPALITIES

A Committee for each Municipal area shall be constituted on the same lines as in villages, with the addition of the local Textile Control Officers, the Chairman and Commissioner of the Municipality to the existing Food Committees.

MOFUSSIL DISTRICT COMMITTEES

These will be enlarged by the addition of the local Inspecting Assistant Textile Commissioner, three representatives of weavers, two master weavers, one wholesale and one retail dealer in mill cloth and one wholesale and retail dealer in yarn.

MADRAS CITY COMMITTEE

A City Committee will be formed, constituted on the following lines: The Inspecting Assistant Textile Commissioner, all members of the Central and Provincial Legislatures representing the Madras City, the Mayor of Madras, three representatives of weavers, one for Washermanpet, one for Triplicane and the third for Saidapet, to be elected by the Weavers' Association in the city. One representative of local master weavers to be nominated by

HOW MADRAS IS BEING FED

PEOPLE'S DUTY TO CO-OPERATE

It has been said that necessity is the mother of invention. There is a good deal of difference, however, in the size and quality of her offspring. In this Province, rationing has become a fully developed system covering the whole population whereas in some other Provinces it affects little more than the urban population.

HISTORY OF RATIONING

Its development in Madras was gradual. When the Japanese occupied Burma, the first step this Province took was to take the control of the sale of rice in the surplus districts—the Delta districts—so that supplies could be divided between Ceylon, Travancore, Cochin and other South Indian States, the Services, and the deficit towns and districts in the rest of the Province.

It was soon found that this was not enough. In Madras City, the more the rice that was sent, the more was taken, and there were still long queues at the grain shops. It became necessary to introduce rationing; the queues ceased and Madras City got its share of grain. The experience gained in Madras enabled the Province to respond to to desire of the Government of India that all towns should be rationed.

DEFICIT IN MALABAR MET

The next necessity that faced the Commissioner of Civil Supplies was the need for supplying Malabar. The district with nearly 4 million inhabitants produced only about half the rice its inhabitants require. Even in normal years the poorer classes had little to eat at the end of the agricultural year in the months preceding the new harvest. Government had to do three things: (1) to make sure that those who had more than enough for a year sold their surplus for rationing purposes, (2) to make sure that lists were made of those who needed a ration for the whole or part of a year and that cards were issued, and (3) to make sure that ration shops were provided and stocked. This was done under a Statutory Rationing scheme.

RURAL RATIONING

It was soon found necessary to introduce a similar scheme, though

not on a statutory basis, in other districts—in some districts like Vizagapatam, Nilgiris, Coimbatore, Ramnad and Tinnevely, because they were heavily deficit—and it was necessary both to make the best of local supplies and to make distribution to consumers more equitable. In South Kanara district it was introduced because it was believed that the district was self-sufficient or nearly so and rural rationing was the best way of putting this to the test.

NET WORK SPREADS

Last of all came the bad season of 1945-46 and it was apparent that it was absolutely necessary to make the best use of local supplies both because they were the only supplies that we could depend on in the last resort and because if we were to ask for help from the rest of India and from other countries we had to show that we were making the most of our own resources and that all grain would be distributed equitably. Rural rationing was therefore extended to the remaining districts and the whole of the province is now covered by either statutory or non-statutory rationing.

PLAY HAS GONE ON

Now, the significant thing about this huge system is that it is working. The people of this province are of course a very patient people. They will tolerate long waits between the scenes of a drama provided that the play goes on. They have been tolerant about such hitches, from the late arrival of a ship at a port to heavy rain or a cart strike in a particular locality. But so far the play has gone on. A large section of ryots have produced their surplus grain even though they have grumbled at times and the grain has been put into the ration shops.

AND IT MUST GO ON

Now it is fairly certain that rationing will have to continue, in most districts at any rate, for some time yet. The question is whether it will gradually improve and finally be abolished because it is no longer necessary or whether it will deteriorate and be abolished because it is no longer effective.

YOU CAN ALSO HELP

How can the rationing system be improved? In the first place by the Members of Village Committees setting an example to the rest of the villages by selling the whole of their surplus and bringing pressure on the rest of the villagers to do so without waiting for the Officials to come.

In the second place, by village officers and shop-keepers in the villages being careful about the issue of ration cards and rations. When cards are issued for "Visitors" without proper enquiry, when a man who regularly eats millets is classified as a rice-eater, the stock of grains decreases as if nibbled away by rats.

In the third place, the system can be improved by increased promptness and the adoption of better business methods by those engaged in the distribution of grains—the agents, group agents and distributors of imported grains.

The result of this improvement would be that we should find shops fully stocked and be able to raise the ration to a point when we would find the ration to be so large that most people would not buy the full ration. We could then perhaps conclude that there was plenty of grain and we would be able to do away with rationing.

YOU CAN MAR IT TOO

Now how can the rationing system deteriorate? In many ways. Village committees can adopt a selfish attitude, recommend bigger allowances for cultivators than they really need; they can hoard grains and give a bad example to the villagers instead of giving good one. Village Headmen and shop-keepers can evade, instead of keeping, regulations. Villagers can say "Whether there is rationing or no rationing, the people of this village can't go without extra rice for festivals." They can say, "The Regulation that only 50 guests can be fed at a wedding is hard. This village is remote and the village Headman is a *bandhu* (relative). We will invite 100. No one will find out."

(Continued on next page)

COLLECTIVE FEEDING

The world has known "meals in common" for a long time. This practice has not been restricted to any particular region or climate nor was it the monopoly of any race or creed.

Chatrams spread all over India were the well known places where collective feeding was practised on a large scale. Educational Institutions, religious and secular, organised common feeding for the benefit of their pupils. Military establishments considered common feeding essential and made their own arrangements. In addition, hospitals, sanatoria and prisons made arrangements for the feeding of their inmates. In all the above, feeding was practically free in ancient days but in later years boarders in educational institutions and paying patients in hospitals and sanatoria were charged for their food.

In times of unemployment, governments and philanthropic individuals organised mass feeding and made it available to those in distress.

During recent times, industrial establishments have begun to realise the advantages of feeding their workers in the premises of the factories, in some, on nominal payment, while in others feeding is free. Another well-known place of "meals in common" is the hotel. The hotel industry appears to be thriving and requires careful attention, and detailed consideration in the interests of the health of the population.

It must be ensured that the diet supplied in residential institutions and hotels is satisfactory from a physiological point of view. The laws of the country should be so adjusted that they have a direct control over the food policies of these places of common feeding. There may not be any need for creating any special organisation to deal with this aspect of the matter. It should be made part of

the duties of Public Health and Food administrations to check the quality and quantity of institutional diets and suggest suitable improvements to the diet schedules. Hospital dietaries and food provided in military establishments would be dealt with by those in charge of their arrangements, presumably on scientific basis.

During times of economic depression and scarcity of food grains, relief given is usually based on charitable considerations. But this should not mean that such relief must not be subjected to scientific scrutiny. Experts should be consulted for suggestions which are capable of practical application without increasing the cost appreciably. Such suggestions, when they do emanate, shall be given all consideration. There is not much reliable information available on forms and extent of food relief given in different countries during periods of economic crisis.

Mid-day school feeding now in vogue is a form of relief to the vulnerable group of population. The nature of the mid-day meal should depend on the particular requirements of those to be helped and if properly conceived, would be of immense benefit to the school-going children of economically poor parentage. In some countries, pregnant and nursing women are supplied with quantities of milk and often with cereal rations also. These meals are prepared in a central kitchen and distributed through Child Welfare Centres, industrial establishments etc. Every attempt should be made to vary menus. Fruits and leafy vegetables, available in different regions at cheap rates, should be included in the menu.

The cost of meals supplied in hotels should be looked into and attempts should be made, if necessary by legislation, to correlate the quality of the food provided with the cost charged. Many workers

in cities live for long periods on hotel meals and any deterioration in their health is bound to have an adverse effect on the health of the other parts of the population. Persons who go to cities on business have necessarily to depend on hotel meals and steps taken to regulate the quantity and quality of hotel meals would lead to a lessening of ill-health on the population living on such meals.

Similarly the food supplied in industrial canteens must be scrutinised and efforts should be made to improve the quality of food supplied whether free or on payment.

In these days when co-operative farming is being talked of, when 'all for each and each for all' is the lead given to us by the leaders of our country, when the whole world is conceived as one family, when world pools of food grains are being contemplated, it should not be difficult to organise co-operative common kitchens in every village, where all could get delicious and varied food at cheap rates. Such an arrangement will save much of the labour now engaged in cooking in every household and the food so prepared will be much cheaper. There would also be saving in fuel, cooking utensils etc. Wastage in individual families will be prevented and the time saved can be utilised in more profitable ways.

Co-operative common kitchen will mean, in practice, a hotel run by all for the benefit of all, as the profit motive will not be present in such a venture. This, when practised on a large scale will lead to balanced agriculture, where supply will meet demand and there will be no unhealthy competition to produce more cash crops at the expense of food crops.

B. G. KRISHNAN,
Nutrition Officer,
Department of Food, Madras.

(Continued from previous page)
parties proclaim high ideals. No religion praises the greedy man, the man who is unmindful of his neighbours' everyday-wants.

OUR ALL INDIA REPUTATION

Madras has an All India reputation in many fields; its rationing system is not the least of its achievements. It depends largely for its working on the goodwill and

the commonsense of the people of this province. It depends on them whether India's leaders can continue to point with pride at this system as an example of Indian National character translated into practical action or whether they will have to look elsewhere for examples of self-discipline and good citizenship.

If all this happens, there will be no increase in the grain that gets into the shops, and we shall have the spectacle of more and more people buying more and more grain in the black market, while the poorer man will continue to buy a pittance of grain at the ration shop.

NONE PRAISES GREED
Responsible men in all political

ENGINEERS AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

MADRAS CHIEF ENGINEER OUTLINES SCOPE FOR SERVICE

PROVINCIAL PLANS FOR POWER DEVELOPMENT DESCRIBED

(The article given below is a paper on "Engineers and National Development," read by Mr. G. Sundaram, Chief Engineer for Electricity, Madras Government, at the Annual Conference of the Benares Engineers' Association, on October 6, 1946. In the course of his address, Mr. Sundaram briefly indicated the plans for national development so far prepared for this province.)

In the new India that is emerging the masses are to have a new ideal. Their standard of living is sought to be increased and several plans for the development of the country's resources to that end have been put forward. In all of these, the engineers have a vital part to play.

The most comprehensive and constructive plan is the one attempted by the National Planning Committee which was convened by our distinguished Chairman, Mr. G. I. in Bombay in 1938. The plan is not yet completely drawn, but its general outline is clear.

The standard of living is sought to be raised

firstly, by improvement of food supply assuring a minimum of 2,400 calorific units for an adult worker,

secondly, by improvement in clothing from the pre-war average consumption of 15 yards per capita per annum, to 30 yards per capita per annum, and

thirdly, by improvement in housing assuring 100 square feet per capita of well lighted and ventilated covered space with

adequate water supply and sanitation.

Furthermore, adequate provision of social services like education, health, and sanitation and of civilised amenities like facilities for travel, amusements, theatres, cinemas, museums and centres for cultural developments, is to be made.

THE BASIC TASK

The basic jobs to be done under the plan are

to increase production of food, of clothing and of houses. And most of these has to be done by engineers.

Several new irrigation schemes big and small have to be put through. Industrialisation on a vast scale is necessary. Several key industries have to be established and the existing ones expanded. Public utilities for generation and distribution of power, for transport by roadways, railways, waterways and airways, and for water supply and sanitation have to be formed and run. It does not require much imagination to see that in the shaping of India of the future, the engineers will have a very large hand.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION

To get an idea of the role they have to play and of the number of engineers that would be needed for the tasks of the plan, Russian figures may be of interest. University training there, is of course, co-ordinated with the requirements of their plan, and the output of graduates from the universities of Soviet Russia for 1939 was as follows:—

	Russia 1939
Teachers	38,000
Engineers	28,700 (29%)
Doctors	14,000
Agricultural graduates	10,500
Economists and lawyers	6,000
Arts graduates	2,000 (2%)
	99,200

	Madras, 1940.
Teachers	305
Engineers	82 (3%)
Doctors	112
Agricultural graduates	36
Economists and lawyers	202
Arts graduates	1,792 (71%)
	2,529

The Russian plan at the time aimed at rapid liquidation of illiteracy and hence the enormous number of teacher graduates amounting to 38% of the total output. Next in importance to them come the engineers accounting for 29% of the graduates. The proportion of Arts graduates was only 2%. They represented Arts in the real sense, viz. Drama, Music, Painting, Sculpture.

Compare this with the output of the Madras University in 1940. 2,529 graduates came out in the year. Of them only 3% were engineers. 71% were Arts and Science graduates. It will be clear that the local university turns out graduates in a manner entirely unrelated to the real work ahead of the country.

It is urgent first of all to complete the economic plans for the country and next to reorganize university education to supply the technical leadership necessary to carry out the plans.

PROVINCIAL PLANS

I propose now briefly to indicate the plans so far prepared for this province and shall deal in particular with the plans for power development.

The power generating plant installed in this Province amounts to 1,50,000 K.W. During the war period there was practical stoppage of all new schemes and extensions and the only work done was to complete with great difficulty the few schemes already started. With the cessation of the war and the release of capital and labour for production work, a very large demand for power is arising and it is going to be a job to meet it in time. Furthermore on account of the great dearth of cattle for draught purposes and their high prices, an enormous demand for electric power for well irrigation is being made.

The plan now is to double the generating capacity in the province within five years. More is not possible at the moment on account of the difficulty in getting power plant in reasonable time and the lack of enough trained civil engineers to man the jobs.

The plan includes the following major schemes:

MADRAS INFORMATION

1. Machkund hydro-electric scheme, including extensions to the Vizagapatam and Bezwada thermal auxiliary plants.

2. Ceded Districts Scheme.

3. Nellore Thermal Scheme.

4. Madras Thermal Extension Scheme and inter-connection with Mettur hydro-electric Scheme.

5. Moyar Hydro-electric Scheme.

6. Pykara Hydro-electric Scheme Extensions.

7. Madura Thermal Scheme.

8. Papanasam Scheme Extensions.

The Machkund Scheme, work on which has just been started, is being undertaken in co-operation with the Orissa Government. It is good for 1,00,000 K.W. eventually and will supply power for all the needs in the Vizag, Godavari, Kistna and Guntur Districts commencing from 1951. Until then the area would receive supply from the existing thermal plants at Vizag, Cocanada and Bezwada. To cope with the interim demand additional thermal generating plant totalling 9,000 K.W. has been ordered.

The Ceded Districts are proposed to be supplied with power purchased from the Mysore Jog hydro-electric scheme. Supply will start in middle of 1948. When the Tungabhadra hydro-power station is built—around 1952—it will take over the area and supply from Mysore will be stopped.

For the Nellore area, a thermal station is planned at Nayudupetta with 2-2,500 K.W. transportable power sets initially. The sets have been ordered and the plant will be working next year.

Supply for the Madras City area is now handicapped by restrictions on account of the load exceeding capacity at the Power House. The undertaking is to be acquired by the Government in August 1947 and steps have already been taken to modernize the plant and increase its capacity. A new 1,500 K.W. generating set has been ordered as also the associated boilers and they

would be in service in 1948-49. To meet the growing demand in the meanwhile it is proposed to use two 2,500 K.W. transportable power units to supplement supply as a temporary measure and these units have also been ordered.

To meet increased demands both industrial and agricultural in the hydro-electric grid in the southern part of the Province, a new power house on the Moyar River in the Nilgiris is being built with an installed capacity of 36,000 K.W. A new Dam on the Pykara river is also to be built and the Pykara Power House will be extended to give 25,000 K.W. additional power. Similar extensions at the Papanasam Power House completing the installation there are also under construction. To supplement the output in the hydro-grid during water scarcity, a thermal auxiliary station at Madura with an initial capacity of 4,000 K.W. is to be built shortly. The plant has been ordered.

These schemes which are all now under construction cover a major part of the province and as already mentioned will result in doubling the existing generating capacity. They would cost about Rs. 15 crores.

They represent, however, only the immediate plan. Further plans are envisaged for the development of all workable water power sites in the province as quickly as possible as demand for electricity for agricultural and industrial purposes promises to beat all records. There are good sites on the Godavari and its tributaries, on the Kistna, on the Cauvery and at several places on the Western Ghats. Lignite deposits have been located in the South Arcot District and thermal stations are planned to supplement output during low water period.

IRRIGATION

The Province is also launching irrigation schemes of large magnitude. The Tungabhadra Scheme costing nearly Rs. 10 crores is under construction. Included in the five year plan are the important Lower Bhavani Project, Gandikota Reservoir Project, Vaigai Reservoir Project and a number of schemes for the improvement to drainage in the Godavari, Kistna and Cauvery Deltas. Towering over all these will be the gigantic Ramapadasagar Project on the

Godavari River, exploratory work on which is in progress. It is planned to irrigate no less than 2.3 million acres of new land and to improve supply to about 2 million acres of old irrigation. It will also develop over 75,000 K.W. of continuous electric power. The cost may be about Rs. 70 crores.

An ambitious programme of road building has also been thought of with considerable mileage of new roads connecting villages with each other and with the nearest major road or railway.

Plans for extending the electrification of the Madras suburban Railway lines and for electrifying certain important main lines are under study.

HOUSING

In view of the acute housing shortage that is being experienced all over the province, house building on a very wide scale under both public and private auspices is bound to be taken up as soon as steel, cement and timber are available without difficulty and transport is easier.

Country-wide industrialisation will call for enormous constructive activity in the manufacture, housing and running of machinery for the key industries, consumption industries, and cottage industries.

The field of activity of the engineer is rapidly expanding and he will be among the prime architects of the future.

ENGINEERS AS

ADMINISTRATORS

Hitherto the engineer while contributing in no small measure for the welfare of the community, had been content to play a subordinate part in the administration of the country. This modesty could not have been beneficial to the country. In the coming era with its large-scale economic objectives achievable only through scientific and engineering effort of a high order, the qualities which make for a good engineer will be precisely the qualities needed for administrative leadership. Vision and courage to conceive large ameliorative pro-

jects, clear thinking and a realistic appreciation of the limits of men and material are among these qualities. It is to be hoped that the engineer will soon come into his own in public affairs and in national leadership.

MISSIONARY AND NOT

MERCENARY

To be worthy of his role in the shaping of future India, the engineer has to set for himself a high code of conduct. He must be guided in all his transactions by the highest principles of honour and rectitude. If he is a true creative worker he is subject to no external compulsion but "to an inner necessity to do the utmost that is in him". When he gives of his

utmost to his job he ceases to be a mercenary though he gets payment for his services.

The work ahead in India today is of such magnitude and importance that only by the engineer getting imbued with a missionary spirit which places service to the public before self-interest, can the task be fulfilled. Such a spirit can move mountains. It lightens the task and it ennoble the worker.

To be an engineer in these days is to be given opportunities for public service of the highest order. May it be given to him to seize these opportunities and by conscientious and devoted work to inaugurate an era of better living for the masses.

Food Facts

1. For 1946 India required 4 million tons of imported food grains. But we have so far received only about 1½ million tons. Out of the 4 million tons we required, 2,400,000 were for the second half of the year. Against this we have secured only 600,000 or 700,000 tons.

2. The shipping strike in America lost us about 150,000 tons.

3. It would take six weeks for consignments to come from South America. But speed is a very important factor now.

4. Political situation in Burma, Siam, Java as well as physical difficulties, have cut down the amount of food these countries have been able to export to India. In Indonesia, for instance, the transport is so poor that only from 25,000 to 30,000 tons of rice per month can be moved.

5. The worst scarcity areas now are the southern and south-western areas of India, including Bombay Province.

6. The American Famine Mission to India recommended heavy imports during the third quarter of this year to offset the critical last

quarter, but actual receipts for the most part fell far short of the Mission's recommendations.

The Mission's recommended imports, with actual receipts in parenthesis, are: July 225,000 tons (206,000 tons); August 380,000 (209,000); September 615,000 (250,000 estimated); October, 590,000 (Government programmed distribution of 344,000 tons but now expect not more than 199,000); November 250,000 tons.

7. The conclusion is that we will have to depend mostly on ourselves to pull through the three lean months ahead.

8. This means every producer must strain his utmost to deliver up the surplus, over and above the 12 oz. per head he retains for his family's use, to the Government.

9. And the producer must give the surplus in time.

10. For fighting the famine is a race against time.

REMEMBER: Every little surplus you hoard may mean suffering and privation, perhaps death, to some of your brethren.

EDUCATION TO BE REORGANISED

GOVERNMENT INVITE PUBLIC OPINION

QUESTIONNAIRE ISSUED

A. Syllabus

- (1) Is the curriculum prescribed for Standards I to V too heavy for an average child who does not read beyond Standard V?
- (2) If so, in what ways can it be curtailed?
- (3) Considering that English has been eliminated from the curriculum of Junior Basic Schools, can the rest of the curriculum be gone through in four years instead of five years?
- (4) In view of the necessity for the eradication of illiteracy and the achievement of mass literacy as soon as possible, would you restrict the curriculum of the Junior Basic schools to the three R's taught in the regional language? With a view to bringing the instruction in existing elementary schools in a line with basic education, what improvements in the present curriculum do you suggest?
- (5) Should instruction be centred round one craft or more than one?
- (6) Are you in favour of only one type of curriculum for all children of the primary grade or different types of schools with different curricula? Senior Basic Education will then begin with Standard 4 or 5 or 6?
- (7) Should there be separate Nursery or Infant Schools or would you include the infant class as class I of the lower elementary or Junior Basic?

B. Management

- (1) Is local board management of elementary education satisfactory?
- (2) What are your suggestions for making the management of schools under local boards more efficient?
- (3) Can you suggest any other agency which can manage better than the local boards?
- (4) Do you advise the appointment of District Board educational officers for all district boards and educational officers for all Municipalities? If so, what powers should be assigned to them?
- (5) In view of the revision of the Panchayat Act giving a new orientation to Panchayats, would you recommend control of elementary schools by Panchayats?
- (6) Would you retain the privately managed aided schools?
- (7) Would you recommend abolition of the teacher-manager system?
- (8) Are you in favour of demanding the provision of an endowment by every management?
- (9) What is your view regarding the representation to be given to teachers, parents and the local citizens or villagers on the managing body of every school?

C. Methods of Instruction

- (1) In what ways are the present methods defective?
- (2) Are the defects due to the low general educational qualifications of the teachers or are the defects inherent in the system of training? Specify defects with suggestions for improvement.
- (3) Give your experience, if any, of craft-centred educational experiments.

D. Improving the status of teachers

- (1) Should there be any difference in the scales of pay of teachers of the same grade working under different managements?
- (2) Is the difference between scales of pay in Boards Schools and scales of grants in aided schools justifiable?
- (3) Do you recommend that children of all teachers whether in elementary schools or in secondary schools should be educated fully free?
- (4) Do you consider that teachers in aided schools should be eligible for leave on the same scale as teachers in Board Schools?
- (5) What defects do you find in regard to teachers' Provident Fund and what suggestions do you make for improvement in this matter?
- (6) What suggestions would you make for improving the security of teachers under aided managements?
- (7) Do you consider that Elementary School teachers should be given representation in local bodies? If so how would you like it to be given?
- (8) Do you consider that Elementary School Teachers should be given representation on the E. S. L. C. Examination Board, Text-Book Committees, etc.?
- (9) Do you think that Co-operative Societies can be formed for the benefit of teachers and pupils in Elementary Schools?
- (10) What steps do you suggest for the organisation of an old-age provision and accident fund for the benefit of teachers in Elementary Schools?
- (11) Would you recommend that teachers of aided schools should be represented on the managements of the schools?

- (12) Have you any other suggestions to make for the improvement of the status of the teachers?

E. Buildings ..

- (1) Are you satisfied with the type of buildings in which most of the schools are located?
- (2) In what ways are they defective?
- (3) What is the minimum area of land you would prescribe for an urban and a rural school?
- (4) What minimum amenities would you like to be provided in the school?
- (5) Suggest a simple type of school building for an Elementary School.

F. Supervision

- (1) Is the supervision by the present inspecting agency satisfactory? If not, in what ways is it defective?
- (2) Is supervision by local officers of other departments feasible or desirable?
- (3) Is supervision by representatives of the people practicable or desirable?
- (4) What are your suggestions for better supervision of Elementary Schools?
- (5) Do you advocate a system of supervision of Elementary Schools by Headmasters of neighbouring Higher Elementary and Secondary Schools?

G. Eradication of illiteracy among children

- (1) Will the shortening of the course to four years as suggested in A (3) lead to relapse into illiteracy?
- (2) Considering that most children in rural parts are required for labour as early as possible, will not an accelerated course of four years as suggested in A (3) result in large numbers attaining literacy?
- (3) Are you in favour of a special course of 3 years limited to the three R's in special schools for the eradication of illiteracy among children and are you in favour of all lower elementary schools teaching only the three R's? Will the shortening of the course to three years lead to relapse into illiteracy?
- (4) Are you in favour of all S. S. L. Cs. giving one year of service towards eradication of illiteracy before joining a College course? Should this service be voluntary or compulsory? Do you think an average S. S. L. C. boy is fit to undertake this work? Do you think that a break of one year in his student's career at that stage is desirable?
- (5) Should a boy who has passed a degree examination give one year's service towards eradication of illiteracy before he is given the degree?
- (6) Are you in favour of demanding one year of such national service from every applicant for a Government employment in any department whatsoever?
- (7) Is it desirable to include a short course in the elements of teaching in the syllabuses for the S. S. L. C. and in the degree examinations?
- (8) Have you any other suggestions for the eradication of illiteracy among children?

H. Compulsion

- (1) What is your opinion about the adequacy of the present machinery for enforcing compulsion?
- (2) Is it desirable to vest the power of enforcing compulsion in the Officers of the Educational Department or leave it in the hands of the Commissioners of Municipalities and Presidents of District Boards?
- (3) What suggestions have you to make in the matter of selection of areas for introduction of compulsion?
- (4) What is your opinion about the midday meal scheme working at present? Is it being carried out efficiently?

I. Training Schools

- (1) Should the Higher Grade Training be retained or abolished?
- (2) What in your opinion is the cause for the present shortage of trained teachers?
- (3) What in your opinion is the cause for the present lack of response for secondary grade training in spite of increase in stipends from Rs. 12 to Rs. 18?
- (4) What would you like to be done to attract the right type of men and women to the teaching profession?
- (5) What minimum qualifications would you prescribe as necessary for the teachers of training schools?
- (6) What changes would you suggest in the courses and duration of training?
- (7) In view of the introduction of basic education, how should the present training schools be re-organised?

J. Re-organization of the Inspectorate

- (1) What defects do you find in the present system of the Inspectorate in regard to elementary school?
- (2) Considering that most Elementary Schools, whether for boys or girls, are, in practice, mixed Schools, is it a necessity (except in the case of Muslim Girls' Schools) that girls schools should be inspected by women officers?
- (3) If proper standards of efficiency are to be kept up what is the maximum number of schools that may be inspected by a subordinate inspecting officer? At present the average number is 90.
- (4) Are you in favour of a Sub Assistant Inspector being attached to each taluk, she being given the inspection of a certain number of boys' schools also in addition to the number of girls' schools in the taluk?
- (5) In order to keep the subordinate inspecting agency more up-to-date in matters of education i.e. in regard to methods of teaching, etc., would you recommend that subordinate inspecting officers should not be continued for large periods at a stretch as inspecting officers without being re-transferred as School Assistants? What periods would you consider suitable?
- (6) Would you recommend that any District Educational Officer or subordinate inspecting officer should be posted as such only after he or she has had at least three years' experience of actual teaching?
- (7) Considering that the D. E. O.'s work in regard to elementary schools is mainly administrative and that for the administration of elementary schools and a separate type of administrative agency specialists in each subject to guide the work in secondary and training schools?
- (8) What suggestions would you make in respect of recruitment to the D. E. O.'s cadre in order to bring in more efficient men?

- (9) Have you any other suggestions for the improvement of the Inspectorate?

- K. Finance
- (1) What is your opinion about the present resources of local boards in respect of elementary education?
 - (2) Have you any suggestions to make about enlarging these resources by other methods of taxation or in any other way?

SECONDARY EDUCATION

1. Objective

- (i) What should be the aim of a full Secondary course?
- (ii) Is the above reached generally by the present S. S. L. C. Course? If it does not, what changes would you propose:—
 - (a) in subjects;
 - (b) in duration (should there be two stages as now?);
 - (c) would you recommend that in every secondary school at least one period per day, the last one in the morning or the first one in the afternoon, should be set apart for the All-India Radio broadcasts so that each class in turn can listen to the various interesting subjects broadcast? This will of course involve standardisation of school hours.
 - (d) Do you consider the present S. S. L. C. courses too heavy, just sufficient or sufficiently light to find time to make provision for A. I. R. broadcasts?
 - (e) Do you think a lot of time is used in covering portions already taught in earlier stages? If so, can you suggest—briefly how all the subject-matter of knowledge can be taught in lesser time?
 - (f) What is the maximum number of pupils in a class that you think a teacher can give individual attention to so as to understand them and teach them effectively?
 - (iii) Can you state any course in existence anywhere which meets with your approval? If so, please send a copy of the course.
 - (iv) In view of the introduction of basic education, how will you re-organise the course of studies?

2. Specialisation.

- (a) Do you consider that specialisation is desirable at this stage?
- (b) If so, when should it commence?
- (c) Should secondary education be specifically correlated to the local industries, cottage or large scale? If so, give a tentative list of industries you have in mind. Would you suggest (i) a general introduction to industries or (ii) specialised courses?
- (d) In view of the general scheme of the proposed bifurcated courses, have you any remarks to offer as to:—
 - (i) whether the scheme should be given effect to; and if so, in what form, IV or V, will you like to start the new courses?
 - (ii) What modifications would you suggest?
 - (e) What arrangements would you suggest to ensure that there should be possibility of easy changeover from vocational to academic or vice versa if a student changes his or her mind in the middle of the course?

3. Medium

- (a) Do you consider the present staff generally well-equipped for work of teaching through the regional language?
- (b) If not, what suggestions have you to make to equip these teachers for this work?
- (c) Is the present University teacher's training sufficient in this respect for the future teacher?
- (d) If not, what general modifications would you suggest?

4. Regional Language

- (a) What should be the standard aimed at?
- (b) Should formal grammar be insisted upon?
- (c) What should be the qualifications of teachers in these
 - (i) in the lower forms;
 - (ii) in the upper forms?
- (d) How would you remedy the shortage of teachers in this if any?
- (e) What place would you allot to the present type of Pandits and Munshis in this scheme?
- (f) (i) What special training should be given to them if they are to be entrusted with the charge of handling the first language?
- (ii) What are the minimum general qualifications you would expect of them? Would you insist on their possessing a training qualification?

5. Other Subjects, their scope etc.

- A. English. (a) Should English be taught in the secondary schools? (b) If so, what should be the aim? Is Basic English sufficient or would you suggest colloquial English as spoken by English children and related to the simple objects of everyday experience?
- (c) Should it be compulsory or optional?
- (d) When should it be commenced?
- B. Hindustani. (a) Should this be taught in secondary schools when this is not the regional language?
- (b) What should be the objective?
- (c) Should it be optional or compulsory?
- (d) During which years may it be taught?
- (e) Should it be done in the Devanagiri, Urdu or Roman scripts?

(f) How many scripts do you think it possible for an average student to learn in his secondary school stage? Which should they be?

C. *Elementary Mathematics*. Do you recommend that the syllabus for Elementary Mathematics should be lightened or limited to a part of the secondary school course?

D. *Elementary Science*.

E. *Indian History and Geography*.

Is the proficiency reached sufficient; or

Is it too high or is it low?

F. *Manual training*. Is the present scheme for manual training satisfactory? If not, what are your suggestions for improving it?

6. Physical Education

(1) Are you satisfied with the physical education imparted in Secondary Schools?
(2) Do you think it necessary to keep all the records prescribed now? Have you any suggestions regarding them?

(3) Have you any suggestions regarding the re-organisation of training of physical education teachers?

7. Religious Education

(a) Do you like ethical, moral and religious education to be imparted in schools?
(b) If so, what are your suggestions as regards the methods of imparting it?

8. Girls' Education

(a) Should it be the same as that of the boys?
(i) In the lower forms.
(ii) In the upper forms.
(b) If not, what suggestions have you to make?

9. Co-education

(a) Is it desirable
(i) In the lower forms?
(ii) In the upper forms?
(b) Would you have any age-limits?
(c) How should the staff of a co-educational school be organised?

10. Management

(a) Will it be advisable that every school, whether aided, Mission or aided non-Mission, have a local committee of management?
(b) If so, how would you like the local committee to be constituted?
(c) What should be the place of the headmaster and the staff on the committees of both types of schools?

11. Finance

(a) *Endowments*. What measures would you suggest to control the existing endowments and to invite fresh ones?
(b) (i) Is it possible to increase the financial resources of the school? (ii) What practical suggestion have you to offer in the matter?
(c) (i) Would you suggest the utilisation of temple and other endowments and funds for the expansion of secular education?
(ii) If so, within what limits and under what conditions?

12. Fees

(a) Should the standard rates of fees be raised?
(b) If so, to what maximum extent may this be done?
(c) Would you in case (b) is done, empower the managements to raise fees over and above the new levels?
(d) If so, would you specify by rules the object or objects for which the managements may do this?

13. Staff

(a) In mixed schools is it
(i) necessary or desirable to have lady teachers in all grades?
(b) Should teachers recruited to permanent vacancies be confirmed at the end of a satisfactory probationary period of two years?
(ii) If so, should it be compulsory for a denominational school that no such teacher shall be given notice solely with a view to replacing him by a denominational teacher?
(c) Under what conditions should a management have the right to give notice to its permanent teachers or approved probationers?
(d) What changes have you to suggest in the present draft agreement between a staff member and the management?
(e) Should formal appeals lie to the Education Department:
(i) From aggrieved teachers,
(ii) from aggrieved managements?
If so, in respect of which matters?

14. Salaries of teachers

(a) Would you accept for the purpose of fixing the salaries of the teachers their division roughly into the following groups:
(i) Headmasters of complete high schools with a strength of 500 and above;

- (ii) Headmasters of complete high schools with strength below 500;
- (iii) (1) Headmasters of middle schools and incomplete high schools;
(2) Assistant headmasters of schools with over 1,000 students;
- (iv) (1) L.T. Assistants and graduate physical directors without L.T. qualifications;
(2) Pandits and munahis with university degrees or S.S.L.C. eligible and trained as Pandits;
- (v) Physical Directors with L.T. qualifications;
- (vi) Secondary grade teachers;
- (vii) (1) Manual Training Instructors;
(2) Physical Training Instructors;
(3) Commercial Instructors;
(4) Other Pandits and Munahis.
- (viii) (1) Drawing Masters;
(2) Needle work teachers;
(3) Music teachers.

(Teachers not shown here will be included in the appropriate group)

(b) What changes, if any, would you make in the above classification?

(c) (i) Is it desirable to permit teachers to take up private tuition?

(ii) Suggest conditions if any under which permission should be granted.

15. Discipline

(a) Do you think that there is need for improvement of discipline among students? If so, how would you like it to be done?
(b) Will you suggest any machinery for enlisting the co-operation of the pupils for furthering school discipline?
(c) Should the schools organise courts of honour of students to help the headmaster?

16. Size of schools

(a) Is it desirable to restrict the size of each school?
(b) If so, what should be the ordinary maximum strength of each school?
(c) Where a maximum limit cannot be adhered to what remedial measures would you suggest to secure control, co-ordination and discipline?
(d) To accommodate the large number of pupils seeking admission in schools, would you like the shift system to be introduced? If so, what special arrangements would you suggest?

17. School and the Community

(a) Can the school be now regarded as a community centre?
(b) Is it desirable or possible to make it one?
(c) If so, what suggestions have you for making it one?

18. The school and the parent

(a) Is the present relationship all that is (i) possible, (ii) necessary?
(b) What measures would you suggest to bring them into greater contact without encroaching on the authority of the headmaster or the powers and academic work of the staff generally?

19. Inspectorate

(a) What are your definite points of criticism about the present inspectorate? What changes, if any, should be made—
(i) in recruitment,
(ii) in work so far as it relates to control and inspection of secondary schools?

(b) Would you suggest men inspecting girls' institutions (excepting those of Muslim girls) and women inspecting boys' institutions? If so, upto what stages?
(c) Would you prefer to have separate subject inspectors for subjects taught in the secondary schools?

20. Education of

- A. Scheduled classes.
- B. Muslims.
- C. Hill tribes.
- D. Agency areas.

(a) If you can speak with special knowledge of the conditions of secondary education in respect of any of these, please state what further steps should be taken for the acceleration of the spread of secondary education among them by
(i) making available more facilities for the admission of these in the existing schools;
(ii) opening schools specially intended for these but not exclusively for them;
(iii) providing special scholarships, boarding grants, book grants, etc.;
(iv) other ways (please specify).
(b) (i) Whether the state help should be limited to grants under the Grant-in-aid Code; or
(ii) Whether Government should provide the entire funds; or
(iii) Whether Government should help in any other way provided the communities are prepared to take up a part of the recurring and non-recurring charges.

(c) Whether the special state help should be for an indefinite length of time; or for a definite period after which special help should be progressively withdrawn.

21. Teachers' Provident Fund:

1. Are the measures taken by Government sufficient to make adequate provision for the families of teachers?
2. Can you suggest any measures by which we can invest the contributions of teachers in long-term deposits with a view to allowing a higher rate of interest on the deposits than at present done in Post Office Savings Banks? The Postal Department is unable to give more interest on the amounts.

22. Examinations:

1. Examinations have been condemned as unreliable tests of ability and achievement. Do you agree with this view?
2. If so, what alternative tests would you propose?

COLLEGIATE AND POST-GRADUATE STUDIES

(a) Are you satisfied with the syllabuses and courses of study in vogue in the Universities of the Madras Presidency?

If not, can you suggest the lines on which improvements can be effected?

(b) With a view to meeting the abnormal demand for seats in colleges, it has been suggested that the shift system should be introduced and that each shift may be worked for 4 hours, e.g. 8 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and for 6 days in the week.

- (i) Do you agree with this view?
- (ii) Would it make any difference if a student were to attend 3 morning sessions and 3 afternoon sessions.
- (iii) If you do not agree with this, what other method or methods can be adopted for admitting a larger number of students in the existing colleges for men and women?
- (iv) Do you think it is desirable to encourage this desire for University education unrelated to the country's requirements?

(c) (i) Is there adequate provision in the Madras Presidency for research in different branches of learning?

(ii) Are you satisfied with the results so far achieved?

(iii) Can you suggest methods for encouraging scholars in the Presidency to engage themselves in research? (iv) Should this be left to the Universities or should each college teaching for Honours have research studentships in such subjects for honours?

(d) Can you suggest any method or methods like the tutorial system for bringing about a closer contact between the lecturers and the students?

(e) With a view to establishing greater human touch in the training of students, do you consider it necessary to fix a maximum number for a college?

If so,

(i) Please suggest the limit up to which students can be admitted in a college and can be effectively looked after.

(ii) How far would the appointment with little teaching work of a vice-Principal in a large college help in the administration of the college and the bringing together of staff and students?

(f) Is it possible to correlate collegiate education with local industries? If so, to what extent?

Medium of instruction in Colleges:

(i) Do you agree that the regional language should be made the medium of instruction in Colleges?

(ii) If so, would you like it to be introduced immediately?

(iii) What arrangements should be made for the purpose?

Professional Colleges:

(a) Can you give an estimate of the number of Engineers, Doctors that will be required for the next ten years?

(b) With a view to give a greater practical training to the students is it possible to correlate training in the professional colleges to particular industries? If so, please state how this can be done.

(c) Is the existing number of Engineering and Medical Colleges sufficient to produce the requisite number of candidates for the two professions?

(d) Will it be possible for the candidates turned out by the existing polytechnics and Engineering Colleges to find suitable employment after training?

(e) It has been suggested that the training given in Engineering Colleges is going to waste, as graduates in engineering are generally employed as Supervisors and they very rarely get a chance of utilizing their higher knowledge acquired in colleges.

Do you agree with this view?

If so, can you suggest any method for improving matters?

(f) (1) Do you think there is need for any changes in the duration or syllabi of the B.T. and M.Ed. courses in the training colleges? If so, what changes would you recommend?

(2) In view of the large number of teachers that will be required if literacy and education are to be universal, would you recommend training colleges being started in each language area?

(3) What steps would you recommend to attract greater number of students for the training colleges?

(4) What changes, if any, do you recommend in the method of recruitment of the staff of training colleges?

(g) It has been suggested that colleges (and Universities) should be started in rural areas, having courses of instruction dealing with vegetable and animal raw products, like Agriculture, Dairy-farming etc., and also rural industries. How far do you think this is possible with limited financial aid from Government?

Can you give us any suggestions as to how these colleges can be built up around any local village industries that are already in existence in your districts?

(h) (1) Do you think the system of selection of students for admission in colleges on the basis of the marks one is sound?

(2) If not, what other criterion or criteria will you suggest?

(3) Do you think the physique of candidates should also be a criterion for selection?

ADULT ILLITERACY AND EDUCATION

(1) (i) Do you think that it is possible to make all the present adults—men and women—literate? If so, what methods would you suggest to make this possible and successful at reasonable cost?

(ii) Have you conducted, or had experience of, night schools? Please give your experience briefly.

(iii) Do you think that adults should be given more of education through the projected films and radio and talks on matters of interest and utility to them?

(2) (i) What is your experience about rural libraries and their working?

(ii) How far will the expansion of libraries in rural parts help in the improvement of adult literacy?

(iii) Do you think a library Act is necessary for the proper growth and guidance of the library movement in this Province?

(3) Do you think that vans fitted with loudspeakers, radios, gramophones, films and library books with a good speaker attached to each of them will be useful in this matter?

(4) Are you in favour of asking very graduate who wants to enter public service for the country for a year, providing him with free boarding and lodging?

(5) Can you suggest any methods apart from grants of money by the State as to how it can achieve the eradication of adult illiteracy?

TEXT BOOKS

1. Do you think that the present system of publication of text books by private firms and their approval by the text book committee has worked satisfactorily?

2. Are you in favour of Government publishing small text books for use in elementary schools and for use by adults or would you encourage by subsidies private firms who are willing to undertake that enterprise?

3. What is your opinion about the state taking up the publication of text books?

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

4. The place of health and physical education in the Educational Scheme.

1. Should progress and achievement in health and physical education be considered at the time of promotion or election for examinations, the evaluation of progress and achievement being by "marks" as for any other subject and should this be made compulsory?

2. Should health and physical education be included in the "C" group subjects of the S.S.L.C. scheme and provide the preliminary background for a four-year degree course in Health and Physical Education under the auspices of the University and thus open up a new career?

3. Will this not involve the revision of educational curricula; and if so, to what extent should they be revised or the above purposes?

B. Programme of Health and Physical Education Work.

1. Do the present activities constitute a satisfactory programme of health and physical education?

2. What are the activities which you consider unsuitable, and what activities would you recommend, for a comprehensive programme of physical education work?

3. Would you consider a programme of physical education work in which sports competitions and games tournaments loom large, resulting in representative school teams, satisfactory? Or, would you advocate and insist upon a programme in which all the students are given full facilities for taking part in the activities daily and in which sports competitions and games tournaments play a minor part?

C. Cost of sports and games programmes.

1. The cost of intellectual education ranges from about Rs. 25 per annum in Form I to about Rs. 50 per annum in the VI Form, while the games fees range from about Re. 1 per annum in Form I to about Rs. 3 per annum in Form VI. It has been suggested that the game fee collected does not suffice to meet the needs of a satisfactory programme of physical education activities. Do you agree with this? If so, what increase of games fees would you recommend so as to facilitate provision of better facilities.

2. It is suggested that uniforms are necessary for better physical education work and for better discipline. Do you agree with this?

D. Leadership in Health and Physical Education.

1. What type of a physical education teacher would you recommend? What would be his or her qualifications and nature of training? What should be their remuneration?

2. Do you consider the present arrangement for the training of physical education teachers satisfactory? What are your suggestions for improvement, if any?

E. GENERAL

1. Present day systems of examinations are constantly criticised as being detrimental to the health of students. What measures would you suggest to relieve this strain if any on the health of students?

2. Scholarships are now awarded on the basis of intellectual accomplishments and poverty. Would you recommend physical achievements also to be reckoned for scholarships to deserving students?

ORIENTAL INSTITUTIONS

1. What measures are necessary to improve the conditions of Oriental Schools? Your suggestions for improvement may be given under the following heads:—

(a) Teaching staff;

(b) Supply of literature;

(c) Course of study;

- (d) Training of teachers and Refresher Courses;
(e) Scholarships; and
(f) Grant-in-Aid.

2. To what extent do the scholars in Oriental languages meet the present demand for teachers in the schools for general education?

3. What measures would you suggest for imparting adult education in oriental culture?

BLIND, DEAF AND DUMB SCHOOLS

1. (a) Are the existing facilities adequate and if not what suggestions can you offer for improvement?
(b) Do you think that the State should take up their management?
2. Have you statistics for the physically handicapped and mentally handicapped children in your area?
3. Whether all such children are receiving instruction either in the schools for general education or in a school specially intended for them?
4. Are the teachers in charge of these schools suitable for giving instruction in the subjects taught, and trained in the special methods of teaching them? If not, what suggestions can you give for obtaining such specially trained staff for employment?

BOARDING HOMES AND ORPHANAGES

- I. Are you satisfied that Orphan destitutes of the Province are properly taken care of?
If not, what measures would you suggest to bring all of them under some healthy influence?
- II. Do you think that the state should take this up or will voluntary bodies be able to do this?

EXAMINATION BOARDS

1. Do you consider as satisfactory the present constitution and working of the:
(1) E.S.L.C. Board,
(2) S.S.L.C. Board, and
(3) T.S.L.C. Board.
2. If you do not consider these satisfactory what suggestions have you to make to improve them?

YOUTH MOVEMENTS

- (a) What is your idea regarding the organization of youth movements in this Province?
- (b) In view of the three Youth Movements now existing—the Hindustani Scout, the Baden Powell Scout and the Bratachari Movement, would you like to allow them to function separately or combine them into a single Youth Movement throughout the Province?
- (c) Have you any idea about extra curricular activities for developing the social service notions of boys and if so what should be their relation to the recognised curricula?
- (d) What suggestions would you offer to make our boys and girls more self-reliant and responsible and be imbued with a spirit of service?

gift was innocent lies upon the offerer and receiver of the gift.

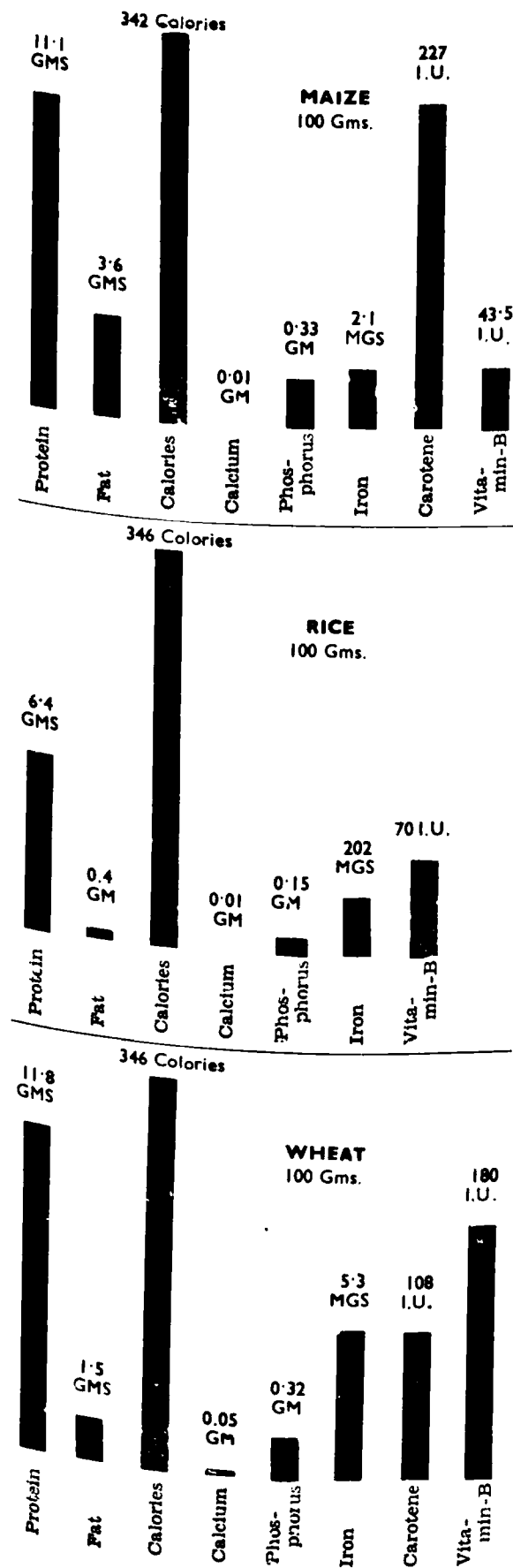
(2) A new offence should be created providing that, if a public servant or his dependents are known to have become possessed of a sudden accretion of wealth, the public servant concerned would be deemed guilty of the offences, unless he could prove that the accre-

(Contd. from page 12)
tion of wealth was innocently obtained.

A TWO-PRONGED DRIVE

The Government wish to impress on the members of the public that it is their duty to report at once to superior authorities the conduct of any Government servant who demands a bribe. It should also be the duty of every Government

servant to report to his superior Officer, the conduct of any non-official approaching him for bribing him to gain some favour, for example grant of licence, etc. The Government hope that with the active operation of this two-pronged drive against corruption, the demon of corruption will be laid low, once and for all.



Blessing in Disguise

We all know that there is a world-wide shortage of rice at the moment. This is partly due to the results of the war and partly to the bad rains. But, although there may not be enough rice, Government are determined to ensure that there will be enough food for everybody. It may not be food to which people are accustomed, but it will be good food; only we must learn how to cook it in the best ways possible.

Two such food grains which the Government have managed to get for Madras are wheat and maize. Although we are not very much used to wheat and maize now, they are much more nutritious and better for the body than rice. So, here is a good opportunity for us to get advantage out of the fact that rice is insufficient.

The chart on the left tells us that we must all learn to enjoy maize and wheat. The first thing to do for this is to stop thinking of wheat and maize as substitutes for rice, and instead to look at them as completely new and exciting food. We do not expect plantains, for example, to look or taste like oranges, although both are fruits. In the same way, we should not expect wheat and maize and rice to taste the same, although all are grains. But we can expect wheat and maize to have a richer flavour, like butter. And since we must always remember that wheat and maize are more strengthening than rice, we must not expect them to give us the full comfortable feeling which we, rice-eaters, enjoy after our meals.

When we eat wheat and maize we must remember that they require much more chewing than rice. We must also remember that the quantities of chillies and spices will need adjusting to suit the new flavour of wheat and maize.

Above all, we must learn to be patient. In other parts of the world, people are starving and would gladly take the wheat and maize which we are now getting. Let us therefore not despise this precious food, but try to appreciate it and be thankful for the blessing of this new food to make up for our lack of rice.

HOW TO PREPARE WHEAT AND MAIZE

See the Wheat and Maize recipes published by the Government. They are available at the ration shops.

MAHATMA

GANDHI

PAYS
A TRIBUTE
TO
MADRAS



He says, "South Indians are intelligent and resourceful."

"It is practical wisdom to brace ourselves for the struggle and declare with one voice our resolve that we shall grow our eatables for ourselves."

ARE YOU PLAYING
YOUR PART?

- ★ GROW MORE
- ★ CONSUME LESS
- ★ DON'T WASTE

Your country expects you to do this much at least!

MADRAS INFORMATION



MAIN FEATURES:

- (1) Notes and Comments
- (2) Some Press Notes
- (3) Inauguration of Central Polytechnic
- (4) Food Front
- (5) Health Ministers' Conference
- (6) Role of Rural Universities
- (7) Rural Development Scheme
- (8) Land Reforms in the West
- (9) Agricultural Conference
- (10) Municipal Commissioners and their Responsibilities

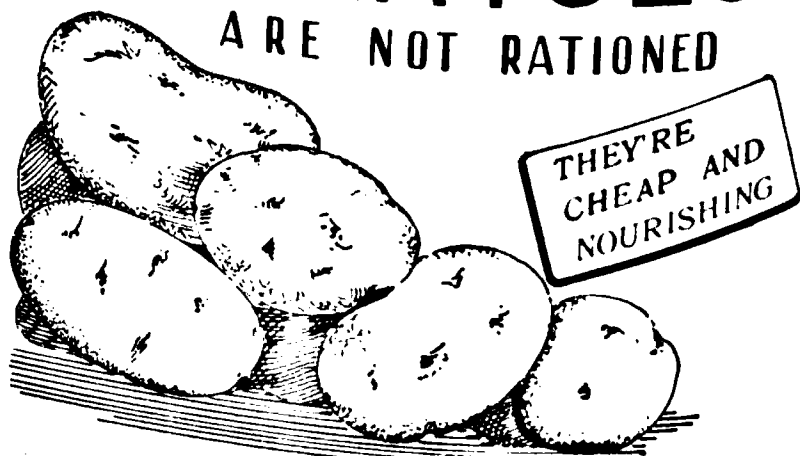
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A large quantity of Dehydrated Potatoes are now available in all ration shops in the Presidency. A pound of reconstituted potatoes will weigh four times the weight of dehydrated potatoes. Special recipe instructions are available in all languages in all ration shops.

Issued by the Director of Information & Publicity

GOVT OF MADRAS

MADRAS INFORMATION

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WE SEEK TO SERVE AND NOT TO COMPETE

November 2, 1946

NOTES AND COMMENTS

TWO important resolutions are reported to have been adopted at the Health Ministers' Conference held recently in Delhi, one on the question of the abolition of the Civil Branch of the I.M.S. and the second on the question of research and the application of the scientific method for the investigation of indigenous systems of medicine like Ayurveda and Unani.

It may be pointed out here that both these resolutions were moved by the Hon'ble Mrs. Rukmini Lakshmipathi, Minister for Public Health in the Government of Madras, and therefore the credit for taking the lead in these two important respects, involving outstanding points of policy with regard to the Medical and Public Health administration of the country, should go to Madras. The resolution on the abolition of the Civil Branch of the I.M.S. stated that "there should be no Civil Branch of the Indian Medical Service" and requested that "the Central Government may arrange to take back immediately the Indian Medical Service personnel on the Civil side, employed in the provinces, and post them on the Military side to which they rightly belong." Not much comment is needed on this resolution, which is self-explanatory; and coming as it did from an authoritative body like the Health Ministers' Conference, it will presumably form part of the policy of the Provincial Governments represented at the Conference.

The second resolution on indigenous systems of medicine inheres an attempt to elevate the Ayurveda and Unani systems to the same level of importance in State patronage as that enjoyed so far by the Allopathic system. It is well-known that the Madras Ministry has already under investigation the possibilities of research in and encouragement of the Ayurveda and Unani systems. It was also decided by the

conference to absorb the practitioners of the Ayurveda and Unani systems of medicine into the State Health Organisation, by providing them further scientific training, wherever necessary, as Health personnel, like doctors, physical training experts, sanitary staff, nurses, midwives, etc. When this scheme is put into operation, these two indigenous systems of medicine will have been rescued from the state of undeserved neglect which had been their unfortunate lot so far to remain in, and attained an honoured place among the medicinal systems in vogue in the country. Other important resolutions passed at the conference related to the setting up of an anti-malaria organisation on the lines of the organisation proposed by the Bhoire Committee, and urging that a vigorous drive against malaria should receive priority in development programmes. It was agreed at the conference that Boards of Health and Councils of Experts should be constituted both at the Centre and the provinces, and that an active programme for the improvement of water supply and sanitation in both urban and rural areas should be taken up.

Co-ordination of the labour legislation plans of the Central and the provincial Governments is reported to have been decided at the Labour Ministers' Conference held recently in New Delhi. In an interview to the Press after his return from Delhi, the hon'ble Sri V. V. Giri stated that it was agreed at the conference that labour legislation would be Central but based on the greatest common measure of agreement among the provinces and the Centre coupled with the maximum possible freedom to the provinces in respect of the manner and method of its implementation. Legislation bearing on purely local matters will, however, continue to be the concern of the provinces. The fundamental principle accepted at the conference was obviously

that labour legislation should have an all-India basis and should be uniform for the whole country including the States, while providing at the same time for maximum possible autonomy to the provincial and State Governments in the sphere of administration. That this is a satisfactory and appropriate arrangement and involves a healthy adherence to well-established practice in other countries with federal constitutions will be readily conceded. Co-ordination in the matter of administration will be ensured at the same time by the continuance in force of the existing machinery of the Tripartite Labour Conference and through Labour Ministers. The immediate effect of the acceptance of the arrangement decided upon at the conference will probably be that the Madras Government will not proceed with their intention to introduce in the next session of the Legislature the comprehensive Bill to regulate trade disputes and wages, though they would proceed with other bills and measures of legislation which appertain to conditions peculiar to the presidency, thus leaving the Centre to undertake legislation about problems which are common to the whole country.

There is much to be said from the standpoint of efficient administration and the promotion of the public interests in favour of the principle of Centre-provincial co-ordination in the sphere of legislation and policy bearing on issues of all-India importance, and that such co-ordination can be pursued with fruitful results is evidenced by the recently held conferences of provincial Premiers, provincial Ministers of Labour and provincial Ministers of Public Health. At these conferences were discussed by responsible ministers vital problems appertaining to policy and administration connected with their respective portfolios and common policies were decided upon with regard to most of them, the governing principle implicit in them being that while the Central Government could with advantage play the role of the co-ordinating authority and as the clearing house of ideas, the provincial Governments should be autonomous in the region of administration and provide the requisite administrative machinery for the execution of the decisions arrived at. This kind of cordial co-operation and mutually agreed division of functions in important matters between the Central and provincial Governments, which in essence is an extension of the practice which had been found from experience to be supremely beneficial in

the sphere of food administration during the last four years, is a good augury and fits in with the existing constitutional set-up in the Centre and the provinces. If the atmosphere of cordiality and good feeling persists and extends to other departments also, it will be immensely in the interests of the public, as all-India planning is postulated by stern experience as an essential pre-condition to successful promotion of the economic well-being of the whole country, subject of course to the demands of popular special interests. The existence of provincial Governments at the Centre and in the provinces at present is a factor which conduces to the furtherance of reciprocal appreciation of the divergent viewpoints between the two authorities and it must be widely welcomed by the people.

The Government have a programme of opening 150 institutions throughout the presidency for the training of young men in about 50 cottage industries, announced the Premier, while inaugurating the Central Polytechnic in Madras a few days back. Located in places to which the villagers can have easy access, these institutions will serve the needs of the villagers and enable them to receive training in some craft or industry which will constitute the foundation for their subsequent profitable employment in the industry for which they received the training. With Government financial and technical aid forthcoming to facilitate their starting a suitable business, the trainees should be able to set themselves up as craftsmen or small businessmen or small industrialists, serving and supplying the needs of a group of villages. The scheme has considerable potentialities for promoting the self-sufficiency of the villages in regard to their daily requirements and in relieving educated unemployment. A village artisan or carpenter or blacksmith with a background of general education and regular training in his trade will definitely be better equipped for and more competent in the pursuit of his trade or calling than an uneducated or untrained one. He can serve the village as well as lead it, and prove himself a vital factor in the scheme of village rehabilitation.

Complaints, which have been many and loud, about the congestion in the city buses and trams, are sought to be eliminated at least partially by the decision of the Government to indent the service of a number of lorries for passenger transport during rush hours over

busy routes. The numbers of such lorries will be 30 and each lorry will be fitted with seats to carry 19 passengers. It is not claimed that the arrangement will relieve completely the heavy pressure on the existing transport services; but as a temporary measure, intended to mitigate inconvenience to bus and tram users in the metropolis during the rush hours, it should be welcomed, pending a better and more satisfactory arrangement. It is well known that the question of efficient administration of motor transport throughout the province, with a view to provide an improved road service to the public, is engaging the serious attention of the Government, and in this the question of improvement of the service and administration of the transport services in the Madras city forms inevitably an important part. It is a problem which is India-wide in its scope and the issue is whether motor transport should be nationalised by being brought under State control and management or left to the ownership of the private interests or there should be a combination of the principles of private ownership and State control and regulation. Opinion is rapidly veering round to the first-mentioned view as being the best from all stand-points.

Sound counsel was administered by the Hon. Sri T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar, Minister of Education, to the students who gathered in the Educational Convention held in Madras on Oct. 26, which they would do well to ponder inwardly and assimilate. He pointed out to them that strength could be derived only through discipline and self-restraint and not through dissipation of energies in activities like strikes. Deploping the fact that discipline has in recent times been deteriorating in the schools and colleges, he warned against the wishful thought which might have proved an encouragement to this deplorable tendency that the Congress Government would either tolerate or connive at indiscipline or at lightning strikes. Strikes may have a place in settling trade disputes but they are out of place in schools and colleges, declared Sri Avinashilingam; and, as he emphasised, a proneness to resort to extra-constitutional and undisciplined methods like strikes on the slightest provocation is calculated to have devastating consequences on the teacher-pupil relations, which should be broad-based on mutual trust, confidence and respect. While a great deal rests on the teachers themselves in producing an atmosphere of this character by precept as well as by example, the students should also realise that there is grave danger

to their future careers as citizens who can glorify their country and enlarge the bounds of her freedom and greatness, as potential leaders of industry, crafts and arts, and as administrators and so on, if they permit the capital opportunities that are open to them during their student days to be wasted in thoughtless excursions into the realms of indiscipline and irresponsibility and if they do not take the fullest advantage of the instruction provided to them in educational institutions. Nor is the responsibility of the parents any the less in this vital matter. Our young men must constantly bear in mind the first and essential principle that he who cannot understand the virtues of discipline himself cannot enforce discipline on others.

FIXING OF FOOD GRAIN PRICES

Some Considerations

(Contributed)

A representative special committee constituted by Government to advise them on the fixation of a suitable price for the foodgrains for the Kharif year which could be recommended to the Government of India, met recently under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Sri Raghava Menon, and discussed in detail the pros and cons of the question. The fundamental consideration in this connection now, as ever before, is the fixation of a price for the next season's crop which would be reasonably profitable from the cultivator's point of view and which at the same time would not hit the consumer hard, or aggravate the inflationary effect on general price levels. This consideration is all the more vital as everyone, whether man, woman or child, is a consumer so far as food is concerned and everyone is concerned with having it at reasonable prices, while Government, on their part, are anxious to ensure that they do get it at such prices. An associated and inter-connected consideration is that the provincial foodgrain prices should be such that they will, on the one hand, be just and fair to the local producer and, on the other facilitate the fixing of all-India prices by the Government of India which would not needlessly impede inter-provincial movement of foodgrains at a time of crisis—to avoid periodical local shortages. Credence has to be given to the fact that Madras, taken as a whole, is a deficit area and that it cannot do, at least until its 'Grow More Food' efforts and schemes attain full stride, without external assistance in the shape of food imports. Any price for food-

grains that may be adopted by the provincial Government cannot, therefore, be decided either in isolation or without full consideration being accorded to all these relevant and imperative factors.

Lowering General Price Levels

There is full realisation on the part of Government that the agriculturist and the cultivator must be enabled to get their due, that they had not been in a position to get that due for a long time and that it was only in recent years, particularly during the war years, that there had been a slight reversal of the position after years of depression and low prices. There is full realisation too that the agriculturist is also a consumer of goods besides being a producer of that vital commodity, viz. food, and that so long as the prices of other urgent and imperative requirements of his remain stationary or are on the up-grade, any lowering of the prices for agricultural produce alone will render agriculture uneconomic in the real sense of the term and will be utterly unfair to him besides proving an inducement to him to turn his attention more to the cultivation of other crops than food crops. Nevertheless, in the interests of the general community, of which the agriculturists constitute an important and integral part, it is probably preferable that every effort should be made to bring down the general price level for consumer goods, including in particular those specially required by the agriculturist in his daily work like manure, implements and cattle, than that a direct enhancement of the prices of agricultural produce, which would result in the persistence of general inflationary tendency and conditions of general economic unsettlement, should be countenanced.

Avoidance of Disequilibrium Necessary

There is much to be said from the larger standpoint of public interests for the avoidance of the latter danger referred to and every agriculturist and everyone interested in the promotion of the agricultural industry and the welfare of the agriculturists must welcome the measures taken to counter unrestrained inflation. The continued prevalence of high price levels for all kinds of consumer goods has disturbing repercussions on the country's general economy, and it must be regarded as far better that price equilibria should be restored as far as possible without detriment to the interests of any section of the people than that the existing

disequilibrium should continue to rule, affecting adversely the interests of the family budgets of individuals and the budget of the Governments, Central and provincial. A gradual and judicious process of bringing down the price levels is, therefore, of paramount importance for the purpose of restoring the country's economy to normalcy. It is also an essential preliminary to the lowering of Governmental expenditure, now bloated by special war and dearness allowances, which are a necessary and inevitable corollary of and concession to inflated price levels, and to bring about a peaceful transformation from war to peace economy, from extraordinary to ordinary conditions.

Duty of the Producers

Prices of agricultural produce—particularly grains—have food to be maintained at a reasonable level mainly because food is the first and foremost necessity for everyone in the country and secondarily because so long as foodgrain prices are at a high level, the prices of other commodities, by the inescapable interplay of economic forces, will also tend to remain high. Evaluations of what is a reasonable price for different regions may slightly vary; but it should be possible—indeed, it is essential—that an average price for the whole province should be fixed within the four corners of the pre-requisites referred to above. When such an economic and satisfactory price has been decided upon by the Government for foodgrains, after every fact and factor relevant thereto is taken into account, it will remain for the agriculturists to discharge the patriotic duty and render the public service of releasing all the surplus grain they have of their own spontaneous and voluntary accord and thus help the Government to manage the food situation in the interests of millions of their fellow-countrymen. So far as the Madras Government are concerned, being a popular one, they are anxious to do everything possible to help the agriculturist and the cultivator to make the industry a profitable and remunerative one, and their various measures—those already undertaken and those under contemplation—to ameliorate the lot of the farmer constitute their own most effective recommendation. But questions pertaining to food have been discussed and decided on an all-India level during the last four years and the crisis through which we are passing imposes responsibilities and obligations on everyone—and not the least important of such responsibilities devolve upon the agriculturist, who has not only to produce more but sell everything that he can spare at the reasonable prices fixed by the Government.

Some Press Notes of Madras Govt.

Electric Power Supply In The Province

Issued on October 17, 1946.

EVER since 1927, the Madras Government have been contemplating a scheme of interconnected power houses, hydro as well as thermal, located at suitable centres feeding a net work of distribution lines covering both towns and villages. All the electricity projects constructed so far were designed to fit into an electric grid which was to be gradually developed till its power resources would be adequate to serve the whole of the province.

In order to conserve materials for the war effort, severe restrictions were placed on all schemes for power development, and supply of electricity to new consumers was confined to essential military and civil needs. The restrictions on power supply during the war were followed by unfavourable monsoons in 1945, and when the Mettur lake recorded phenomenally low levels, further restrictions were imposed in the Mettur System.

The restrictions on power supply imposed during the war are now being gradually relaxed. The South West Monsoon has been quite favourable this year and the supply position has also improved in all the Hydro-Electric Systems.

Now that the war is over, the schemes for power expansion which were kept in abeyance have been taken up, new schemes formulated and a five year plan has been programmed. The Government propose to spend about Rs. 15 crores on the schemes, and when these are completed, the present generating plant capacity in the province will be doubled, resulting in considerable expansion of the areas receiving electric supply; new areas especially in the Circars and the Ceded Districts will also get power supply in the near future. A brief description of the schemes is given below:—

(a) Machkund Scheme in Vizag

Power will be developed from the Duduma Falls in the Machkund river, which forms the boundary between Madras and Orissa. The first stage of the scheme pro-

vides for an installed capacity of 51,750 K.W.; the scheme is capable of an ultimate development of 1,00,000 K.W. The construction work has commenced, and the first stage of the scheme is expected to be completed by 1950. The scheme is to be worked in partnership with the Orissa Government, and for this purpose an agreement was entered into early this year, and under this agreement 70% of the power developed will be available to Madras which will ensure adequate supply for all the needs of the Vizagapatam, Godavari, Kistna and Guntur Districts for several years to come.

As an advance stage of this scheme and with a view to supply the immediate needs of the area, additional plant is being installed at each of the existing thermal stations at Vizagapatam and Bezawada. A 110 K.V. line from Bezawada to Rajahmundry with a 33 K.V. extension to Samalkot is being built to develop the East and West Godavari areas.

(b) Nellore Scheme

A thermal station with an installed capacity of 6,500 K.W. has

been planned for the Nellore area and orders have been placed for the generating sets. The scheme will meet the needs of the mica, ceramic, glass, chemicals, rayon and other industries that are being planned, in this area.

(c) Ceded Districts Scheme

The Ceded districts have long been in need of electric power. The Tungabhadra Hydro-Electric Scheme which will develop power of about 28,800 K.V.A. for eight months in a year and 6,900 K.V.A. for the remaining four months is intended to meet their requirements but it is expected to be completed only by 1952-53. Meanwhile in order to cater to immediate needs it has been decided to purchase power from the Mysore Jog Hydro-electric Scheme from the middle of 1948 and to distribute it over an area covered by the Tungabhadra Dam site, Hospet, Hagari-Bommanhalle, Bellary and Guntakal. Work on survey of the interconnecting transmission line has commenced.

In addition, the establishment of a thermal station at Cuddapah is under consideration.

(d) Madras City and Suburban Area

The power undertaking managed by the Madras Electric Supply Corporation is to be acquired by



Kistna Anicut

the Government in August 1947 and a scheme for extending and modernising the plant has been sanctioned. The present output of the power station is limited by its boiler capacity and restrictions and rationing of the power supply have been in force for some years. The extension scheme contemplates the installation of a new 15,000 K.W. turbo-alternator with the associated boilers and switch and transformer gear. Orders have been placed already for the boilers, and provision has been made for the advance installation of one unit so as to increase the output of the station with minimum delay. These extensions when completed would be adequate to meet the demands that are likely to arise in and around Madras on account of large and small scale industries, railway electrification and rural development.

Meanwhile, to meet the immediate domestic and essential power demands, steps have been taken to supplement the output of the power station by running the emergency power station at Villivakkam and by the establishment of mobile power units.

The Madras Thermal station will also be linked up with Mettur Hydro Station by a 110 K.V. line early in 1948. Work on this is already in hand, and the scheme will enable exchange of power to mutual advantage, conserving coal during periods of abundance of water at Mettur and supplementing Mettur output in times of water shortage there.

(e) Moyar Scheme In The Nilgiris

The tail water from Pykara Power Station will be diverted and dropped down the Moyar slopes utilising a gross head of 1,00 ft. Two 12,000 K.W. sets will be installed initially. Preliminary works have commenced and orders for most of the plant have been placed. The Power Station which is expected to go into operation in 1949, will supplement the supply to the Pykara and Mettur areas where large industrial and agricultural developments are being planned.

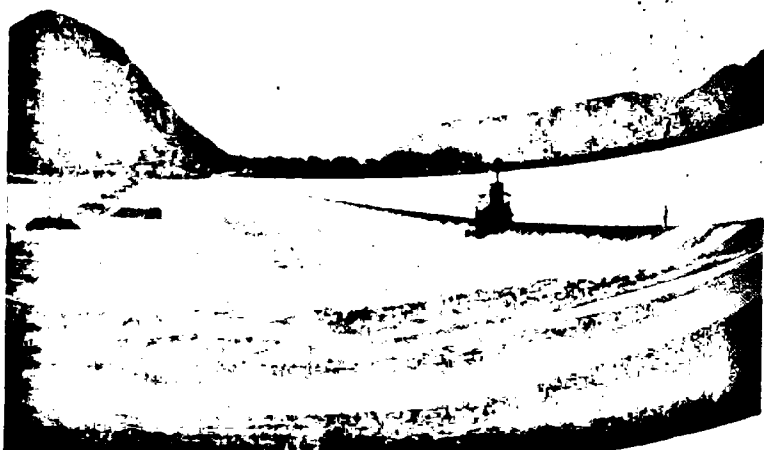
Pykara power is now being extended to Wynaad, Calicut and Cannanore. Extension of supply to South Kanara has been planned and provided for in the Moyar Scheme.



Papanasam: The Pen-Stock and Power House



A Model showing proposed sub-way near Bezwada



Godavari Eastern Delta

(f) Pykara-Moyar Final Stage Extensions

Recent unfavourable monsoon conditions have indicated the need for additional storage of water in hydro-electric areas, and this is economically feasible at Pykara. Moreover, as Pykara is in a strategically favourable position to meet the increasing demand in the hydro grid area in the South and also for providing a block of power for any unexpected development, the final expansion of the plant at Pykara and Moyar has been planned and sanctioned. This scheme provides for a second reservoir in the Pykara river of 2,000 million cubic feet and the addition of two 13,500 K.W. sets at Pykara station and a third 12,000 K.W. set at Moyar Station. Work on the scheme has begun and will be proceeded with simultaneously with the Moyar Scheme. By 1950 when these extensions are completed there will be ample power available in the southern portion of the grid till 1955.

(g) Papanasam Extensions

For utilising the water that is available during periods of good rainfall gates are being installed across the spillway of the Thambaparni Dam to increase the Storage to 5,500 million cubic feet and one more 7,000 K.W. unit with the connected pipe line is being added to the power station. Work is in progress and will be completed by the middle of 1948.

(h) Madura Thermal Station

On account of the rapid load development in the Papanasam System, the construction of a Thermal Station Contemplated at a later stage as part of the Papanasam Hydro-Thermal scheme, has to be taken up much earlier than anticipated. It is proposed to install at once a 4,000 K.W. set at Madura and to add a 8,000 K.W. set as soon as possible. This will meet the growing demand of the Madura, Ramnad and Tinnnevely Districts and also the power deficiencies due to water shortage in the hydro-electric areas.

Future Still Shaping

The above schemes are programmed for meeting all the demands that are anticipated in the immediate future. Plans for the

industrialisation of the province are yet to take concrete shape and it is too early to say what further demand for power will arise from them. A general awakening to the advantage of industrialisation and rural development is clearly manifest. When people get better acquainted with electricity and realise the enormous contribution it makes to their well-being and social progress, a progressively increasing demand for power is certain to arise and fresh sources of power have to be exploited. Promising water power sites are available in the S. Kanara and the Nilgiris districts, on the Periyar on the Cauvery at Mekadatu and on the Godavari and its tributaries. Schemes for their development and connection to the grid will be taken up in good time to meet all the growing power needs of the Province.

Prospective industrialists desiring information regarding availability of power in a particular area are advised to get into touch with the General Superintendent, Operating Systems, Chepauk, Madras, or the Local Electric Supply undertaking.

Food Control Orders Retained

Issued on October 18, 1946.

By his Ordinance No. XVIII of 1946 published at page 711-714 of the Extraordinary Issue of the Gazette of India dated 25-9-1946. His Excellency the Governor-General of India has provided for the continuance of certain orders relating to foodstuffs etc., issued under the Defence of India Rules which ceased to be in force from the 1st October 1946. The Madras Essential Articles Control and Requisitioning (Temporary Powers) Act has also been passed by the Madras Legislature.

By virtue of the said Ordinance and the said Provincial Act the following orders issued by the Government of Madras and the Commissioner of Civil Supplies will continue to be in force. Collectors will issue separately a Press note detailing the orders issued by him or their subordinates which will continue to be in force.

A. List Of Orders Issued By Government

1. The Madras Foodgrains Control Order (No. II) 1945.

2. Madras Foodgrains (Movement Control) Order 1945.
3. The Madras, Rice, Blackgram and Sugar preparations (Movement Control Order 1946).
4. The Madras Foodgrains Procurement Order 1945.
5. Procurement and Distribution—Paddy and Millets—Crop year 1946-47.
6. Rationing—The Madras Rationing preparatory measures Order 1946.
7. The Madras Rationing Order 1945.
8. Essential Articles—Restricted Acquisition Order 1945.
9. The Madras Food (Restriction on service of meals by catering establishments) Order 1945.
10. The Rationing Order—Restricting the Number of Participants in a party other than a marriage party and marriage parties.
11. The Madras Rationing Enquiry Order.
12. The Madras Rice Mills Licensing Order 1945.
13. Foodgrains—Transport—East Godavari District—Transport of millets outside agency Taluks—Restriction—Notification issued.
14. Millets—Yellow Chulam—Control of distribution of imports from places outside the Province—Countersignature of R. R.'s or shipping documents prescribed.
15. The Madras Wheat Preparation (Movement Control) Order 1945.
16. Civil Supplies—Wheat—Undermilling—Restriction on output of ban Notification.
17. Pulses—Control of Distribution.
18. Kesari Dhall (Prohibition on import) Order 1945.
19. Sugar—The Madras Sugar Dealers' Licensing Order 1945.
20. Sugar—Madras Confectionery Factories Licensing Order 1945.
21. The Madras Sugar Rationing Order 1946.
22. Sugar and Sugar Products Control Order 1946—Government of India Notification republished.
23. Sugar—Movement by Railway—Control—Notification.
24. Sugar—Bura and Sugarcandy manufacture—Control.
25. The Madras Gur Control Order 1946.

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26. The Madras Milk Control (use in catering establishments) Order 1946.
27. Chillies—chilly products—Transport—Outside the Province—Banned.
28. Onions and Tamarind—Transport—Outside the Province of Madras—Prohibition—Notification.
29. Coriander—Transport outside the Province—Prohibited.
30. Garlic—Transport outside the Province—Prohibited.
31. Salt—Maximum — ex-factory, ex-duty—wholesale price in producing districts—Notified.
32. The Madras Potato (dealers and transport) Control Order 1945.
33. Sweet Potato—Movement Control Order.
34. Ghee—Transport outside the Province prohibited — except under permit.
35. Gingelly Oil—Export outside the Province prohibition.
36. Groundnut oil—Export outside the Province—Banned.
37. Groundnut oil—Ceiling prices—fixation.
38. Groundnut — Kernel — Ceiling prices—Fixation.
39. Oil seeds—Transport by road, Rail, Canal or sea outside the Province—Prohibited.
40. Kusuma (Safflower) seed and its products—Export outside the Province Prohibited.
41. Civil Supplies—Tapioca—Transport outside the Province of Madras—Prohibition — Madras Tapioca (Movement Control) Order, 1946.
42. Tapioca—Salem District—Cultivation in certain lands—Prohibited.
43. Fodder—Export of cotton seeds from Tinnevely area—throughout the year prohibited.
44. Civil Supplies—Madras Fowls and Eggs (Movement) Control Order, 1945.
45. The Madras Meat Dealers Control Order 1945.
46. Beef Cattle — Criteria for slaughter.
47. The Madras Firewood Rationing Order 1945.
- 48-50. Orders regulating the conversion of Casuarina and Acacia—planifrons firewood in-

to charcoal—exports of firewood and charcoal outside the districts in the Province and import of firewood and charcoal into Madras Province from outside the Province.

51. Civil Supplies—Firewood and twigs—Madras City—Maximum retail prices—Notification.
52. Civil Supplies—Firewood Maximum wholesale prices in Chingleput District.
53. The Madras Firewood—Restricted Acquisition Order 1945.
54. Kerosene—The Madras Kerosene Control Order 1945.

B. List Of Orders Issued By The Board Of Revenue (Civil Supplies)

1. Foodgrains—Transport within the Province—Prohibition—except under permit.
2. Foodgrains—Order to regulate import of foodgrains and other essential commodities into British Cochin—Notification.
3. Foodgrains—Tanjore District—Transport to Pudukottah State—Movement from Coastal Belt area.
4. Foodgrains—North Arcot District—Inter Taluk Movement—Prohibition except under permit.
5. Foodgrains—Chingleput District—Inter taluk movement of paddy, rice and millets—Restriction.
6. Foodgrains—South Arcot District—Inter Village Movement from certain specified villages—Prohibited except under a permit.
7. Foodgrains—Chittoor district—Transport of paddy, rice and millets—Inter Village restriction.
8. Foodgrains—North Arcot District—Inter Village Transport of paddy rice and millets.
9. Foodgrains—Kurnool District—Inter Village—Transport of paddy, rice and millets—Restriction.
10. Foodgrains—Kistna District—Restriction on Inter village movement—Paddy, rice and millets.
11. Foodgrains—Trichinopoly District—Inter village movement—Paddy, rice and millets—Restriction.

12. Foodgrains—Bellary District—Inter village movement of paddy, rice and millets.

13. Foodgrains—Salem District—Transport of paddy, rice and millets—Inter village restriction.

14. Foodgrains—Coimbatore District—Paddy, rice and millets movement from place of storage within the District—Prohibited—except under permit.

15. Foodgrains—Salem District—Export from Huzur and Dharmapuri Revenue Divisions—Prohibited—except under permit.

16. Foodgrains—Tinnevely District—Movement of paddy, rice and millets Control.

17. Order to control the milling of paddy by rice mills in rationed areas.

18. Rice—Transport for personal consumption within the Province—Regulation.

19. Foodgrains—Guntur District—Transport of paddy, rice and millets—Inter village restriction.

20. Paddy and Rice—Nellore District—Export from Kovur and Kavali Taluks—Prohibited except under permit.

21. Paddy and Rice or their products—East Godavari District—Export from Nigur Taluk—Prohibited except under permit.

22. Pulses—Blackgram, Redgram, Bengalgram—Their Dhalls and Products—Import by private agencies—Control of sales etc.—Instructions.

23. The Gur Control Order 1946—Prohibition of Sugarcane crushing for the manufacture of Jaggery in Pugalur factory area.

24. The Gur Control Order 1946—Prohibition of Sugarcane Crushing for the manufacture of Jaggery in Podanur factory area.

25. Tapioca — Salem District — Transport Prohibition—Except under permit.

26. Cattle fodder—Export outside Tanjore district—Banned.

27. Cattle fodder—Export outside Anantapur District—Banned.

28. Cattle fodder—export outside Bellary District—Banned.

29. Cattle fodder—export outside Nellore District—Banned.

Dehydrated Potatoes

Issued on October 12, 1946

The Government have ordered that the dehydrated potatoes manufactured by Messrs Parry and Company on Government account and those imported from the American Army surpluses in India and United States of America be sold:

- (a) to the general public at the rate of Rs. 0-4-3 per lb., the price to the retailers of ration shops being Rs. 0-4-0; and
- (b) to others e.g., hotels, restaurants, Railway and Factory Grainshops, Governments and Administrations of other Provinces, Indian States etc., at Rs. 1-2-0 per lb.

Concessions to Demobs

Issued on October 19, 1946

The Government have allowed the following concessions to demobilised personnel who wish to obtain or renew licences to drive motor vehicles:—

(1) Any person who held a driving licence previously, and who, on account of failure to renew it or to get a new licence, has to pass the test of competence to drive to get a fresh licence is exempted from paying the fee prescribed for the test if such failure was due to service in the Armed Forces and if the service was out of India or for not less than six months within India during the war, i.e., between the 3rd September 1939 to the 1st April, 1946.

(2) Any person who did not previously hold a civil driving licence but who, having been honourably released or discharged from the Armed forces, and having qualified during such service as Grade I or Grade II driver or service tradesman of an equivalent grade, applies for licence within one year of his release or discharge, is exempted from Part I of the test. This exemption from the test will not apply for a licence to drive a motor cycle but such Grade II drivers as well as Grade III drivers or service tradesmen who have not served for not less than six months in the Forces are allowed to undergo not more than one test without paying any fee. Services tradesmen of grades equivalent to Driver Grades I, II and III are as follows:—

Grade I—Driver mechanic, Motor mechanic, Crew driver mechanic, Grade II—Crew Motor mechanic,

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Grade I—Driver M. T. (Leading aircraftsman).

Grade II—Driver mechanic (Cinema), Grade I—Driver M.T. (A. C. 1), M.T. mechanic.

Grade III—Driver operator, Grade II—Driver M.T. (A. C. 2).

(3) Persons described in paragraphs (1) and (2) above are exempted from the fee for the issue of a licence or the fee for the first renewal of their licence after discharge or release.

Lapse of H. P. P. Ordinance

Issued on October 24, 1946

The Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance, 1943 and the Consumer Goods (Control of Distribution) Order, 1945, lapsed on 30-9-46. The powers vested in the Commissioner of Civil Supplies, Madras, under those two laws in regard to control over distribution and prices of consumer goods also lapsed on that day. Correspondence pending in the office of the Commissioner of Civil Supplies, Madras, relating to the fixation of profit margins, the issue of instructions regarding distribution of articles, the issue of permits for the purchase of consumer goods in short supply and all other matters covered by these two laws will be treated as closed.

An Eye-Wash Exposed

Issued on October 21, 1946.

It has been brought to the notice of the Government that printed invitations to dinner on marriage and other occasions are being issued with a note "Please bring your rations" or "Send your ration card in advance". Evidently it is intended to convey by such a note that the invitees do actually bring their rations thus enabling the host to give the dinner. This, however, seldom happens and the note is merely an eye-wash. Government desire to invite the attention of the public to the press notes dated 23-3-1946 and 8-8-1946 which restrict:

- (1) the number of persons that could be fed at parties other than marriage parties to 30, and
- (2) the number of persons that could be fed at marriage parties to 50 including the bride, the bridegroom, other relatives and guests.

Feeding of persons over the number prescribed above will be an offence even if it is done with the

aid of rations brought by invitees. The public are, therefore, advised not to use the note referred to above in sending out invitations in future.

Casuarina Poles

Issued on October 17, 1946.

A large number of applications are received by the Board of Revenue (Civil Supplies) from Engineering Contractors for grant of permits for the movement of Casuarina poles into the City from Chingleput district for scaffolding purposes, in connection with the construction of buildings in the City of Madras. Sometimes the poles which are already in their possession are sought to be moved from one place to another in the City. The contractors often represent that as the works undertaken by them have to be executed expeditiously, the permits should be issued urgently. The Board has no data readily available to verify with reference to the stock already held by them whether the contractors are justified in purchasing the quantity specified in their application at competitive prices from the topes earmarked for supplies to civilian needs of Madras City. Further it is also not known how the poles so imported are disposed of by them after the constructions are completed. As firewood is a rationed article in the city and as the inflow of casuarina wood into the city for civilian requirements from nearby topes has to be assured, the Government have in consultation with the Board issued a notification under Section 3 (2) (g) of the Madras Essential Articles Control and Requisitioning (Temporary Powers) Act, 1946, calling on the Engineering Contractors (individuals and Firms) in the approved lists of the P.W.D. (all branches), the Corporation of Madras and the Defence Services, who are engaged in the construction works, to furnish to the Board of Revenue (Civil Supplies) not later than 31-10-1946 a true and correct statement in the form specified in the Notification in respect of firewood viz., Casuarina wood into the city for civilian session on 15-10-1946. If the information is furnished it will greatly facilitate the grant of permits to the contractors as and when they apply, and will also help the Board of Revenue (Civil Supplies) to assure supplies of casuarina firewood in the City and also obviate the possibility of the poles being sold in the black market.

Village Food Committees

Issued on October 25, 1946.

In the Press Note No. 95 dated 16-8-1946 it was announced that no complaints received in connection with the formation of the Village Food Committees after 28th August would be entertained by the Government. In spite of this, several complaints have been made to the Government after that date in regard to the formation of such Committees on one ground or other, that they are not fully representative, or that some participation in excess and so on. Suitable action has been taken in respect of genuine complaints which deserved consideration. The Government consider it necessary that arrangements should now be finalised and the committees should commence work without any further delay. Instructions have accordingly been issued to the Collectors to see that the Committees begin to function forthwith and that necessary assistance is rendered to the committees in their work. The public are hereby informed that no petitions regarding the formation of Village Committees will be entertained by Government in future and that petitions received in this regard will be summarily rejected.

Famine Relief

Issued on October 17, 1946

There was good rainfall in both the districts of Anantapur and Bellary during September. The irrigation sources in Anantapur received fairly good supplies during the month. But the supplies were below normal. Dry crops and irrigated crops are fairing well. More rainfall is needed to augment the supplies to the irrigation sources in both the districts.

Distress is gradually decreasing as agricultural operations are progressing. The numbers of works sanctioned in each of the districts are given below:—

District	Road works
Anantapur	56
Bellary	16
Total	72

District	Irrigation works
Anantapur	33
Bellary	19
Total	52

District	Other works including wells
Anantapur	109
Bellary	39
Total	148

District	Total
Anantapur	198
Bellary	74
Grand Total	272

The average number of persons relieved in all these works daily was 5,146 in Anantapur and 3,419 in Bellary.

Fodder Depots

Twenty-six fodder depots were sanctioned in Anantapur district, of which eighteen are now working. The remaining eight depots were closed after the receipt of the recent rains. There are seven depots in Bellary at present. The demand for hill grass has fallen in Bellary. Orders have therefore since been issued for the closure of the seven fodder depots in Bellary district unless the Special Relief Collector considers it necessary that they should continue for some more time. The particulars of receipts and sales of fodder during the month are as follows:—

District	Receipts Tons
Anantapur	1,017
Bellary	512
Total	1,529

Districts	Sales Tons
Anantapur	223
Bellary	158
Total	381

District	Balance Tons
Anantapur	784
Bellary	354
Total	1,148

Gratuitous Relief

Gratuitous relief in the shape of cash and grain is being distributed to the infirm and decrepit persons in the village in both the districts. The average number of persons relieved under this category daily is

14,892 in Anantapur and 2,051 in Bellary. Four free kitchens have also been opened for children in Perur, Kambadur, Amarapuram and Agali villages in the Anantapur district. There is good attendance in these kitchens.

The distribution of condensed milk to expectant and nursing mothers and to children under eight years of age continued in September also.

Food Situation

Anantapur: The general food situation in the district was fairly satisfactory during the month. The district had adequate stocks of rice and millets including maize. The stocks of wheat and wheat products were however inadequate. Issues of wheat were therefore restricted to statutorily rationed areas only while wheat flour was issued only to bakers. During the latter part of the month, the district received a supply of 200 tons of wheat flour. The stocks of all pulses except toor dhal were fairly adequate. Despatches of toor to the district from Central Provinces commenced during the second fortnight of the month and the consignments should have been received in the district by now. Supply of sugar was restricted and steps were being taken to introduce a system of informal rationing in statutorily rationed areas.

Bellary: The rice position in the district which was not quite satisfactory at the commencement of the month improved during the course of the month with imports from Bezwada. There was an increase in the offtake on account of the immigration of outside labour to the Tungabhadra Project camps. Stocks of millets and wheat were satisfactory. The stocks of wheat flour and maida were however not adequate, and therefore their issues were restricted to statutorily rationed areas only. The stocks and supply position in regard to pulses was not quite satisfactory, and the position is expected to improve with the anticipated early arrival of stocks from the supply sources. As regards sugar, though supply was inadequate its distribution was as equitable as possible. The position in regard to other commodities was fairly satisfactory.

Accelerated Wells Scheme

Issued on October 18, 1946.

The time allowed for completion of well works under the Accelerated Wells Scheme expired on 30th September 1946. Up to 31st August 1946 only about 22% of the well works for which subsidies had been paid, were completed and at this rate of progress a substantial proportion of the works would not have been completed by 30th September 1946. The Government understand that in many cases, the main part of the work has been done and that the delay in completing the work is due to difficulty in getting labour and masons and in transporting bricks and stones in the wet weather. In the circumstances, the Government have ordered the extension of time for completion of well works under the scheme upto 31st March 1947, once and for all, in cases where the work had made substantial progress by 30th September 1946. In all other cases where the work had not been begun at all on 30th September 1946 or where the progress was not substantial no extension of time will be given.

Sale Of Kuruvai Paddy

Issued on October 28, 1946.

Government are informed that land owners in Tanjore District refuse to part with the recently harvested Kuruvai paddy unless the millers pay them at Rs. 5-1-3 or Rs. 5-2-3 per Imperial Maund at village site, taking their stand on a note which appeared in the press recently that the F.O.R. prices of paddy for export has been fixed by Government at Rs. 5-13-3 per Imperial Maund and that the cartage and other expenses work out to 11 to 12 annas per maund. Ever since 1942, when the system of ceiling prices in surplus districts was introduced, Government have been fixing only F.O.R. rates for export of rice by millers, leaving them to strike bargains with the producers which would enable them to deliver at these rates. The same policy is being continued this year also and the Government have made no change. The figures which appeared in the press are only approximate amounts and millers cannot in all cases pay at those rates without regard to the distance of the village site to the mills and to the Railway Stations. The F.O.R. price for Kuruvai rice in Tanjore District this year has been

fixed by Government at Rs. 8-9-0 per maund which is really the rate for second sort now and it is open to millers to strike bargains with the ryots which would enable them to supply at these rates. No fixed village site price for sale by producers to millers has been prescribed by the Government.

Bonus for Short-term Paddy

Government have received several representations to the effect that increased bonus of Rs. 2 per Imperial Maund of paddy announced by the Hon'ble Prime Minister and which is to be in force till the 31st of October 1946, should be allowed for deliveries of short-term paddy made even after the said date as the Kuruvai crop this year was raised late. The Government wish to make it clear that the increased bonus was announced by the Hon'ble Prime Minister only in order to induce producers who had reserved for their consumption and their family consumption at the rate of 1 lb. per adult per day to reduce their consumption and surrender as much as they can. For administrative convenience and also in order to benefit those who raised short-term crops, this additional bonus was ordered to be given for all deliveries of paddy upto 31st October. There is no reason therefore to allow the increased bonus to all deliveries after October. The bonus previously announced of Re. 1 per imperial maund of paddy will continue to be given for the short-term paddy delivered upto 15th of November, 1946.

False Report

Issued on October 25, 1946.

Government have seen the news item published in the "Andhra Patrika" that the Minister for public Information has drafted a scheme for countering communist propaganda in the Province and the Comments in the "Prajaskithi" and the "Swatantra" thereon.

They desire to point out that there is no scheme under the contemplation of the Information Minister, as alleged, to counter the communist propaganda, and to state that there is one specially being drafted for that purpose is absolutely without any foundation.

India's Dollar Earnings and Expenditure

As there appear to be considerable misgivings in the public mind

about such matters as India's earnings and expenditure of dollars, the Empire Dollar Pool and The Postwar Dollar Fund, Government consider it desirable to explain the main facts in this regard to the public.

Empire Dollar Pool

It was customary before the war for a large number of countries (generally referred to as the "sterling bloc") to hold all or almost all their foreign exchange balances in London in the form of sterling. Sterling was then freely convertible into other currencies and therefore countries which held sterling balances could convert them at will into any currency which they happened to need for fulfilling their international obligations. With the outbreak of the war and the increasing difficulty thereby caused in securing the convertibility of sterling, this system assumed a degree of rigidity which had not been previously contemplated. Those members of the "sterling bloc" who continued to be members of what is now known as the "sterling area" forewent their right to hold foreign exchange in their own custody and agreed to impose restrictions on the expenditure of foreign exchange in order to ensure that the limited resources of the sterling area of foreign currencies were utilised to the best advantage in the prosecution of the war. The whole of the sterling area's holdings of foreign exchange were held in one pool in the custody of the Bank of England and the British Treasury. As the United States dollar was the most important foreign currency in this Pool this whole arrangement came to be known as the Empire Dollar Pool instead of the Sterling Area Pool of Foreign Exchange which more correctly describes it.

Test of Essentiality

In the working of the Empire Dollar Pool the individual countries of the sterling area were given no specific allotments of the various foreign currencies which they were entitled to spend. The method by which expenditure was restricted was that the countries concerned agreed not to spend foreign exchange unless the demand for which it was required was essential and could not be satisfied within the sterling area. The test of essentiality varied in strictness from time to time as the volume of the Pool increased or decreased and at

the conclusion of the war and for a considerable period before it the test was whether a particular demand was necessary for the prosecution of the war or for the maintenance of the civil economy at a wartime level. The member country itself has always been the judge of the essentiality of its own requirements and when it has certified that a particular requirement is essential and its Exchange Control has granted the necessary authorisation, the Pool has never questioned the decision taken. With the end of the war, the definition of essentiality applicable till then lost its meaning and the Government of India are much more liberal now in the classification of requirements as essential than they have been in the past.

Earnings & Expenditure

The Government of India have kept an account of India's earnings and expenditure of hard currencies, some figures about which were published in the Finance Member's Budget speech last February. Since the beginning of the War up to the 31st March, 1946, India earned Rs. 405 crores worth of U.S.A. dollars and spent Rs. 240 crores having a net surplus of Rs. 165 crores. Against this has to be set off the fact that India spent more than she earned, to the extent of Rs. 41 crores, of other hard currencies, namely those of Canada, Sweden, Switzerland and Portugal. India's net contribution to the Pool has therefore been about Rs. 114 crores till the close of the year 1945-46. During the quarter ending June, 1946, for which preliminary figures are now available there has been a substantial net withdrawal by India on the Pool, mainly on account of food imports and other payments on Government account. These figures must not however be taken as our "share" in the Dollar Pool for what we can spend is, strictly speaking, not related to nor limited by what we have contributed.

Post-War Dollar Fund

The public are aware that there is a fund known as the Post-War Dollar Fund to which the Pool has contributed \$ 20 million for the year 1944. In the year 1943-44, His Majesty's Government agreed, in view of our large dollar contributions to the Empire Dollar Pool and of our willingness to agree to give reciprocal aid to the United

States, to place at our disposal a sum of \$ 20 million in a separate fund to be utilised after the conclusion of hostilities with Japan for restocking and capital expenditure in the U.S.A. All expenditure for these purposes was to be met from the Fund and not till this Fund was exhausted were we to ask for dollars from the Pool for the financing of such expenditure. This figure of \$ 20 million was a percentage of our dollar earnings on trade account in the year 1944, and H.M.G. agreed that they would credit the Fund with a similar sum, upto a maximum of \$ 20 million, for the year 1945 if our dollar earnings on the same basis for that year were of the same order as for the year 1944. In respect of 1945, H.M.G. have just intimated an allocation of \$ 20 million. It is generally believed that this Fund represents the total resources in U.S. Dollars which India possesses for the purchases of capital goods. Such a belief is however erroneous. The limit of our purchases is not necessarily the amount in the Fund; for we have the right to draw on the Pool for all capital goods the import of which we regard as legitimate. As against the \$ 20 million allotment to the Fund for 1944 and in anticipation of further allotment, the Government of India have issued sanctions for the import of capital goods, the purchase of ships and for other industrial purposes upto \$ 28 million.

Import Control liberalised

Recent criticisms about the import control policy of Government have been based on two grounds; firstly, that the administrative machinery for the grant of import licences was slow and inefficient and, secondly, that the strictness with which exchange control was administered made it very difficult for importers both of capital and of other goods to import them from outside the sterling area. With the altered conditions brought about by the termination of war, the Government of India have recently made a number of changes in the administration of import control with the result, they hope, that the procedure for obtaining import licences has been very considerably simplified and shortened. They have also adopted the policy of removing as many items as possible from the list of controlled items and of placing them on the Open General Licence for the sterling area. Other items have been placed

on the Universal Open General Licence which means that these items may be imported freely from any source whether within or outside the sterling area. Items which can thus be decontrolled are continually under review and the list is gradually being increased.

The Government of India have also relaxed substantially the rigidity of exchange control and the two tests of essentiality and non-availability are now applied with more flexibility. Requirements are now held to be essential if they are necessary for the maintenance and development of the national economy or the maintenance and development of the standard of living, and non-availability is determined with due reference to the quality, price and period of delivery, and non-availability in the very or comparable articles in the sterling area. Further, the burden of proving non-availability has been shifted to Government from the importer so that it is now for Government to satisfy itself by its own enquiries whether goods required to be imported from outside the sterling area are available within it or not, instead of, as heretofore, for the importer to prove that they were not so available. Another modification that has been introduced is that the various graded lists of the world have been graded in the order of their difficulty and the tests of essentiality and non-availability are applied to imports with a decreasing degree of strictness in accordance with the comparative easiness of the currency concerned. With these modifications of policy and procedure it is expected that currency considerations will no longer hinder the rapid development of industry in India.

Sunn Hemp Seeds

Issued on October 25, 1946.

Representations have been made to the Government by the ryots in the Northern districts that the prices of sunn hemp seeds have been inflated to very high levels by the dealers in the commodity. With a view to make the seed available in the Northern districts at a reasonable price, Government have issued orders fixing the price of sunn hemp seeds at Rs. 22 per bag of 200 lbs. in the districts of West Godavari and Vizagapatam.

ELECTIONS TO MUNICIPALITIES AND DISTRICT BOARDS

HINTS TO CANDIDATES

Persons intending to stand as candidates at the ensuing elections to municipal councils and district boards should submit their nomination papers in the prescribed form. The form will, on application be supplied free of cost by the Election officers. (Municipal Commissioners in the case of elections to municipal councils and D.P.O.'s, tahsildars and independent deputy tahsildars in the case of elections to district boards). Each nomination paper should be signed by two electors whose names are on the electoral roll for the municipal ward or for district board circle concerned, as proposer and seconder, and the candidate should sign a declaration on it expressing his willingness to stand for election. An elector may sign as many nomination papers as there are vacancies to be filled in the ward or circle as the case may be, but no more, but each candidate should be nominated by a separate nomination paper.

Filing of Nominations

Municipal Commissioners have been appointed election officers for elections to their respective municipal councils. Tahsildars and independent deputy tahsildars have generally been appointed election officers for elections to district board circles in their respective taluks. On the days and during the hours previously notified in this behalf, nomination papers should be presented to the election officers concerned or to persons authorised by them either by the candidates themselves or by their proposers and seconds together. No nomination paper will be received after the appointed time on the last of the dates appointed for receipt of nominations.

On the presentation of a nomination paper, the Election Officer or the person receiving it under that officer's authority may require the persons presenting it to produce a copy of the electoral roll in which the names of the candidate, the proposer and the seconder are registered and may, where necessary, direct the entries in the nomination paper regarding the names and numbers of the candidate, pro-

poser and seconder to be amended in accordance with the entries in the electoral roll.

Along with the presentation of the nomination paper or prior to doing so, the candidate should make or cause to be made with the Election Officer a deposit either in cash or in Government promissory notes, of the sum specified below:—

Amount of Deposit for:

	Candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes.	Other Candidates.
Municipal Elections 25	Rs. 25	Rs. 50
District Board Elections 25		100

It is also open to a candidate to pay the amount of the deposit to the credit of the municipal council or the district board, in the Government treasury or in any bank in which the local body has an account and to deliver the treasury chalan or bank receipt to the election officer in lieu of depositing the amount in cash or Government promissory notes. A separate deposit should be made in respect of each ward or circle.

Scrutiny Of Papers

On the last of the days appointed for the receipt of nominations, the election officer or the person authorised by him to receive the nomination papers will publish on the notice board of the municipal or District Board office a list of all the nominations received with a notice that the nomination papers will be scrutinised at the place, date and hour specified in it. Each candidate, one proposer and one seconder of his candidature and one other person authorised in writing by the candidate can be present at such scrutiny. All of them are entitled to examine all the nomination papers received. The Election Officer will record on each nomination paper his decision accepting or rejecting it. In cases where a nomination has been rejected, the candidate or his authorised agent is entitled on application to a copy of the order rejecting the nomination. An appeal

against the Election Officer's rejection order lies to the District Collector. The appeal should be preferred within three days of the order.

Withdrawals

Any candidate may withdraw his candidature by giving a written notice signed by himself. The notice should be delivered by the candidate himself. Where this is not possible, the candidate's signature on the notice should be attested by a person empowered to attest vakalats. The notice of withdrawal of nomination should be delivered to the Election Officer not later than 3 p.m. on the next day but one succeeding the date appointed for the scrutiny of nominations.

On the appropriate day notified in the election notice, the Election Officer will publish on the notice board of the municipal council or the district board a list of all nominations which have not been rejected or withdrawn. A candidate may withdraw his candidature even after poll has been found necessary. But such withdrawal should be made before 5 p.m. on any day subsequent to publication of valid nominations but at least three clear days before the date of the poll, where the election relates to a municipal council and at least seven clear days before the date of poll where the election relates to a district board. Such a withdrawal entails a forfeiture of the deposit.

If a poll becomes necessary, the Election Officer will assign to candidates distinctive colours in accordance with the directions of Government which have already been notified to the public in Press Communique No. 42 dated 21-10-46. Each candidate claiming to stand on behalf of the political parties in the Province should produce before the Election Officer his credentials to prove that he has been nominated as the candidate of the party. The colour assigned to each candidate will be the colour of the ballot box assigned to him. All electors who wish to vote for a candidate should deposit their ballot papers in the box bearing the colour assigned to him.

SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY CONVERTED INTO CENTRAL POLYTECHNIC

GOVT.'S INTENTION TO ACCELERATE INDUSTRIAL TRAINING

PREMIER'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS

While decalring open the Central Polytechnic at Madras on October 19, 1946, Mr. Prakasam announced the Government's plan to start 150 Cottage Industrial Units for the purpose of giving training to the village artisans. These 150 units cover 49 different industries spread over the 25 districts in the province and are capable of accommodating not less than 3,000 persons at a time.

The Inauguration of the Central Polytechnic was done by Hon'ble Sri T. Prakasam, on Saturday, 19th October, 1946, in the premises of the Government School of Technology, Madras.

Mr. Abbas Khaleeli, Director of Industries and Commerce welcoming the Prime Minister and other guests said that the Trades School which was originally started had developed into a School of Technology during the last Congress Ministry and today the Institution has been transformed into the Central Polytechnic. The opening of the Central Polytechnic was a Red letter day in the annals of the technical education of this province. He mentioned about the large amount that had been sanctioned for spending on industrial education. He assured the gathering that the officers and his department would see to it that the tax-payers' money was best spent and not frittered away.

Mr. Prakasam expressing his pleasure at inaugurating the institution said that fully recognizing the vital role which technical education played in the life of the community, the Madras Government had provided large sums of money for its expansion. He had little doubt that the return to the community would be many hundred fold and that the young men trained in this institution would play a worthy part in the building up of a prosperous and happy India. While he was glad to note that the need for hostels and playing fields had been recognized and provisions made for such amenities he was not quite sure whether sufficient attention had been paid in drawing up the details of the syllabuses to ensure the cultural development of the country. "A broad cultural approach to the subjects whether scientific, technical, or technological is essential

if we are to turn out men who know not only how to work in a workshop or a factory but also how to spend their leisure hours at home and in society."

The proposed technical institutions, the Prime Minister said, would be located in cities and towns. Whilst they would meet the needs of the people and certain percentage of the people from the rural parts, they could not possibly help to improve the technic of the vast masses of the village dwellers. So with a view to providing facilities to such village dwellers the department of Industries and Commerce had just finalised 'the blue print for the training of the village artisans.' Under this scheme some 150 Cottage Industrial Units comprising 49 different industries spread over the 25

districts of the province would be shortly established and in these units training would be given to some 3,000 people at a time. When the people complete their course of training, they would be given all reasonable facilities, technical, financial and otherwise to establish themselves in the trades of their choice. Some village craftsmen may show special aptitude for further technical training at higher level. Every facility should be provided for such craftsmen so that the humblest of the humble may be enabled to acquire the highest form of training that we may provide in our institutions. He was glad that in the Central Polytechnic provision existed for the workshop apprentices to obtain diplomas by attending the school in the evenings.



Premier at the Polytechnic

NUTRITIVE VALUE OF GREENS

By
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Lack of Research

The various edible green leaves, shoots and some flowers too come under the category of leafy vegetables. The familiar imported leaves are celery, cabbage, collards, kale, leeks, lettuce, spinach, and tops of turnip, radish, and beets. Since almost all Nutrition works, to-day, are those written by Western scholars, their books speak of the nutritive values of those leaves, that are to be found in the West only. Reading these books, one would wonder whether there is any green leafy vegetable in India at all. The fact is that there are countless varieties of them; only we do not have their nutritive values analysed and published. The names of many of the varieties even remain unknown to the nutritionist. We have not only the domestic greens of the Amaranth kind; but also what we call the Jungle varieties. These latter are more familiar to the villager, for whom they are the only cheap vegetables they can afford to buy.

The Nutrition Research Institute at Connoor has analysed the following indigenous varieties and published their nutritive values (Health Bulletin 23): Agathi, Amaranth, Bengal gram leaves, Coriander leaves, Curry leaves, Drumstick leaves, Fenngreek leaves, Garden Cress, Gogu, Gram leaves, Manthakali, Neem, Mint and Ponnangani. All these edible leaves are commonly called "Keeral". Many more familiar keerals like Pannai Keeral, Kuppai Keeral, Mullu Keeral, Dhal Keeral, etc., are yet to be analysed.

Consumption Low

Though there is such an abundant supply of these greens in the land, their consumption is not as high as one would expect. Diet surveys show that out of about 20 ounces of food we consume daily, the proportion of greens in the Madras diet is nil, Bengal 2, Assam 8, Orissa 1.4, and C.P. 1.5. The reasons for this are the ignorance of the

masses regarding the nutritive values of the greens and the peculiar prejudice they entertain towards them as cheap foods fit only for farm animals.

The primitive man subsisted only on green plants. For generations till they were domesticated, cattle and horses had been grazing on the green grass, and yet lived healthy lives. Not only the grazing animals, but also the browsing animals that eat the leaves of trees, weeds and shrubs are living examples that show that the green leafy vegetables are complete foods by themselves. The leaf-eaters—the elephant and the ox—are unsurpassed for their strength and endurance.

Protective Food

The leaf of a plant contains most of the food-factors required by the human body. Though the seeds, tubers, and fruits also contain some of the food factors, they are too unbalanced in composition to be satisfactory. So even if they are eaten in large quantities, they will yet be deficient in calcium and other factors. But the leaf is the field of the synthesis of all food factors in the plant, such as proteins, carbo-hydrates and fats, and it is also supplied with an unlimited store of actively functioning cells, which contain essential nutrients.

In composition, the leafy vegetables contain a high moisture content, very little of Nitrogenous matter or fat and only small quantities of carbo-hydrates. But their frame-work contains a good deal of cellulose which stimulates the intestinal action and is of great value in curing chronic constipation. Inorganic materials such as calcium, iron and vitamins A, B₂, C and K are also present in large quantities. The leafy vegetables are therefore included among "Protective Foods". These are not only complete in themselves but also have supplemental values not possessed by other vegetables. Though they furnish very little of proteins, yet the little they give is of great value.

Vitamin Content

The green leaves of food, forage crops and of pastures supply us directly and indirectly with vitamin A values. When we eat green leaves, we absorb the carotenes they contain and these are converted into Vit. A, which can be used up immediately or stored in the liver. Further the carotenes of a wider range of green leaves are brought indirectly into the service of human nutrition through farm animals—such as the cow which eats the grass and gives us the milk. Here also, it is interesting to note that the cow which eats green grass yields milk, richer in Vit. A than the one which feeds on dry hay or straw.

The Vit. 'A' value of green leaves varies with the seasons and species. On an average they have 13,000-27,000 International units of Vit. A value for every 100 gms. The thin green parts have the highest value, while leaves which are colourless, such as the white inner leaves of the tight-headed cabbage contain very much less. About 4 ounces of boiled cabbage give us 1000 I.U. of Vit. A which is one-third of the day's requirement.

Greens also supply a good deal of calcium, which is sadly lacking in our poor Indian diets. Drumstick, Agathi, Amaranth and curry leaves are particularly rich in this.

Fresh greens are good reservoirs of Vit. C, otherwise called Ascorbic acid. But they must be taken raw for the Vit. C content would be very much diminished by cooking. Spinach, cabbage and lettuce can well be taken raw in salads; raw gogu, mint, coriander and curry leaves can be used in chutneys.

Riboflavin, which is an important Vitamin of the B₂ group is abundantly distributed in greens. Milk, egg, and greens are the chief sources of this in nature. So vegetarians have to depend mainly on greens for this, barring milk, which may be out of reach for many.

We have also to depend for most of the iron that we require, on these leaves. 'Manathakkali' is an excellent source. It can even cure anemias caused by iron deficiency.

Boon To Vulnerable Groups

Greens are in particular a boon to the vulnerable groups, the weaning child, the pregnant and lactating mothers, the invalid and the convalescent, the growing children and the infirm.

It is a most useful reducing diet too. Without increasing the bulk of starch and calories which cause fatness, it pleases the appetite, satisfies the hunger and supplies all the essential nutrients.

Ever-Green In History

The use of green leafy vegetables is by no means foreign to our tradition. We have the legendary story of the house-wife who prepared a whole feast with just rice and one green leafy vegetable, making one dish with the tender shoots, another with the ripe leaves, a third with the stalks, and still another with the stem. Even the root was used in a preparation. Tamil literature gives us the example of a poet's poverty-stricken family tiding over a famine by living on greens only. The Spartans ate water-cress with their bread. The Chinese used abundant greens in combination with rice. The custom of preparing green salads was introduced into England by Catharine of Aragon. Thus we find that greens have been used from times immemorial and have remained ever-green all through these ages.

Our present diet is deficient in many factors; calcium, iron, proteins, Vit. A and C, being the chief among them. A few of these can be remedied by milk. But the bulk of the population, that cannot afford to buy milk can only look to greens to make up this deficiency.

Hints As To Cooking

A few hints as to the cooking of greens will not be out-of-place. Exposure and storage destroy rapidly the Vit. C, while most of the carotene, proteins and minerals get lost or destroyed in the cooking water. Soda bi-carbonate, which is added to preserve the green colour

is detrimental to the Vitamins. Chopping and soaking also minimise the food values. The use of strong condiments is harmful. Hence care must be taken to cook these for the shortest time, over a minimum heat with little, or the least amount, of water. While eating them raw is the most preferable, steaming is the next best.

Various preparations can be made with greens. Salads Chutneys, dhal and green curry, sambar, vadai and 'keeral rice' are some of them.

Greens being such a cheap and good food available to all, at all times, it should naturally have an important place in the national diet. Now, more than ever, when there is a great shortage of cereals, greens must be given their due place. At least 4 oz. of green leafy vegetables must be included in our daily diet.

Co-operative House Building Society

The Government have under consideration a proposal to start a Co-operative House-building Society to build houses for middle class people in the city. A special Dy. Registrar of Co-operative Societies has been sanctioned to conduct preliminary investigations and to formulate definite proposals in consultation with official and non-official bodies interested in promoting house building schemes. The Special Dy. Registrar in charge of the work will be glad to have personal discussions with such gentlemen and representatives of the Associations and other bodies as are interested in the Scheme.

(Contd. from next column.)

enough, and the labourer naturally finds it difficult to prepare dishes out of wheat and maize in a palatable form as he is not used to it. But the food that is served at the canteen will be well prepared and is to be in addition to the ration that he draws.

With the co-operation of the public on the one hand and the response received from the labourers themselves on the other hand, it is hoped that this scheme will be of great help to the labourers. It is also hoped that recreational activities for the labourer will be centred round these canteens.

Nutrition Canteen for Labourers

The Government of Madras have been considering the question of making food cooked with a minimum quantity of rice available to the general public at a cheap rate as a measure of economy in the use of food grain. In this connection the Y.M.C.A. has prepared a scheme to organise canteens where ever there are labourers employed in large numbers. The scheme is to cover both organised labour such as those employed in factories and mills with definite hours of work and with a fixed salary and the unorganised labour such as the rickshaw pullers, handcart pullers, coolies, peons, and such others. Mr V. Henry Devadas, Secretary, Y.M.C.A., Royapettah, has been deputed by the Board of Directors of the Madras Y.M.C.A. to work out the scheme.

About seven centres have been chosen to cover the labour areas such as Tondiarpet, Cassimode, Dock Area, Broadway, Perambur, Mount Road, and Mirsahibpet. A start will be made with two canteens to be opened shortly, one primarily for organised labour and one for unorganised labour.

As the Government are unable to spare rice at present only cereals other than rice will be used for preparing the food. Each meal will consist of one ollock of cereals, one pound of vegetables and butter milk. The maximum price charged for the full meal will be four annas, but it will be served in two different dishes, each meal costing two annas. The canteen is well equipped to cater to about 500 labourers a day, but if the co-operation from the public to serve at the canteen as volunteers is available, then a greater number, to the extent of 1,000 people, can be served with meals per day.

The labourer is expected to be benefited in two ways:

- (i) The problem of the labourers' wife or somebody else to have to carry food all the way from his house which may be a couple of miles away from the place he works, will be avoided.
- (ii) The rice ration that he gets at present is certainly not

(Contd. on previous column.)

Food Situation in the Province

For the fortnight ending 15-10-1946

The condition of the standing crops was generally fair. Harvest of paddy was proceeding in East Godavari, West Godavari, South Arcot, Salem, Coimbatore, Trichinopoly, Tanjore, Madura, Tinnevely, Malabar and South Kanara and of dry crops in parts of Vizagapatam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Kistna, Nellore, South Arcot, Salem, Coimbatore, and the Nilgiris districts. The out-turn was generally fair.

Local Procurement

The following quantities of cereals were locally procured, during the fortnight ending 30-9-1946:—

Paddy	12,975 tons
Rice	6,211 tons
Millets	4,203 tons

The following quantities were received, during the fortnight ending 15-10-1946, from other Provinces and States under the Government of India's Kharif and Rabi plans:—

Rice	5,225 tons
Millets	270 tons
Wheat	Nil.
Wheat Products	Nil.
Pulses	9,577 tons

comprising

Redgram	4,082 tons
Blackgram	1,479 tons
Greengram	1,225 tons and
Bengalgram	2,795 tons

Imports From Abroad

The following quantities were imported during the fortnight ending 15-10-1946 from overseas against the Government of India's allotments:—

Rice	18,540 tons
Millets	Nil.
Maize	16,601 tons
Wheat	9,000 tons
Wheat products	5,002 tons
Barley	4,900 tons

The closing stocks of rice in the Province for the week-ending 10-10-1946 was 1,73,067 tons as against 2,02,095 tons for the week-ending 26-9-1946.

Stocks were very low in Madras City and in the districts of Bellary, Chingleput, Chittoor, Coimbatore, Madura, Malabar, Ramnad and Trichinopoly.

Millet Position

Due to good procurement, stocks of millets continued to increase, being 30,946 tons. A supply of 7,000 tons of millets is expected later in the month. The off-take of millets has now increased to over 20,000 tons per month so that the present stocks represent 1½ months' supply. The stocks of maize at the end of the fortnight were 29,072 tons. The issues have fallen from over 4,000 tons to slightly less than 3,000 tons per week. But the preliminary figures

FOOD RATIONING Madras Leads in India

The number of people whom rationing covers all over India is about 1,50,000,000. Out of these 150 millions, one-third are in the Province of Madras.

That figure is in itself, an eloquent tribute to the successful working of the rationing system in the Province of Madras.

indicate that the off-take in September was about 7,000 tons. It has been reported that another 4 maize ships will arrive before the end of the month.

Shortage Of Wheat

Stocks of wheat have gone down to 26,546 tons and shortage of wheat is reported from several districts. One ship the 'James Johnson' arrived during the fortnight carrying 9,000 tons and out of this ship, 5,000 tons of wheat was supplied to the C.P. in exchange for which 5,000 tons of rice will be supplied to Madras. The stock of maida at the end of the fortnight was 7,893 tons. A maida ship carrying 5,000 tons has arrived at Madras and another ship carrying 3,000 tons is expected shortly in Cochin. In prospect, the maida position is unsatisfactory, since no further maida supplies are expected during November.

The stock position of pulses continues to improve. During the fortnight, considerable quantities of redgram were received from C.P. and Hyderabad. Additional quotas of 7,000 tons of Bengalgram and 2,000 tons of Greengram have been allotted from States in the North West India.

Indian Food Situation

Report of Receipts from Abroad

Following is an extract from the report on All-India Food situation issued by the Government of India on October, 14.

39 ships from seven different countries brought 2,54,000 tons of food-grains to India during the month of September. The largest single exporter was the United States which sent 80,200 tons while Australia, Burma, Argentina, Egypt, Indonesia and Abyssinia, were the other exporting countries. Out of these food-grains, 13,800 tons were of wheat, 58,640 rice, 28,600 tons maize, 23,900 tons millets, and 4,700 tons barley.

A statement from the office of Lord Killearn, the British Special Commissioner for S.E. Asia reveals that China's rice allocation from Siam is to be diverted during the months of October, November and December to India, Malaya, Borneo, Hon-Kong and the Netherlands East Indies. These shipments will be regarded as a loan to be repaid to China, not later than March 31, 1947.

Whale Meat For Human Consumption

A scientific study of the possibilities of using lean whale meat for human food will be made by a team which will sail for the Antarctic this month in a whaling factory ship. The team will also investigate the problem of selection, transport, storage and distribution of meat. In the process of producing about 500,000 tons of whale oil annually before the war, about 600,000 tons of lean whale meat was handled by British and Norwegian whaling fleets, a part of which was dehydrated and converted into normal feeding stuffs and fertilisers but the rest was thrown back into the sea after the extraction of oil.

SOME ASPECTS OF WORLD FOOD CRISIS

NEED FOR WORLD FOOD BOARD

United Nations FAO

At the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), which began in Copenhagen on September 2, the plan for the establishment of a World Food Board has been accepted. This World Food Board will be the instrument for preventing depressions in world agriculture and at the same time for expanding agricultural production through a co-ordinated food policy based on human needs and raising the level of nutrition all over the world.

World Food Survey

The need for concerted international action is demonstrated by the fact that during the agricultural depression of the early thirties when cereals were burnt for lack of buyers, millions of people went hungry because they had not sufficient money to purchase enough food. It was well-known before World War II that a large part of the world's population never had sufficient food to eat. Research into the problem of nutrition was, however, only in the beginning. The "World Food Survey", prepared by FAO recently represents the first attempt at giving a world-wide comparison of nutrition levels and working out goals for agricultural production in order to banish malnutrition from the earth.

The Survey covers 70 countries, containing about 90% of the world population. Although the data for many countries are imperfect and the figures given can, therefore, be only approximate, they nevertheless form a useful yardstick by which to measure future policy. It must be emphasized that the Survey deals only with average nutrition levels in the individual countries. Even in the best-fed countries 20% to 30% of the population did not have enough money before the war to buy sufficient quantities of the more expensive foods necessary for health. A long-term nutrition policy is, therefore, not only required in the poorer areas of the world, but also in highly developed countries like Britain and the United States.

Half The World Under-Fed

Areas comprising over one-half of the world's population had a food consumption providing less than 2,250 calories per head per day. This group includes most of Asia, a part of the Middle East and the whole of Central America. In addition, parts of South America and Africa, which were not covered by the Survey, probably suffered from similar undernourishment. On the other hand, countries containing less than one-third of the world population enjoyed a nutrition level of more than 2,750 calories. This group includes the whole of North America, the larger part of Europe, Oceania and a few countries in South America. The rest, comprising about one-sixth of the world population, belongs to an intermediate group with an average consumption of 2,250 to 2,750 calories; this applies to the larger part of Southern Europe, a few countries in Asia, and also to parts of the Middle East, Africa and South America.

Admittedly, a large part of the deficiency areas are situated in the tropics and sub-tropics where calorie requirements may be less than in the colder countries. Nevertheless, it is certain that, even so, the pre-war consumption level in these countries was insufficient. Widespread poverty forced their peoples to adopt a diet largely consisting of cheap foods rich in carbohydrates—mainly cereals, but also sometimes other starchy foods. From Eastern Europe through the U.S.S.R. to Manchuria stretches a belt where 50% to 60% of the total consumption consists of cereals. In Java, more than one-half of the total calorie-intake consists of cereals and cassava whereas the total animal protein consumed is only 4 grams.

Worked Out Targets

These few data culled from the Survey indicate the magnitude of the task if adequate standards of nutrition are to be achieved all over the world. FAO has worked out targets for the increase in food supplies necessary to achieve minimum standards. These targets assume a level of 2,550 to 2,650

calories for the low-calorie countries and a better balance of the diet in the countries where the calorie intake is already adequate. Assuming a growth of 25% in the population, the following increases in world food supplies compared with the figures before the war would be required in 1960:

Cereals (for direct human consumption only)	21%	fats	34%
Roots and tubers	27%	pulses	80%
Sugar	12%	meat	46%
Fruits and vegetables	163%	milk	100%

These targets are only a step on the way to the achievement of optimum standards everywhere, which is the aim of FAO. Its attainment will take many years.

The production of more animal produce requires a large increase in fodder crops since about seven calories from crops are required to produce one calorie of animal products. Increase of farming efficiency, provision of fertilizers, opening of new land, reclamation and conservation of soil are, therefore, required in order to achieve the proposed production targets. Only international co-operation in the financing and execution of these projects can make the improvements in the poorer countries possible. This would be one of the tasks of the proposed World Food Board.

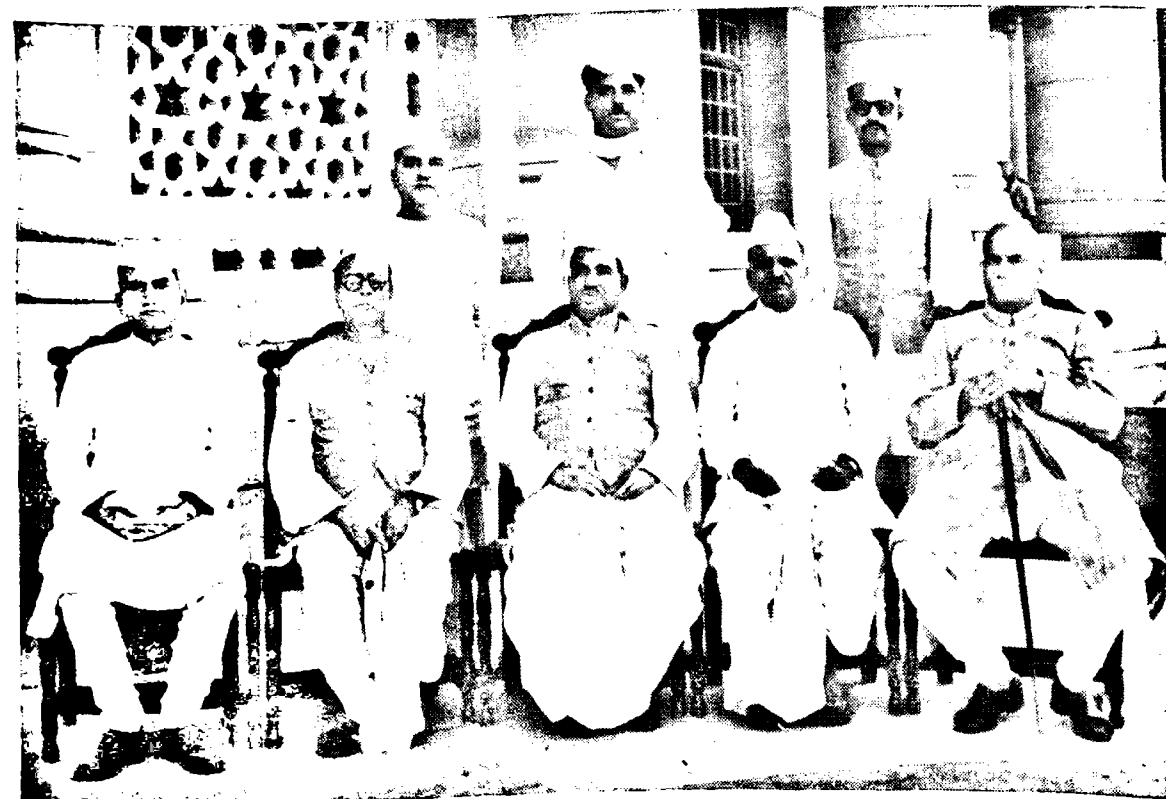
To Combat Fluctuations

The other task would be to combat short-term fluctuations in prices and demand by means of buffer-stocks, a proposal to which much thought has been given by British experts. In the acquisition and disposal of such stocks the Board would not eliminate, but would use, the existing trade channels as Sir John Orr has pointed out in Copenhagen.

It may seem strange that at the present time of world food shortage such plans are being discussed. But though fat, dairy products and meats will be short for a number of years and rising sugar output will be met by increased demand, a wheat surplus is likely to arise again after 1948 unless steps for increased consumption are taken in advance.

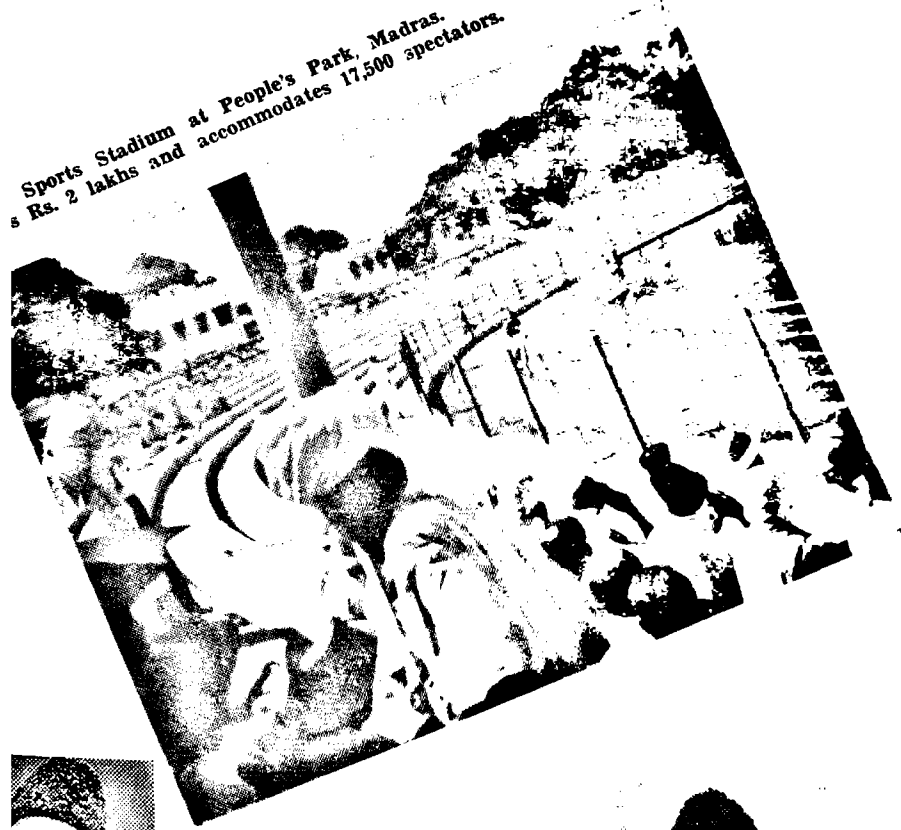


Sir Shaafat Ahamed Khan delivering the inaugural address at the Health Ministers' Conference recently held in Delhi.



The Labour Ministers' Conference.

Sports Stadium at People's Park, Madras.
Rs. 2 lakhs and accommodates 17,500 spectators.



Nishtar

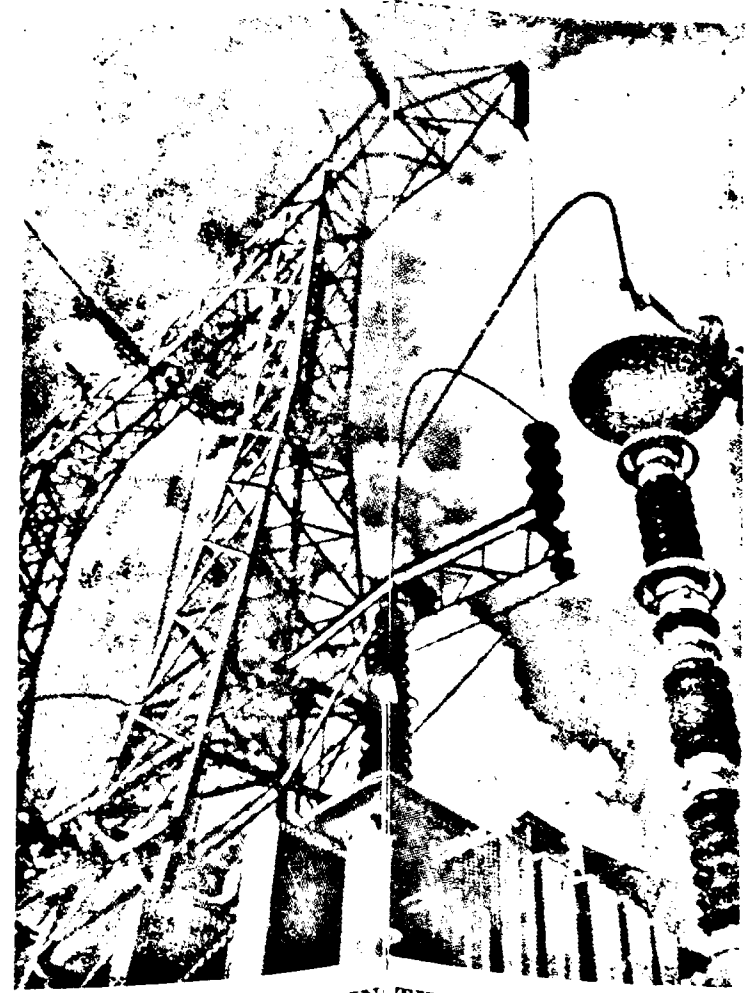


Gaznafar Ali



E. Sir A. Nye witnessing the sports recently held
at the Stadium.

Liaquat



AHEAD—BUT STILL IN THE INFANT STAGE!

"It is believed that in rural electrification Madras is ahead of other Provinces and States in India, though, in all conscience, we are only in the infant stage of this development compared to other countries."

THE CHIEF ENGINEER, ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT, MADRAS.

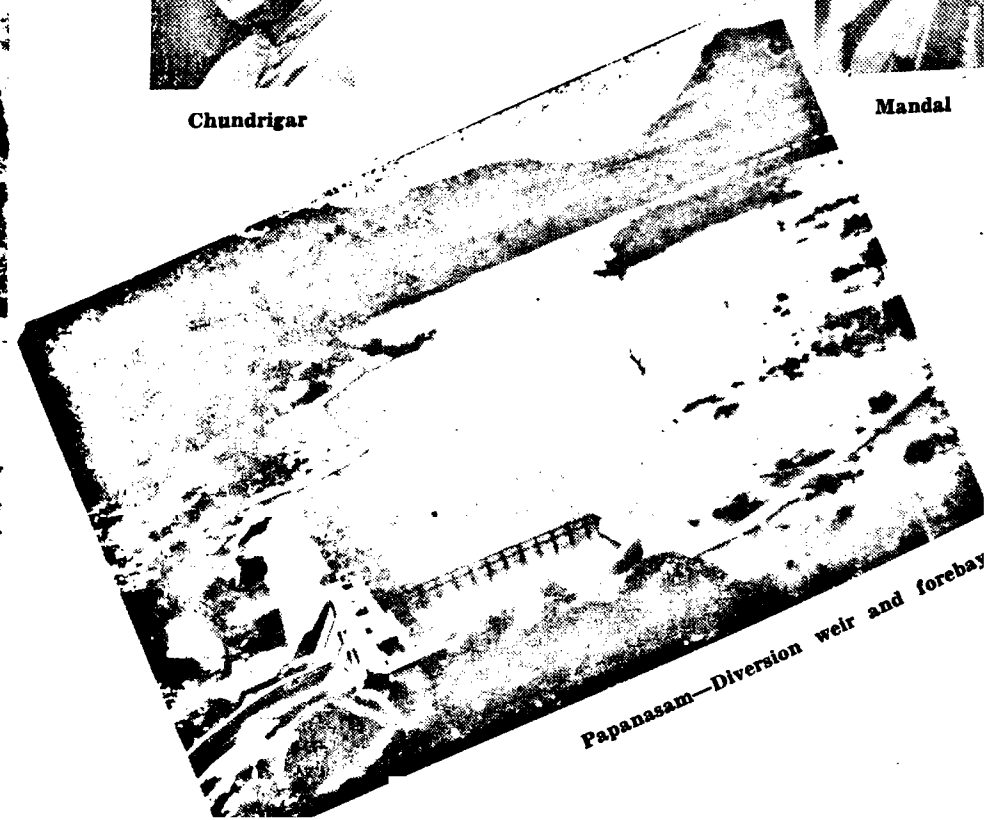
WHEAT TRAVELS THE SEVEN SEAS



Chundrigar



Mandal



Papanasam—Diversion weir and forebay

ABOLITION OF I. M. S. CIVIL BRANCH

ENCOURAGEMENT TO INDIGENOUS SYSTEMS OF MEDICINE

HEALTH MINISTERS' CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS

While detailed plans for health development are to be made and carried out by Provincial Governments, "the Interim Government will do all in their power to assist sound health development in India" was the assurance given by the Hon'ble Sir Shajarat Ahmad Khan, then Health Member in the Interim Government, in the course of his address to the Health Ministers' Conference which was recently held in New Delhi. He also announced that the Central Government proposed to implement the Bore Committee's recommendations and to develop health information services by setting up a bureau to collect information regarding the design and equipment of medical institutions.

The abolition of the Civil branch of the Indian Medical Service and adequate provision for research in and the application of scientific method for the investigation of the indigenous systems of medicine formed the subject-matter of two resolutions adopted by the Health Ministers' Conference recently held in Delhi.

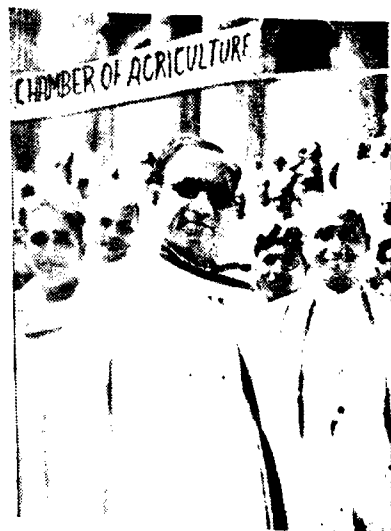
Other Resolutions

The Conference accepted the principle of amalgamation of Medical and Public Health departments and considered that the amalgamation should take place when a suitable opportunity occurred. The Ministers from Madras and Bombay dissented from this view, while the Minister from Madras considered

that co-ordination between the two departments was preferable to amalgamation. The Conference urged that a vigorous drive against malaria should receive priority in development programmes and that subject to adaptation to suit local conditions, anti-malaria organization should follow the general framework of the organization proposed



The Prime Ministers' Conference.



Mr. Bhashyam at the Agricultural Conference recently held in Madras.



Mrs. Rukmini Lakshmipathi addressing the conference.

by the Bhore Committee. Subject to review from time to time, it was agreed that quinine production should be continued and developed up to about 200,000 lbs. a year.

It was agreed that Boards of Health and Councils of Experts should be constituted both at the Centre and in the Provinces. It was also resolved that an active programme for the improvement of water supply and sanitation in both urban and rural areas should be undertaken.

The Conference accepted in principle the Bhore Committee's proposal for district health organization and recommended that the scheme should be implemented on as wide a scale as possible consistent with financial limitations.

Another resolution adopted by the Conference agreed that a review of training facilities in the light of probable future requirements should be undertaken and that particular emphasis should be laid on the training of personnel, and that as far as possible, the larger provinces should assist those provinces which have not yet been able to provide their own training facilities by admitting students to their training institutions.

Bhore Committee's Objectives

By another resolution the Conference endorsed the objectives proposed by the Bhore Committee as objectives to be kept in view in formulating plans for a national health service.

Among the objectives suggested by the Bhore Committee are: that there should be adequate provision for the medical care of the individual in the curative and preventive fields; that special provision will be necessary for certain sections of the population e.g., mothers, children, the mentally deficient; and that no individual should fail to secure adequate medical care because of his inability to pay.

Health Ministers from seven Provinces and a number of States attended the Conference.

Regional Food Conference

The Fifth Regional Food Conference, attended by representatives of the Madras Government and the States in the Southern Food Region, was held in Madras on October 21, 1946, under the Chairmanship of Dewan Bahadur C. P. Karunakara Menon, Regional Food Commissioner. A representative of Southern Command was also present.

The Conference discussed matters relating to allotments and receipts of millets and other foodgrains and considered the steps to be taken for expediting movement from the surplus areas wherever necessary. On the question of lifting the ban on the free movement of cattle, sheep and goats within the Southern Region it was decided to request the Mysore Government to reconsider their decision not to lift the ban on such movement.

With reference to the large allotments of maize and barley made to this Region and now being received at various ports, the Conference pointed out that there was no demand for barley in this part of the country and that if large quantities of it were imported they were likely to go to waste. It was decided to request the Government of India to cancel the barley allotments made to this Region and replace them by other grains such as wheat, millets or maize.

The Conference approved of a scheme for the distribution of dried fish and development of new markets for them in the Region, and left the details to be worked out by the Fisheries Departments of the Governments concerned.

Rationing Advisory Panel

The Regional Rationing Advisory Panel, consisting of rationing officers of the Southern Region, met on October 22, 1946 with the Regional Food Commissioner in the chair. The Panel considered at length the present scheme of sugar rationing and distribution in the Province of Madras and thought it essential that the price of jaggery should be controlled so that it may not cost more than sugar. The Panel discussed the question of issue of rations to animals and desired that no rice ration should be issued to animals except to elephants and sick animals when necessary.

Reconstituted Milk

At present there is a scheme of free distribution of milk reconstituted from milk powder to the children reading in the Elementary schools in the districts of Bellary, Anantapur, Chittoor, North Arcot and Salem.

According to the latest indication we may expect to receive about 7,000 tons of milk powder which we are under obligation to take. Out of this we may have to distribute about 1,000 tons to the other Administrations in the province like Mysore, Travancore, Cochin and Coorg. Thus we will have a balance of 6,000 tons.

This amount will leave a considerable surplus after use in the districts mentioned above where the scheme of free distribution is in force. This surplus has now enabled the Government to pass orders extending the scheme to Ramnad, Vizagapatam, Malabar, Tinnevely and Coimbatore.

At present the scheme already in force in the five districts has been sanctioned only upto December 31, 1946. Now the Government have extended the period upto April 30, 1947. In the case of the new districts also the scheme will be in force from the date of inauguration till April 30, 1947.

Even after these extensions in terms of time and area, it is expected we may still have some surplus to spare. In due course, probably in January 1947, arrangements will be made to dispose of the surplus, if any to the public.

The new measures of extension are expected to cost the Government an additional amount of about Rs. 4.95 lakhs.

Food propaganda

During the fortnight ending 30-9-46, about 523 demonstrations were held in the province by the district lecturers attached to the food propaganda section of the Civil Supplies Office. At these demonstrations the various methods of preparing simple palatable dishes with Maize and Wheat were shown and explained to the people. The honour of conducting the maximum number of demonstrations go to the district lecturer in South Kanara whose record for the period under review is 51.

WORKING OF FACTORIES ACT IN 1944

The number of factories in British India increased from 13,209 in 1943 to 14,071 in 1944 according to a report in the Indian Labour Gazette of September, 1946. The increase was mainly in the perennial factories and the seasonal factories fell from 3,337 in 1943 to 3,325. The rise in the number of perennial factories was 277 in Bombay, 198 in Madras and 88 in the U.P.

The proportion of notified factories increased from 32.6 per cent in 1943 to 32.2 in 1944 in case of perennial factories, and from 10.2 per cent in 1943 to 12 per cent in 1944 in the case of seasonal factories. The proportion of notified factories was largest in the case of Bombay, 88.7 per cent of the perennial factories and 35 per cent of the seasonal factories. The number of notified factories in Bengal was the lowest being only 14 out of the total of 2,012 factories both perennial and seasonal.

The average daily number of workers employed in all industries were as follows:

	1943	1944
Men	2,133,622	2,209,503
Women	262,244	269,720
Adolescent		
males	24,687	26,659
Adolescent		
Females	3,365	3,524
Boys	10,574	111,199
Girls	1,910	2,147
Total	2,436,310	2,522,753

The total average daily number working in cotton, spinning and weaving mills in 1944 was 656,613 and in Jute Mills 288,662.

Increase in Women Workers

There was an increase of 2.9 per cent in the number of women employed in 1944 over 1943. The increase in women workers was most marked in Bengal with C.P. and Bombay following. The percentage of all female workers to the total factory employment was 10.92 in the year under review.

The employment of women in the textile industries in Bombay and Ahmedabad showed a decrease. This was stated to be partly due to the smaller number of women employed in the reeling department of the mills, and partly to the improved economic conditions of the textile workers. On the other hand, employment of women increased in the mofussil owing to the scarcity of male labour in some of the centres.

Eighty-eight cases were instituted in Bombay for illegal employment of women and children and thirty-nine in Sind.

Inadequate Inspection

11,713 factories, i.e. 83.2 per cent of the total, were inspected at least once. 2,358 or 16.8 per cent were not inspected at all. In U.P., every factory was inspected at least once. 544 factories in Bombay were not inspected owing to increase in work, petrol rationing and difficulty in maintaining cars. The report from Bengal also stated that mofussil factories were to an extent neglected on account of transport difficulties. In the Punjab the number of inspections decreased owing to the preoccupation of the staff. Assam too complained of insufficiency of staff and heavy pressure of work.

The number of convictions under the Act during 1944 was 1,775 as against 1,792 in the previous year. Of these 629 related to employment and hours of work and 616 to notices, registers and returns. Punjab tops the list with 815 convictions, Bombay coming next with 457 convictions, followed by U.P., and Madras. Bengal had only 29 convictions. A number of provinces complained against the small amount of fines imposed.

(Contd. from next column.)

At Navalpur a Chadugudu Tour-nament was conducted.

A proposal for the organisation of a co-operative Milk Supply society at Melshanankuppam is under investigation to provide occupation to 80 Ex-toddy tappers.

Some Prohibition News

Here are some prohibition news from Coimbatore.

F.W.A. Morris Esq., I.C.S., Collector of Coimbatore addressed public meetings on Prohibition at Kanuvakara, Sirumugai, Silur, Karamadai, Telungapalayam, Karuvalur, Mondipalayam, Uthupalayam, Sinakalpalayam.

The Assistant Development Officers have organised 25 co-operative societies for the manufacture of jaggery.

A proposal to settle twenty ex-toddy tappers on lands by leasing out about 100 acres of land in a rifle range in the Coimbatore division is under investigation.

The Special Development Officer held a conference of the Assistant Development Officers at Mettupalayam on the 8th of October for organising district-wide rural recreation and rural uplift activities.

The Revenue Divisional Officer and Special Development Officer held a conference of the ex-toddy contractors and representatives of ex-toddy tappers at Nanjundapuram. As a result, the ex-toddy contractors have agreed to contribute Rs. 11,000 free as capital for any business started for the benefit of the ex-toddy tappers.

During Gandhi Jayanthi, the Congress organisations all over the district held innumerable meetings in which Prohibition propaganda was most prominent.

North Arcot

Tea stalls are functioning in 124 major villages and 96 minor villages.

The Tea Expansion Board has opened free tea stalls at Sholingur, Arkonam, Ambur, Gudiyattam, Tirupattur, Arcot, Ranipet, Arni, Polur and Tiruvannamalai.

In Kaniyambadi a Coffee Hotel Keeper has reported that 3 old men who miss the toddy shops have become his regular customers.

At Odugathur a Rural Recreation Club was inaugurated.

(Contd. on previous column.)



ROLE OF RURAL UNIVERSITIES

EDUCATION MINISTER LOOKS AHEAD

POSTAL TUITION TO MASSES SUGGESTED

Delivering the sixth convocation address of the Annamalai University on October 15, at Annamalai Nagar, the Hon'ble Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar, Minister for Education, appealed to the graduates to live for a greater family than their own which should comprise all the people of their country and even the whole of humanity.

made available to millions of young men and women in India. All the intellect which these persons possessed had gone to waste without being utilised to the benefit of their great country. If these persons were to be benefited, instructions even in the highest classes in the colleges must be given in the languages of the province.

Knowledge For All

It was unfortunate, he said, that Indian Universities were not at the present day in touch with life. The emphasis at present was too much on the rights and too little on the duties. Their education, he pleaded, should be man-making. It was not enough for a man to eke out a mere assistance. The duties of the Universities did not stop with educating boys and girls. To make all the people share in the knowledge was also a great duty of the Universities.

Medium Of Instructions

It was unfortunate, the Hon'ble Minister continued, that the fact of English being the medium of instruction in the Universities and the Colleges had stood in the way of the spread of higher knowledge in the country among the common people. Owing to this, there had been an ever widening gulf between the common man and the University graduate. In America it was a young man who was a wood-cutter—Abraham Lincoln—who became later the President of the United States of America. It was made possible because everything noble and high was available to him in his own language.

Because English was the medium of instruction in the colleges the highest knowledge and the greatest thoughts of the world had not been

Postal Education

The question of medium of instruction, added the Hon'ble Minister, is related to the question of the right type of Universities. If the masses in the Indian Villages were to be given higher education, a cheaper and more popular scheme of rural Universities had to be evolved. The time had come, opined the speaker, when they should make an attempt at starting rural Universities, in which young men, who did not have opportunities of having even a secondary education, should be enabled to get higher knowledge. Since the masses were engaged in professions like agriculture and would not be able to undergo long courses of studies in places far away from their fields of labour, a method of Postal education should be introduced. They could be given instructions by post, while they may be insisted upon to go to a central place for a month or two in the year for receiving direct instructions in their own languages. If democracy had to be efficient in the country, the common man would have to be properly educated.

Voluntary National Service

Suggestions had been made, the Hon'ble Mr. Avinashilingam said, to pass an enactment to compel the graduates who passed out of Universities to give an year of

national service before they took degrees. The idea of compulsion of service did not commend itself to him. He was sure that graduates with their love for the country and sympathy with the poor and the lonely would come forward voluntarily to do National Service.

The Personal Touch

Because of the overcrowding of colleges, the Hon'ble Minister said, the personal attention to the pupils and the intimate relationship between the teachers and the taught which is so essential for the formation of good character, had been reduced to the minimum. The standard of discipline had also been lowered.

It was the duty of the Indian Universities to keep abreast of the most forward nations of the world in the matter of development of science, pure and applied, with efficiency and thoroughness.

A New India

The ideal of education, said the Hon'ble Minister, should be service. They were in the dawn of a new era which will re-make a new India. They must feel that millions are starving to-day and ignorance had come over the land as a dark cloud. Having felt that, they must find a practicable solution to draw the poor and the ignorant out of their living death.

Pray For Light

They should pray, concluded, the Hon'ble Minister, for the Divine light to usher in the day when the down-trodden millions of India, now held fast by poverty, priest-craft and tyranny, would be freed from all of them. Think of them, work for them and pray for them incessantly.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

PROGRESS OF WORK SO FAR

The Rural Development scheme of the Madras Government is now in full swing. This article gives a bird's-eye-view of the work that is being carried on.

Selected Firkas

Twenty-seven firkas have been selected for the working out of this scheme. They are:—

1. Anantapur (Hindupur).
2. North Arcot (Kalasapakkam-Polur Taluk.)
3. South Arcot (Kadampuliyur-Cuddalore Taluk.)
4. Bellary (Alur.)
5. Chingleput (Tiruvallur-Tiruvallur Taluk.)
6. Chittoor (Nagari-Tiruttani Taluk.)
7. Coimbatore (Palladam-Palladam Taluk.)
8. Cuddappah (Proddatur.)
9. East Godavari (Rajahmundry.)
10. West Godavari (Dondur-Ellore Taluk.)
11. Guntur (Ongole.)
12. South Kanara (Kumbia-Kasargod Taluk.)
13. Kistna (Bezwada.)
14. Kurnool (Kurnool.)
15. Madura (Tirumangalam.)
16. Malabar (Tellicherry-Kottayam Taluk.)
17. Nellore (Kanpur-Nellore Taluk.)
18. The Nilgiris (Kundah.)
19. Ramnad (Malli-Srivilliputur.)
20. Salem (Virapandy-Salem Taluk.)
21. Tinnevely (Sermadevi-Ambasamudram Taluk.)
22. Trichinopoly (Musiri-Musiri Taluk.)

23. Vizagapatam (North) (Gara-Chicacole Taluk.)
24. Vizagapatam (South) (Pendurthi).
25. Tanjore (Saliyamangalam-Papanasam Taluk.)
26. Vizagapatam Agency (Madugula).
27. West Godavari Agency (Polavaram).

Criteria For Selection

The selection of the firkas was based on the following considerations:—

- (a) The general backwardness of the firka in regard to communications, sanitation, lighting, water supply, etc.,
- (b) the presence of electric installations in or within easy reach of the firka or in the alternative the feasibility of installing small plants for generation of electricity in the firka as electric supply is very necessary for the development of cottage industries.
- (c) The presence of favourable conditions for intensifying the production of handloom cloth and for the development of other cottage industries.
- (d) The fact, whether some rural reconstruction work had already been done in some model villages in the firka or whether there are some non-official agencies already doing this work in the firka or whether there is sufficient local enthusiasm which can be put to constructive use.

Administrative Machinery

Each selected firka will be in charge of a Firka Development Officer, of the rank of a Deputy Tahsildar and under him there will be one Village Development Officer

of the rank of a Revenue Inspector for each of the four or five groups of villages into which each selected firka will be divided. The necessary subordinate staff will be provided for each firka Development Officer and Village Development Officer.

Firka Industries Officers

As the general rural reconstruction work will engage the entire time and attention of the Firka Development Officers, the Government have sanctioned the appointment of Firka Cottage Industries Officers, one for each selected firka, and have placed the work of developing khadi and other cottage industries in the firka in charge of these officers. The Government have also decided to launch a scheme for fostering khadi and cottage industries in the Bezwada Urban area and in the Madras city and have sanctioned the appointment of one Firka Cottage Industries Officer for Bezwada town and two such officers for Madras city.

Opening of Depots

It is also proposed to have depot at the headquarters of each of the selected firkas where the requirements of the villagers like agricultural implements, tools, seed, tural implements, etc., will be stored for distribution to the villagers through the village committees. The depot will be in charge of the Firka Development Officers. Depots are to be opened only in those firkas where depots of the Agricultural Department are not already in existence. The Agricultural Department Depots in the selected firkas will also be attached to the Firka Development Officers concerned.

Questionnaire Circulated

A comprehensive questionnaire has been prepared to elicit facts, figures, and opinions which will enable the authorities to take a

complete survey of the villages and their information on all the points indicated in this questionnaire are to be obtained by the Village Development Officers in the course of a survey of each village in the selected firkas. The Director of Agriculture has arranged for an intensive survey of the food and fodder requirements of the selected firkas with a view to find out the extent to which the prevailing agriculture and cropping system provides food and fodder and the directions in which and the extent to which it can be modified with advantage.

A Survey Report

A very brief account of one such survey—a survey of Kadampuliyur firka in Cuddalore Taluk, South Arcot district—is given below. Survey reports from other firkas are also pouring in, and they will be published every fortnight in *MADRAS INFORMATION*.

Geographical Features

Kadampuliyur Firka, in Cuddalore Taluk, is considered by all to be the most backward area in South Arcot District. The area comprises 35 villages, differing widely from each other economically and socially. The firka may be roughly demarcated into two divisions, North and South. Panruti which falls in between the two divisions, naturally becomes the headquarters. The Northern division is a fairly good area, commanding good sources of irrigation, and also decent roads. These are sadly wanting in the Southern division, thus rendering access to markets in the rainy season nearly impossible. The two divisions are also not connected by roads.

Economic Conditions

The Firka, as a whole is not self-contained. Once Veerapermanullar could boast of a flourishing weaving industry, and Semakottai of mat-making. These have now deteriorated. In the south there is plenty of wood, but the crude implements now in use prevent this from being used profitably. The conditions in the Southern area admit of sheep farming being carried on there. The redeeming feature of the firka is that there are no rice mills, and consequently hand pounding of rice will receive full encouragement.

There are no dispensaries in the firka. The villages are also not assured of a protected water supply.

The credit requirements of the firka are at present being supplied by the money-lenders at Panruti and Vellayankuppam. The heavy debts of the ryots are progressively reducing the size of land holdings.

Suggestions for Improvement

From the brief report given above we may now form an idea of the most urgent improvements required. The first thing that should be done is to effect a junction of the two divisions in this firka by a road. If the River Gadilam is bridged, then that would connect both the divisions.

While mat-making, and button making should be given the fullest encouragement, the possibility of setting up a ceramic industry in the southern division, and also the possibility of making varnish from cashewnut shells, should be investigated into. The jack trees that are to be found in plenty will be useful for making charkas.

Another matter of top priority is the improvement of public health. The opening of maternity and child welfare centres will be greatly beneficial.

A veterinary hospital is also necessary. Periodical cattle shows and the opening of a District Industrial museum will greatly facilitate work.

Multi-purpose co-operative societies should go a long way to relieve the peasants of many of their disabilities. The extension of banking to rural areas, should also be carefully considered.

Many of the villagers are addicted to drink, and it is only the introduction of prohibition that can save them from this evil.

If all these reforms are to become stable and yield lasting good, it is necessary that the intellectual and cultural standard of the people should be raised. This can be done by the compulsory introduction of elementary education. Two basic schools can also be opened in this area.

Every village in the firka must also have a panchayat, which

should regulate and maintain healthy social life.

Indian Consumer Goods for Indonesia

Enquiries made in the Central Food Department show that Indonesia has already received from India 11,000 bales of jute bags, over 5,000,000 yards of textiles and 3,000 cycle tyres and tubes. Other consumer goods consigned to Indonesia by a ship which is leaving India this week-end include 700,000 yards of textiles, 24,000 Agricultural implements and 7,000 cycle tyres and tubes. In addition 203 trucks are made available for transporting paddy from the mills and producing areas in the interior to the railheads.

By the end of the current year Indonesia's demands for rice mill stores and spare parts and the balance of 20,000,000 yards of textiles will, it is hoped, be met in full. It is expected that the arrival of consumer goods in Indonesia in increasing quantities will help to accelerate the exports of paddy from that country.

"Ford" Car parts

The Government of India have published for general information a price list of "Ford" 8 and 10 H.P. car parts, by a notification in a Gazette of India Extraordinary dated August 9, 1946. Copies of the price list are available with the Manager, Central Publications Branch, Civil Lines, Delhi for sale.

Restrictions on rice for Trash Bazaars

In view of the present stock position of rice and the consequent necessity to adopt stringent measures to restrict rice consumption it has been decided not to issue rice at all to trash bazaars. The requirements of the trash bazaars will be met completely in broken rice and if broken are in short supply they may be issued in broken and the balance in wheat, wheat products and/or maize. If no broken are available, the entire quantity will be issued in whole wheat, wheat products and/or maize.

The above instructions apply to both rural and statutorily rationed areas.

LAND REFORMS IN THE WEST

SOME LESSONS FOR INDIA

In order to find out the existing conditions of agriculture and land tenure system in the Madras Province, particularly with reference to fairness of rent paid by tenant-farmers, duration of lease and security of tenure, the Government of Madras have decided to conduct an inquiry into the present system of land tenure in the ryotwari areas of the Province. They have issued a questionnaire for non-officials and Associations on the subject of reformation of agriculture and land tenure system. Information has been invited particularly on the following points:—Nature and conditions of the tenancy, general condition of the cultivating tenant, cost of cultivation, agricultural wages and employment, prevention of fragmentation of holdings.

A Guide

The following are extracts from an invaluable treatise on agricultural reforms entitled "Agrarian Reforms in Western Countries", published by the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics, Bombay. Though these extracts refer in the main to agrarian reforms introduced in western countries, the broad principles which underlie these reforms would be useful in providing relevant and valuable data on how to approach the problems of land tenure in India.

Peasant Proprietorship

The one objective of all the agrarian reforms in the countries of Europe (excluding Russia) which stands out more prominently than any other, is that of establishing peasant farms large enough to support the family of the owner. The existing land systems in various countries of Europe today show a complete departure from peasant proprietorship. At one end, England has fostered a system of capitalist landlordism while Russia at the other, has resorted to complete socialisation of land and to collectivisation of farms. We may briefly discuss here the suitability of each of these two land systems to Indian agriculture.

According to some economists, Britain offers a model to those who advocate large-scale cultivation

and mechanisation of agriculture. The reason cited by the economists is that though British agriculture is largely dominated by landlordism, yet it betrays no signs of evil effects on that account. But the fact is that large-scale farming in Great Britain is not the result of any deliberate agricultural policy on the part of the State, but a product of economic forces released during the Industrial Revolution of the 18th and 19th centuries.

About 250 years ago, more than fifty per cent of the farms in England owned the land they cultivated. But as a result of general factors, such as the "enclosure" movement, the introduction of "new agriculture" which called for large-scale investments in land, the agricultural depression during the Napoleonic Wars, the coming of "gentlemen farmers" who raised land values to unprecedented heights—all these factors led to a gradual transfer of land from the cultivating to the non-cultivating classes, until by the end of the 19th century, practically all the farmers in England had become tenants. But the landlords in Britain realised that on the contentment of the tiller depended the prosperity of agriculture, and in turn, their own. This land tenure has been further strengthened by the provision of a tenancy system which provides everything necessary to agricultural and social stability.

Drawbacks of Landlordism

It would be wrong to hold that what has succeeded in England should prove equally successful in India and to advocate on that ground the retention of the present land-tenure system in which the non-cultivating landlord is the dominant personality. The landlord, over a considerable part of India, has come into possession of land by depriving the rights of genuine owners of land. These Zamindars have on the whole proved themselves utterly incompetent to manage their estates. It is also noteworthy that the pressure of population on land in India is so great as compared with England that any comparison for formulating agricultural policy is bound to be misleading. In all the drawbacks of landlordism, India resembles far more the continental

countries with their residues of feudalism before the first World War, and India has nothing in common with England in this regard.

The other land system in Europe which presents a departure from the ideal of peasant farming is the collective farming system in Russia. Considering the social structure in India, any attempt to enforce collective farming is bound to meet with disaster. Experience has shown that in India the time is not ripe enough even for co-operative farming, which is a desirable end. The various distinctions of class, community and creed, the disruption of communal life in the villages since the establishment of 'Pax Britannica' in India, the existence of the depressed and untouchable classes who form a large mass of the rural population, are the despair of even the most ardent advocate of co-operative farming in India. Hence, practical considerations rule out the application of a revolution of the Russian type in India.

A Similarity

But it has to be said that like India today, the European countries, before the reforms were undertaken, found their agriculture in the shackles of landlordism which was a remnant of the old feudal order. The remedies they have adopted have stood the test of time and agricultural economists today are increasingly accepting the doctrine that peasant family farms are superior in many respects even to large-scale farms.

Reforms In The West

We may now proceed to state in broad terms the measures comprising the agrarian reforms in the several countries in the West, and to examine the application of the principles governing them to Indian agriculture. These measures may be summed up as follows:—

1. Reclamation of waste land and the release of Government-owned lands for settling landless agriculturists thereon.
2. Buying up of big estates owned by individuals and institutions and parcelling out the land among landless cultivators.

3. Financial assistance to tenants to buy the land they cultivate: improvement of landlord-tenant relationship where it has not been possible to provide land to a large population of tenants.

4. Imposition of taxes on large individual estates and fixing rentals at low levels to induce non-cultivating owners to part with their land.

5. Placing restrictions on the transfer of land by cultivating classes.

6. Creation of non-attachable and indivisible family properties.

7. Regulation of succession to prevent excessive sub-division of land.

8. Consolidation and enlargement of scattered and small holdings.

9. Enforcement of efficient standards of cultivation by empowering the government to acquire land in the case of mismanaged properties.

The countries of Europe have demonstrated how by freeing agriculture from the influence of large estate-owners, the mass of the lower strata of agriculturists can be provided with an independent means of livelihood. The problems now confronting India's agriculture are in no way different from those which faced these western countries, viz., a rapid increase in population resulting in excessive pressure on land and in a growing number of landless people; inequitable distribution of land, owing to a large part of cultivated area being concentrated in the hands of a small minority of estate proprietors at one end and the remaining small proportion of land being broken up into small and scattered fragments owned by the vast majority of cultivators, at the other; existence of extensive areas of land lying idle either as fallow or cultivable waste due to absence of land drainage and reclamation schemes, etc.

The Evil Of Zamindari System

At the beginning of this century, the Government of India admitted in a memorandum that 'the Zamindari system of land tenure is not supported by the experience of any civilised country, is not justified by the single great experiment that has been made in India'. The evil of landlordism is not confined to the Zamindari—permanently or semi-permanently settled—estates

which cover about fifty per cent of the total cultivated area, but is operating all over the country in various forms. Instances of these are the 'Inam' tenures in Madras and Bombay.

Even in ryotwari areas, similar interests have cropped up in the form of landlordism. In Madras and Bombay, a considerable portion of land is in the hands of non-cultivating owners. The evil of absentee landlordism is still gaining strength in this country. The present land system is entirely in favour of the parasitic interests in land and to the detriment of the genuine cultivating classes. This has told on the productivity of land in India, while European countries have been witnessing an increase in the yields of crop as a result of the reforms introduced there.

Resolute Action Needed

It is evident, therefore, that resolute action is needed to reform India's agricultural economy from every side. The line of action to be taken in this direction may be broadly stated as follows:—

1. Acquisition of land by government for distributing the same among genuine cultivators.

2. The objective being retention of only genuine agriculturists in cultivation, new avenues of employment should be created into which those whose occupation is non-Agricultural but who have taken to cultivation under the stress of circumstances should be diverted.

3. The genuine cultivators must be settled on land by allotting on lease to each a holding of suitable size to support the whole farm family. Credit facilities must be provided on easy terms by the State to help them to acquire full ownership in course of time.

4. Necessary measures should be taken to safeguard these holdings against being transferred by the allotment-holders.

5. The holding of allotment should be made conditional on the observance of certain regulations, such as (a) the land must be cultivated by the owner himself; (b) he should live on the farm, or as near to it as possible; (c) the holding should not be sub-divided into uneconomic units when the

heirs of the allotment-holders inherit the property.

Some Interim Measures

In the meantime, certain measures will have to be adopted to remove the drawbacks in our agriculture which call for urgent remedy. These measures would mainly comprise action on the following lines.

1. The State should assume responsibility for the enlargement and consolidation of small and scattered holdings.

2. As a first step towards removing the intermediate feudal interests in land, sub-leasing by tenants should be prohibited.

3. To improve the condition of the existing tenants, the scope of tenancy legislation should be widened by adopting the following measures:—

(a) Tenants should be given occupancy rights, though with certain reservations such as restrictions on transfer of land, sub-division of holdings, etc.

(b) The right to equitable rents should be recognised.

Agrarian reforms on the lines suggested above are of paramount importance in any programme that may be put into operation for the reconstruction of agriculture in the near future as part of the post-war development plan in India. It would be necessary to supplement these reforms by other improvement measures, such as large-scale irrigation projects, control of crop-pest and diseases, adequate provision of long—and short-term credit, education of the rural community, spread of the co-operative movement, an efficient system of agricultural marketing, etc., etc.

Political And Economic Freedom

Lastly, there is one conclusion that lies concealed beneath those that have already been drawn from the study of European land reforms. The economic history of these countries illustrates the intimate connection between political liberation and economic emancipation. This is an experience which is particularly significant for us in India at this stage with political freedom in sight.

[The Editor does not agree with everything said in the above article; but space has been given to it in order to stimulate public thought on the problem of Law Reform.—Ed.]

Letter to The Editor

Sir,

The Madras Government's textile policy announced by the Premier has been attacked on the ground, among others, that it would lead to an invasion of Madras by mill cloth produced elsewhere and that Madras would be at a disadvantage in that respect. Two presumptions, both of them probably unwarranted, are involved in this criticism. One is that the Central Government would not fall into line with and endorse the policy enunciated by the Madras Government, and secondly, that Madras would, if it persists in this policy, have to function in isolation or in contradiction to an all-India policy, or at least follow a policy which had not received the acceptance and endorsement of even the other Congress provinces. Both these presumptions may turn out to be mere presuppositions divorced from reality. There is nothing to prevent the Central Government from declaring it as an all-India policy that there can be no further expansion of textile mills. There is also nothing to prevent—in fact there is everything to strengthen that view,—the provincial Governments from acting in concert in support of a policy which is an integral item of Congress programme. In any case, there can be nothing to prevent the Madras Government itself from adopting any common all-India policy, if one such is devised in the near future by the Central Government.

The Premier's press statement has also repudiated the allegation that his announcement of Government's policy was the result of some undue influence exercised by Gandhiji over him. No question of such undue influence arises when the Government as a whole accept advice disinterestedly tendered by Gandhiji because it happens to synchronise with their own view of what is advisable and desirable for the public and in the public interests. In the case of the Premier, what has been declared as Government's policy had been a matter of unquestionable and unalloyed faith in the efficacy of village self-sufficiency as a part of Khadi development as long ago as October 1940, in his Journal "Village Republic". Sri. T. Prakasam expounded his Khadi and self-sufficiency philosophy in a forthright manner in reply to a challenge thrown out at that time by Sri

C. Satelvad to Congressmen to further the village self-sufficiency programme when they return to power. He wrote: "It will be the duty of the Congress Ministries, if they get back to power, to do their utmost to attain the goal of hand-spinning and hand-weaving and through them the establishment of village republics. I, for one, had already pledged myself long ago to see the programme through, whether as a minister or as a common worker. During the ministership of two and a half years, I had worked hard for the realisation of this programme." After this it is difficult for critics to sustain the charge that the Premier had become a convert to the programme of village self-sufficiency and Khadi development by pressure of some unduly exercised external influence.

BLACKMARKETING BY MILLS

Authorised Controllers to Check

Recent investigations have lent support to the complaints that some mills in this Province have

been diverting into the blackmarket, yarn and cloth produced by them but not accounted for in the returns submitted by them to the Textile Control Authorities. In order to check this evil, the Government have appointed authorised controllers in respect of certain mills in this province in exercise of the powers conferred by section 3 of the powers conferred by section 3 (2) (h), (j) and (k) of the Madras Essential Articles Control and Requisitioning (Temporary Powers) Act, 1946. The said controllers will have the right to be present in any part of the premises of those mills and shall have accommodation for their offices within the precincts of the mills. The gate pass prescribed under clause 20-A of the Madras Textile Mills Control Order 1946 in respect of any cloth or yarn moved from the mills to any place outside the premises of the mills will not be valid unless it has been countersigned by the said Controllers or by officers authorised by them. The Government consider that the blackmarketing activities of certain mills will be checked effectively by the above measure.



Premier Prakasam with Mr. Khaleeli, Director of Industries at the Polytechnic

FIGHTING BACK THE FAMINE

FACTS AND FIGURES SPEAK

GROW MORE FOOD CAMPAIGN launched in the province a few years ago was envisaged primarily as an emergency measure designed to produce quick results. In this connection certain measures have been taken by the new Government which are calculated to intensify the drive. Thus the bonus of Rs. 15 per acre, sanctioned in March to certain categories of short-term crop cultivators, was extended to ryots who transplanted short-term cereals in March and April 1946. Similar bonuses have been given to ryots in certain areas in Madura and Tinnevely for transplanting paddy in May, 1946. To encourage immediate cultivation of paddy and millets, bonuses and (for paddy) higher prices were announced on 5-7-46 to those who would deliver short-term crops in September, October and up to 15th November.

Existing concessions enjoyed by those who cultivate lands under Local Bodies or road-margins, (viz. freedom from rent, etc.) will be continued; so also the scheme for vegetable production in and around the city of Madras and certain mofussil areas. The Government have repeatedly impressed on the Local Bodies the urgent need to bring under plough every inch of land in their possession.

Special categories of lands, have been granted for temporary cultivation of food crops, free of assessment. It has been also ordered that no penalty should be levied on lands irrigated and bearing food crops merely because of a technical infringement of irrigation rules. Instructions have also been issued that food crops grown on objectionable encroachments should not be destroyed.

Government are also granting loans to ryots which shall be repayable in five equal annual instalments beginning from the second year onwards. These loans are free of interest for one year, and will there after carry interest at 3% per annum.

Between the beginning of the Grow More Food Campaign and 31-3-46, about 19,00,36 acres of lands have been assigned for temporary cultivation.

Irrigation Schemes

Irrigation has been for long a most serious bottle-neck in the food-drive in the province. Therefore the present Government is paying special attention to this question. The Chief Engineer has been instructed to undertake urgently repairs of irrigation channels at Government cost. Emphasis is for the time being laid on minor irrigation which will yield immediate results. It should not be forgotten that food drive in an emergency is a race against time and when we are passing through a period of transition from war to peace economy, it would be to the long-term advantage of the province if the "Grow More Food" campaign inaugurated in war time is vitalised and accelerated to serve the peace time needs of a growing population. Budgetary provision for minor irrigation schemes has been increased from Rs. 27 lakhs to Rs. 45 lakhs.

More than a thousand agricultural pumps driven by oil engine or electricity have been sold or hired to cultivators. Top priority is given to agricultural purposes in the matter of electric supply, and arrangements are under way to provide connections for 1,800 pumps before the end of this year.

The employment of tractors in the reclamation of wastelands, originally confined to Coimbatore, Madura and Vizagapatam districts only, has been extended to the districts of Chittoor, Chingleput and Bellary (where they are already operating) and to Ramnad, Tinnevely, Guntur, Nellore, South Arcot, North Arcot, Trichinopoly and Tanjore (where they will shortly begin operations).

Free Distribution of Manure

Manure is another weak link in the chain of our Agricultural in-

dustry. Hence the scheme for free distribution of manure worth up to Rs. 2,000 per district to poor and deserving ryots has been extended to 1946-47. Nilgiris has been given an additional Rs. 2,000 and Thungabhadra area an additional Rs. 1,700 worth of manure. Though sanctioned earlier, it was during the months under review that manure costing nearly Rs. 56 lakhs was distributed free in two Taluks in Malabar and one taluk in South Kanara. Existing facilities for the removal of green manure have been liberalised everywhere by the forest department.

Apart from these concessional measures the Government recently have taken over all stocks of groundnut cake for equitable distribution among ryots through the food committees.

Improved Seeds

The problem of improved seeds is not neglected either. At the instance of the Central Government a comprehensive three-year plan for bringing under improved seeds (of paddy, millets, pulses and green manure crops) over 100 lakhs of acres, expected to produce an increased yield of 800,000 tons of food was drawn up. But the scheme has been sanctioned only up to 28-2-1947, and the cost up to this period is estimated at nearly Rs. 36 lakhs. Half of this cost would be met by the Central Government and the other half by the Provincial Government. The latter in addition have also to bear incidental expenses amounting to over Rs. 1 lakh and cost of subsidy which may come to about Rs. 9 lakhs. This subsidy will be recovered from the ryots through sale of seeds produced. However, if some portion of the subsidy is found to be irrecoverable, half of this outstanding amount will be met by the Centre. The scheme will come into effect immediately. Meanwhile continuance of the scheme for free distribution of seed has been ordered.

Soil Conservation

Special schemes have been got ready for soil conservation in Bellary and multiplication of improved gingelly seeds in South Arcot. The manufacture of food yeast, cholam malt and malt extracts with shark liver oil in Coimbatore, and the manufacture in the Nilgiris of "Ergot" drug, which is very much in demand now, are being continued.

Famine Measures

Famine measures deserve separate treatment. About Rs. 12 lakhs have been sanctioned for public works to be undertaken by the Local Bodies for the purpose of providing employment in the three worst affected areas of Bellary, Anantapur and Nellore. A Special Relief Collector, entrusted with the task of arranging fodder supply has been appointed for Bellary and Anantapur. In Bellary alone, the revenue relief amounts to nearly Rs. 1,70,000.

The accelerated scheme of sinking wells launched in February and March, 1946, has not been a particular success in the Ceded districts. The scheme offered originally a subsidy of 50% of the cost of sinking new wells or repairing old ones, subject to a maximum of Rs. 310 and Rs. 160 respectively. The work had to be completed before 31st July, but later on, the time was extended to 30th September. But on its being represented to the Government that the subsidy amount was too meagre and the time allowed too short for the ryots to take advantage of the offer, especially in the arid, dry areas of the Ceded districts, orders were passed on June 26th raising the maximum subsidy to Rs. 500 and Rs. 300 respectively, and extending the time limit to 30th June 1947. It was also provided that the subsidy receiver might be allowed a loan to cover the balance of his cost, the loan being repayable in instalments after two or three years.

Relief For The Vulnerable Groups

Now let us see what has been done for the vulnerable groups, viz. children and expectant and nursing mothers. The Milk Distribution scheme sanctions free milk reconstituted from imported milk powder to all children in elementary schools, who are already not receiving free mid-day meals, in the five districts of Bellary, Anantapur, Salem, Chittoor and North Arcot, and recently in five other districts also. The Government have also built up a considerable stock of certain protective foods like egg powder, multi-vitamin tablets, Horlicks, Chicken essence, etc. to be distributed free to expectant and nursing mothers, to invalids and to convalescents.

Foreign Sea-borne Trade of Province

The foreign sea-borne trade of the Madras Province in the year 1946 has shown signs of improvement over that of the previous years, and the progressive totals for four months ending July last showed an increase of 19.5 lakhs on imports and 260.7 lakhs on the export side.

The total value of imports during the month of July 1946 amounted to Rs. 344 lakhs as against Rs. 277.7 lakhs for the same month in 1945. The total value of export during the above period amounted to Rs. 411 lakhs as against Rs. 363.8 lakhs in the previous year.

Imports of foodgrains figures largely during the above period totalling Rs. 146 lakhs, and the other main items were fruits and vegetables (Rs. 13 lakhs), manures Rs. 13.8 lakhs), oils and petroleum (Rs. 28.6 lakhs), paper and pasteboard (Rs. 7.8 lakhs), textiles (Rs. 6.4 lakhs), motor vehicles (Rs. 11.4

Lease and Rent Control Act, 1946

The Madras Buildings (Lease and Rent Control) Act, 1946, came into force on the 1st of October, 1946. This Act continues the control over rents and eviction of tenants which had been in existence upto that date under the Madras House Rent Control Order and the Madras Non-Residential Building Rent Control Order. The Rent Control Orders applied to the whole of the Province of Madras. But the Act applies only to the City of Madras and all municipalities within the province. For the purpose of house accommodation Control a provision has been introduced in the Act requiring landlords to give notice to the Controller whenever a building, which fetches a monthly rent exceeding thirty rupees, falls vacant, so that the Government may take the building on lease if necessary for any Governmental purposes or for use by any public institution under Government control or any officer of the Government. Provision has also been made for allowing an increase in the fair rent of buildings upto 25% in the case of residential buildings constructed before April 1940 and upto 50% in the case of non-residential buildings. These maxima may be doubled for buildings constructed after 1-4-40. The machinery for enforcing the Act will for the present be the same as that which existed for the enforcement of the Rent Control Orders. The Collector of Madras will be the Accommodation Controller for Madras City while the Rent Controllers will be the Accommodation Controllers in the municipalities in their jurisdiction.

lakhs), and other articles (Rs. 60.1 lakhs).

On the export side the important items were coir yarn (Rs. 6.7 lakhs), mats and mattings (Rs. 14.1 lakhs), fish (Rs. 17.2 lakhs), fruits and vegetables (Rs. 47.8 lakhs), skin and hides (Rs. 89.6 lakhs), mica splittings (Rs. 4.8 lakhs), chillies (Rs. 6.3 lakhs), tea (Rs. 70.9 lakhs), textiles (Rs. 45.9 lakhs), tobacco (Rs. 18.1 lakhs) and other articles (Rs. 86.7 lakhs).

"SELF-SUFFICIENT VILLAGES---OUR IDEAL"

MR. BHASHYAM'S ADDRESS AT AGRICULTURISTS' CONFERENCE

Speaking at the Provincial Conference of Agriculturists held in Madras on the 27th of October, Mr. K. Bhashyam, Minister for Law, dwelt on the importance of making Indian villages self-reliant and self-sufficient.

The following are extracts from Mr. Bhashyam's speech:—

"We are in the midst of a world crisis. One great lesson we have learnt from this is the importance of food production. In the future planning of the world and in the gigantic and extensive undertaking for the building up of a new world, agriculture has a special part to play.

Key Position Of Agriculture

"India lives in villages and agriculture holds a key position in the economic structure of the present day India. The improvement of agriculture as such means a great deal in the general economy of the land. In spite of this important position which agriculture holds in the Indian economy, sufficient attention has not been paid to improvement of the methods of cultivation, introducing better irrigation or devising a perfect system of land-holding. Till now under the rule of Britishers, the ryot was left very much to his own device for cultivating the land. The Government busied itself solely with the question of collecting revenue and for that purpose a centralised system of administration was devised and the whole machinery was utilised for the purpose of getting more and more revenue from the land. It is only in recent years agriculture has come into its own and now the Government have become aware of the predominant role of agriculture and are making earnest attempts to improve it. There is the Agriculture Department, separately established, agricultural institutions for research and various other committees and conferences.

Infuse Passion For Progress

"These, however, do not touch the actual peasant on the land, who goes on in his own traditional way. The question is how to awaken him and make him self-reliant and infuse in him a sense of his importance and create in

him a consuming desire to raise himself to a higher level of the standard of living than he is now having. In this matter the urgent necessity for village work and its influence for the good of the country cannot be over-estimated. This fact has been sufficiently realised by the present Madras Ministry, which has taken upon itself the village reconstruction as its principal item of programme of work.

"The Firka development system that has been introduced is an experiment and is a measure in the proper and right direction and if properly worked I am sure that it will have the desired effect. It is not a question of money but of workers in the field. It requires enthusiastic and earnest workers full of patience, sympathy and willingness to understand the sentiments of the peasant.

Place Of Co-operation

"In the work of the regeneration of the villages, co-operation must play a very leading and important part. Somehow or other this country is cursed with one sin, i.e., "Flissiparousness". I should appeal to this Association to take steps for the elimination of these tendencies by patient propaganda and intensive work. I hope I shall be in order if I make a request to all retired Government servants who in their "Vanaprastha" period of life should be willing to settle in the villages and work for the uplift and amelioration of the villagers. I may even suggest to Government, as an inducement to make them go to the villages, to give them some village allowance similar to what is given to officers as city allowances. I should like each retired Government servant to select some village and adopt it as his own and try to improve it in every way.

Compulsory Co-operation

I hope you will excuse me if I say a few words about my pet idea

of "Compulsory Co-operation". The present position is that the richer class does not care for co-operative societies, for their credit is safe and they can raise all money for their requirements from elsewhere or provide themselves with conveniences for marketing etc. The upper middle class does not find it profitable to mix with the lower middle class below it. A Co-operative society composed mostly of the lower middle class which does not command any credit cannot, by forming themselves into a co-operative society, do much to help themselves and others. Only under coercive measures will the richer classes and the persons commanding credit come into the movement and lend their credit to their poor brethren. No doubt their presence is essential in the co-operative society. From the result of my experience of the co-operative movement and my connection with it for the last forty years, I venture to suggest that the above view is the only right course. In the organisation I have in view, the landless agricultural labourer has also his place. Labour is an asset and must be organised and may be made to fit into this co-operative movement. The linking of the labourer of the and to the capital of the richer classes is very important. This alone can save the movement from being a failure and the ryots from utter ruin. Besides, the presence of the upper classes in the co-operative societies will give them the necessary man power for the purpose of directing the activities of the society into proper and fruitful channels.

In conclusion my ideal is that of a village life self-sufficient for its own needs in food and clothing ordering its life in perfect harmony among the residents and co-operative in its efforts with other villages for common good and contributing in all ways to the common weal of the country.

PROBLEMS OF AGRICULTURAL REFORM

MADRAS CAN PRODUCE ENOUGH FOR ITS CONSUMPTION

MR. KUMARASWAMY RAJA'S APPEAL AT AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCE

Opening the Madras Provincial Agriculturists' Conference on October 27, 1946, at the Memorial Hall, Madras, the Hon'ble Mr. Kumaraswamy Raja made an elaborate survey of the manifold problems of agricultural reconstruction in the province. The following are a few extracts:

"Two great and grave problems stare the agriculturists of this Province in their face—the food crisis and the tenure reform.

"Since the tragic days of the Bengal Famine, the spectre of famine has not left our soil. This year particularly, the food situation has become very critical in our province. It is averred by competent persons that our Province has never experienced a food crisis of this magnitude in the past. Of the total sown area of almost 259 million acres in this country, nearly 33 million acres or about 12% of the area lie in this Province. Of the total population of 389 millions in India, according to 1941 census 46.7 million or 11.5% of the population live in this Province. I see before me an august assembly of the representatives of the owners of these 33 million of sown acres. It is a sacred duty of these owners of such vast extent of cultivated land to raise sufficient food and feed adequately the 46.7 million people. If they gird up their loins, it will not be an impossible task.

The second major problem the agriculturists in India at present are faced with is the reform of the land tenures. Ever since the Flood Committee in Bengal submitted its report regarding the future of Zamindaris it has been a burning issue in the public mind. The Government of the United Provinces have taken a definite attitude towards this problem. The Madras Government have been aware of its seriousness from the time when the Prakasam Committee submitted their report on the reform of the Estate Land Act. The sister problem of absentee landlordism is no less serious, and in the wake of the solution of the absentee problems, the plight of absentee landlordism, which is described as worse than pestilence, famine and sword, will have to be

tackled. Hence this Conference of Zamindars and landlords, active and absent, have grave issues to tackle. The deliberations at this Conference should lead to some method of ushering in new reforms in the agrarian sphere. For this purpose, you must clearly comprehend the spirit of the times. It is not wisdom to resist forces which are, beyond doubt, irresistible.

These two major problems apart, agriculture has been beset with a host of evils, in the immediate eradication of which lies the economic salvation of the bulk of the population.

Legal Difficulties

The laws governing the acquisition, ownership and bequeathal of landed property are as old as the hills and they require modification to bring them into conformity with the new thought and progress. The microscopic farm, poor livestock, primitive implements, unsatisfactory marketing conditions, the blight of rural debt, inadequate credit facilities, bad roads and communications are the most striking of the evils of Indian agriculture. Despite the canals, tanks and irrigation projects, agriculture, in the main, is still at the mercy of the vagaries of monsoons. The recent new type of calamity of the agriculturists is due to the instability of prices and wages. Since 1930, the prices as well as wages have plumbed the depths and climbed to peaks. This violent fluctuation of prices and wages upset all the reasonable calculations of the agriculturists and not infrequently ate away their profits. Even if prices remain steady, the agriculturist is baffled by the bewildering variety of weights and measures, used in the different parts of the country as well as the Province and is many a time duped with false weighing and measurement by the shrewd

and selfish sections of the "arhatiyas" and middlemen. The heterogeneous weights and measures should be replaced by homogeneous ones throughout the country in order to avoid cheating of the primary growers. It is only organised opinion as may be expressed by this Conference that will strengthen the hands of the Government to go ahead with many of the much-needed reforms.

It must be borne in mind that the defects like sub-division and fragmentation and the consequent uneconomic holding and low income are indirectly the outcome of the legal system. The Hindu, Moslem and Christian laws of inheritance allow equal shares to all the male children and the latter two go a step further and grant some share to girl-children as well. Much may be said about the social justice of this legal set-up. But the final consequence of it is to break up lucrative estates into paltry bits and to hamper and clog agricultural progress. So I am of opinion that the reform of this diminutive size of farms cannot be achieved fully by voluntary and obligatory consolidation of holdings but by a change of the legal system itself. It is your duty to understand the situation and also to educate the rank and file of agriculturists so as to make them cognisant of the virtues of legal reform in this direction.

Irrigation Facilities

With reference to irrigation which can assure a good crop to the agriculturist, the Government, as all of you know, have very big projects which, when completed, will make Madras the most well-irrigated province in India. But I feel also strongly, that the old tanks must be renovated, silts cleared and rendered useful. But in our anxiety to improve irrigation rapidly, we should not subscribe to unsound schemes and bogus projects. People residing

in the various regions will have local knowledge and, if they are public-spirited without being parochial, they can do a great service in producing a comprehensive irrigation survey of the Province. I would like to urge upon the delegates attending this Conference to take to this very useful work without any delay.

I feel that finance facilities for agriculturists are extremely meagre and should be improved on a large scale. In this field, the co-operative societies have done considerable good, if not by ample provision of credit, at least by helping to bring down the rate of interest in the decades prior to the passing of the Agriculturists' Debt Relief Act. Yet they alone cannot appease the limitless appetite for finance experienced by agriculturists. So I want to have Agricultural Banks established all over the Province, one in each taluk to begin with. They may grant short-term and long-term credit facilities to agriculturists. They should own warehouses of their own and must issue receipts on the grains stored; these grain receipts must be made negotiable and the agriculturist enabled to borrow on their strength. To make credit elastic, these receipts may be rediscounted by other banks and finally by the Reserve Bank. It is my earnest desire to break down the barriers that separate agricultural money market from the commercial.

Enslave Power

In the gloom that surrounds the agriculturist, I discern a bright spot in the development of hydro-electric projects. Electricity must be made the handmaid of agriculture all over the Province. At present electricity for water-pumps and cottage industries has touched only the fringe of the problem. Very shortly I hope that every encouragement will be given to the wide distribution of electricity. The present system of guaranteed minimum consumption in a locality must be replaced by subsidised extension of supply by the Government. If electricity is made available to the various localities, the demand is bound to increase and in due course the cost of extension will be fully met and profit will also accrue to the Government. The initial cost must in no way act as a bugbear, but it must feature as an integral part of post-war reconstruction expenditure.

I am aware of the hardships imposed upon agriculturists by the present system of price control.

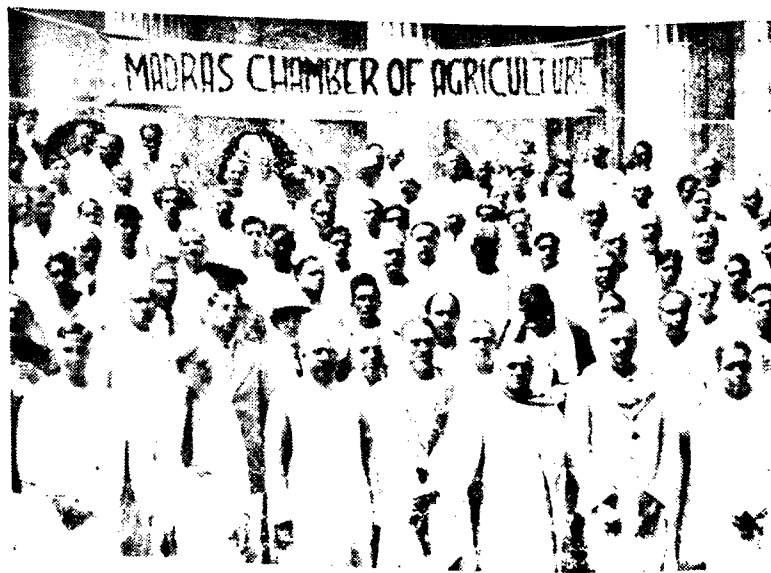
There are certainly some discrepancies. It would have been advantageous to the primary producer if the price of finished product is fixed and the price of the raw material is allowed to adjust itself. The present system is accused of leaving a wide margin of profit to the middlemen to the detriment of the interests of the producer. But these are problems of the moment. I am more concerned with long-range price policy which should eliminate violent fluctuations and ensure a fair price to the agriculturist. The problem of price-control is complex in the sense that it has to be tackled by both the Central and Provincial Governments with due reference to world prices and with an eye on tariff policy.

Overhaul the Revenue System

The land revenue system also requires thorough overhauling. Already agricultural income-tax is proposed which, I am sure, will bring about some equity between the larger and smaller agriculturists and will also tend to counteract the regressive nature of the present land revenue system. I am also in favour of exempting very small landholders from any

levy of land tax. But this is a matter that calls for delicate handling because any ill-conceived law will induce subdivision of holdings.

I would like to make some observations on the relations between landholders and agricultural labourers. It is essential that agricultural labourers must be contented and contribute their utmost to production. Recently their wages have gone up and in certain quarters, but I appeal to you to look at their standard of living even after this rise has set in. It is still deplorably low. Hence any arbitrary reduction of wages is out of the question. Again economic forces affecting the determination of wages cannot be bottled up by legal enactments. What the big landlords and employers of agricultural labour should think and bear in mind is that only with a well-paid and contented labour force, agriculture can thrive and prosper. So it is necessary that hereafter agriculturists' conferences if they should be true to their name, should contain a large number of representatives of agricultural labour.



At the centre with the garland is the Minister of Agriculture.

RURAL RECREATION AND NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION

COMBINE PLEASURE WITH PROFIT—

Says Minister of Agriculture

The inauguration of Prohibition in 1937 in our province focussed attention on the dismal aspects of our village life and it was strongly felt that the revitalisation of rural life was an imperative and urgent need. The Government, at the outset, appointed physical instructors in the "dry" districts alone to organise sports and other alternative attractions to drink, but subsequently it was considered more important to provide such counter-attractions in districts which still remained "wet". This led to the employment of Rural Recreation Organisers, one in each district, all over the Province. The following are extracts from the inaugural address of Mr. Kumaraswami Raja, delivered at the Conference of the Rural Recreation Organisers held at the Y.M.C.A. College of Physical Education, Saidapet, on October 28, 1946.

Conference of the Rural Recreation Organisers

I deem it a privilege to meet the various districts of this Province on whom rests the heavy responsibility of enlivening and enlightening the millions of rural population. I may say without any hesitation that Rural Recreation programme constitutes an integral part of national reconstruction. Improvement of the health, morals and spirits of the people is as much of vital significance to the proper building up of a nation as a thorough exploitation of the natural resources and accelerated production of the material requisites of well-being. It is incumbent upon you to introduce a radical reformation in, and effect a noble transformation of, our rural life.

Recreation for a poor Country

Recreation in the West may mean hiking, ski-ing, cruising and beating or basking in the sunshine on the sea-side health resorts. Such methods of recreation, a poor country like ours can hardly afford. In the context of universal poverty and undernourishment prevalent in India, the meaning and implication of recreation should be different. It must certainly serve to satisfy the instincts of adventure, exploration, physical exertion and aesthetic expression but at the same time contribute not only to the physical development but also the enrichment of the land and the people. While your primary objective is to build up a healthy mind and a healthy body, the secondary objec-

tive of harnessing even pleasurable pursuits to wealth-creation must on no account be lost sight of.

Importance of Man-power

I may say a few words about the prime objective. Your activities must not be exclusively devoted to adults or children but to the entire population. Building up a strong and healthy population, bubbling with vigorous energy and high spirits will result in a high order of man-power in the armed might of a nation at war or in the economic prowess of a nation at peace has been realised in its true and proper proportions only during the recent years. This huge task of improving the health and the strength of the people by giving them interesting games and pastimes must be carried out according to a pre-determined plan. It should be your endeavour to attain your target within, say, five years. By practical examples and indirect persuasion, you will have to make the people fall in love with your programme of work.

Secondary Objective

Let me now turn to the secondary objective. It is impossible to divorce pleasure from profit in this country, more than in any other. I would like to suggest some pastimes which will achieve the twin purpose of pleasure and profit, recreation and reconstruction.

During the last six years, there has been unprecedented destruction of forests and our forest wealth has dwindled considerably. Sylviculture or tree-planting along the

roads, on village commons as well as in private lands, will be an interesting pastime.

Craft-centred education

Subsidiary occupations must be developed according to the natural resources available in each locality. According to Mahatma Gandhi, the best method of education must be craft-centred and not book-centred. More of geography, science and history can be taught to adults and children alike through teaching, say, poultry-farming than by laboriously persuing the cold print of lifeless books. Poultry-keeping can easily supply the background for a study of the various birds and the lands in which they flourish. The price of eggs can be made a lever to teach the rustic people the market conditions and the laws of supply and demand. In this manner every one of the subsidiary occupations can be used to educate the people and employ them profitably. Bee-keeping, jaggery-making, rope-making, vegetable gardening, toy-making, basket-making and others may be chosen in various centres. This shall not take up the hue of sordid business. It may be organised by the local Recreation Officer as a sport and people must be enlisted as members of a team, doing their work in a spirit of emulation. Cheap and simple prizes may be offered to those of the competitors who have produced a record number of eggs, measures of milk, mats and baskets. Similarly arboriculture may be encouraged by giving a certificate of merit to those who

(Continued on page 40)

SERVE THE MASSES WITH LOVE IN YOUR HEART AND A SMILE ON YOUR FACE

MR. DANIEL THOMAS'S EXHORTATION TO MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONERS

IMPROVEMENT IN CONDITIONS OF SERVICE ASSURED

Opening the conference of Municipal Commissioners at Vellore, on the 19th of October, 1946, Mr. Daniel Thomas, Minister for Local Self-Government, outlined the great part the Commissioners could play in the new era. The following are a few extracts from the Minister's inaugural address.

"It gives me, indeed, great pleasure to attend a conference of this kind, because I thereby come into living contact, into personal touch, with the moving figures of our Municipal administration. There is a famous advertisement board painted on the Madras Tram-cars 'UNTOUCHED BY HAND'. Similarly most of our administration is untouched by personalities. They are done by paper, on paper and through paper. But I believe the time has now come when there should be personal touch, personal contacts, and personal influences in the administration of the Local bodies.

A Twin Principle

"You have met to discuss and consider what is the best way of improving your conditions of service and also of improving the service done by you. You will remember both these things go together. Your conditions of service have to be improved and the conditions and the quality of your service to the Municipalities have also to be improved. I should therefore be happy if we all would join together and form ourselves into one band of brotherhood wedded to the common cause of bringing health, happiness, comfort and culture to the people who come within the fold of the municipal administration of the Province.

State Within State

"You know the position of a municipality. It can be compared to a state within a state. You know the ancient city states of Athens and Rome. After all, I

believe in extent and area and population the city state of Athens was perhaps not bigger than one of our big municipalities. It is in these municipalities that we have opportunities and facilities for making them model institutions. As Poet Tennyson said "in small proportion we achieve beauty".

Freedom not the end but the beginning

"Our country is passing through a great momentous period. The achievement of freedom is not an end but the beginning. Now that we have arrived at a stage in our political history when we are at the threshold of freedom, when the Government of our country will soon be in our own hands, we have to devote our attention to our internal affairs, to the economic development and to the social uplift of the vast masses of the people of our country, more particularly, of those living in our municipalities. It is here that you, Municipal Commissioners, have a very great part to play. Our municipalities have to take a leading part in the daily life of the citizen and in their administration, you Commissioners, have to work out in tangible, concrete forms, various useful schemes and to devise and effect various measures for the uplift of the people.

"During the past years of the war, our municipalities have been in a very difficult state. Owing to the payment of dearness allowance, practically all capital works which would involve initial out-lay have been held up. And now, happily, that the war is over and that things

are beginning to improve, it is time to start again and to start with energy and enthusiasm.

Dual Duties

"Commissioners however, come in to touch with the daily normal life of the people. Your opportunities for service, are, therefore, as I said, of such a kind as are not ordinarily open to all sections of the Government servants. You have dual duties to perform. You have to regard yourselves primarily as servants of the people, but at the same time you are also servants of the Government. Your pay may be small, your position may not be high, but the opportunities of service that you possess are such as to make your position enviable, and worthy of all help.

Relationship with Municipal Chairman

We all know the difficulties you have to face in your work. In the first place there is the Chairman and the Council. The relationship between the Commissioners and the Chairman has to be well maintained. I would like to say one thing in connection with this matter. The present system may be difficult and the arrangement may be defective. It all depends on the human personalities. If there is a good Commissioner and a good Chairman both of them having one common point of view and one objective, namely, how best to render help and service to the people of the municipality, there is no question of friction.

Enquiry by Special Officer

There are also difficulties in the actual working of the District Municipalities Act. Mr. Wood, who is in special charge, is trying to improve the existing state of affairs and to amend certain portions of the Municipal Act, to see how best we could co-ordinate the administration of Local Bodies and how best we could improve the conditions of service of the Commissioners and the powers of the Chairman.

At the present time there are difficulties in taking up several works and in carrying them out, without outside sanction. We are considering ways and means of enabling municipalities to take up on hand and carry out works that are necessary for the growing needs of a town within specified limits of sanction and without wider interference. We are also trying our best to provide necessary financial resources for their ameliorative measures and to increase your sources of income to meet the growing demands.

I think you know that the enhancement of duty on stamps has already been put into effect. We propose to increase the rate of entertainment tax to provide more amenities to the people residing in your municipalities. But with funds in your hands you must be able also to carry on the works without much delay and slackness and try your best to spend the allotment before the year is over without allowing them to lapse.

Status of the Commissioner

I next want to refer to one other matter referred to in your memorandum. That is as regards disunity that arises in municipal administration.

Recently certain acts have been passed and certain rules have been brought into force, by which this position of the sole responsibility of the Commissioners has been adversely affected. The Health Officers and sometimes the Municipal Engineers have been allowed to carry out certain things independently and over the heads of the Commissioners. That is a very undesirable position, a position which does not at all tend towards stabilizing your status and which is also not conducive to the efficiency of the Municipal Administration. We are therefore considering various proposals to remove those

difficulties and I would say, speaking for myself and as expressing my view, since the decision finally rests with the Cabinet, that these proposals will be very carefully considered and the handicaps removed.

In regard to the question of unifying the control and management of municipalities, regulations should be made in such a comprehensive way as to make the Commissioner a co-ordinating and responsible authority, keeping other officers and departments under his control and general supervision. You need not be bothered about the question of pay. After the present pay revision question has been considered by the Government there will be a re-organisation committee which will go into the question of co-ordination of all services and the reduction of surplus staff. A Minister may get Rs. 1,000 and the Chief Secretary may get Rs. 3,000. But the question is, what is the position of each officer and his responsibility?

Question of Salaries

You know the Madras Ministry has appointed a Cabinet Sub-Committee of three members including myself to go into the question of pay conditions of service of the various Government service. Within the scope of the committee enquiry and recommendations the pay and conditions of service of Local Board employees have also been included. I may at the outset tell you that both your salaries and your conditions of service are not at all satisfactory.

Entire Service to be re-organised

In regard to the conditions of your service, the position that you Commissioners, now hold is very anomalous. On the lines you have suggested in your memorandum we are trying to reform the entire service of Local Administration. Municipal Commissioners, Dt. Panchayat Officers, Secretaries of District Boards, Managers of Municipalities, Executive Officers of Panchayat Boards with the Deputy Inspectors and Inspector, we are going to constitute all of them into a uniform organisation, forming one entire Local Administration Service which will be one arm or branch of the Public Services wherein there be a interchange of duties. You will then have a wider field of service and ample scope for work. The posts of District Panchayat Officers, Commissioners and various

other officers may be made to interchange so that one can be a Commissioner for sometime and be promoted as District Panchayat Officer or Dt. Board Secretary and so forth. We propose, subject to the acceptance of Government, to have a new branch of the public service which will be designated as Local Administration service and which will be one of the main organs of the Government service, placed on a definite basis and footing with definite functions and conditions of service and financial stability.

We are also very seriously considering the question of increasing your salaries along with those of other Government servants. There are too many grades in your service and the scales of pay are also too low, considering the pay of other Government services. We are considering to what extent we shall be able to improve your grades besides raising your salaries. You may rest assured that the Cabinet Sub-Committee of the Madras Government will do whatever is possible, because we realise that the conditions of pay service under which you work are very unsatisfactory. What exactly shall be the nature of these measures, is a matter, of course, which I cannot tell you now and which will be published in due course. But there will be both increase of salaries and improved conditions of service and also there will be a reorganisation of your entire services which will be constituted with our composite Local Administration service.

Centre of Social life

I would also suggest to you that Municipalities should be centres of popular service for the people. The Municipal Council is a place where a number of people come on business. But why should people come to the Municipal Council only for business? Could it not be made a centre of recreation with a recreation ground, a recreation club, a library, and a reading room, where the Commissioner and clerks can get together and have games and recreations, and also invite some people of the town and get into social contact with them and then establish an atmosphere of friendliness which could be constantly developed and fostered.

Serve with a Smile

Complaints are frequently made that people have to wait for days to get their licenses from the Municipal Office. There are bound to

be certain amount of delays. But as far as possible you should diminish these delays and welcome people in a friendly way so that they may like to come more often. If you smile at a man or put on a kind face it makes a great difference. If you put in a kindly word and give a friendly ear, they won't speak ill of you as a Commissioner. I want you and your staff and all your subordinates to move among the people as friends of the people, to make yourselves the servants of the friendliness.

Take Care of the Penny

We often see that bigger things which are in the programme and which are waiting to be taken in due course prevent smaller things from being done immediately. You want a small pot hole to be filled and some road to be repaired. You have to wait for the entire plan of the road reconstruction to be sanctioned. But what is to happen to these small pot holes in the meantime. You should therefore try not to hold up getting small things done under the plea of waiting for the sanction of estimates and plans of bigger things.

Communal Harmony

The Citizens of the Municipality belong to all grades, communities and classes. One of the great things we have established is communal harmony. The Commissioners have a great opportunity of service in this direction. You as commissioners, having to deal with different sections and communities and have occasions of reconciling and bringing together all these sections and be in a friendly relationship with them and weld them into one common brotherhood.

Service of Harijans

Another thing that I want to mention is the question of Harijans and Scavengers and other poorer classes. We have now issued a circular that we shall judge you by the efforts made in raising and improving the lot of the depressed classes. To give them a light, a pipe, a small well, a reading room, these are all things which go a long way in ameliorating their conditions and you should all take suitable measures and be vigilant in affording them these little helps.

Housing Problem

There is also the question of housing. It has become a very great problem. Every Municipality has a duty to provide their employees, their scavengers and the poorer sections of the people with housing facilities. In this every one of you should try and get out a housing policy, draw up housing programme by which gradually you can provide houses for scavengers, the poorer sections, the menials and other servants of the Municipality.

Soya beans milk for School Children

I want also to mention one other thing. We have to provide nourishment to our school children. The scheme of supplying milk to the school children has been taken up by the Government. But Cows' milk has now come to be very expensive. In Bangalore they have successfully experimented with a scheme of substituting cow's milk by milk extracted from soya beans, at a much cheaper cost. I understand it works out at nine pies per pound. I suggest that many of the Municipalities of our Province may also supply children with this kind of soya beans milk. I was told in the Bangalore Institute of Science that the machinery for making soya beans milk will cost about Rs. 3,000 or so. It is not a heavy investment if the scheme is successful and is beneficial to the children. You could also grow soya beans in the municipal gardens and school gardens and use them for extracting the milk. I would therefore suggest that such municipalities as can take up this scheme will do well to take suitable steps to bring it into force.

Task Ahead

The Government are anxious to improve the conditions of your service, to improve your scales of pay and the cadre and organisation of your service. The Government will do everything possible to place your service on a par with other Government service. At the same time in the matter of your administration a heavy responsibility lies on your shoulders and I would desire that in the coming years when the country is facing a new era, the Local Administration and Municipal service should take a fresh and upward leap and make itself worthy and useful.

West African Troops

Issued on October 28, 1946.
The report which appeared in the press on 27th October 1946 that West African Troops had been despatched from Willingdon Island Camp, Ernakulam, to Travancore State in connection with the disturbances there, is entirely without foundation.

No troops have been sent to Travancore State from British India nor has the G.O.C., Madras Area, received any request for assistance from the Travancore State authorities.

(Contd. from page 37.)

plant a minimum number of trees or more and by allowing the planters to enjoy their fruits.

The organisers of recreation can divide the villages into a number of brigades and train them each in a particular kind of sport. The natural aptitude of the individuals may be studied and the brigades may be formed; digging and delving may enthuse some; they may take to road making or well diggings as their hobby. Some may be loath to go out of their homes or gardens after their daily work is over; they may be taught indoor crafts, creative and aesthetic in their nature. Music, dancing, bhajanas, etc., can be used to stimulate on the part of the people a desire to live a better and healthier life.

Recreation Officers

All these call for high qualities of head and heart on the part of the Rural Recreation Officers. They should have an alert mind, resourcefulness, a missionary zeal, patriotism and abundant capacity to make sacrifice. You must have a high sense of duty and a fervour to serve the people; then, all your noble efforts will be crowned with success.

The Government are aware of your grievances regarding pay, travelling allowances, staff, equipment and accommodation at the various places you will be visiting in due discharge of your functions. I may assure you that legitimate demands will receive the most sympathetic consideration.

DID YOU KNOW?

- That installed capacity in Madras Government power plant totals 110,000 kilowatts?
- That the Madras Grid system includes over 3,000 miles of high tension lines operating at voltages from 11,000 to 110,000?
- That Madras has 81 electrical licensees of whom 45 are private companies and 36 local bodies?
- That they cover an area roughly one-seventh of the Province?
- That electricity is now available in 78 municipalities?
- That over 900 villages in Madras Province receive electric supply?
- That Madras Province has 5,000 electric pumps for lifting water?
- That Madras Province has about 600 rural factories using electricity for ginning cotton, hulling rice, pressing oilseeds, decorticating nuts, crushing cane and milling flour?

The object of *Madras Information* is to give a brief record of the Madras Government's activities and to educate the public opinion on the Government's policies.

However, the views expressed and the articles published in this journal do not necessarily represent the official opinion.

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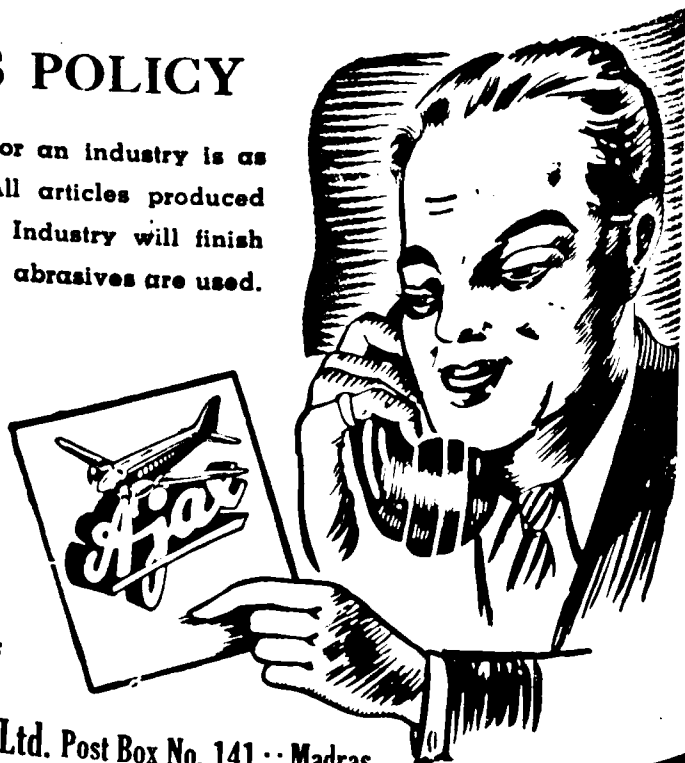
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Readers are invited to send questions seeking clarification of the policy of the Government or allied matters. Answers will be published as soon as possible.

The object of Madras Information is to give a brief record of the Madras Government's activities and to educate the public opinion on the Government's policies.

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No. 4

WE SEEK TO SERVE AND NOT TO COMPETE

November 16, 1946

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Extension of Bonus for Kuruwai

Concessions announced by the Government in the beginning of this month in regard to bonus payable to cultivators of *kuruwai* paddy deserve the widest publicity as they are calculated to benefit a large section of the agricultural community. Representations having been received by Government that owing to scarcity of water in the rivers and canals in the Cauvery delta, the cultivation of *kuruwai* and other short-term crops was unavoidably delayed, and that the completion of the harvest was in consequence likely to be delayed, which would have meant that the bulk of the cultivators would become ineligible for the bonus if the time-limit is not extended, it has now been decided that producers of the short-term paddy who reap the crop before November 30 will also be eligible for the concessions subject to certain conditions. The most important of these is that the cultivators should give written intimation to the Taluk Supply Officer before November 16 of the quality and quantity of grains they propose to deliver before the end of the month and obtain a receipt therefor. This extension of the period for the grant of bonus for paddy delivered before November 30 should be welcomed by all those who for one reason or the other have not been able to sell their produce so far. Concrete evidence of appreciation on their part of the concession accorded can, however, be provided only when the produce that is delivered up is correspondingly considerable.

kasam, Prime Minister, in which the people of the province have been assured of a restoration of the rice ration to 10 oz. per head in December, provided the producers respond to what we may call the "call of the bonus concessions" and deliver up their produce to the Government agency. If this hope is realised and if the internal stock position is buttressed up by additional allotments of rice to Madras from the Punjab, Central Provinces and Orissa surpluses that the Government of India have made, the restoration of the ration cut should become automatically practicable. So far, the response of the producers to the appeal for sale of paddy on the payment of bonuses has been magnificent, as the Premier's statement pointed out. The quantity of paddy and rice sold to the agents of the Government between 12-9-46 and 31-10-1946 amounted to 1,59,611 tons in terms of rice, and the present stocks have been estimated as representing the requirements of a little over six weeks. With further deliveries acting as a stabilising influence and with the prospects of the new rice crop coming into the market in the beginning of January, justification for the feeling of satisfaction with the position is strengthened.

Work of Village Committees

The food administration in the province has once again been commended in terms of high praise by the Hon. Dr. Rajendra Prasad in the Central Assembly, and H. E. the Governor of Madras in the course of his recent tour in Trichinopoly and Tirunelveli and South Arcot districts also paid similar tributes to his Government's efforts in that direction. Much hope is being built on the Village Committees which

Restoration of Rice ration

Attention should also be drawn to the heartening statement issued by the hon. Sri. T. Pra-

have been, or are being, established throughout the presidency as agencies intended to promote expeditious procurement. In fact, there is great expectation that these committees will form a firm foundation for the superstructure of the provincial Food Administration and a really efficient foundation at that. The village, taluq and district food committees have a heavy responsibility thrown on their shoulders and if they discharge that responsibility without permitting local, sectional, communal or political feelings to interfere in their working they can be a very effective machinery for the administration of the food regulations, for satisfactory procurement of foodgrains, and in fact, for the efficient administration of all such village affairs which touch vitally the lives of the people, by the people themselves.

Amicable Communal Relation

It is a matter for gratification to all of us in this Presidency that while in some other provinces there have been blood-baths as a result of communal riotings, this province has been comparatively free from similar exhibitions of communal frenzy. It is a tribute alike to the restraining influence exerted by the leaders of the two communities as well as to the good sense of the masses at large. There have been a few regrettable plague spots even in Madras; but that those plague spots have not shown an inclination to deteriorate into festering sores is a matter on which the Government and the authorities on the one hand and the people on the other may congratulate themselves. Let us hope that the feelings of goodwill and harmony that generally prevail between the Muslims and Hindus in this presidency will persist and that whatever sores that may exist will gradually get healed up. Those who make a virtue of communalism in order to gain some ulterior purpose or to serve some ulterior end will be rendering a distinct and permanent disservice to the country and even to the community to which they belong and the interests of which they may fondly be thinking they are serving. There can be neither spiritual satisfaction nor any material gain to anyone by encouraging or aiding, consciously or unconsciously, among the masses a dangerous proneness to the breaking of heads and murderous assaults on fellow citizens because they happen to belong to some other religious persuasion than one's own.

Textile Policy

To supplement his statement of October 11 on Government's textile policy and to answer some of the subsequent criticisms of that policy, the hon'ble the Prime Minister has issued another statement. Two lines of criticism were answered by him, one that having regard to the actual progress made by the All-India Spinners' Association so far, there can be no room for optimism in regard to the success of the Government's Khadi scheme, and secondly, that Khadi cannot make any appreciable headway in the face of the prospective dumping of mill cloth by outside mills, taking advantage of the provisions of Section 207 of the Government of India Act of 1935. The fundamental point of India Act of 1935. The fundamental point conveniently ignored by the critics is that whereas the A.I.S.A. has been obliged to perform the task of popularising Khadi for more than 25 years on its own initiative and responsibility and without much of official approbation, the Madras Government's Khadi programme which is the first large-scale Khadi programme initiated on the direct responsibility of the Government run by the representatives of the people, will be pursued "with all the vigour and drive which a Government administrative machinery can contribute." Its future potentialities under such favourable auspices cannot be made light of by disparaging references to erstwhile slow progress under a different auspices. As for the second point of criticism about possible dumping of mill cloth, in the first place such dumping is impracticable under conditions of all-India control of yarn and cloth distribution; and secondly, the contingency in which the provisions of Section 297 will become applicable, if at all, will arise only in the post-control period which may be only after three or four years. As the Premier hinted, the constitutional hurdle need not be regarded as insuperable, and "it is wrong to assume that the legislative changes necessary for giving adequate powers to the provinces for dealing with any situation anticipated in the post-control period will not be made in time." On the whole, the progress of Khadi development being on such an impressive scale as to contribute effectively to the promotion of textile self-sufficiency in the province in the course of a few years' time, need not be ruled out unceremoniously as the critics do nor need a gloomy view taken of the future. Statistics can be exploited for good as well as for bad purposes. But confidence and faith in the efficacy of a particular policy are the factors which make for real success in the long run.

MADRAS GOVERNMENT'S KHADI AND HANDLOOM INDUSTRY POLICY

(CRITICISMS ANSWERED)

(Contributed)

WITHOUT the Central Government committing themselves to opposition to it, the Council of State adopted a resolution recommending that the textile industry in India should be nationally controlled and directed. The resolution is obviously a direct sequel to the Madras Government's policy of "no expansion of textile mills" and encouragement of the Khadi industry. Mr. Yeatts, Secretary to the Industries Department, in the course of his speech, a summary of which appeared in the papers, without pronouncing any opinion on the merits of the Madras Government's policy, contented himself with pointing out that the policy had not yet been approved by the provincial legislature and that so far as the Government of India were concerned, it was their intention to have a common textile policy for the whole country. Mr. Yeatts did not think that a policy evolved after considerable discussion with the provinces and States would be given up; but he did not maintain or suggest that it could not be given up in any circumstances by any participating State or province. That is a technical detail and as the Hon'ble Prime Minister stated in his statement dated November 12, the matter will doubtless receive the earnest consideration of the Government when their views are invited by the Interim Government. As regards the policy not having received the provincial Legislature's imprimatur, no evidence has been adduced by any opponent of the policy to warrant the imputation that that body would not back up the Government in a policy which they adopted after due deliberation and in pursuance of a programme of integrated development of the Khadi industry with a view to its becoming an instrument for sartorial self-sufficiency in future. On the other hand there is every warrant for the opposite conclusion that the provincial Legislature would accord overwhelming support to the Government in the matter, in which the fundamental principle of provincial autonomy is involved. The Government of India, which are at present a national and popular Government at the same time may not feel inclined to impose their wishes, if at any time they are likely to be contrary to those of the provincial Government, in a matter like this which is within the jurisdiction of the provincial Government, nor

assume powers to themselves, as recommended in the Council of State resolution, which may lead to unpleasantness with some at least of the provincial Governments, particularly as there is every likelihood of some other provinces also adopting Madras' lead in this respect. "A nationally-planned policy" in regard to textiles is a phrase which need not be regarded with alarm; such a policy may, in fact, be different from that which its advocates so vehemently demand it should be. It may be in the nature of a nationally-planned drive to develop the Khadi and the handloom industry, which is the quintessence of the Madras policy.

No Danger to Handloom Industries

On the other hand, it is wrong to suggest, as has been suggested in the Council of State discussion, that there is an inherent and implied danger to the handloom industry by encouragement to Khadi, whereas the truth is that it is conceived primarily to assist the handloom weaver to procure enough yarn and remunerative occupation throughout the year by direct and systematic encouragement of the hand-spinning process. At the moment, the handloom weaver is between two stools and is unable to get sufficient quantities of either mill yarn or hand-spun yarn, and while there can be no prospect of his procuring a larger quantity of mill yarn so long as the present arrangements for yarn distribution continue and so long as the present mills are unable to augment their yarn-producing capacity, the development of hand-spinning on an extensive scale in some areas in the province and intensive scale in some others, which can be accomplished comparatively more efficiently and in less time under the direct auspices of the Government, is expected to satisfy his yarn requirements at a progressively increasing pace. While that section of the handloom weavers at present accustomed to using mill yarn may have to accustom themselves to the weaving of hand-spun yarn, which may entail a little inconvenience to them from the short range point of view, they will discover in the long run that the change-over is not only profitable economically but essential and useful otherwise. To raise the bogey of "handloom industry in

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danger" and to attempt to depict that the Government's khadi policy is discriminating against the handloom weaver is, therefore, an attempt to demonstrate the undemonstrable. It was made perfectly clear by the Prime Minister in his statement to the press issued on the subject on October 11 that the interests of the handloom weavers would not in any way be allowed to be jeopardised.

Lack of Ethics and Economics

But yet it has been one of the central points in the controversial tour de force of the sponsors of the Madras Provincial Textile Protection Conference held in Madras that the handloom weavers are among those who would be detrimentally affected by the Government's textile policy. The handloom industry, which has rightly been described as the "prince of cottage industries in India", does not stand to lose in any sense from the present policy, but on the other hand stands to gain a good deal. The handlooms produce even now more than two-thirds of the total quantity of cloth produced in the province, their production being 66½ crores of yards while the mills produce 30 crores and of this, according to the figure quoted by Mr. Muthiah Mudalliar, who presided over the conference, exports to Ceylon alone during 1944 were 2½ crores of yards while exports to all other places amounted to 5½ crores of yards. Estimated at 25 yards per head the total consumption of cloth in Madras will be 122½ crores of yards per annum which means that the deficit will be 31½ crores of yards. It is curious that the oppositionists of the Khadi scheme are scrupulously silent on the ethics or lack of ethics, the economics or the lack of economics, of exporting 5½ crores yards of cloth every year to other countries when the extent of the local requirements of cloth to be filled up is so considerable. Mr. Muthiah Mudalliar estimated that if Khadi was worked successfully in all the 25 firkas selected for development, the quantity produced will be 15 million yards and if worked only in eight centres, it cannot be more than 5 million yards, and that it would still leave a gap of 31 crores yards to be made up in the totality of the province's requirements. Surely it cannot be suggested by anybody in one and the same breath that between 5 to 15 million yards of additional khadi will be woven by the handloom weavers from yarn spun in the development centres and at the same time that the interests of the handloom weavers are being ignored or sacrificed by the Government. If the mill cloth production by the existing mills is increased by making the mills work three shifts and by replacement

the machinery of the existing mills and if the intensive and extensive hand-spinning and khadi production drive is pursued with vigour under the direction and control of the Governmental agency, and if, superadded to this, the export of cloth produced by both mills and handlooms to places outside the province can be effectively checked by the levy of excise duties or by other legal processes, the deficit of 31 crores of yards in the cloth requirements of the Madras population, even if calculated at the rate of 25 yards per head, will be made up substantially. There has been no suggestion that in certain circumstances and if necessary, the Madras Legislature cannot invest the Government with requisite powers in this regard.

Crocodile Tears

It is regrettable that the handloom industry has now been neglected and that the percentage of the output of the handlooms vis-a-vis the total demands for cloth has been stationary. For this depressing plight of the handloom weaver and the handloom industry the expansion of the textile weaving mills and not expansion of khadi has been responsible. As Mr. Muthiah Mudalliar has himself stated, while in 1920, when the mills numbered 253, the percentages of the contribution made by handloom cloth, to Indian mill cloth and imported mill cloth, were the fulfilment of the cloth requirements were 29, 38 and 33 respectively. In 1945, with an increase in the number of mills to 417, the percentages are 29, 64 and 7 respectively, which means that while mill cloth had cut to some extent into imported cloth, its contribution to the advancement of the "prince among cottage industries" has been practically nil. It means also that while the mills were engaged in their competition with foreign imports and in unregulated internal competition among themselves and neglected the handloom weaving industry and starved it of essential yarn requirements, it was yarn produced by hand-spinning under the supervision and auspices of a non-official organisations like the All-Indian Spinners' Association that continuously fed the weaver and enabled him to survive and maintain his previous rate of production. It is a tribute to the staying power of the handloom weaver under extraordinarily depressing conditions and to the fact that the soil that it had struck such deep roots in the fact that it could not be exterminated even by the worst of adverse circumstances and not to the altruism of the mill-owners. They would probably not have shed a regretful tear if the handloom

(Continued on page 44.)

Some Press Notes of Madras Govt.

Local Board Elections

Issued on October 28

Requests are being received from persons convicted of political offences, for the removal of their alleged disqualification from standing for election to local boards and municipal councils. Under section 55 (1) of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, and section 49 of the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, (1) of the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, those not involving moral delinquency will not operate as a disqualification. Only persons sentenced by a criminal court to transportation or to imprisonment for a period of more than six months for offences involving moral delinquency will be so disqualified, if the sentences have not been reversed subsequently or the offences pardoned. In such cases the sentences will operate as a disqualification, while they are being undergone and for five years from the date of their expiration.

Health Conditions of Province

Issued on October 28

On a review of the working of the Madras Registration of Births and Deaths Act during 1945, Government make the following observations:—

The birth-rate which was decreasing every year since 1942 increased slightly from 29.39 in 1944 to 29.45 in 1945.

There was a fall in the death rate from 25.40 in 1944 to 22.27 in 1945. There was a distinct decrease in the number of deaths recorded under every cause except small-pox. There was also a marked decrease in the rate of infantile mortality from 192.4 in 1944 to 169.4 in 1945. The maternal mortality rate decreased slightly from 9.98 in 1944 to 9.29 in 1945.

Chief Diseases

Cholera: The number of deaths from cholera decreased from 18,318 in 1944 to 8,494 during 1945. The southern districts and the West Coast were practically free from cholera during the year.

Small-pox: There were 20,636 deaths from small-pox as compared with 19,776 deaths in 1944. The disease was prevalent in all the districts in the province; but as in the previous year, the districts greatly affected were Tanjore, Guntur, South Arcot, Malabar and Vizagapatam. The mortality rate from small-pox indicates the need for vigilant vaccination work in the affected districts.

Plague: The mortality from plague decreased from 1,738 in 1944 to 1,644 during 1945. The usual preventive measures of anti-plague inoculations and cyanogas fumigation were carried out. The Government have sanctioned a special scheme for the investigation and control of plague in the Nilgiris district. The experience gained in this district will be of great value for the eradication of plague in the Province. The plague research Unit at Hosur (Salem District) has been merged in this scheme.

Leprosy: Anti-leprosy campaign and special researches on the prevention and control of leprosy in the province were carried out by the Madras Branch

of the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association which is generally in charge of the leprosy work in the Province. A rural scheme for leprosy control is under operation in Polambakkam area of Madurantakam taluk, Chingleput District.

Tuberculosis: There was an increase in the number of cases treated for tuberculosis (pulmonary and other tubercular diseases) from 79,619 in 1944 to 86,407 in 1945 in all medical institutions.

Fevers: The number of deaths from fevers was 3,01,178 in 1945 as compared with 3,44,315 in 1944.

Dysentery and Diarrhoea: There was a decrease in the number of deaths from this group of causes from 97,004 in 1944 to 78,160 in 1945.

Panchayats with a population of over 5000 and below 10,000 have been ordered to be included in the scope of rural water-supply scheme. The importance of provision of water-supply in the programme of rural reconstruction has also been impressed on Collectors of districts.

Other causes of death: The number of deaths under this head continued to be more than 50 per cent of the total mortality in the province.

Research

Special measures for the control of guinea-worm were in operation in the districts of West Godavari, Anantapur, Bellary, Coimbatore and Cuddapah. Although the conversion of stop-wells into draw-wells is a permanent method of control of this disease, considerable reduction in guinea-worm incidence can be achieved by biological or chemical methods.

Malaria Control

The post-war reconstruction proposals relating to malaria have been implemented during the year. A bureau of malariology and mosquito borne diseases in charge of an Assistant Director of Public Health has been established and the anti-malarial organisation of the province has been reorganised. The province has been divided into four regions with a regional malariologist in charge of each. Each region has now a head-quarter Unit and two mobile field investigation and control Units. The Central Laboratory at Madras will form a training centre in malariology for Health Officers and others.

A separate First Class Health Officer and adequate subordinate staff have been sanctioned for control operations in the endemic villages of the Tungabhadra Project area. The anti-malaria scheme at Krishnadevipeta, the Araku valley, Chintapalle, Polavaram including sub-stations, the Krishnadevipeta extension scheme, the revised "A Sundaious" scheme in Vizagapatam District and the schemes in Pattukottai, Ennore, the Wynaad, Harur, Harur and Morapur, Uttangarai, Cuddapah Municipality and the Nellore Districts were continued during 1945. Schemes for investigation and control of malaria in Guntur and Anantapur Districts have been sanctioned during the year. The results of field trials as to the most economic and effective way of using D.D.T. in the control of rural malaria have been satisfactory so far.

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The distribution of quinine and quinine substitutes was pushed on vigorously in the endemic areas during the year.

FAIRS AND FESTIVALS

The important bathing festivals of the Mahamkham of Kumbakonam and the Kistna Pushkaram, took place during 1945. Elaborate sanitary arrangements were made for the huge crowds of pilgrims who attended the festivals in spite of travel restrictions. The festivals passed off without any outbreak of epidemics.

HEALTH PROPAGANDA

As in previous years, health education formed one of the important duties of the staff of the Public Health Department. Lectures, talks, cinema shows, health dramas, health exhibitions and broadcast talks were arranged. Special attention was paid during the year to the improvement of environmental hygiene and soil sanitation.

POONAMALLEE HEALTH UNIT

The Unit was reorganised and expanded in 1945. It is now both field training centre for Public Health workers and an experimental station for the post-war reconstruction schemes for the expansion of the Public Health Services and for the improvement of conservancy and sanitation of rural areas.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

Maternity and Child welfare work continued to progress during the year. Eight new centres were opened in 1945. A sum of Rs. 1,22,797 as compared with Rs. 1,04,150 in the previous year was sanctioned by Government as grants to local bodies for Maternity and Child welfare activities in 1944-45.

FOOD ADULTERATION

The Madras Prevention of Adulteration Act was extended to 24 more local areas bringing the total to 224. The percentage of adulterated samples increased from 41.8 in 1944 to 46.70 in 1945.

NUTRITION

Diet surveys in 189 families in urban, semi-urban and rural areas in Madras City, Bellary, Kurnool and Chingleput Districts were conducted during the year and no obvious prevalence of deficiency diseases was observed in any area.

VACCINATION

On account of the prevalence of small-pox in an epidemic form in the province, an intensive campaign of vaccination work was carried out and 11,971,755 vaccinations were performed during 1945. The number of vaccinations done in the year represents 23.2 per cent of the population of the province as compared to 14.1 per cent in 1944.

Though the war has ended, the difficult living conditions including general food shortage and abnormally high prices of consumer's articles continued to exist during the year. In order to cope with any sudden outbreaks of epidemics on account of these adverse conditions, District Epidemic Committees have been formed. The co-operation of the public is an indispensable pre-requisite for success in all measures designed to promote public health.

Price of Paddy and Millets

Issued on October 30

The Committee appointed by the Government to recommend the price of paddy and millets for the Kharif year has recommended to the Government that the price of paddy may be increased at least by Rupee One per maund of rice and by annas six per maund of millet, to meet the increased cost of production and the increase in the price of essential articles of life.

Representatives of Malabar and Mangalore on the Committee expressed the view that no increase was necessary for their area.

Low Wheat Stock

Issued on November 1

As a result of the fact that no supplies of wheat were allowed to this Province during October, the wheat stock position in Madras City is now very low. The next wheat ship is expected to arrive towards the end of the first week of November. It is probable that the present stocks in the City godowns and in the hands of the retailers would be sufficient to supply the needs of the ration cardholders in full until that ship arrives. Nevertheless, to guard against unforeseen circumstances, and to conserve the small stocks of wheat now available, the Commissioner of Civil Supplies is instructing the retailers in the City to limit the daily issue of wheat to ration cardholders to 2 oz. per adult, the balance of the non-rice portion of the ration being issued in the shape of wheat flour, maize, Egyptian millets or barley, according to availability.

Control Over Motor Cars

Issued on November 1

The Government have decided that it will be in the interest of the general public that control of the price and distribution of motor cars should continue for the present. In order to prevent abuse of the system it has also been decided that persons who have purchased a car under a permit should not be permitted to re-sell it without the permission of the Provincial Motor Transport Controller. This has been proved necessary as one or two cases have come to notice of persons obtaining a car under a permit, and shortly afterwards selling it at a much higher price.

Certain difficulties have been experienced both by the public and Motor dealers owing to certain defects in the rules for the issue of permits. A general complaint has been that permit holders who obtained a permit when only small cars were available, have not utilised their permits until bigger cars were available. This has resulted in others not being able to obtain a permit although cars were available. In future permits will be of three classes (1) For cars of from 8 to 10 H.P., (2) For cars over 10 but less than 20 H.P., (3) For cars over 20 H.P. Applicants will be requested to state which class or classes of car they will be prepared to purchase and permit will be issued accordingly. As the number of large cars available at present is comparatively small the public are advised that those who are prepared to buy a small car will have a better chance of obtaining a permit. Permits will not normally specify the make of car to be purchased, but the Provincial Motor Transport Controller will have power to do so in certain cases. There are certain cars, generally

the more expensive ones, which permit holders are not willing to purchase. Persons who are willing to buy such cars may, in some cases, be able to obtain a permit for such a specified car rather sooner than they normally would according to their priority. All those who have been registered but have not yet received a permit, are requested to inform the Provincial Motor Transport Controller of what class of car they are prepared to buy. Permits will in future be valid only for a period of 14 days. An extension for a further seven days may be given for good reason. No further extension will be given under any circumstances, and any person who has been issued a permit and has allowed it to lapse will in no circumstance be issued a further permit. This provision is necessary as a number of cases have come to notice, where permit holders have waited long periods in order to obtain a particular car. This deprives other persons of a chance to obtain a car as a second permit cannot be issued while this permit is in force. It is considered that in such cases the person concerned cannot be so urgently in need of a car as to warrant his being continued on the list.

No permit will be required in future for cars costing more than Rs. 15,000. Rules to carry out these proposals are under issue. It is hoped that under the amended rules, many of the difficulties experienced by the public will disappear. As regards priority in the issue of permits, the Provincial Motor Transport Controller is acting under instructions from Government. The Public are earnestly requested not to attempt to interview him personally in respect of their applications.

Prices of Cane-Sugar and Jaggery

Issued on November 2

The Government have decided to fix the following minimum prices for cane delivered to the sugar factories mentioned below:—

1. Nellikuppam	Rs. 33 per ton.
2. Hospet	Rs. 34 "
3. Vuyyuru	Rs. 33 "
4. Thummapala	Rs. 34 "
5. Samalkot	Rs. 35 "
6. Podanur	Rs. 26 "
7. Pugalur	Rs. 29 "
8. Kirlampudi	Rs. 30 "
9. Bobbili	Rs. 34 "
10. Seethanagaram	Rs. 34 "
11. Etikoppaka	Rs. 34 "

The Government have also decided to fix jaggery prices at levels varying between Rs. 12 and Rs. 13-8-0 ex-wholesaler for the main producing districts. Wholesale and retail prices for all districts will be fixed and announced very soon. These prices are subject to the approval of the Government of India, which is being obtained. The Government have also decided not to impose any ban on the production of jaggery in the factory areas as was done in previous years. No such ban will be imposed during the current crushing season and any bans which are already in force will be repealed with immediate effect.

Agricultural Engineering

Issued on November 4

Both as a short term and long term measure, agricultural production has to be given a mechanical bias in order to save time, labour and cost, and for increased outputs. As a result of the launching of the

accelerated well sinking and improvement schemes, a sudden demand arose for tools, equipment and plant from the agricultural population in the several districts. The demand was principally for implements, pumping machinery and mechanical tillage equipment. This type of special engineering aid which is required by ryots has been gradually growing from even before the war years and at the commencement of the year it was found that ryots' requirements in this direction could not be satisfactorily and quickly met unless the Agricultural Engineering Branch was properly organised.

SPECIAL SUPERVISION

With a view to effectively help agriculturists in respect of their requirements for well sinking, lift irrigation by pumping units, mechanical ploughing and small implements and tools, the Agricultural Engineering side was expanded by the employment of special supervisors at each district headquarters and a special technical staff at headquarters under a Deputy Director. From the time the special staff commenced to function till to date they have distributed over 720 small size built-in-type pump sets to ryots all over the Province for their well sinking operations and for emergency irrigation purposes. In addition to these gasoline units, nearly 50 crude oil engines of different sizes transferred from the Army surpluses have been allotted to ryots in the several districts for pumping installations. This special staff has also been arranging for the supplies of electric motor driven pump sets to ryots and over 750 motor pump sets have been issued to ryots during the last five months. Large quantities of pipes and pipe fittings costing 3 lakhs and 8 thousand (Rs. 3,08,000) have also been obtained from the Disposals Directorate and the Iron and Steel Controller and are sold at controlled prices to persons requiring them for their pumping installations. 2,582.35 tons of standard and 586.47 of non-standard iron and steel were distributed to agriculturists from the quotas allotted to the Agricultural Department for the second quarter of the year and an equal distribution is expected for the quarter ending with September. For the well sinking campaign 3,353 crowbars, 10,652 spades, 264 pans, 903 pickaxes were also supplied to owners who had undertaken to sink wells under the subsidised scheme. In the case of ryots owning oil engines, extra quotas of fuels were arranged for extending well irrigation and arrangements have also been made for procuring the necessary spare parts for their old engines.

TRACTORS AND BULLDOZERS

This special Agricultural Engineering staff is being actively engaged for the supply of more implements and machinery, oil engine and electric motor pump sets and tractor ploughing and bulldozing equipments for helping agriculturists. Bulldozing work has been taken up on a small scale in the districts of Chingleput, Coimbatore and Chittoor for levelling and laying out fields with bunds; and tractor ploughing operations on a limited scale are already in progress in the districts of Guntur, Vizagapatam, Chingleput, Coimbatore, Madura and Chittoor. More centres will be taken up as soon as the implements already ordered are received. During the last five months 1,722.81 acres were ploughed with the Agricultural Department tractors and these were mainly fields left fallow for the last two or three years or new areas not brought under the plough hitherto. Arrangements

have also been made for the direct purchase of more oil engines for distribution to ryots. The Agricultural Department has also made arrangements for obtaining oil engine pump sets and letting them out on hire to agriculturists at cheap rates. This will henceforth form a regular feature of the Agricultural Engineering activities of the Agricultural Department, and tractor ploughing activities are also proposed to be further expanded and extended to all the districts requiring them when the equipment under order is received.

Motor Bus Units

Issued on November 4

In a previous Government order, it was insisted that all motor bus units operating on the roads in the province must be fleet-owners, or in other words, that they must have 20 or more buses each. This G.O. was issued as a war-time measure to control motor transport units, and a time-limit had been fixed within which smaller units had to be amalgamated or get absorbed into fleet-owners on pain of their permits being cancelled. This principle of monopolistic fleet-owners operating on the roads has been found to be unsatisfactory from the standpoint of the public, and many small owners had had their licences cancelled and fresh enterprise in motor transport business was blocked.

The G.O. has now been cancelled, and Government have decided that any unit which could command three or more buses will be entitled to a permit, other conditions being satisfied.

An Ill-Founded Criticism

Issued on November 4

The attention of the Government of Madras has been drawn to the criticisms of certain groundnut oil interests that this Government entrusted the export of groundnut oil to Burma to Messrs. Ralli Bros., overlooking the claims of Indian merchants. Government wish to point out that there is no truth in these criticisms.

The Madras Government insisted that the Burma Government's agent must be sent here to purchase the oil and export it to Burma so that Burma may not have to complain afterwards about the quality and price of the article. It is the representative of the Burma Government who came here, who employed the services of Messrs. Ralli Bros., who are a recognised shipping firm, to purchase stocks from merchants here and export to Burma. It is thus clear that the Government of Madras have had no hand in the choice of Messrs. Ralli Bros., to represent the Government of Burma.

Elections to Local Bodies Postponed

Issued on November 6

The Government have under consideration legislation in order to amend the Local Boards and District Municipalities Acts and to invest local bodies with larger powers to administer their affairs. It has also been represented to the Government that, at present, the representation on these local bodies, provided for minority communities by way of reservation, is inadequate. The Government are considering proposals

to increase the representation for such minority communities.

Complaints have also been received that the electoral lists published are incomplete and that the divisions of wards in municipalities and of circles in District Boards require revision.

It may also be mentioned here that when the Government decided sometime back to hold the elections and published a programme of dates therefor, it was hoped that by the time of the holding of the elections, a calm and peaceful atmosphere would prevail in the province. But it has been brought to the notice of the Government that recently the situation in the country is becoming more disturbed and there is reason to apprehend that the holding of elections and the election campaigns incidental thereto, might contribute to increase the tension and thereby worsen the situation in the province.

In view of the above circumstances, the Government have decided to postpone the elections to Municipal Councils and District Boards.

Basic Education Committee

Issued on November 7

The Government have appointed the following as the members of the Basic Education Committee. The Minister for Education will be the Chairman and the Deputy Director, Basic (Elementary) Education, the Secretary:

1. Secretary or Assistant Secretary, Hindusthani Talimi Sangh, as may be decided by the Secretary.
2. Sri G. Sitharama Sastri, Vinayashrama.
3. Sri L. Rajagopal Row, B.A., B.L., National College, Masulipatam.
4. Srimathi Vidya Devi, B.A., in charge of Basic Education Camp, Sithanagaram.
5. Sri K. Arunachalam, B.A., L.T., Headmaster, Government Basic Training School, Perianaickenpalayam.
6. Sri N. M. R. Subbaraman, M.L.A., Chokkikulam, Madura.
7. Miss Nanikutti Menon, B.Sc., L.T., Calicut.
8. Sri G. Venkatachalapathi, Secretary, Tamil Nad Basic Education Committee.
9. Mr. Abdul Kadir.
10. Mr. Hussain, M.L.A., South Kanara.
11. Mrs. Samuel, Headmistress, All Saints Training School, Trichinopoly.
12. Sri B. S. Murthy, Parliamentary Secretary to H.M. (I & L).
13. Sri Y. Natarajan, B.A., L.T., District Educational Officer, Calicut.
14. Sri G. Ramachandran
15. Sri H. Sitarama Reddy, M.L.A., Bellary.

Echo of Madura Black-Shirt Conference

Issued on November 7

On the 12th of May, 1946, there were serious disturbances in Madura in connection with the Dravidian Federation Conference held in that City, resulting in the opening of fire by the Police, and Government ordered a public enquiry into the origin and causes of disturbances and appointed the Collector of Ramnad to conduct the enquiry. The report of the results of the enquiry has since been received and examined by the Government.

In the course of the enquiry, the Collector examined a number of witnesses among whom were persons belonging to the "Black Shirt" Organisation and members of the public. He also examined some police officers.

The facts elicited by the enquiry are that on the 10th, 11th and 12th of May, batches of "Black Shirts" (Volunteers of the Dravidian Federation) entered the Sri Meenakshi Temple. Their only object appears to have been to wound the religious feelings and susceptibilities of the worshippers in the temples. This is clear from the fact that they were found smoking inside the temple precincts and walking with their sandals on. It is even more strongly evidenced by their mocking at the sacred idols, using in the process obscene, insulting and provocative language which naturally led to altercations between the "Black Shirts" and the worshippers.

The "Black Shirts" however did not stop with the Meenakshi Temple. On the morning of the 12th batches of them stoned the Pilliar idol in the Vinayakar Koil and threw out idols. They indulged in similar desecration at the Mariamman temple. At the Sami Sannadi Street, where they also burnt down a hoisted Congress flag, they came into conflict with a crowd enraged by their conduct, and they were saved from the violence of the crowd only by the timely arrival of the police who escorted the "Black Shirts" to the police station and detained them under police protection till midnight. In the meantime, crowds gathered on the riverbed where the Dravidian Federation Conference was being held and attacked the Conference pandal, leading to the serious disturbance of the day.

Government accept the finding of the Enquiry Officer that the origin and cause of the disturbances are to be found in the entry of the Black Shirts into the Meenakshi temple on the 10th, 11th and 12th of May and their subsequent offensive conduct. The fact that batches of "Black Shirts" who have no faith in Gods and temples were found inside the temple on the 10th, 11th and 12th May, 1946, supports the version that their presence was not innocent, that they did not visit the temple as sight-seers but went for the purposes of insulting and ridiculing the idols and the worshippers, and this conduct naturally enraged the worshippers and led to the subsequent disturbances.

In the hope that the leaders of the "Black Shirts" will direct their activity along healthier and more orderly lines in future, the Government do not propose to take action against them in connection with these occurrences but any repetition of such behaviour will be dealt with severely. The Government take this opportunity of assuring full protection to worshippers at shrines against molestation and offensive conduct.

Producer Defined

Issued on November 7

Requests have been received by the Government to define the term "producer" used in their orders in connection with the grant of bonus for delivery of food grains alleging that it is differently interpreted by landlords and by tenants. To clear the position the Government issue the following note:

The term "producer" in the context of the G.Os. relating to grant of bonus applies:—

(1) to landholders who cultivate their lands by hired labour.

(2) to landholders who lease out their lands and obtain rent from their tenants in kind.

(3) to tenants who cultivate the lands belonging to others and share the produce with the landholder under the terms of the lease.

In the case of item (1) the landholder will be eligible for the bonus due on the entire quantity of food grains sold by him. In the case of items (2) and (3) the landholder and the tenant will be eligible for the bonus on the quantity sold by them out of the share of the produce due to each under the terms of the lease deed. The Government however will pay the bonus only to the person who sells the foodgrain to their agents and cannot, for obvious reasons, try to find out in each case what portion of the bonus should go to the landlord and what portion to the tenant. If a landlord sells the tenant's share of the produce too and gets the bonus or if the tenant sells the landlord's share of the produce too and obtains the bonus, it will be open to either party to seek relief against the other for his share of the bonus.

Five-Year Plan of Post-War Development

Issued on November 11

The five-year plan of post-war development for the Province was originally drawn up on the expectation that a sum of about Rs. 135 crores would be available for expenditure during the five years after the termination of hostilities and out of this Rs. 27.79 crores were allotted for road development. The position has had to be reviewed in view of the nation building programme since initiated by the Government which have necessitated a reduction of allotment for post-war programme originally made and it is now considered that the five year plans have to be revised so as to bring down the total expenditure to about Rs. 80 crores. In making the revision, the Government consider that priority should be given to schemes of economic development which will increase the income of the people and their taxable capacity arising therefrom and that schemes that provide for social amelioration and consequent heavy recurring expenditure will have to be comparatively slowed down.

The Government of India have informed this Government that the expenditure tentatively approved by them on National Highways in this Province for the five-year period commencing 1-4-1947 is Rs. 2.5 crores and the Chief Engineer (Highways) has accordingly been asked to revise the proposals for works on National Highways, for the reduced allotment of Rs. 2.5 crores.

After examination of the proposals submitted by the Chief Engineer (Highways) for the revision of the programme so far as it relates to roads other

than National Highways the Government have decided that in the light of the general principles enunciated above, a five year programme costing about Rs. 7 crores might be drawn up for the present and that the question of increasing allotment may be considered, say after two years, if more funds become available.

The above allotment of Rs. 7 crores will be exclusive of an allotment of Rs. 9.90 crores for increased expenditure on maintenance of roads newly formed or improved under the post-war plan and the allotment for tools and plant which is provisionally fixed at Rs. 1.75 crores pending receipt of the report due from the Chief Engineer in regard to the possibility of reducing expenditure on tools and plant for the Department. The total allotment for the road plan for the first quinquennium of Post-War Development excluding National Highways will thus be Rs. 9.55 crores.

The available funds should distribute generally in keeping with the needs of each area in the province, 60 per cent. being allotted for works on Provincial Highways and major District roads and 40 per cent. on other District roads and village roads. In view of the curtailment of the programme it may not be possible to adhere to the target of providing road connection to all villages with a population of over 500 each. This target should however be kept in view in drawing up the revised programme.

The Chief Engineer has been requested to draw up a revised five-year plan and a project estimate in accordance with the above instructions and with the instructions issued by the Government from time to time in regard to individual works and fix priority for the works and submit them for the approval of Government as expeditiously as possible and in any case not later than 31st March, 1947. As the works have to be taken up for execution immediately, plans and estimates for the more urgent of them which will in any case find a place in the revised programme should be prepared concurrently with the revision of the programme, generally in keeping with the order of priority that might be allotted for the works in the revised programme. This programme may be drawn up on the basis of the pre-war estimates plus 75% increase as was done in the case of the original programme or pre-war rates plus 80 per cent as proposed by the Government of India in the case of National Highways, whichever is considered convenient. The detailed estimates should however be drawn up on the basis of the current schedule of rates except in the case of large projects in respect of which the suggestion of the Government of India in para 7 of their letter P.L. 12 (102), dated 21-9-46 should be adopted if suitable.

Bonus for Short-Term Crops

Issued on November 8

To encourage the cultivation of short-term crop of paddy, the Government sanctioned in G.O. No. 525, dated 5-7-46 the grant of bonus at the rate of Re. 1 per maund for paddy delivered to the Government or their procuring agents from the 1st September, 1946 to the 15th November, 1946. They also decided that the short term paddy classified as third sort should be paid for at the rates fixed for paddy, second sort. Due to delay in the receipt of supplies in the rivers Kuruvai and other short term crops was unavoidably delayed by about 3 to 4 weeks. The harvest which used to be completed by the end of October is likely

to drag on till about the middle of November. It has been represented that the cultivation and harvest of Kuruvai was delayed due to causes beyond the control of the ryots and that as the orders of the Government stand at present the bulk of the ryots will not be eligible for the concessions. The Government are, therefore, pleased to direct that producers of short-term crops who expect to reap it before the 30th November may send a written intimation by registered post or through messenger to the Taluk Supply Officer before 16-11-46 of the quantities and varieties of grain they propose to deliver before the close of November and to obtain the Supply Officer's acknowledgement. Ryots who file such intimation and who deliver paddy in pursuance thereof before the evening of 30-11-46, will be eligible for the bonus of Re. 1 per maund so delivered. Payment of second sort price will also continue for such deliveries. It is hoped that the ryots will take full advantage of it and deliver all the short-term paddy they wish to sell before the end of this month.

New Electric Connections

Issued on Nov. 9.

In order to conserve materials for the war effort, supply of electricity to new consumers had to be confined to essential military and civil needs. Although these Restriction and Control Orders over electric supply to domestic and industrial services are being gradually relaxed throughout the province, it has not been possible to give supply to new loads in the Madras City and suburbs owing to the over-loaded position of the M.E.S.C. power-house. After carefully considering measures to augment the plant capacity of the M.E.S.C. power-house with a view to improve electric supply in the City of Madras, the Government are now glad to announce that some amount of relaxation of the restrictions on supply to new domestic and small industrial loads is now possible.

New domestic services in the areas served by the M.E.S.C. Ltd., will be permitted to the extent of the monthly quotas indicated below:—

- (1) Madras 300; (2) Alandur 8; (3) Villivakkam 4; (4) Tiruvottiyur 4; (5) Sembium 6.

Applications now pending with the M.E.S.C. Ltd., and the other four electric supply undertakings, including applications for which permits were refused in the past, will now be taken up in the order of priority for sanction of supply, and no new applications are necessary in such cases. Preference will, however, be given to wired buildings ready for immediate connection. Special permits will also be given in cases of special hardship.

In the case of applications for industrial loads, it will be necessary to establish essentiality in individual cases excepting in the case of loads already accepted by Government as essential for civilian purposes such as agricultural pumping. Intending applicants for industrial loads are advised to apply either to the Director of Industries and Commerce or to the Collector of Madras or Chingleput district in the first instance for the necessary essentiality certificate.

Accelerated Wells Scheme

Issued on Nov. 9.

Wells in villages in the absence of seasonal rains, are the *sine qua non* for the progress of agriculture (Continued on Page 25)

PREMIER DEFENDS TEXTILE POLICY

Sri T. Prakasam, Prime Minister, Madras, issued a press statement on 12-11-46.

In the detailed press statement issued by me on the 11th October, 1946, I have already dealt with all the criticisms which had been made in the press and on the platform up till then. The object of this statement is to deal with the criticisms which have been advanced since then.

As regards the recent debate in the Council of State on Sir N. Gopalaswami Iyengar's resolution suggesting that the development of the cotton textile industry should be controlled by the Centre on an all-India basis changing completely the existing legal position in this respect, it will be sufficient for me to say that no Central Government, much less the present Interim Government, is likely to take any action in the matter without consulting the Provinces, and that this Government need deal with the matter only if and when their views on that resolution are invited by the Interim Government.

2. I shall deal in a separate statement with the criticisms which have been made on the basis of the alleged possible repercussions of the Government's policy on the production of cotton in this province. In this statement, I shall dispose of all the other criticisms which call for any reply. These may be summed up as follows:—

Having regard to the actual progress made by the All-India Spinners' Association so far, there can be no room for any great optimism in regard to the success of the Government's khadi scheme.

Khadi cannot make any appreciable headway because under Section 297 of the Government of India Act, 1935, dumping of mill cloth by mills outside this Province cannot be prevented.

Those who have advanced the former point have been good enough to add that khadi can continue to be a valuable subsidiary cottage industry for our village folk, most of whom are agriculturists. This is mere lip service to khadi and those critics have not attempted to indicate precisely what they consider to be the possible limits of development of this subsidiary cottage industry and they have not asked themselves whether any sincere attempt can be made to realise its potentialities in the absence of the necessary psychological atmosphere. As Mahatma Gandhi has forcefully pointed out, if we have faith in khadi and recognise its special merit and suitability for a country like ours, where the masses of the people have no near prospect of more remunerative and useful employment, neither the erection of new mills nor the expansion of the existing mills considered as feasible under the post-war plan in the near future can affect this picture. We should act according to the conviction and it is idle to expect the villagers to take to khadi seriously while things are done to make them believe that their cloth requirements will be met by increased production of mill cloth and that they can afford to take decreasing interest in hand-spinning. Further, villagers will also suspect the scheme as they will think that they are being asked to be content with khadi while the fine mill cloth is being made for towns. It would be more frank for the critics to state that mills should be developed as

rapidly as possible and this "valuable subsidiary" left to the care of faddists fighting a hopeless battle and patronised in a harmless way by the Government and the people without undue concern.

This line of criticism does also less than justice to the work of the All-India Spinners' Association which has been fighting the battle for khadi single-handed, against very heavy odds and formidable difficulties, created not only by previous Governments but also by vested interests.

These critics may have ignored also the production of khadi by private agencies not certified by the All-India Spinners' Association. The results achieved by this Association even in a district like Coimbatore, where numerous textile mills have been functioning, fully justify the Government's optimism regarding the success of their schemes under the very favourable conditions which will be created as a result of the policy declared by them.

The real fallacy in the line of arguments adopted by these critics is to be found in the fact that they do not realise that this Government's scheme is the first large-scale khadi programme initiated on the direct responsibility of a Government run by the representatives of the people and that the programme will be pursued with all the vigour and drive which a Government administrative machinery can contribute. What can be achieved under such a programme in the future cannot therefore be judged on the basis of the naturally more limited progress achieved by the All-India Spinners' Association under conditions which would have damped the enthusiasm of any but this band of enthusiasts who have devoted their lives to the cause of khadi. The service and guidance of these tried workers have kindly been made available for the working of the Government's khadi scheme and this surely is another vital factor which the critics have to take into account. That the Government's textile policy is justified will be evident from the fact testified to in the report of the Fact-Finding Committee appointed by the Central Government that, thanks to the negligible production of mill yarn in the Punjab so far, hand-spun yarn accounts for nearly 60% of the cotton cloth produced in that province. If the picture is different in our province and hand-spun yarn accounts for less than three-fourths per cent. of hand-woven cotton cloth, the reason is to be found in the growth of textile mills which has been allowed so far here.

As for the second line of criticism based on the possibility of dumping of mill cloth in this province, I would point out that, under the present conditions, the distribution of cloth is controlled on an All-India basis and that the question of dumping of mill cloth in any area cannot arise at all. The application of the argument based on Section 297 of the Government of India Act can, therefore, arise only in regard to the post-control period, and such an argument must obviously be examined on the basis that, under the Government's programme there will be growing enthusiasm for khadi among the people of

(contd. on the next page.)

REVISED TEXTILE CONTROL

SOME MODIFICATIONS

A brief account of the revised textile control measures as adumbrated in G.O. No. 2826, dated July 23, 1946, was given in the "Madras Information" of October 19. The Village, Taluk, Town and District Committees for food, formed earlier, were to be enlarged, so as to control the distribution of mill cloth as well, by the addition of Textile Control Officers and representatives of handloom weavers, master-weavers and dealers in yarn and cloth. But on further consideration, the Government decided that it was not necessary to have representatives of master-weavers and of dealers in yarn and cloth on any of these committees, and the previous order was accordingly modified by G.O. No. 3297, dated the 27th August, 1946. A further modification was effected by a subsequent G.O. The previous orders had stipulated that handloom weavers' representatives on the committees should be nominated by recognized weavers' organisations functioning in the area. But it was brought to the notice of the Government that suitable weavers' organisations did not exist in all areas in the province. Consequently, in order to ensure a uniform procedure throughout the Province, it was directed in G.O. No. 3571, dated the 18th September, 1946, that the weavers' representatives on all the committees including the Madras City Committee should be elected by the remaining members of those committees.

(Continued from the previous page)

this province. To the extent to which there is such enthusiasm and corresponding production of khadi, there would be so much less demand for any other cloth from sources outside this province. Cloth from these outside sources will come into this province only to the extent of the demand for it, as no mill-owners or dealers outside this province will be willing to make a gift of their cloth to this province. It will thus be clear that, quite apart from the action that the Government can take in the matter to safeguard the interests of a cottage industry which they regard as of vital importance, the purchasing agencies in this province will, in their own interests, regulate their purchases of cloth produced outside the province with reference to what can be sold here. I would also point out that, since the commencement of All-India textile control, imports into and exports of cloth from provinces have been effectively controlled and it is quite wrong to assume that this position will not continue. It is also wrong to assume that the legislative changes necessary for giving adequate powers to the provinces for dealing with any situation anticipated in the post-control period will not be made in time. There is every reason to think that such changes will be among those which will be considered and decided by the Constituent Assembly whose deliberations will commence shortly. If any such changes are necessary even before the expiry of the textile control period, they will undoubtedly be pressed for and obtained. Neither the Government, nor the provincial Legislature nor the public of this province, are likely to acquiesce in a state of affairs in which programmes and policies accepted as sound and beneficial to the province cannot be successfully implemented.

Eloquent Figures

(By M. K. Gandhi)

When Shri S. Venkateswaran, the Provincial Textile Commissioner of Madras was in Delhi specially for the purpose of the Madras Khadi scheme, I asked him to give me his own figures on the assumption that Madras had no mills and had to clothe the whole Presidency in Khadi.

Here are the figures which speak for themselves:

"Population of Madras Province"	53 millions
Number of families in the Province	13.25 millions
53,000,000	

Quantity of hand-spun yarn that each spinner can spin every day, working 1 hour per day.	3/8 of a hank
Total quantity of yarn that will be produced per family per month of 30 working days:	11-1/4 hanks
3.8 x 30 = 90.8	

(One spinner for each family)	135 hanks
Production of hand-spun yarn per family per annum:	9.64 lbs or 10 lbs roughly, equal to 30 yds. of cloth (width 44" average).
= 12 x 11-1/4 = 9-9/14 =	

Total production of Khadi cloth in the Province	30 x 13.25 =	397.5 million yds.
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Quantity of Khadi cloth required for clothing the entire population at 20 yds per adult and 10 yds. per child	740 million yds.
37 million x 20 =	160 million yds.
16 million x 10 =	900 million yds.

Percentage of production to the requirements of cloth	44.1%
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"It seems to follow that we cannot get enough hand-spun yarn for meeting the cloth requirements in full unless each family contributes a spinner working, in the average, for about 2 1/4 hours daily or unless we can secure about five spinners for every two families in the Province.

Handlooms Required

On the assumption that an average weaver, even after due training cannot weave more than five yards daily, or 125 yds. per month (allowing five days every month, for festivals and other days of rest) the number of looms required for the production of 900 million yards is 6,00,000. The number of handlooms weaving cotton yarn in this province now is only a little over 5,00,000. The number of cotton yarn looms will therefore have to be increased by at least 7,500 to make the Province self-sufficient in terms of Khadi. Is it extravagant to expect every five persons out of eight to spin one hour per day, say for love of the country of their birth?

PROHIBITION NEWS

Kurnool

The events following the introduction of prohibition in this district were characterised by the willing co-operation by the public to make prohibition a success. The happenings at Maddikera and Kothakota villages in this district deserve particular mention.

A propaganda meeting was arranged by the Special Development Staff at Maddikera. At the meeting, particular reference was made to the responsibility of the public in making prohibition a success by co-operating with the Government staff. The meeting had the desired effect. That very night a band of young men went about on detection work and unearthed nearly 400 pots of fermented wash in nearby fields. The Erukulas who were found responsible for this crime gave a solemn assurance that they would no more take to illicit drinking and have since then converted themselves into an *ad hoc* Vigilance Committee and have been carrying on a tearing campaign for the detection of I.D.



When Prohibition was first introduced in Salem toddy shops were converted into tea shops.

Tempting Echoes Across Tungabhadra

Kothakota Village lies on the borders of the Nizam's Dominions. The river Thungabhadra divides Kothakota from Rajole in the Nizam's Dominions where traffic in liquor has been going on at full blast and the noise of revelry at the toddy shop of Rajole is echoed across the river Thungabhadra tempting the ex-addicts of Kothakota village. To prevent the ex-addicts from falling a prey to the drink evil again, the leading men of the village have organised bhajanas as a counter-attraction to drink, an *ad hoc* Committee consisting of representatives of different communities has been formed. The members of this committee are required to visit all the houses in their ward to find out if anybody had been to Rajole and to prevent liquor crimes. The local Weavers' Society has deputed 2 of its employees after office hours for this detection work. This arrangement is having a marvellous effect on the ex-addicts. The villagers of Kothakota, particularly of the weaver community who were notoriously addicted to drink, have been completely weaned from the drink evil, despite the inviting noise of the liquor shop across the river at Rajole.

Maddikera and Kothakota have thus earned their first laurels and have given a proper lead in the cause of prohibition in this district.

Counter-attraction

The sudden stoppage of alcoholic drinks which was said by some obstinate drunkards to produce ill-effects on the social and physical activities of the drinking public has brought about a change for the better. The ex-addicts look cheerful, happy and contented. Even the sceptics have begun to realise that the non-consumption of intoxicating liquors has made the drunkards more active and energetic. Time spent in drink is being utilised in a feverish search for employment and betterment of life.

REFRESHMENT STALLS:—Out of 210 stalls proposed to be opened in this district 102 stalls were opened upto the end of October 1946.

GRAMASANGHAMS:—Steps were taken for the formation of Gramasanghams and Taluk Prohibition Committees.

THRIFT:—An intensive thrift campaign has been set on foot. The Kurnool District Co-operative Central Bank has agreed to prepare 2,000 hundi boxes for distribution to Co-operative Societies and others anxious to save. The Weavers Societies were persuaded to enhance the rate of thrift fund collections from one anna to two annas in the rupee of wages paid.

PARKS AND ENTERTAINMENTS

A park was opened at Markapur by the Panchayat Board on 2-10-46. Proposals are on hand for opening parks at other suitable centres in the district.

A site has been selected at Markapur to provide entertainment to the ex-addicts by starting a Cinema. Tenders have been called for and the matter is pending with the Tahsildar, Markapur.

Bhajanas were organised at Markapur, Giddalur, Kothakota, Kodumur and a few other centres in the district.

Just a month has elapsed since the introduction of prohibition in this district and the results achieved though not very spectacular are encouraging and bid fair for a prosperous future.

Salem

The first fortnight following the reintroduction of prohibition in the Salem district has been a period of marked and intense preparatory activities both on the ameliorative and preventive sides. Great enthusiasm prevails in villages over the closure of toddy shops. Ex-addicts and other families, especially womenfolk, greet prohibition with immense relief and joy. The economic benefits of prohibition are observable even at this early stage amongst ex-addicts and their families. Money formerly going to the toddy shops is now coming in for the benefit of the family and such saving is being utilized for the purchase of new cloth and other requirements. The general impression gathered by the Special Development Officer from the ex-addicts and the general public during his tour extending over forty villages and towns goes to show that prohibition has this time come to stay. The people are appreciative of its beneficial results and the ex-addicts are being successfully weaned from their old habits by intensive amenities programme and supply of tea, coffee, spiced jaggery water and other refreshments. From reports so far received 234 refreshment stalls have been opened for ex-addicts in places where toddy shops



3
And play-grounds in the park.

were running previously. Different kinds of amenities, such as gramophone songs, radio, kummi, kolat-tam, bajaranas, street dramas, folk dances, etc., etc., are provided for in addition to chadu-gudu and other sports. Free admission has been arranged for some of the poor ex-addicts in the cinemas running at Salem, Namakkal, Mallur, Omalur, Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri, Paramathi, Velur and Tiruchengode. Enquiries made during the inspection of these refreshment stalls reveal that some of the ex-addicts enjoy better food and more comfortable and peaceful home life. Some have purchased new dhoties, shorts, blankets, sarees for their family and frocks for children in the Omalur and Harur area. A few of them purchased kids and pullets in the Salem area.

Savings Drive

Arrangements are being made with the Salem Central Bank for making 4,000 hundi boxes to inaugurate thrift and savings drive in select villages, where co-operative societies are working fairly well.

Jobs For Ex-Toddy Tappers

Statistics of ex-toddy tappers are being taken to fit them in suitable employment. A meeting of ex-toddy tappers was convened at Ayodipatnam at which the co-operative colonization scheme and jaggery production Scheme were explained by the Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies and the Special Development Officer. The District Superintendent

(contd. on the next page.)



2

And village parks were provided with radio installation

FOOD FACTS

1. Nine months ago, India faced a deficit of 7,000,000 tons, representing over 10% of the country's normal production per annum.

2. Of this deficit she asked for 4,000,000 tons from abroad, but has got so far only 1,500,000 tons of wheat and other grains, and 250,000 tons of rice, making a total of 1,750,000 tons, which is less than half of what was asked for.

3. These imports have cost India Rs. 91 crores. The Government have, in addition, incurred an expenditure of Rs. 15½ crores to cover the difference between the cost price of the imports and the prices prevalent in India. The total cost thus exceeds Rs. 100 crores.

4. 3,800,000 tons have been obtained through internal procurement, which is more than double the imports. Encouraging as it is, this is but a small fraction of the available surplus.

5. **MADRAS HAS BEEN ABLE TO PROCURE 44% of the SURPLUS OF INDIVIDUAL PRODUCERS, WITH BOMBAY COMING NEXT WITH 60%.**

6. The progress, achieved in rationing is phenomenal. In March 1943 only 2 million people were rationed; to-day 150 million people are under ration. 50 million urban people are completely rationed, while 100 millions of the rural population are under controlled distribution.

Upto the beginning of October, 771 towns and rural areas have been rationed. In addition, 420 more towns with a population of 5.5 million in the urban and rural areas are expected to be rationed shortly.

7. As for the fixation of prices, no case can be made for a higher price, considering that with August 1939 as the base, the price of rice has risen 322%, wheat 373%, sugar 169%, cotton 192% and jute 227%.

8. From the Grow More Food Campaign, only 4,000,000 tons or 1/5th of the total produce is expected. Half a maund extra per acre of the 240,000,000 acres under cultivation should enable India to attain this target in five years.

9. During the week ended October 24, 15,900 tons of rice, 4,350 tons of maize, 2,600 tons of millets, and 12,200 tons of barley were received from overseas.

(contd. from the previous page.)

of Police spoke on salient features of the Prohibition Act and appealed for the co-operation of the public.

Rural Uplift Sangams, Village Officers' Firka Sangams, Co-operative Societies and Taluk Uplift Associations are associating themselves enthusiastically with the ameliorative and propaganda aspects of the prohibition drive. Firka tournaments and inter-village tournaments have been arranged in some areas and prizes awarded to the winners.

Coimbatore

(1) Public meetings were held at Tiripur (Bhavani taluq), Kavundapadi, Athani, Ulagadam, Kallipatti, Srivelur and Kurumandur under the presidency of the Collector, F. W. A. Morris, Esq., I.C.S.

(2) At a meeting of the District Food Committee held on 29-10-46 under the presidency of the Collector, it was decided that coconut sweet-juice should not be allowed to be tapped lest it should affect the enforcement of prohibition adversely.

(3) The District Committee constituted a Sub-Committee for running Rural Uplift Schools in the district.

(4) The refreshment stall at Tiripur (Bhavani taluq), attracts about 300 ex-drinkers daily while that at Maniyampalayam draws 200 ex-drinkers for refreshments.

(5) 50 co-operative societies have been organised for the manufacture of palmyrah jaggery and nearly Rs. 6,000 of share-capital have been collected.

Vellore

(1) The Tea Marketing Expansion Board has opened two more stalls at Vellore for providing free tea to ex-drinkers. 300 cups of tea are supplied in these two shops daily.

(2) Rural sports on an elaborate scale were conducted at Karal near Ranipet. The gramasangham contributed from its funds for prizes which were given for the sports.

(3) A new Poultry Farm was opened at Arni by Mrs. De Velois of the Katpadi Agricultural and Poultry Farm, when propaganda was done by the Special Development Officer for prohibition and hundi box savings.

Anantapur

(1) The Deputy Commissioner of Prohibition (Amelioration) inaugurated the hundi box scheme at Gooty, Anantapur, Dharmavaram and Doddagetta.

(2) The ex-toddy tappers of Doddagetta with the aid of a few professionals entertained the ex-drinkers of the village as well as others with a dramatic performance. The President of the District Board presided over the function and the Deputy Commissioner of Prohibition (Amelioration) and the Sub-Collector at Penukonda attended the function.

(3) The Manager of the Sisal Factory near Penukonda has offered to employ 150 toddy-tappers on work connected with the factory.

(4) The organisation of a co-operative society with some of the ex-drinkers at Gooty as its members for the supply of milk to Gooty has been taken on hand.

(5) The organisation of a co-operative building society at Guntakkal which is likely to provide employment for ex-toddy tappers has also been taken up.

(6) The possibilities for the organisation of societies for the manufacture of date-jaggery are under consideration.

(7) The Anantapur Municipality is considering proposals for opening additional parks and installing more radios within the Municipal limits. A Welfare Centre for its scavengers and a House Building Scheme are also under its consideration.

(8) The Athletic Association at Anantapur is reviving tournaments in hockey and foot-ball and proposes to commence a fresh tournament in chadugudu.

(9) The High School at Guntakkal is making arrangements to instal a new radio in its premises.

(10) The first Rural Uplift School in Anantapur district is proposed to be started at Gooty on the 15th of November.

INCREASE IN RICE RATION LIKELY

The following Statement was issued by the Hon'ble Premier on the Food Situation on November 11.

Towards the middle of September, the rice stocks were getting low and it was considered doubtful if it would be possible even to maintain the 8 oz. ration of rice. The suggestion was made that the rice portion of the ration should be cut still further to 6 oz. I was reluctant to take that step until all other methods had been tried and our local resources had been fully mobilised. In fact such a cut had been ordered in the district of Malabar but I returned in time from Delhi to stop it. I therefore made an appeal to the producers to reduce their requirements to 12 oz. of rice per adult per day and sell as much paddy or rice as they could spare to the purchasing agents of the Government. In recognition of this sacrifice I authorised the payment up to 31-10-1946 of Rs. 2 per maund of paddy or Rs. 3 per maund of rice over and above the price fixed for purchases from producers. This was inclusive of the bonus of Re. 1 per maund of short term paddy delivered in September and October upto the middle of November. I also ordered that paddy or rice which was classified as 3rd sort should be paid for at the rates fixed for 2nd sort.

The response of the producers has been magnificent. The quantity of paddy and rice sold to the Government between 12-9-1946 to 31-10-1946 amounted to 1,59,611 tons in terms of rice. The present stocks of rice and paddy represent the requirements of a little over six weeks. I thank the producers for their splendid co-operation and assure the consumers that there will be no further reduction in the rice portion of the ration.

I am not of course content with this and am anxious to raise the rice ration as soon as possible. The time for the grant of bonus for the short term crop has been extended to the 30th of November. All producers may send or file declarations to the Taluk Supply Officers before 16-11-1946 of the quantities they intend to sell before 30-11-1946, and those of such declarations will be entitled to the bonus of Re. 1 per maund of paddy and for rice at the second sort rate. I expect that in consequence all the crop which has been recently harvested will come under Government control by the end of November. The Government of India have made further allotments of rice from Central Provinces and Orissa. They have begun to move and the rice should reach the province by the end of this month. If these expectations are realised it should be possible to raise the rice ration in December. I shall continue to watch the position and shall raise the rice content of the ration as soon as possible.

A Mischievous Report Contradicted

THE Government have seen a report published in the 'People's Age' dated September 22, 1946 under the captions "In Madras Province—Under Prakasam Ministry—Where the blackmarketeers flourish and workers' leaders are jailed".

The main allegation made in the report is that specific instances of hoarding of cereals had been brought to the notice of the authorities and that culprits had been let off without being punished.

The Government wish to state in this connection that the statement made by the 'People's Age' contains half-truths and untruths which could well have been avoided by a reference to the local authorities.

The house of Mr. M. K. Ramaswamy Aiyer in Madura (the person referred to in the 'People's Age') was searched on June 29, 1946 and 34 bags 12 m.m. of rice were seized. He was prosecuted for the offence under the Madras Essential Articles Restriction Order and sentenced to a fine of Rs. 200 by the Stationary Sub-Magistrate, Madura Town.

On the information supplied by a member of the Communist Party to the Collector of Madura that a hidden stock of 6,000 bags of cereals existed in the adjoining villages of Madura Town, all the adjacent villages were raided by the Grains Purchase Tahsilidar, Firka Supply Officer and the District Supply Officer, Madura.

No large hidden stock, as alleged by the Communist informant could be traced except in a few cases in Pedambu village and the surplus stock found therein, 371 bags of paddy, has been procured. Thus to say that 6,000 bags of hoarded cereals had been discovered by the authorities on the information furnished, is incorrect and exaggerated.

Whenever any information is received by the local authorities from any source, it is the considered policy of the Government to take quick action. In accordance with this policy, in Madura, to take but one example, 460 bags were procured from several ryots in the months of July and August 1946 in the villages of Tehnur, Umachikulam, Vairananathan, Koilpappagudi, Senagannathur, Paranani and Ambalathi. These villages lie in the border of Madura Town.

In addition to these timely steps to stamp out hoarding of cereals and profiteering, the wholesale depot of Mr. Thangappa Nadar of Madura Town was raided on July 13, 1946 and 228 bags of paddy hidden under husk were seized. The licence of the wholesale dealer has been suspended and a case has been launched against him which is sub-judice. As regards other allegations against the present Government, the Government do not propose to say anything as they are very vague.

It is the earnest hope of the Government that journals will conform to the recognised canons of journalism by taking the trouble to verify facts before they rush to the press and thus avoid publishing misleading and incorrect information.

FOOD SITUATION IN THE PROVINCE

(For the fortnight ending 31-10-46)

Prices

There was no perceptible change in the prices of foodgrains and pulses during the fortnight, but the price of chillies decreased slightly and there were slight increases in the prices of groundnut, gingelly and copra and their oils. The price of groundnut oilcake, gingelly oilcake and cotton seed remained stationary.

Rice

28,480 tons of paddy and rice in terms of rice, and 4,020 tons of millets, were procured in the fortnight ending 15-10-46. This represents a considerable rise in the procurement of rice over the figure for the previous fortnight which was 15,992 and is due chiefly to the coming of Kuruval paddy on the market in the southern districts and procurement of the Kanni crop in Malabar. Rice imports were on a small scale during the fortnight as the quotas recently allotted from Orissa and the Central Provinces had not yet started to move in large quantities. Consequently, the stock position of rice in the deficit districts of Chingleput, Coimbatore, Ramnad, Chittoor and the Ceded Districts was not satisfactory. However, the Province had in stock at the end of the fortnight six weeks' supply of rice.

Imports

During the fortnight under review the following quantities of cereals and pulses were imported from other Provinces and States and from overseas:

(a) Receipts from other Provinces and States	
Rice	.. 8,485 tons
Millets	.. 148 "
Wheat & Wheat Products	.. Nil
Pulses	.. 7,513 "
Comprising of.	
Blackgram	.. 1,155 tons
Redgram	.. 2,521 "
Greengram	.. 1,564 "
Bengalgram	.. 2,273 "
(b) Imports from Overseas	
Rice	.. 7,200 tons
Millets	.. 1,700 "
Maize	.. 20,008 "
Wheat	.. Nil
Wheat Products	.. Nil
Barley	.. Nil

Village Committees

In West Godavari district it is reported that out of the 632 village committees formed 310 have started work. It is said they have been very helpful to the Government Supply staff in procuring foodgrains.

Millets

The millets position at the end of October was not quite so satisfactory as in the middle of the month. The deterioration was due to the fact that only 1,700 tons of millets was received from Overseas against the October quota of 7,000 tons and due to the slow supply from Gwalior. The off-take has fallen slightly however and the present stocks of 28,576 tons will represent about 1½ months' supply. Stocks of maize continued to increase. The stock with the whole-

(contd. on the next page.)

Voluntary Offers of Food-Grains

FOOD MEMBER SUGGESTS COMMON POOL

In connection with a large number of offers received from persons willing to forego a part of their food rations, the Food Member, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, has issued the following statement to the Press:—

Heartening Response

One of the most heartening aspects of the acute phase of the food crisis which our country is passing through today is the magnificent manner in which individuals and areas better off than others have agreed to spare whatever food they can to relieve the distress of others. During the past few weeks surplus provinces have again reviewed their own internal requirements and have agreed to make available over 45,000 tons of foodgrains for the deficit areas, even at the risk of some danger to themselves. Thousands of individuals and voluntary organisations from different parts of the country have written to us offering to forego part of their food rations, and they have asked us what they should do with these supplies. I wish to express my gratitude to all those who have expressed their desire to effect voluntary cuts in their own rations, as well as to those who are doubtless already doing so, but have not written to Government.

Common Pool

After careful consideration of the problem from the administrative point of view, my advice to those in the rationed areas is that they should contribute to a common pool by not drawing their full-scale rations or if by any chance they have household-stocks on their hands, they should refrain from drawing rations altogether until their present stocks are exhausted. The results of their self-denial will be reflected in lower off-takes from the ration shops, and the savings thus effected will be utilised elsewhere to the best advantage.

In non-rationed areas, those who wish to donate grain should do so to local officers to be designated by the provincial Governments, or else appoint someone from their own number commanding wide respect, to collect all quantities of grain donors. When a substantial quantity has been collected, it should be delivered to an officer nominated by the Government.

Appeal to Producers

To producers in the rural areas, I renew my appeal to review the quantity they have kept for their own needs, and sell as much as they can, and as quickly as possible, either to local retailers or to the Government procurement agencies. No one will be penalised for so far withholding grain, but Government are not prepared to sanction a rise in grain prices above the levels at present in force.

Non-officials and voluntary organisations in the rural as well as in non-rationed areas, can assist me in my very difficult task by offering to collect grain from those desiring to sell even small quantities, or from those offering grain as donation, and delivering these supplies to Government officers.

HIS EXCELLENCY ENDORSES PREMIER'S APPEAL

GOVERNOR'S TOUR IN TAMIL NAD

His Excellency Sir Archibald Nye, Governor of Madras, accompanied by Lady Nye, visited Palamcottah on October 28.

At Tinnevely Junction the Governor inspected a ration shop and advised officials to do more propaganda to popularise millets.

His Excellency and party visited a cheap food canteen at Tiruvai village. Later he opened at Tinnevely Junction the Victory Memorial Arch, built in memory of the Allied victory over Germany and Japan.

Thanking Mr. J. A. D. Victoria, the donor of the arch, His Excellency said, that the arch would provide a permanent memorial to India's contribution to the victory of the Allies.

Tribute to Food Administration

Thanking the Tinnevely District Board and the Municipal Council, which presented addresses to him in the evening, His Excellency referred to the recent appeal of the Hon'ble Mr. T. Prakasam, Premier, to all cultivators to sell all they had to the Government and said he could do no better than heartily endorse the Premier's appeal. His Excellency paid a tribute to the efficiency with which the food administration of the province was being carried on.

The next function that His Excellency the Governor performed was the opening of a new building for the ex-servicemen at Palamcottah.

Sink Communal Differences

In the course of his speech at the opening ceremony, His Excellency Sir Archibald Nye said that it did not matter whether they were Hindus, Muslims or Christians. They should consider themselves as citizens of a great country. He hoped that Madras which gave a lead on many matters to the rest of India would also be in the forefront in solving communal problems.

Lady Nye's Engagements

Lady Nye visited in the morning the Hospital for Women and Children, and the Municipal Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.

His Excellency the Governor and Lady Nye visited the Pattamadai village, noted for its mat industry.

The Governor and party left for Trichinopoly in the night.

At Trichinopoly

His Excellency the Governor and party arrived at Trichinopoly on October 29 and visited the Grand Anicut.

The Engineers in charge of the anicut explained to His Excellency that the Government had sanctioned a scheme costing Rs. 28 lakhs with a view to deepen and widen the drains to prevent the submerging of the paddy fields and that they hoped to complete the work in 5 years time.

His Excellency remarked "Why not within 2 years?" and added that at the present time when they were suffering from shortage of food, they must expedite plans and methods for growing more food with a sense of extreme urgency.

He tendered the same advice to the Superintending Engineer when the latter acquainted His Excellency with another scheme under consideration for

irrigating 20,000 acres by the construction of a high level channel.

On his way back to Trichinopoly, His Excellency visited the Ariyamangalam ration shop and Co-operative Society.

Referring to the suspected existence of black-market in rice at this place, His Excellency remarked to the Collector who was with him that black-marketing should on no account be allowed and imprisonment rather than fine was the best punishment for black-marketers.

His Excellency received deputations from the Trichinopoly Rice Mill Owners' Association, and the Mirasdars' Association. His Excellency promised to consider their grievances in consultation with the Ministers.

Lady Nye visited the St. Anne's Convent Government Hospital, S.W.C.C. Centre and the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.

First Visit to Temple

In the evening after visiting the Guntur Cigar Factory, His Excellency and party proceeded to the Rock Fort Temple. After ascending to the top of the rock, His Excellency remarked that his visit to a Hindu temple was the first of its kind in his life.

His Excellency and party left for Tanjore in the night.

(Contd. on the next page.)

(Contd. from the previous page.)

Wheat By the end of the month was 34,585 tons. sales at the end of the month was 34,585 tons, but taking into account the quantities in transit, the supplies in the province would be about 45,000 tons. The off-take in September was 6,336 tons. Govt. should rise to over 10,000 tons in October. Government of India have been asked not to supply any further quantities of maize or barley to Madras. No barley was received during the fortnight.

Wheat

By the end of the month, the stock of wheat had gone down to 18,104 tons, representing 2½ weeks' supply and stocks were very low in some districts. Stocks are expected at Madras, Tuticorin, Vizagapatam and Cochin in the first fortnight of November. Maize stocks had risen to 9,795 tons by the end of the month, but the maize position continues to be unsatisfactory, since no supplies are expected in November apart from the balance of 3,000 tons due against the October quota.

Pulses

The stock position of pulses continues to improve owing to continued substantial imports of all varieties of pulses from a number of sources. During the fortnight new quotas of 2,000 tons of blackgram from United Provinces, 2,000 tons of Bengalgram from Nabha and 3,000 tons of red gram from Central Provinces were allotted to Madras.

Other Commodities

Shortage of chillies was reported in the urban areas of Trichinopoly district and matches were reported to be scarce in Vizagapatam City, Nellore district and Tanjore district. There was a fuel scarcity in Kumbakonam and arrangements had to be made to divert supplies from Mannargudi.

FIGHTING BACK THE FAMINE

FOOD RATIONING IN THE PROVINCE

Though the word "Rationing" was not much in vogue in this province or even in this country before the outbreak of the last World War in 1939, the main principle underlying it was not foreign to the people. If a family was short of its requirements, particularly in the matter of food, the adult or the senior members of the family would not ordinarily think of eating to their hearts' content, leaving the children and the weaker members to die of starvation. The available quantity would be shared by all the members and all of them would feel satisfied over the distribution, though their needs might not have been fully met. Rationing is only an extension of this principle under which all families living in a country or area, where shortage is noticed or threatened, share what is available, for the common good of all concerned. The main object of food rationing is thus to bring about an equitable distribution of the available supplies, though in the process, the consumption is brought under control and to some extent also reduced. Briefly, it can be said that rationing provides a yardstick for measuring consumption, ensures an equitable distribution, prevents a run on a commodity in short supply, releases surplus quantities for deficit areas, controls prices and restores confidence in the people.

(contd. from the previous page.)

At Tanjore

Replying to the address of welcome presented to His Excellency by the Tanjore Municipal Council on October 30, the Governor appealed to every landholder and cultivator to cut his rations by 4 oz. a day and utilise the balance to save a child, the future citizen of new India.

Help Your Neighbour

In the morning the Governor and party visited a ration shop at Ayyampet. He told the local authorities that propaganda should be done intensively to this effect, that it was the sound duty of everyone to help his neighbour in other districts, at the present day of food scarcity and not to clamour for full rice ration under the plea that Tanjore was a surplus district.

At Cuddalore

The Governor and party visited in the evening the Tanjore palace, Saraswati Mahal Library, the Industrial School, and the Big Temple.

The party left for South Arcot in the night.

His Excellency and party inspected the Government Farm at Palm, 22 miles from Cuddalore on October 31.

The Deputy Director of Agriculture and the District Agricultural Officer showed His Excellency the numerous varieties of sugarcane plants, paddy, groundnut and ragi on which experiments were being made by the experts in the farm. His Excellency remarked that the prosperity and progress of India depended on increased agricultural output and improved methods of farming.

His Excellency and party visited the Gaddilam River Anicut, the sugar factories at Nellikuppam and a rural ration shop.

Premier's Appeal Endorsed

Replying to the address of the Cuddalore Municipal Council in the afternoon, His Excellency said that he would refer the requests of the Council regarding a protected water supply to the Minister concerned. He reiterated the appeal made by the Premier to the cultivators to sell as much as they could to the Government.

His Excellency and party left for Madras in the evening.

Statutory and Informal Rationing

Rationing in this province is of two kinds, statutory and informal. The latter is also known as rural rationing. Statutory rationing was introduced in Madras City early in September 1943 and it was gradually extended to all the municipal towns of the province by the end of June 1944, and later on to the whole of Malabar district. Rural rationing, which is in force in the rest of the province, is a slightly flexible system, though essentially on the same lines as the statutory rationing. People in Madras City may perhaps recollect with horror the enormous crowds in front of grainshops in the City immediately before the introduction of rationing, trying to elbow through to the counter to get half a measure or one measure of rice, and the inevitable scramble or the stampede that followed it. Happily that state of things was not allowed to continue long, and it may be safely said that it will never recur in any part of the province, whatever may be the stock position. The entire province is now under food rationing of some form or other, and in a town at any rate, any man, woman or child has only to produce his or her card at the nearest ration shop where it is registered and get the rations, invariably in less than five minutes. Look at this picture and the one that we saw in Madras City, though for a short while, before the introduction of rationing.

Good May Come Out of Evil

It is quite likely that some people are not satisfied with the scale or quantity of rations allowed to each, or feel dissatisfied with being asked to accept some unfamiliar foodgrains like wheat, maize, or barley. Rationing started with a one pound ration per adult per day, which was also the standard set by the Foodgrains Policy Committee; but a decrease in production, due to the failure of the monsoon in one part of the province and cyclone havoc in another, coupled with an over-all deficit not only in India, but in several other countries as well, could not fail to have its repercussions on our province. The scale of rations had to be reduced from 16 ozs. to 12 ozs. with effect from the middle of February, last and the rice content of the ration was later on restricted at first to 10 ozs. and then to 8 ozs. in the case of rice eaters. The cardholders were also classified as rice eaters, millet eaters and mixed diet eaters, with reference to their dietetic habits and those coming under the last two categories had their rice rations restricted to 2 ozs. and 4 ozs. respectively, the balance of their requirements being given in the shape of millets, wheat, wheat flour (maida), sooji, maize or baker's bread. It is not that the Government are unaware of the inconvenience caused as a result of the cut in the rice rations, but it is a necessary evil, which cannot possibly be avoided. It is, however, fervently

hoped that the old saying that "there is a soul of goodness in things evil" will again prove its worth by making the people of this province wheat-minded or by compelling them to adopt a more balanced diet than what they have so far been accustomed to.

Supplementary Rations

In order, however, to prevent any baneful effects following the reduction in rations, certain precautions have been taken. Supplementary rations of 4 ozs. a day for each adult is granted to several categories of heavy manual labourers. The list is fairly long, containing as many as 400 classes of workers and includes practically all forms of labour, whether in the railway, mills, factories or elsewhere, requiring some amount of manual exertion. But this is given in the shape of wheat, wheat products and grains other than rice, except to the rice-eating heavy manual labourer who will get half of it as rice and the remaining half in other grains. In order to keep the industrial workers in their full health and vigour, the opening of special industrial canteens is being encouraged and such canteens are allowed a special quota of foodgrains at the rate of 6 ozs. for each labourer. This is in addition to his ordinary rations. This extra quantity will also be in the shape of grains other than rice except in the case of old canteens which were receiving rice as part of their rations. They will get 2 ozs. as rice and the balance in other grains. The agricultural labourer has also been provided for. A landless agricultural labourer is either fed by his employer for which necessary allowance is being made or can supplement his 12 ozs. rations with what he gets in kind as wages for casual labour. Any ryot, who cultivates lands, has been allowed to keep with him sufficient quantities of foodgrains to feed himself and his family, calculated at the rate of 16 ozs. or 1 lb. for each adult for a day. But the Hon'ble the Premier has issued an appeal to them in view of the present unsatisfactory rice position in the province to restrict their consumption to 12 ozs. per head and surrender the surplus. Seeing that an ordinary Indian has got profound faith in charity, this should make a special appeal to his generous impulses.

Austerity Measures

Side by side, several austerity measures have also been adopted to see that there is no avoidable wastage of foodgrains and that whatever stocks are available are conserved and put to the best use possible. The number of persons to be fed at any party, other than a marriage party, whether held in open air or in public halls or temples, where food in any form, including parched grain, nuts or biscuits, are served, has been limited to 30. The number of persons to be fed at marriage parties on the day of the marriage has been fixed at 50. Food in this case does not, however, include light refreshments. If there is a breach of the rule, both the host and the guests are liable to be punished. There is also a cut in the scale of rations supplied to catering establishments. No rice is now being given to non-meals hotels, coffee stalls, cafes, etc., which serve only refreshments. Their requirements are given in the shape of other grains—wheat, wheat flour, sooji, baker's bread or maize. As large quantities of maize are expected to be imported into this province, it is now obligatory on all establishments, including meals hotels to take 10% of their requirements in the shape of maize. In hotels and clubs, rice will not be served to persons taking food in the European style. All these measures are calculated to prevent wastage altogether or to reduce it to the barest minimum and make the available supplies go as far as possible. All the rationing rules have been framed with this object in view. It is difficult to achieve the object without the active co-operation of the public, who should regard it as a sacred duty to strictly adhere to the rules governing rationing. Double drawing of rations, drawing of rations in favour of absentees, or in the names of fictitious persons are all not only offences punishable under the law, but are also heinous moral crimes, which no decent society may tolerate. Will it be too much to expect the kind-hearted people of this province, who are not only imbued with a love of charity, but who are also noted for their practical and sturdy commonsense, to strictly observe these rules and restrictions, which have been framed for the greatest good of the greatest number?



Between Mr. Sivashanmugam Pillai and Mr. Prakasam is Mr. Farodia, Speaker, Bombay Assembly. An at home was given to Mr. Farodia at the Secretariat during his recent visit to Madras.

MADRAS IN PICTURES

(Every fortnight we will be publishing in these pages about a dozen pictures of the important buildings, and monuments in the city. We begin this series with the Marina.)

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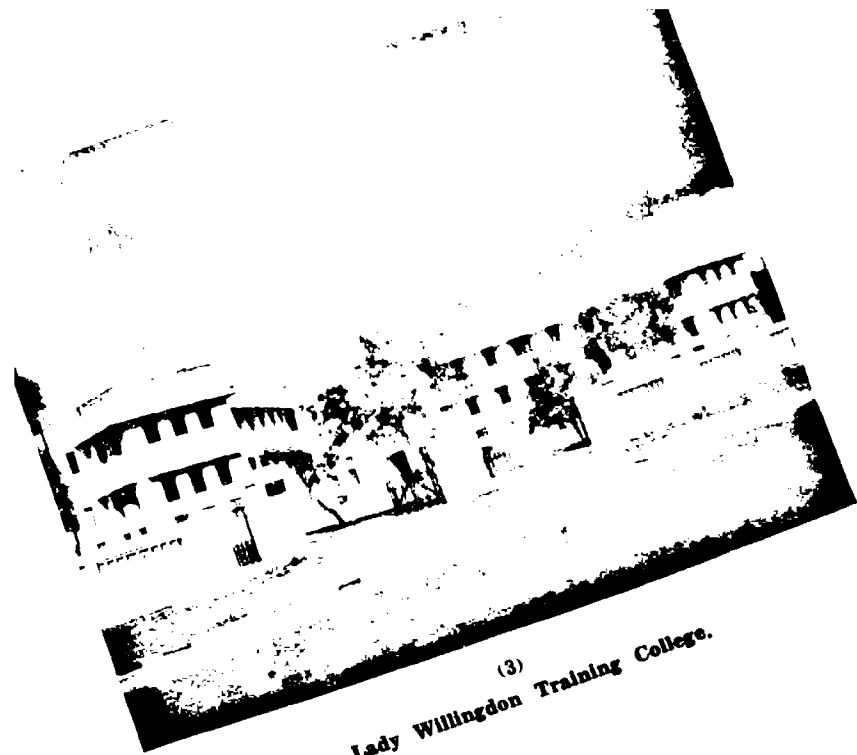
(1)

A general view of the Marina as seen from where the Queen Mary's College ends.

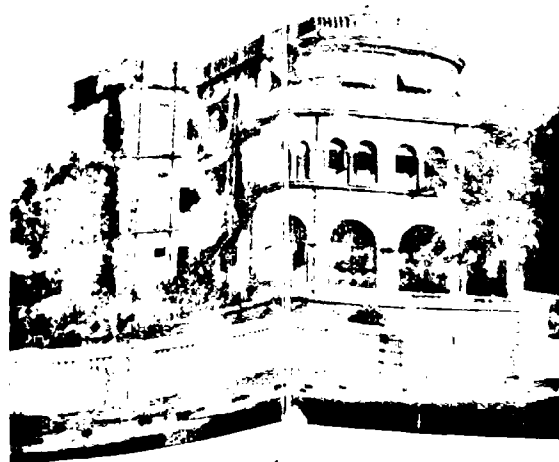


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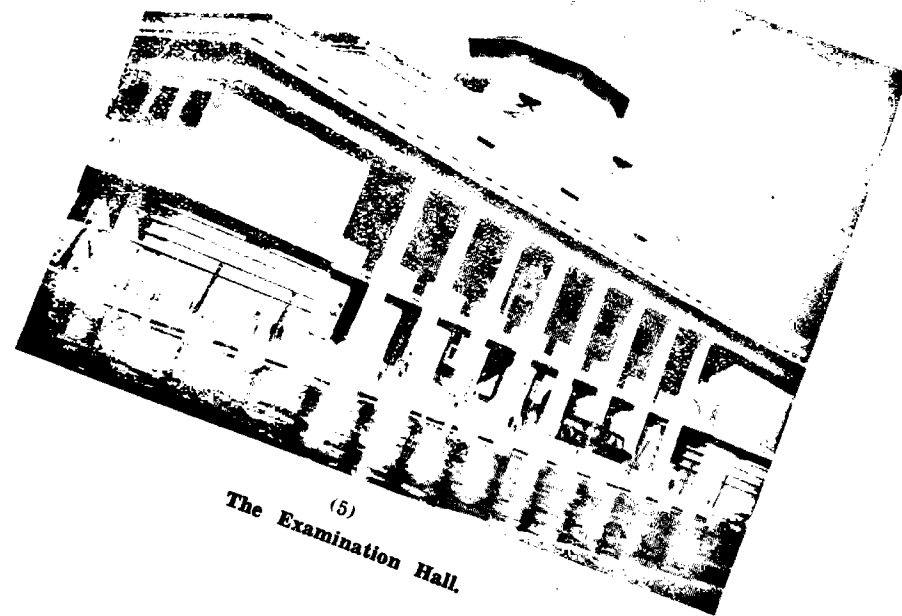
The Queen Mary's College.



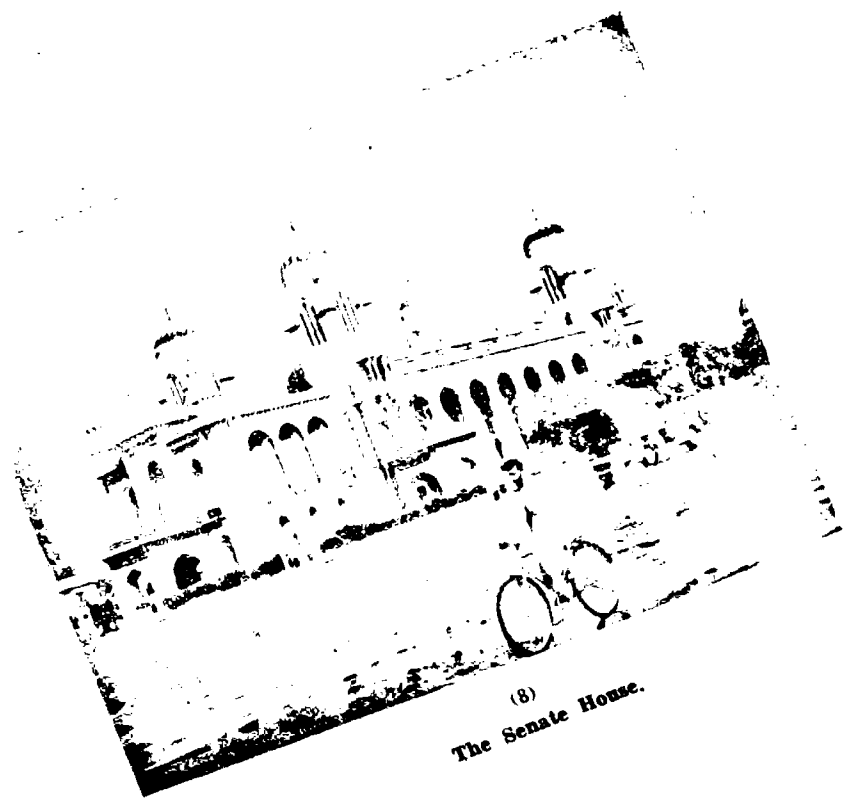
(3)
Lady Willington Training College.



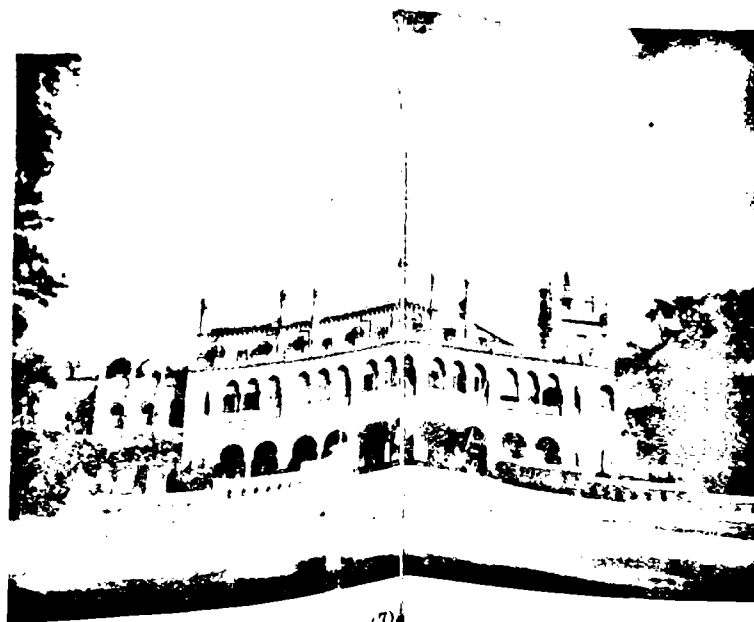
(4)
Ice House—Now Widows' Home.



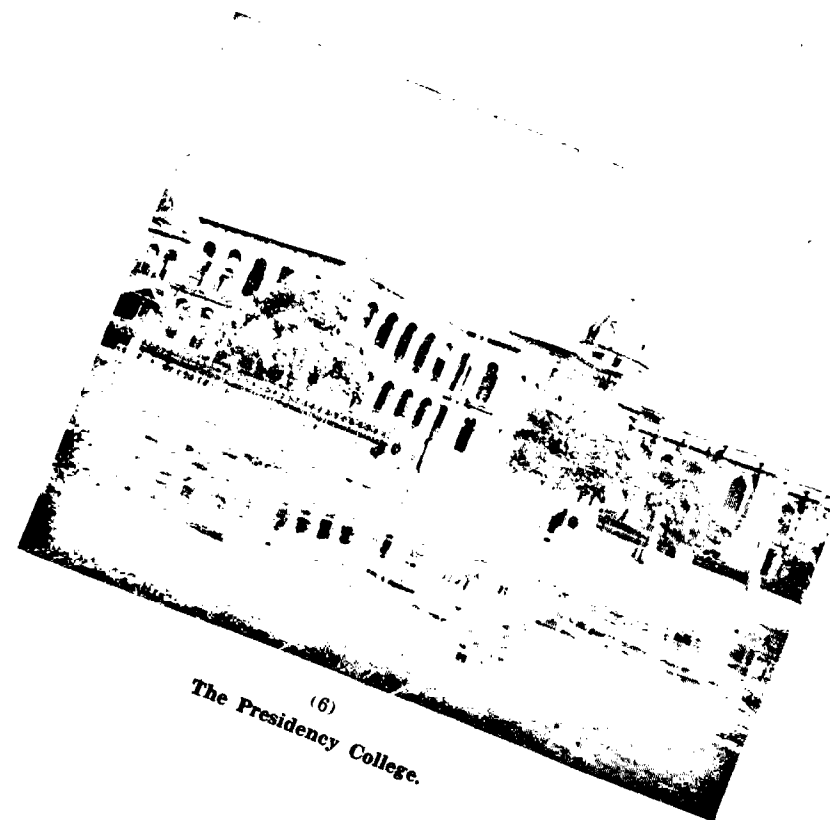
(5)
The Examination Hall.



(8)
The Senate House.



(7)
The Board of Revenue.



(6)
The Presidency College.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AT WORK

I. LABOUR

Labour Situation In the Province

The following is a report on the Labour situation in the Madras Province for the fortnight ending 31-10-46.

The Government have decided to grant an increase of 25% in the pay of all scavengers and conservancy menials, with effect from 1-8-46, and to provide for the institution of provident fund for the workers at the rate of Re. 1 per head per mensem in first and second grade municipalities and 8 annas per mensem in the others.

The Government have accepted the award of the adjudicator in the Mettur Metal Workers' Dispute, and passed orders accordingly. It has been recommended that all the workers, except those who have been actually convicted or against whom criminal cases are pending are to be re-instated. No wages will be paid for the strike period.

The enquiries into the disputes concerning Suryanarayana Spinning Mills, Ramachandra Spinning Mills, Randalapaka, and the City Motor Service, Madras, are proceeding.

The basic wage in Madura Mills Ltd. has been increased, and the rate of dearness allowance has also been revised.

The Labour Unions in Coimbatore have rejected the two months bonus offered by the S.I. Mill Owners' Association and are demanding 6 months bonus. The matter is under the consideration of the Government.

The C.S. & U. Mills at Coimbatore, which was closed from 12-9-46 was re-opened on 1-11-46. About 471 out of 3,000 workers reported for work.

The Mettur Chemical and Industrial Corporation which was closed down as a sequel to the workers' strike was re-opened on 2-11-46, following a settlement.

The Hon'ble Minister for Labour and Industries, and the Commissioner of Labour attended the All-India Labour Ministers' Conference in New Delhi.

They also visited the plantations in the Nilgiris and Wyanad areas and studied the conditions of labour.

(Continued from Page 10.)

and the Government have from time to time sanctioned subsidies to put into execution some scheme or other to sink new wells and repair old ones and deepen them.

Not quite satisfied with the progress made so far in the matter of sinking wells for the use of villagers for irrigation purposes, the Government had sanctioned a scheme known as the Accelerated Wells Scheme which envisaged quicker action in the matter.

For the period ending 30-9-46, the total amount of subsidies paid for the sinking of new wells under the above mentioned scheme is Rs. 1,85,30,748 and Rs. 47,15,578 for renovating old wells which had fallen into disuse. The number of new wells for which subsidies have been granted by the Government is 61,439. 30,563 old wells have also been subsidised.

Upto 30-9-46, 26,291 new wells have been sunk and 14,248 old wells have been repaired.

The work regarding 32,029 new wells and 14,655 old wells is in progress.

As soon as the present Ministry took up office, the Hon'ble Minister for Industries and Labour issued a statement announcing the labour policy of the Government. Therein it was stated, *inter alia*, that it was the intention of the Government to pass legislation regarding labour conditions at an early stage and appoint, if necessary a permanent machinery such as industrial courts to ensure industrial peace. It was also clearly stated that while it was not their intention to curtail the right of the workers to direct action, it was incumbent on the workers to exhaust all available methods of representation before resorting to it.

Disposal of Disputes

In accordance with this policy, six labour disputes that were pending at the time the Ministry took office, were referred for adjudication under Rule 81-A of D.O.I.R. Six other disputes that arose after the Ministry came into power were also disposed of in the same way. Among these were the disputes in the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills Ltd., and the Metal and Metallurgical Corporation Ltd., Mettur. Three disputes, including those relating to the city Hotel Workers, and the conservancy workers were referred for conciliation under the Trade Disputes Act, 1929.

A representative Committee was also set up to settle the rates of wages in the Jayalakshmi Mills, Coimbatore, the only one of its kind in the Province, using waste cotton for spinning.

Strikes Settled or Averted

Besides these major disputes, between the beginning of May and the end of October, there were 140 strikes, all over the Province which were settled by direct negotiation and by the Labour Officers and the Commissioner of Labour by conciliation.

During the same period, strike notices were served by 42 Unions of workers and prompt action was taken to settle the disputes before the expiry of these notices.

In 12 cases the Labour Department, on their own initiative, took on the memoranda of grievances received from representatives of workers and settled the demands by discussion with the employers and employees.

Courts of Inquiry Set Up

As there were frequent disputes in the textile mills in Coimbatore and Madura, the Government have appointed a court of inquiry with Rao Bahadur Mr. Venkataramayya, to examine the conditions of labour in that industry.

Another court of inquiry, with Rao Bahadur Dr. B. V. Narayanaswami Naidu, has been set up, to examine the condition of workers in the beedi and cigar factories and tanneries.

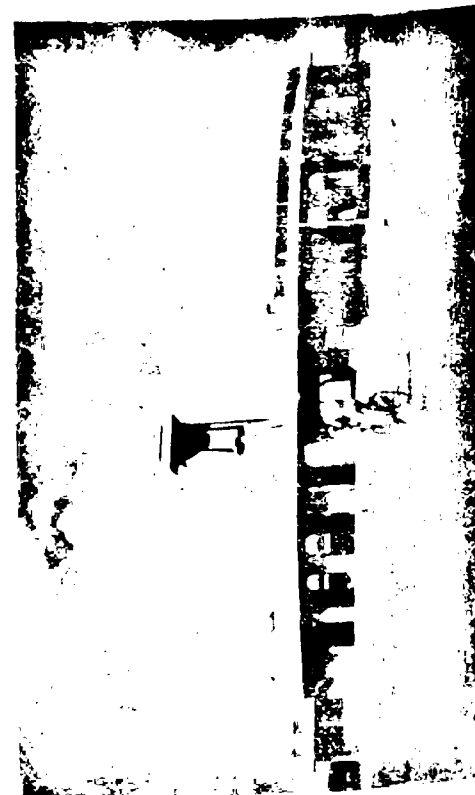
All these have been done in accordance with the policy, to which the Government is wedded, that of promoting to the maximum extent concord among, and harmony of interests of, the employers and the employees. That is the surest foundation for building up a happy and prosperous India.



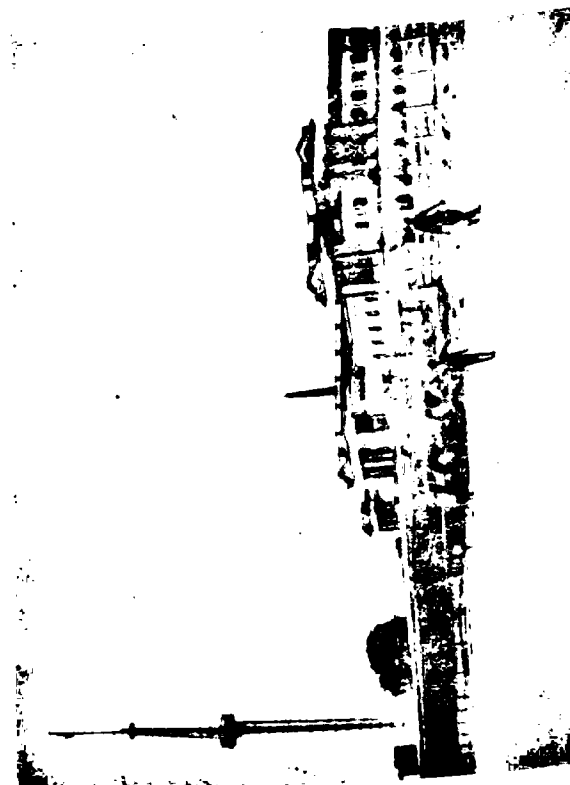
(10)
The Napier Bridge



(9)
The University Buildings.



(11)
The War Memorial (war of 1914-18).



(21)
The Secretariat

II. REVENUE

The amelioration of the lot of peasants, who are the backbone of our country, has naturally received the urgent and earnest consideration of the Popular Government. The Government expect soon to undertake legislation with a view to secure a more equitable adjustment of the rights of the tenants and the landholders. Meanwhile, with a view to give immediate relief to ryots, two pieces of interim legislation were undertaken. The preservation of Private Forests Bill sought to prevent the indiscriminate destruction of private forests, while the object of the Tenants and Ryots Protection Act was to provide for temporary protection against eviction and sale of holdings of certain classes of tenants and for the stay of suits and other proceedings relating thereto.

Inquiry into Land Tenure

An enquiry into the land tenure system has been instituted in the Province. A Special Officer of the grade of a District Collector has been appointed to conduct this inquiry. Questionnaires have been prepared, one for all the ryotwari areas excluding Malabar and South Kanara, and another for these excluded areas. Necessary legislation will be undertaken after the report is received. The Special Officer will also examine the recommendations of the committee which was set up by the previous Congress Ministry to study the working of the Malabar Tenancy Act.

To compensate the loss of revenue caused by the introduction of Prohibition, and the grant of subsidies for various food schemes, it is proposed to levy a tax on agricultural incomes. The necessary Bill is under the consideration of the Government.

An enhancement of the rates of commercial taxes is also proposed with the same end in view.

Irrigation Works

Immediately after assumption of office, the Congress Ministry ordered that estimates for repairing the Minor Irrigation works should be prepared at once. The introduction of a comprehensive irrigation

legislation is also being considered by the Government.

Village Officers' Pay Increased

When the present Ministry came into power, the Village Officers of the Province were threatening to go on strike. The Revenue Minister appealed to them not to strike and promised to look into their grievances. Accordingly an increase in their pay by Rs. 3 was granted in August.

Famine Relief Measures in Affected Areas

The seasonal conditions in Bellary and Anantapur Districts during the latter part of 1945 were far from normal. The Government had therefore undertaken famine relief measures on a very large scale. Numerous expansion works were started; gratuitous relief to the districts was granted even beyond what is prescribed in the famine code. Tinned milk was distributed free to expectant and nursing mothers and children under 8 years of age. Special grants had been made to improve drinking water supply. Depots for the supply of subsidized fodder were opened, 18 in Anantapur and 7 in Bellary.

There has been some rainfall in these two districts in October. The position has consequently improved. In 57 Works in Anantapur and 9 in Bellary were in progress in October, thus offering relief to 3,029 and 1,907 people respectively. 8 fodder shops in Anantapur have been closed, while orders have been issued for the closing down of all the seven in Bellary as demand for hill grass is decreasing.

Under the Accelerated Wells Scheme, the Government have granted an extension of time from 30-9-46 to 31-3-47 for the completion of well works, provided substantial work had been done in such cases by 30-9-46.

The scheme for the training of Village headmen which had been in operation since 1944 has been discontinued as it has not been found to be of much use.



The first plane ever to be chartered by the Government of India to take pilgrims to the Hedjaz.

PROPOSALS FOR CENTRAL LEGISLATION

LABOUR MINISTERS' CONFERENCE DECISIONS

The Provincial Labour Ministers' Conference which met in Delhi on the 14th and 15th of this month was the result of the exchange of correspondence between Mr. V. V. Giri and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who both felt that legislation of an all-India importance envisaging improvement of the working conditions of industrial and other labour should be initiated at the Centre rather than in the various provinces.

The Madras Government originally intended to introduce in the next session of the legislature the following bills:

- (1) The Industrial Disputes Bill.
- (2) The Shop Assistants Bill.
- (3) The Non-power Factories Bill.
- (4) The Maternity Benefit Bill.
- (5) The Minimum Wages (Industrial Labour) Bill.
- (6) The Minimum Wages (Agricultural Labour) Bill.

Copies of the intended legislation were sent to the Government of India. We were informed just before the Conference that the Government of India intended to undertake legislation on all these subjects and on certain other subjects indicated below.

Industrial Disputes Bill

The Government of India's bill differed from ours mainly in the following respects:

- (a) The insistence on the establishment of Works Committees.
- (b) The differentiation in regard to adjudication between public utility undertakings and other industries resulting in the need for Government notification of every industry to which adjudication was considered necessary as a public utility undertaking.
- (c) The provision in our bill for the recognition of Trade Unions which was omitted from the Central Bill.

During the discussions by the Labour Ministers, the Central Government agreed to make Works Committees permissive rather than mandatory and also agreed to make compulsory adjudication available for all industries. As regards the recognition of trade unions, the Government of India propose to amend their Trade Unions Act with a view to provide for the recognition of all representative Trade Unions. As in all these respects the Central Bill meets all our requirements the Hon'ble Minister of Industries and Labour agreed not to proceed with our bill.

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Shop Assistants' Bill and Non-Power Factories Bill

The Central Government have no intention to introduce legislation on these subjects and this Government therefore propose to proceed with the bills which have already been circulated. They will be introduced at the ensuing session of the Assembly.

Maternity Benefit Bill

The Madras Maternity Benefit Act, 1934, provides for Maternity Benefit for a total period of 7 weeks before and after confinement. It was proposed by this Government to amend this provision to make the period 9 weeks. The Central Health Insurance Bill, however, provides for Maternity Leave and Benefits for 12 weeks. It has therefore been decided to drop our amending legislation.

The Central Government raised certain other questions before the Labour Ministers' Conference.

Adequate Factory Inspection

A suggestion was made that immediate steps should be taken to strengthen the Factory Inspection Service so that each inspector might be made responsible for the inspection of not more than 150 factories a year and that the Provinces should agree to a joint Cadre of factory inspectors administered from the Centre. This Government agreed to enlarge its Factory Inspectorate as desired by the Government of India, but declined to participate in the central pool. They, however, agreed to depute their officers to the Central Institute for refresher courses and to take part in the proposed Central Industrial Museum.

Commission to Enquire into Industrial Unrest

(2) Apropos a suggestion a commission might be appointed to enquire into the causes of industrial unrest, the Hon'ble Minister from Madras explained that these causes were well known and that he did not consider it necessary to proceed with the proposed enquiry. This suggestion was accepted by all the other Ministers.

Training Facilities for Workers

3. The Central Government proposed that there should be proper training both of a vocational and an apprenticeable nature to promote efficiency, and suggested that the progress of industrial training would be accelerated if schemes for adult education were undertaken on a large scale. They also proposed the prescription of trade tests for promotion. This Government agreed with these suggestions.

Revision of Workmen's Compensation Act

4. The Central Government proposed that the Workmen's Compensation Act should be amended with a view to extending to other classes of workers

IRRIGATION SCHEMES OF MADRAS GOVERNMENT

OVER RS. 160 CRORES TO BE SPENT IN 10 YEARS

In the post-war plans of the Madras Government, as in those of some other provinces, the execution of a number of irrigation projects occupies a conspicuous place. The Government's irrigation works programme, of which the construction of a number of major and minor irrigation projects forms an integral part, has as its long-term objective the making of the province self-sufficient in regard to food. Rice is the staple food of the population of Madras, but the province does not grow enough of that commodity to enable the 50 and odd millions of its present population to have a ration of 1½ lbs. per adult, which is the minimum required for keeping him at a reasonable level of health. The area under rice cultivation in Madras province was about 10,700,000 acres in 1944-45 and the yield of rice in that year had been estimated at about 49,090,000 tons. This yield is much below the total quantity required, which is about 7 million tons, to ensure to the present population of 51 millions the quantity of ration mentioned. Allowing for a further increase in the presidency's population up to 54 millions in 1951, the quantity of rice required to feed it will be in the neighbourhood of 7.4 million tons. This means that a deficit of over 2 million tons of rice has to be

made good to provide a normal ration for the present population subsisting on rice and about 2½ million tons to meet the demand of the anticipated increase population in 1951.

Fore-Armed and Forewarned

The Government's post-war irrigation plans have been formulated with the province's needs in this respect in the forefront. They are based on the exceedingly sound principle that to be forearmed in a matter like food and to be forewarned against probable shortages in future is prudent and wise. It may be pointed out here that the level of rice production in the province has been more or less constant for the last 15 years. Twenty-five years back, the province was probably self-sufficient with regard to her rice requirements, but in recent years the gap between production and consumption has been gradually widening. At present, the gap has assumed the proportions of a chasm, which can, if at all, be bridged only by imports from abroad or from other provinces or by cutting down the ration to a sub-normal figure. Some considerable addition to food stocks in the province is indeed possible by the introduction of improved cultivation methods and by

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the benefits provided under the Health Insurance Scheme in respect of disablement and dependent's benefits. This proposal was accepted.

Industrial Houses

5. This subject was included in the Government of India's Five-Year Plan and envisages a long term and a short term plan.

The short term plan is intended to provide immediate employment to workers. It is proposed that the maximum number of houses possible should be constructed in 1946-47 and 1947-48. A Housing Commissioner would be appointed by the Central Government to advise on the housing schemes of the Provinces. The Government of India would make a grant of 12½ per cent of the cost of building each house subject to a maximum of Rs. 200 in each case, provided the Provincial Government were prepared to make an equal grant. This offer was based on an estimated cost of Rs. 1,300 per house but as no estimate of India were requested to send us further proposals after consideration.

The long term plan aims at a target of one lakh of houses for Madras. The acceptability or otherwise of this plan depends on the revised estimate.

The Health Insurance Bill

6. The Government of India proposes to introduce comprehensive legislation to ensure minimum health standards for labour. The bill provides for the construction of a Workmen's State Insurance

Corporation with an Advisory Central Board, Standing Committees and a Medical Benefit Council.

The contributions to be made through the Provincial Governments from the Workmen's State Insurance Fund will be according to the agreement reached between the State Insurance Corporation and the Provincial Governments. The contribution of the Provincial Government will also be in accordance with a similar agreement. It was roughly indicated at the conference that the cost per insured worker would be Rs. 6 of which the Corporation would give Rs. 4 leaving the balance of Rs. 2 to be contribution by Provincial Governments. This Government has undertaken to examine the bill in detail and send its considered opinion at an early date.

The Central Government also announced its intention to revise the Mines Act and introduce legislation to replace the Ordinance constituting the Coal Mines Welfare Fund. They also invited our views regarding the furtherance of employment exchange services. The Hon'ble Ministers of Madras and of certain other Provinces wanted employment exchange services to be available to all classes and kinds of labour and not to be confined to ex-service-men. This was agreed to, but a further proposal that employment exchanges should be placed under the control of Provincial Governments was deferred for consideration at a later stage, after employment exchanges have been put on a sound footing and have begun to work more satisfactorily than at present.

better manuring of the lands and so on, but they do not solve the basic problem of short and irregular water-supply for irrigation purposes, which has provided the basis for the well-known saying that Indian agriculture is a gamble in rain. The gap can be effectively and permanently filled up only by systematic development of irrigation facilities aimed at bringing an area of 4 to 5 millions of additional acreage under the rice crop.

Expert opinion has expressed itself against the possibility of making particular districts self-sufficient or to confine future projects only to deficit districts. The availability of water and the ground, soil, geographical and meteorological features of the tracts, which have considerable bearing on the development of irrigation schemes, have to be taken into consideration. The Madras Government's ten-year irrigation plan has been formulated after considering all these relevant factors.

Three Categories

The Government's irrigation projects are classified into 3 categories—i.e. major irrigation schemes intended to bring under cultivation over a lakh of acres, middle-sized irrigation schemes covering areas between 10,000 and 100,000 acres and minor schemes intended to cultivate less than 10,000 acres. The majority of the schemes naturally falls under the third category and the total area that is likely to benefit from them will be 3.7 lakhs of acres. The middle-sized schemes are expected to benefit about 4.6 lakhs acres. Under the major schemes, the most important one is the Ramapadasagar scheme for utilising the flow of the river Godavari to irrigate an extent of about 2.3 million acres lying in the Vizagapatam, Godavari, Kistna and Guntur districts. Ramapadasagar, in fact, takes rank among the biggest and grandest of irrigation projects conceived anywhere, and while its full potentialities are still under investigation, its estimated cost is about Rs. 66 crores. Among other major schemes are the Thungabhadra, the Lower Bhavani and the Gandikota schemes, which will be beneficial mainly for the irrigation of dry crops, such as millets and cotton, on about 600,000 acres. The total area that will be covered by the various projects, big and small, has been tentatively estimated to be 3.4 million acres for the whole province of Madras, but even so the total yield of rice after all of them attain fruition may still require a million more acres to be brought under the plough to satisfy the requirements of the population, as it will be in 1951.

This inevitably points to the need for exploring other avenues and means for the filling up of the gap in food resources, and in this connection a suggestion has been put forward that side by side with Ramapadasagar, a project for utilising the waters of the river Kistna also should be undertaken. It has been estimated that if the Kistna project is taken up immediately, it should be possible to irrigate from 2 to 2.5 million acres thereby. In the promotion of self-sufficiency in the food programme, the scheme should contribute very substantially.

Hurdles in the Path

It may be mentioned here that one of the major hurdles in the path of the finalisation of these projects is the political one. While engineering difficulties of a purely constructional character can be largely solved with developments in modern engineer-

ing methods and research, the lack of water supplies and the political difficulties involved in negotiating and the political difficulties involved in negotiating with zamindars, and sovereign States like Hyderabad, Mysore and Travancore for the utilisation of the waters of the rivers which flow through their territories remain. These have to be tackled earnestly and quickly to ensure satisfactory results. So far as the two major projects of Tungabhadra and Ramapadasagar are concerned, negotiations for an understanding between the Madras and the Hyderabad Governments may be stated to have been crowned with success, as a result of the conference held at ministerial level in Hyderabad in the middle of October, 1946, so that the prospect of the Madras Government proceeding with the further steps necessary in that connection has brightened up.

Government Determined

The fundamental consideration before Government as has been mentioned already is to increase the food supply in the province so that conditions such as those which supervened during the war years and have continued thereafter may not persist hereafter or arise in the future. The need is to make the province as fully self-sufficient as possible and there is no reason why the ideal should be unrealisable when facilities in the shape of immense water resources exist. That the Government are determined to achieve this end is unquestionable and they are making every effort to expedite the investigation of the various schemes, take them on to the execution stage and ensure their completion at an early date. Finance is a difficult proposition and may even appear a formidable obstacle; but as H.E. Sir Archibald Nye, the Governor of Madras, said recently in a speech at Trichinopoly, it will not be allowed to be an insurmountable obstacle to the execution of any scheme, the purpose of which is to augment food production and the potentialities of which in that regard are obvious.

Estimated Costs

It may be pointed out here that the estimated cost of the Thungabhadra project is Rs. 10 crores and that of Ramapadasagar Rs. 66 crores. The Kistna project, if it is undertaken, may involve a cost of Rs. 50 crores. The other major and minor projects, excluding the above, are expected to cost Rs. 36 crores, which means, in other words, a cost of Rs. 500 per acre. On the smaller and minor projects, the cost per acre will inevitably be higher and may well be about 1½ times to 2 times that of one major project. On the other hand, it has been officially estimated that, for irrigating an additional six million acres, the cost on all projects under contemplation, including major and minor, will be Rs. 162 crores or about Rs. 270 per acre. If the value of the anticipated increased production of rice is estimated at Rs. 100 per ton, the total income from the crop will amount to Rs. 30 crores per year. In other words, the capital expenditure on the projects will have been recovered in about five or six years' time and the schemes will begin to yield a return in about 10 years.

Finance—No Bogy

While the direct benefits derivable from the irrigation projects by the agriculturists in particular and the province in general, are thus indubitable, it will be seen that the financial implications need not be

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PLAN TO RAISE STANDARD OF LIVING OF VILLAGES

KRISHNAMACHARI COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS

Raising of the standard of living of the agricultural population to the highest possible level is the objective of the recommendations of the Prices Sub-Committee of the Policy Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, presided over by Sir V. T. Krishnamachari.

The committee recommends that the State should (i) guarantee minimum remunerative prices for selected agricultural commodities and ensure that benefits thereof reach the small cultivators and agricultural labourers; (ii) prevent the prices of such commodities from exceeding specified maxima, granting relief to persons with low incomes by subsidies on consumption, and (iii) undertake simultaneously a wide variety of other measures of agricultural and general economic development, accompanied by a complementary policy for maintaining adequate employment, income and purchasing power.

Fixing of Fair Prices

The committee has laid down specific provisions for determining fair prices and maximum and minimum prices of agricultural commodities. The maximum and minimum prices, the committee says, should be enforced by the State by regulating the internal and foreign trade, rents and wages, acreage under crops, building up of reserve stocks etc. The policy of price fixation should be applicable to major food crops—rice, wheat, jowar, and bajra—and major commercial crops—cotton, jute and sugarcane. The prices of animal husbandry products should be regulated on a regional basis by provincial and State Governments. Early steps should be taken to provide adequate cold storage facilities and refrigerated transport for such products.

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elevated into a bogey. There will be considerable increase in the public revenue from land revenue while the indirect benefits to the province from sales tax, income-tax etc. will be substantial. The inherent capacity of these projects to pay their way in a short period of time being assured, the method of financing them need not cause much concern and it has been suggested that they can be financed from both current revenues and loans. As the programme of work will be spread over 10 years, experts have estimated that the amount to be found every year should not at all be beyond the resources of the local Government.

The committee has recommended the setting up of the following administrative machinery for carrying out its recommendations:

An All-India Agricultural Prices Council to lay down price policy with a Price Determination Commission to fix minimum and maximum prices and a Committee Corporation to enforce these prices and a bureau of economics and statistics for collection, analysis and interpretation of necessary data.

Administrative Set-up

Pending implementation of these recommendations, the Government, the committee suggests, should, without delay (a) establish a bureau of economics and statistics for the collection of reliable data, (b) and procure the necessary reserve stocks of the food grains selected for price fixation, namely rice, wheat, jowar and bajra, (c) construct the necessary storage accommodation, (d) select in collaboration with provinces and States suitable trade or other agencies for carrying out purchase and sale operations, and (e) appoint a small skeleton staff for the work in connection with the setting up of the All-India Agricultural Prices Council.

Until the administrative machinery is established, the system of work developed by the different Governments should be continued with such modifications as may be necessary in the light of the principles recommended.

Concerted Action Necessary

In a statement, Sir V. T. Krishnamachari, Chairman of the committee, says: "The aim is to raise to the highest possible level the standard of living of all classes of the population dependent on agriculture. This can only be achieved by all the Governments in India steadily pursuing a dynamic policy of revitalizing all the inter-related sides of rural life—a policy which will radically change the outlook of the villager and give him the will to live better."

The report envisages a wide and varied programme of development to be organized and executed with substantial Government assistance, to produce an "economy of abundance." The committee emphasizes that isolated measures will prove ineffective and that action should be taken simultaneously on all fronts and all financial and other resources available to the Governments should be mobilized in support of the policy.

RESETTLEMENT OF EX-SERVICEMEN

PROGRESS OF WORK IN THE PROVINCE

Among the many problems confronting India today, one of the most pressing is the demobilisation of soldiers and their prompt, orderly absorption in civil life. Of all the countries who have set their faces towards post-war reconstruction, India offers unique scope for development. The men returning from service constitute a considerable national asset of the country. Their contacts with other countries, their training in new methods of organisation and techniques of production, if utilised to the maximum to exploit all our potentialities and resources, will take India to the front rank with the most progressive countries of the world.

In order to tackle the problem of re-settlement on scientific lines, a Re-settlement and Employment Directorate was set up in 1945. The object of the Re-settlement and Employment organisations is to bring together the employees and the employers so as to facilitate mobility of labour both occupational and geographical, and to organise programmes of vocational and technical training so as to meet the deficiencies in skilled labour.

A network of 71 Employment Exchanges including a Central Employment Exchange in New Delhi, is being established throughout the country. The managerial staff has been specially trained under an experienced officer whose services are borrowed from the Ministry of Labour and National Service in the U.K. Special mention may be made of the scheme for the Rehabilitation and Re-settlement of disabled service personnel which aim at equipping disabled persons to undertake the most skilled work of which they are capable and thereby enabling them to take their place in society. Ex-servicemen are given free training facilities in a number of trades and occupations suited for women. A Regional Employment Advisory Committee has been set up consisting of representatives of the Provincial Governments, Universities and other local bodies, to associate the public as fully as possible with the work of the Re-settlement and Employment Organisation.

Although the Resettlement and Employment is primarily intended to facilitate the resettlement in civil life of demobs, its scope will be extended to all categories of employment seekers. This is the first time in the history of the country that the free service of an integrated all-India organisation is established for the purpose of securing jobs to the unemployed.

Report From Districts

The following is a brief report of the progress in resettlement in the various districts of the province of Madras.

Guntur

726 Ex-servicemen have been employed out of 2,621 demobs who returned to the district. There are three colonisation schemes for ex-servicemen at Piduguralla, Allur, and Nizampatam. Bapatla (500 acres) in Piduguralla village has been surveyed. House sites have been selected and laid out in lots. The scheme to sink irrigation wells in each holding has been dropped owing to high cost. The extent of arable land available in Allur colony is 842 acres

out of which Government propose to irrigate 300 acres pending the sanction of the Chief Engineer; house sites have been selected and laid out. The colony will be started from next year. The 1,500 acres in Nizampatam colony are mostly low land fit for wet cultivation. The colony will be started as soon as irrigation facilities are provided by the P.W.D.

Madura

100 Ex-servicemen have been employed during the month of October 1946 out of 394 registered.

Ramanad

The number of men recruited from the district is 15,297 out of which 2,004 registered and 527 are employed. The proposal to run a soldiers' club at Srivilliputtur at an estimated cost of Rs. 40,000 is pending the sanction of the Superintending Engineer, Trichinopoly.

North Arcot

Employment has been secured for 537 Ex-servicemen during the fortnight ending 31-10-46. An extent of 3,703 acres in Sennaleri and Ennadavadi reserves has been dis-afforested to provide housing for 200 families. Six houses have been completed in "A" Colony. An Agriculture Land Colonisation Society has been formed with ten ex-servicemen as members. Eight acres of land have been allotted to each and arrangements have been made for starting cultivation. The Government have sanctioned the establishment of a co-operative metal and timber workshop and a training centre for metal and timber works in Katpadi village. The centre is likely to start work on 1st December.

Salem

Ex-servicemen are appointed in the reserved vacancies in several Government departments. They are also recommended to private and public employers, such as mill managers, bus service proprietors, etc. There are two land colonisation schemes in Salem District under preparation, namely Manivilandan and Perunalkuppam. The extent of the Manivilandan colony is about 3,000 acres. It provides housing for 250 families at the rate of 10 acres each. The houses are under construction with provision for drinking-water wells and other amenities. The colony is connected by road and railway. 1,300 acres have been cleared of jungle growth in Perunalkuppam and anti-malarial operations started. Test wells sunk for irrigation and drinking water met with success. One ex-servicemen centre was opened at Krishnagiri by His Excellency the Governor of Madras on 15-12-46 and another centre will be opened at Salem as soon as the necessary buildings are secured.

Nellore

49 ex-servicemen have been registered, of whom 11 were contacted by the Resettlement Officer in his tours, during the fortnight ending 31-10-46.

16 ex-servicemen have been placed in employment of whom 8 have been placed as clerks and 8 as peons.

The two colonisation schemes proposed for this district at Veligandla and Chintaldevi villages are pending approval by Government.

Trichinopoly

From the date of opening of the Re-settlement Section of this D.S.S. & A. Board, Trichy, in September 1945, 1,734 ex-servicemen have been registered for employment up to the end of 31-10-46. Out of these 297 persons have been placed in employment in Government and other offices, through this office. The rest could not be provided for want of vacancies.

Out of the 114 applications received for membership in the land colonization scheme, 18 ex-servicemen have so far been selected as members. The colony is likely to be started soon at Nedialur, in Kulitalai Taluk.

Nilgiris

The Re-settlement Office was set up in Ootacamund in November, 1945. During the period from November, 1945, to October, 1946, out of 939 men registered 357 men have been placed in Government and private jobs. 13 have started their own business. The balance now remaining to be placed is 269.

Cuddapah

Out of 1,173 persons registered 259 have been placed in Government and other jobs. The appointment so far made in Government posts is temporary, in acting vacancies.

The Special Assistant, Ex-Servicemen Resettlement, toured in Proddatur, Jammalamadugu, Pullivendla, Rajampet and Kamalapuram taluks, contacted the ex-servicemen and gave them suitable advice and instructions.

The land colony at Pullampet is being got ready. Trial borings have been made for six wells. Two irrigation wells and one drinking water well are under execution. 22 applications for membership in the Land Colonisation Co-operative Society have been received.

Chingleput

Ex-servicemen are being interviewed by the Special Assistant at convenient centres and at district headquarters, and registered for employment. 1,466 persons were registered up to the end of September 1946 and 377 persons were registered in October 1946. The total number of persons placed in civil employment upto the end of October is 341.

The Meyyur Guddapakkam Ex-Servicemen's Co-operative Agricultural Colonisation Society Ltd. owns a colony covering an area of 674.20 acres which was a panchayat forest previously. Out of this extent 61.40 acres have been classed as wet and 436.60 acres as dry. These extents are set apart for cultivation through colonists who should be ex-servicemen. 30 colonists have been selected for membership in this colony. An extent of 28 acres has been set apart for village site with provision for school, park and maidan. 15 houses have been constructed for the colonists and 2 drinking water wells.

The colony was registered under the Co-operative Societies Act. 18 ex-servicemen who have paid share capital and entrance fee were admitted as members and 12 of them were present on the date of opening of the colony. The colonists present were each allotted a block of 5 acres of dry land. Special steps are being taken to see that all the colonists selected

reside in the colony and cultivate the extent allotted to them in this season itself.

Kurnool

An extent of 473.38 acres is available for the colonisation of ex-servicemen in Rudravaram and it was proposed to settle 80 colonists at the rate of 5½ acres to each colonist. Lay-out plans to settle 80 colonists have been prepared. 59 candidates have so far been provisionally selected for admission into the colony. Steps are being taken to start the colony as early as possible.

Roughly about an extent of 350 acres has been reserved to settle 50 colonists in Rackerla. The entire block has been divided into 3 plots, A, B & C and three hand boring sets, one in each plot, are working and work is in progress.

Madras

Total number of ex-servicemen registered up to the end of September 1946 is 3,966. Out of this it was found possible to secure employment for 772. In the month of October 826 men got their names registered and employment was found for 188 men during the month.

From out of the discharged men who applied before the end of February 1946 for posts within the purview of the Public Services Commission, 32 were selected by the Services Commission against reserved vacancies.

As regards the vacancies outside the purview of the Services Commission one candidate was selected to the post of a Dam Superintendent.

In connection with the recruitment of police constables in the Madras City Police, an Assistant Commissioner of Police makes selection in the office of the Special Assistant on Tuesdays and Fridays every week. Though a large number of them are required sufficient number of men with the requisite qualifications are not forthcoming.

Technical training schemes, Co-operative workshops, Labour contract society etc., established for ex-servicemen are under the control of the Director of Re-settlement and Employment.

There is no Land Colonization Scheme in the City of Madras.

Coimbatore

Out of 3,212 ex-servicemen registered, a total of 963 are employed.

The Sinnakalpalayam Land Colony was opened on 12-10-46. 30 men have been admitted in this colony. Two temporary sheds have been constructed for accommodating 20 families while 10 are accommodated in houses. A Senior Co-operative Inspector has been specially appointed as the Secretary. The bulldozer with the Research Engineer, Coimbatore, has been brought to the colony and is reclaiming the land, forming the bunds and ploughing. Out of a total extent of 150 acres, 120 acres have been cleared of jungle growth by the colonists themselves and 80 acres out of these have been ploughed with hired bulls. Cholam has been raised to an extent of 20 acres. The remaining 60 acres will be sowed with cholam in a week. The remaining 30 acres are being attended to by the concerned colonist. On the whole the colonists appear to be satisfied. They are however pressing for the supply of building materials and funds for proceeding further with the lands. Separate references are being made about these.

The revised proposals in respect of the Ganapathy & D. M. Samudram colonies have been submitted to Government. The bulldozer after finishing the work in Sinnakalpalayam land colony will be moved to Ganapathy colony where much reclamation has to be done. An executive committee of the ex-services centre met on 17-10-1946 and framed rules for setting up a club.

Tanjore

This district has recruited nearly 19,000 men for war service of whom about 10,000 men may be expected to be discharged from military service. To advise these war-returned men and to resettle them in civil life, the Government have appointed Special Officers. Experience reveals that the ex-servicemen are very particular of getting jobs of their own choice. The preference of ex-servicemen is mostly for peons' jobs and jobs in the Railways. As this district is only an agricultural district devoid of any industrial enterprises or commercial firms, the Re-settlement Agency is confronted with great difficulty in finding jobs for all the demobilised personnel. But efforts are being taken to re-settle them as quickly as possible.

Up to the end of October 1946, 3,714 ex-servicemen have returned to the district and have registered with the Special Assistant. Of these persons, 1,925 have applied for technical jobs and jobs in the Railways. Ex-servicemen have also been selected for the several training courses sanctioned by Government. The Madras Public Services Commission has selected only 11 candidates for the reserved vacancies.

The following are the three special schemes working in this district:

The Co-operative Metal Factory at Kumbakonam is established mainly to employ ex-servicemen. There are now 60 ex-servicemen working in it, of whom 53 persons belong to this district. The Labour Contract Society affords an excellent opportunity to the illiterate, unskilled and labour categories of the ex-military personnel. The society was specially sanctioned in connection with the extension of Narasinga Cauvery Channel. The approximate cost of the scheme is Rs. 3,50,000.

The Land Colony Society for the land colonisation scheme at Tirumangalakottai has been started and 29 members have been enlisted. Some of the colonists have raised Kuruval crops which are being harvested now. The rest have prepared the land for samba cultivation and transplantation is in progress. English and Tamil dailies and weeklies have been made available for the ex-servicemen in the Recreation Room of the Ex-Servicemen's Centre.

Vizagapatam

Re-settlement of ex-servicemen commenced in this district in October 1945. The number of candidates registered and employed in the Special Assistant's office and in the Sub-Regional Exchange, Vizagapatam is noted below:

Registration Placings

Special Assistant's office.	2,522	604
Sub-Regional Exchange.	6,408	1,346

Out of the balance waiting for employment in the Special Assistant's registers and 5,062 in Sub-Regional Exchange, there are few candidates who are qualified to hold any job in the Government departments.

Most of them are illiterate and are unwilling to work as labourers. Efforts are however being made to find employment for them also.

Besides finding employment for the ex-servicemen in Government and other offices, the following schemes have been taken up in this district for the re-settlement of ex-servicemen.

- (i) Co-operative Labour Contract Society.
- (ii) Co-operative Metal and Timber Factories.
- (iii) Co-operative Bricks and Tiles Factory.
- (iv) Kalavalapalli Flood Bank Labour Camp opened by the Executive Engineer, P.W.D., Vizagapatam South.
- (v) Land Colonization Scheme at Korukonda.

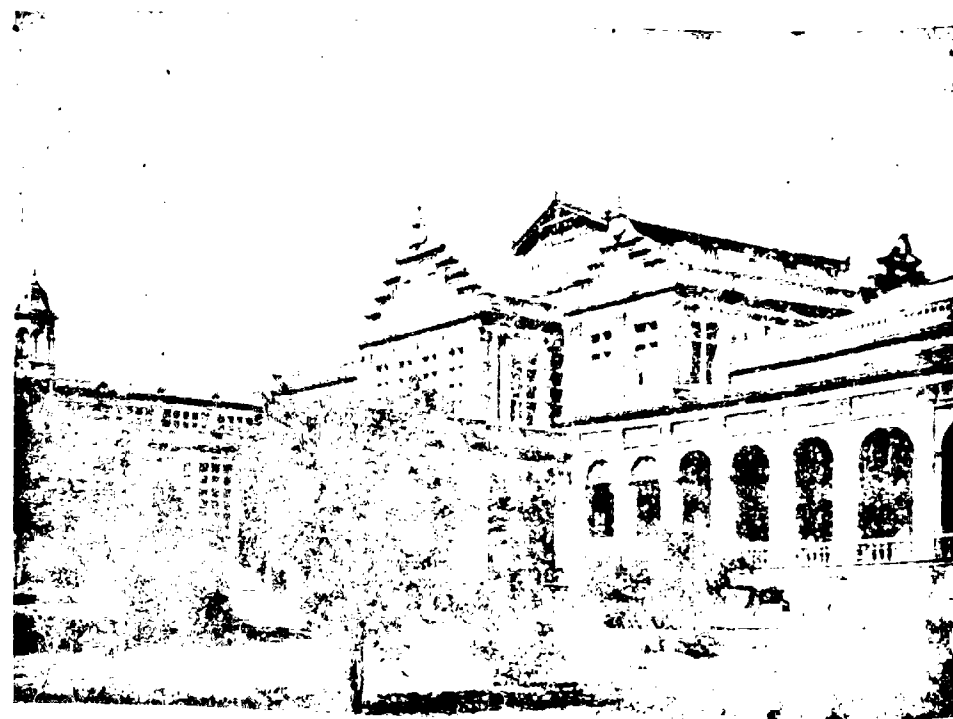
(i) Co-operative Labour Contract Society:—A Co-operative Labour Contract Society which has been opened at Vizagapatam has so far enrolled 104 ex-servicemen as its members and is employing them on the works taken by it on contract on daily wages ranging from Re. 1 to Re. 1-8-0. The Society has so far made a profit of Rs. 2,133-15-7. This profit will be distributed to the members in due course.

(ii) Co-operative Metal and Timber Factories:—The Government of Madras purchased the N.A.O. R. buildings of the R.A.F. near Duvvada in this district at a cost of Rs. 40,000 and opened Co-operative Metal and Co-operative Timber Factories in these buildings. Ex-servicemen who worked as tinsmiths, blacksmiths, carpenters, and moulders while in the army are eligible to become members of the Co-operative Societies attached to the factories and find employment in the factories. Lay-out ex-servicemen also can become members of the Societies. They will be trained in the factories by the Master-Smiths specially employed for the purpose. So far 50 ex-servicemen joined as members of the Co-operative Metal Factory 46, ex-servicemen joined as members of the Co-operative Timber Factory. The factories have just commenced work and a detailed report about their working will be published later.

(iii) Co-operative Bricks and Tiles Factory:—The Government have sanctioned the opening of a co-operative bricks and tiles factory in this district.

(iv) Kalavalapalli Labour Camp:—Though this district has contributed nearly 20,000 recruits for the war, most of them are illiterate labourers. They worked in the M.C.L.U. and other units as labourers. With a view to provide work for such people, the Executive Engineer, Vizagapatam South, has taken up the repairs to the Gokivada Gedda Flood Bank in Kalavalapalli village of Yellaman-chili Taluk departmentally, and agreed to employ the ex-servicemen as labourers on daily wages. The rates of wages for a male, female and child are As. 12-14, As. 8 and As. 6 respectively. Ex-servicemen are given the benefit of going to the camp with their family members who can also find work. Huts have been constructed by the P.W.D. on the work spot and accommodation in these huts is being given freely. However, the ex-servicemen are not very enthusiastic in doing coolly work. So far, about 80 ex-servicemen only have gone there. Efforts are being made to send more.

(v) Land Colonization:—A land colony has been proposed to be opened between Korukonda and Alamenda village in this district for settling about 60 ex-servicemen. The Director of Resettlement and Employment is examining the proposal and orders of the Government are expected shortly.



A side view of the Museum Buildings.

ores, coal, building stones, etc., and the results were published by the Madras Museum in the earliest years of its history. Interesting experiments were conducted on sylvicultural problems, some of the exotic trees now standing on the Museum grounds being the relics of such experiments. The Madras Museum now has galleries devoted to Botany and Economic Products, Geology, Zoology, Archaeology, Arts and Crafts of S. India, Ethnology, Prehistory, and Numismatics. The collection of pictures is small, but this is also being slowly built up.

Unique among the collections are the Buddhist sculptures from Amaravati which according to Ferguson are the best sculptures of ancient India. The Madras Museum is also famous all the world over for its collection of Hindu Metal images among which are included the figures of the dancing Siva.

POPULAR GOVTS. ENTHUSIASTIC

Contrary to the expectations of some western Indophobes, when popular governments took over the administration in several Indian provinces in 1937, they were eager to use museums as handy instruments to aid them in the economic and cultural rehabilitation of the country. The Ministers for Public Health and Industries in this Province were both enthusiastic about promoting museums. The first privately endowed museum in India, namely, the Arts and Crafts Museum of Wardha came into being at this time. In his presidential address to the National Academy of Sciences, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru made a special plea for the formation of museums for the benefit of the masses of India. He said:

"I should like an aggressive and widespread tackling of our problems by experts. I should like permanent museums for the education of our masses, especially the peasantry, to grow up in every district. I remember the wonderful peasant museums that I saw in the U.S.S.R., and I compare them with the pitiful agricultural exhibitions that are organised here from time to time." Exhibitions of the kind referred to by Pandit Nehru, which have become the fashion today, contain, however, the germs of many future museums. The museum idea has come to stay in this country and there is no doubt that, in the near future, the number of museums will multiply and their activities would become manifold.

FOUR-FOLD FUNCTIONS

Museums which, to begin with, were store houses of curiosities have more and more varied functions devolved upon them. These fall under the four heads (a) collection and conservation, (b) research, (c) visual education, and (d) aesthetic enjoyment.

Objects of scientific historical and artistic interest and importance have to be judiciously collected by museums for the use of the present and future generations. Collections in some fields are often an urgent necessity as they tend to disappear and get lost for ever to posterity if not collected in time and preserved in museums. The proper preservation of such valuable material to ensure them the longest lease of life is a task that requires constant vigilance. Specimens accumulated in museums are of little value to the public if they are not properly interpreted and the knowledge relating to them published. This requires that museums should be

institutions where active research is conducted. The third function of museums, namely that of providing visual education, has assumed great importance within the last two decades, particularly in the United States of America, where the larger museums have departments for visual education presided over by experts in education who cater to the needs of schools through their school service organisations, and to the needs of adults through the scientific and psychological devices invented to aid the educationists. The fourth function of museums and art galleries is the provision of facilities to the public for aesthetic enjoyment. This duty to the public is all the more important in an economically backward country such as ours where the number of people who can own pictures and sculptures is negligibly small, and museums are the only places where they can hope to see works of art.

EDUCATIONAL WORK IN MADRAS MUSEUM

Under existing conditions, with their limited staff and resources, few museums in India are in a position to do much in the form of school service, nor are they in a position to circulate collections that would more or less follow the school syllabus. The Madras Museum maintains contact with the teachers of the city schools through "Demonstrations to teachers". Every year, during the cold season, batches of twelve to eighteen teachers sent by the headmasters of the city schools are conducted round the various sections of the museum by the respective curators. About nine or ten batches attend the



Mahishasura Mardhini—
An exhibit in the Gallery.

demonstrations in the five sections of the museum every year. These teachers are thus enabled to get a clear idea of the exhibits, and when they bring their students, as a good number of them do, they are in a position to make the visit to the museum more useful and interesting to their young charges. In addition to this, advice and assistance, and sometimes duplicates of specimens are given to those schools eager to develop their own school museums.



The new Archaeological Gallery.

Museums and Basic Education

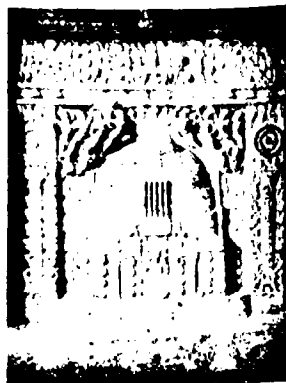
Even a layman who is not conversant with the problems of the educationist can easily appreciate the significance of some of the criticisms levelled against the bookishness of the present system of education. Cramming of theoretical facts unrelated to the children's experience and environment cramps the mind, making it a storehouse of odd facts and tit bits, instead of training it to be an instrument of intelligence and shaping it to be a mould for the formation of an integrated personality. The Wardha Scheme seeks to make education a concrete, effective and natural process correlated to and in multi-pronged contact with the pupil's own surroundings, minimising thereby the waste of mental energy and avoiding mental cramping. The principles underlying the Scheme are so sound that differences of opinion on details are of little significance.

In considering the Wardha syllabus from the point of view of a student of culture, one cannot but appreciate the success which the authors of the Scheme have achieved in their efforts to correlate education to life. In any community enjoying ordered and balanced life, the various aspects of its entire culture—economic, political and religious—should be properly integrated. In India today we are far from having such a well integrated social order; the presence amidst us of large numbers of misfits is the clearest proof of social *malaise*. In the important field of education, more than in any other sphere of our national life, the lack of integration has produced deplorable waste of energy and effort. Sociologists and educationists alike stress the need for correlating education with other activities of the community.

Where do museums come into this picture? A point which has not been considered by the sponsors of the Wardha Scheme is that its syllabuses to be effectively gone through require a very efficient museum service. The teacher under the Wardha Scheme would require a wide variety of materials and practical knowledge and experience to be pressed into his service. The Wardha syllabus in Social Studies include such topics as the "Story of Primitive Man," "Life of Man in Ancient Times," "Life of Man in Distant Lands" and detailed "Observation by the Pupils" of their own environment. The educational equipment required for the proper teaching of these topics will have to be made available to the teachers and unless this is done, teaching will tend to be merely wordy, as at present and in the past. I see no other way in which the needs of the teachers under the Wardha Scheme to teach a number of subjects can be met except through the development of effective educational service organised in a number of special museums in all the districts of the Province. A scheme for educational museums was considered by the Ministry of Education in Madras in 1939 but was given up for financial reasons.

The Illiterate Visitor

A very large percentage of the visitors to the Madras Museum are not literate and therefore not in a position to read and understand the descriptive accounts given in the labels of the exhibits in the museum galleries. The illiterate visitor derives a vague pleasure by walking through the galleries of



Chaitya slab from the inner rail of Amaravati stupa—An exhibit in the Gallery

the museum, and Surgeon Edward Balfour, the first officer in charge of the museum, in one of his earliest reports to the Governor-in-Council, told the Government that the pleasure which hundreds of happy visitors derived from their visit to the museum should be regarded as more than adequate return for the small sum that was spent annually on the museum. It is now felt that a visit to the museum should be made more profitable and useful to the illiterates. For this, two schemes are under consideration, the first being the appointment of guide lecturers who would take the visitors round the galleries and explain the exhibits to them, and the second, the installation of loud-speakers in the various galleries which will broadcast gramophone records of descriptions of the more important exhibits in Tamil and Telugu, as parties of visitors are taken along. The latter scheme has been tried on an experimental scale and the results have been found to be very satisfactory. When these schemes materialise, the museum will be able to play a very important role in adult education for the benefit of the illiterate sections of our community.

Mr. S. F. Markham, a former president of the Museums Association of Great Britain, was of the opinion that the cultural level of a country could be measured by the level of museum development in it. Though this yardstick may not provide a correct standard, museums do give an idea, especially to foreigners, of what a country has achieved in the past and is accomplishing at present. The Government of India are getting ready the blueprints of a National Museum in New Delhi, and almost all the provinces and States have large plans for the development of their museums. The day is not far off when India will be having a number of first-rate museums of a standard commensurate with the status which, we hope, she will have in the world of the future.

INDIA'S RS. 125-CRORE EDUCATION SCHEMES

RECOMMENDATIONS OF SARGENT REPORT BEING IMPLEMENTED

A statement on the action taken or proposed to be taken on the principal recommendations of the Sargent Report on post-war educational development in India was made in the Central Assembly on Monday by Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, Minister for Education, in reply to a question by Mr. Madandhari Singh. Mr. C. Rajagopalachari said: The Report of the Central Advisory Board of Education on post-war educational development in India popularly called the Sargent Report was published in January 1944. In October 1945 the Government of India accepted generally the principles and the objects of the Report.

The decision of the Government of India was conveyed to the Provincial Governments and they were asked to prepare their educational development plans in the light of the main recommendations of the Central Advisory Board of Education. All the provincial Governments with the exception of that of the N.-W.F.P. have now prepared their first five-year programme of educational expansion. The Centrally Administered Areas and the Central Government have also prepared their five-year plans, which are complementary to the plans prepared by the provinces. This entire programme proposed involves a total expenditure of Rs. 125 crores approximately. The schemes are being examined by this Government with a view to according their final approval. Some of the plans received from the provincial Governments are still tentative, but their finalized plans are expected very shortly.

Provincial Schemes

The Provincial Governments have been requested to embark forthwith on schemes selected out of the five-year plans, which are of an urgent character. As far as education is concerned, schemes regarding higher technical education, the training of teachers and educational facilities for ex-servicemen received high priority. These schemes have been examined by the Government of India and those found suitable have been sanctioned for immediate execution.

In the first quinquennium a reasonable provision has been made in the provincial and Central plans towards the following essential requirements:

1. Universal compulsory and free basic (Primary and Middle) education for all boys and girls between the ages of 6 and 14.

The provincial and Central schemes of basic education cater both for boys and girls except in Sind and the N.-W.F.P. whose plans have not yet been finalized. Bihar, Orissa, Madras, the U.P. and the Centrally Administered Areas have agreed to provide for compulsory basic (Primary and Middle) education in due course for the entire age-group of 6-14; it is clear if it is their objective to cater for the entire age-group 6-14 though they have made provision for the age-group 6-11 in the first instance. The rate of

progress is mainly determined by the availability of trained teachers. The total expenditure proposed in the provincial plans on basic (Primary and Middle) education, including indirect expenditure on the training of teachers, inspection, school meals, amounts to Rs. 56.95 crores (Rs. 20.52 crores capital and Rs. 36.43 crores recurring) which is about 58 per cent of the total expenditure on provincial education schemes. The total expenditure on basic (Primary and Middle) education during the quinquennium in Central areas will approximate to Rs. 1.9 crores (capital Rs. 1.14 crores, recurring Rs. .79 crores).

Most provinces have also agreed that the education to be imparted at earlier stages would be through the medium of creative activities.

2. Technical and Commercial Education.

The Government of India have initiated a scheme in co-operation with the provincial Governments under which they are sending approximately 500 scholars each year abroad for higher technical training and scientific research. It would cost the Central Government approximately Rs. 3.60 crores over the five-year period. An All-India Council for Technical Education has already been set up to make a survey of the needs of the country as a whole and recommend ways and means to meet her urgent requirements. The provinces have made the following additional provisions in the five-year period:

1. Establishment of 160 new institutions (105 Junior Technical and vocational Schools, 35 Technical High Schools, 16 Polytechnics and four Engineering Colleges).

2. Expansion and reorganization of 32 Junior Technical Institutions, 12 Technical High Schools and 10 Engineering Colleges.

Schemes to Cost Rs. 7 Crores

The total capital expenditure for the above schemes will amount to Rs. 7.1 crores and the recurring expenditure in the five-year period will total to Rs. 4.43 crores and the ultimate recurring expenditure per year will be about Rs. 2.14 crores. While the Provincial plans propose generally to improve facilities for turning semi-skilled and skilled craftsmen, foremen and chargemen and some engineers, the training of high grade engineers and technologists, (designers, planners, research workers, production experts, etc.) to take up positions of trust and responsibility in industry will be provided by the two proposed Central Higher Technological Institutions each with an annual output of 1,000 engineers and technologists costing 3 crores in

(contd. in the next page.)

RURAL RECONSTRUCTION MOVEMENT IN CHINA

(Professor C. W. Chang)

THE Rural Reconstruction Movement is one of the several movements of momentous importance that have gained ground in China during the last two or three decades.

This scheme is closely related to the daily life of the people. Its work is begun with a survey, which finds out the real needs of the community; based on the needs, a plan of improvement work is made, which includes Agricultural improvement, Public Health, Rural Industry, Education and Citizenship training. The scheme not only works with the people for the people but is also run by the people themselves. It works from the bottom up,

instead of working from the top down, as many other movements do.

The Pioneer

Before the war with Japan in 1937, the movement had already been a nation-wide one, and more than 250 organisations were directly concerned with it. We shall take Ching-Ping Hsien, Honan, as an illustration of the work of the movement. Cheng Ping, at a time, was not safe to live in, because of bandit trouble following civil wars. Mr. Pang Yu-ting, a native of the district who returned to his home-

(Continued on next page)

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capital and 46 crores annually in recurring expenditure. The Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, and the Delhi Polytechnic will also be strengthened considerably. These four institutions together with other provincial colleges will ensure an annual output of about 4,000 engineers and technologists in the quinquennium. It is also proposed to set up a Technical Teachers' Training College to train teachers for Technical High Schools and Senior Technical Institutions. The Central schemes are expected to cost about Rs. 8.48 crores in capital and Rs. 2.96 crores total recurring expenditure over five years and with an ultimate recurring expenditure of Rs. 1.06 crores per year.

The Provincial and Central schemes for five-year period on technical education will involve an expenditure of about Rs. 23 crores (capital Rs. 16 crores and recurring Rs. 7 crores.)

Adult Education

The expenditure proposed by Provincial Governments on Adult Education in the first quinquennium is Rs. 2.10 crores which is about 2.2 per cent of the total expenditure on all provincial education schemes.

University Education and Research

It is proposed to spend approximately Rs. 2.54 crores on the three Universities (Delhi, Rs. 1.14 crores. Aligarh Rs. 70 lakhs and Benares Rs. 70 lakhs) during the quinquennium to strengthen the Universities and bring them up to the standard prevalent in other educationally advanced countries. Benares and Aligarh Universities will be assisted to set up a Medical College each up to the degree standard. Provincial Governments in their development plans have made some provision for strengthening the Provincial Universities.

They propose to spend approximately Rs. 5.24 crores in the next quinquennium.

Institute of Science

The National Institute of Sciences will advise the Government of India on all scientific matters. It is also contemplated to give substantial grant-in-aid to all-India research Institutes which are in a position to promote higher scientific research and it is proposed to spend about Rs. 75 lakhs for promotion of scientific research in educational institutions in the quinquennium.

Other Educational Schemes

The five-year plans also include a reasonable provision for strengthening secondary education with a view to meeting the requirements of professional and technical colleges, for the training of teachers and for the improvement of the health of the school child. Special attention has been paid to women's education to make up for the present deficiency.

Training College

The Department of Education of the Government of India have also prepared a number of schemes which have been approved by the Co-ordination Committee of the Cabinet. It is proposed to start a post-graduate training college for men and women, a training college for physical education and to reorganize the present Lady Irwin College for Domestic Science, by next year in Delhi. A grant has been paid to Visva-Bharati for training of teachers on the lines recommended by the Board and a grant is being paid for the same purpose to Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi, where a scheme for training of teachers has already started. A proposal for reorganizing the Marris College of Hindustani Music, Lucknow, on an all-India basis is also under consideration in the Department of Education.

PRICE INDEX OF INDUSTRIAL RAW MATERIALS WORKING CLASS COST OF LIVING INDEX IN RANGOON

Comparative figures of wholesale prices for this year and the last prepared by the Economic Advisor's Office, New Delhi, are brought together in the table below:—

Groups.	Sept. '45	Aug. '45	Sept. '46
1	2	3	4
Fibres	214.5	219.1	256.4
Oilseeds	282.7	289.6	378.7
Minerals	217.3	219.6	233.3
Miscellaneous	284.7	280.5	376.9
Combined :	237.7	242.4	293.3

Groups.	August 1946.	Increase as compared with August 1946.	Increase (latest month) as compared with Sept. '45.
5	6	7	
Fibres	262.3	-5.9	+41.9
Oilseeds	380.5	-1.8	+96
Minerals	232.6	+0.7	+16
Miscellaneous	364.7	+12.2	+92.2
Combined :	297	-3.7	+55.6

The table below shows the percentage variations in the estimated cost, on an austerity basis, of one month's supply of essential foodstuffs and commodities for the principal groups of Indian work-people, viz., Tamils, Telugu and Oriyas, on a single-man basis. The average cost of the same items in 1941 has been represented by the base figure of 100.

MONTHS	GROUPS		
	Food	Fuel and lighting	
November, 1945	545	261	
December, 1945	654	253	
January, 1946	542	221	
February, 1946	474	203	
March, 1946	388	194	
April, 1946	382	228	
May, 1946	409	243	
June, 1946	430	194	
July, 1946	426	184	

MONTHS	GROUPS		
	Clothing	Miscellaneous	All items combd.
November, 1945	2,782	410	656
December, 1945	2,764	421	744
January, 1946	1,702	455	581
February, 1946	605	455	426
March, 1946	327	440	369
April, 1946	327	440	368
May, 1946	327	429	389
June, 1946	327	425	400
July, 1946	327	442	397

(Contd. from the previous page.)

village in 1929, after service with the north-western army, settled in the village, organised the local people for self-defence and soon succeeded in wiping out the bandit trouble. The work of self-government which started thus, soon included such items as taking population census, land registration, social welfare work, country policing, etc. All these were done with funds, raised entirely from local sources. This experiment enjoyed a nation-wide reputation and many from all over the country came to study it. In the spring of 1933, Yu-Ting was shot by the reactionaries; but the work he began had taken root. After the war, this place was selected by the Government, a centre of operation for the promotion of rural industrial co-operatives and relief-work. Numerous such centres have since been started. The most notable is the National Council for Rural Reconstruction. The Council worked in full co-operation with the Provincial Government. It affiliated a professor from one of the institutions to it, as magistrate of the district. The different offices of the Government, on the recommendation of the various participating institutions. This set-up was intended to be the beginning of the "University Community Concept Idea". The idea

was to select a place typical of the country for the rural reconstruction, as the Council's field centre, where the participating institutions would make their distinctive contributions and work together, through one set of Government machinery, in a controlled environment. The work was however impeded by the outbreak of the war.

The New Scheme

According to the new scheme which the Government, in 1940, decided to inaugurate, each hsiang will be divided into a number of hsiang and cheng (market town), each hsiang or cheng into a number of bao. Each bao consists of ten chia, and each chia ten families. There is to be a people's foundation school in every bao and a community centre school in every hsiang or cheng. The latter is to give supervision to the former. The principal of the school may concurrently act as the head of the community for civil and military affairs.

The most difficult obstacle in the way of this scheme is not the lack of funds but the shortage of men sufficiently trained in and devoted to this task. It is not enough to have one good magistrate; he must have an ideal team to work with.

(Abridged from "The Asiatic Review")

OUR CULTURAL CONTRIBUTIONS

BOROBUDUR: JAVA

In Java, on the right bank of river Praga, there stands on the butt of a volcanic rock, a huge Buddhist shrine—Chandi Borobudur. And what a magnificent shrine it is! Measuring 400 feet at the basement and 154 feet in height, it towers, like a Brobdignagian among a gathering of Gullivers, high above all other monuments in Java.

Not only is the structure mighty, but the walls are so richly carved that there is nothing to excel Chandi Borobudur among the sculptural splendours of Asia. The Sculpture gallery extends to over a mile and since there are carvings on both faces of the gallery, on the whole the bas-reliefs measure about 3 miles.

Built nearly 12 centuries ago, covered with the overgrowth of vegetation and tons of lava for the last many hundreds of years till they were excavated and brought into light sometime back by an enthusiastic band of Dutch scholars, these works of art to-day look almost as perfect as when they were built.

Many of the bas-reliefs deal with the different scenes from the life of Buddha. One striking thing about the biographical sculptures is their close resemblance to similar works which cover the face of India from Gandhara to Amaravati. Historians and archaeologists are of opinion that the same hands that carved the caves of Ajanta must have been responsible for the exquisite performances on the walls of Borobudur. The style is the same, the motif is the same, the manner of execution is also the same. It is now clearly established that no great time interval could have elapsed between the execution of the work in Ajanta and that in Java. The physiognomy of the figures of the entire bas-reliefs is typically Indian and not Javanese, and in the words of an author, "characteristically Indian in body as well as in spirit."

Indeed there is nothing surprising that the greatest monument of Java is the handicraft of Indian genius. Far back in history at the early dawn of the Christian era, wave after wave of colonists from South India used to inundate the islands scattered over the Indian Ocean. One such island was Java. For a thousand years regular batches from India spread over Java and overwhelmed it with their culture and civilization to such an extent, as to completely obliterate all arts and crafts of the natives who were of the Malaya-Polynesian race. There is a reference to this island in the Ramayana as an enchanting land of corn and full of gold mines. Ptolemy the Greek geographer (about 130 A.D.) calls this island "Jabadieu, the isle of barley" which suggests that this island had already acquired fame in the 2nd century A.D. by its Hindu name, thereby presupposing Hindu migration. Some places have still Hindu names such as Madura, Sukhabumi, Sarayu, Basuki, etc.

The Ramayana and the Mahabharata had already reached this island at a very early time and known as Kakawin and Bharat-Yuddha these serve as themes for shadow and puppet shows even today.

so much so that the native believes that the incidents in these epic plays actually took place in Java. Incidentally it may be noted that similar shadow and puppet plays are very popular in South India. Fa Hian, the Chinese pilgrim on his return voyage home from India was shipwrecked on an island which he calls "Ye-poti" and which scholars believe may be either Sumatra or Java. He mentions in his chronicle that the law of the Buddha was not much known there and that he saw Brahmins flourishing. Hence it is surmised that the religion of the Javanese has been Brahminism till the 8th century A.D. It is said that Buddhism was introduced into this island by Gunavarman, a prince of Kashmir in A.D. 423; however, this religion does not seem to have made headway for a long time.

The Indian colonists that settled in Java seem to have come from various parts of India though not all of them at the same time. One batch is believed to have migrated from Gujarat in A.D. 78 led by one Aji Saka. But the greater part of the exodus seems to have been only from the eastern coast of India from between the banks of the Mahanadi and the Godavari and from Orissa and Kalinga. It is therefore not surprising that to-day in the parlance of the Javanese Orang Keling means a man of India. Chinese records of the T'ing dynasty mention a kingdom of the name of Kalinga in Central Java.

It is supposed that the culture of Java between the 4th and the 12th centuries has been more or less the culture of South India. Saivism has been the main religion though Vishnu has been worshipped from very early times, the cult of Harihara having been very popular. Though contact with Mother India had begun already in the 1st century B.C. actual vestiges of Indian culture can be dated only from the 5th century A.D. The Tamil poem Manimekalai, ascribed to the period between the 5th and the 7th centuries A.D., refers to the names of two kings who reigned at Nagapura which is believed to have been a capital of West Java. Central and Eastern Java contain most of the records and monuments that speak of the ancient glory of this island. The earliest inscription in Pallava grantha dated 732 A.D. refers to one Sanjaya who was ruler of Central Java. It says that the first Saiva temple was constructed by a Brahmin clan of the Agastya Gotra whose model was a copy of the one in Kunkarakunja, a sacred site in Southern India on the banks of the Thungabhadra. There is another version that maintains that Agastya himself had been in Central Java and had a temple for Siva built there. It cannot be forgotten that Agastya is the genius of Javanese culture and under the name of Siva Guru or Bhatara Guru enjoys precedence over the Tirumurtis as a divine being.

That immigration from Southern India has been a continuous affair spread over a long period admits of no doubt. And in the Chola period benefactions have been received to a Buddhist vihara at Negapatam from Java or Sumatra. Likewise endowments have also been received from Javanese princes to

the monastery at Nalanda in the 9th century A.D. One source affirms that Javanese princes used to be sent to India for their education.

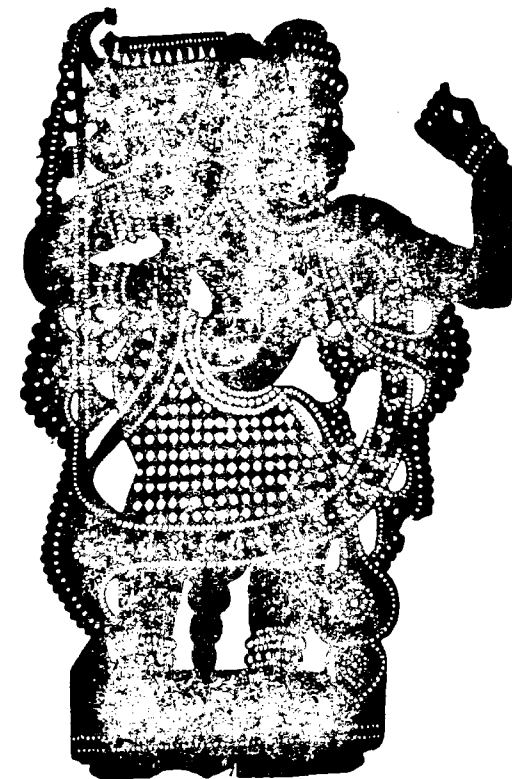
Buddhism is said to have spread into Java when it was conquered in the 8th century A.D. by the great Sailendra dynasty from the neighbouring island of Sumatra. They were ardent Buddhists and exercised considerable influence over a large part of Malaya, Java and Sunda islands for several centuries. They held sway over Java for about a century and most of the Buddhist monuments of Java belong to this period. The court religion seems to have been Buddhism while Saivism was the popular faith.

From the 7th century to the end of the 15th century this island was adorned with edifices of exquisite beauty and when Muslims appeared and spread their religion the building of monuments came to a stop and the existing ones were neglected. It is believed that conversion into Mohamadanism was a very peaceful affair and this saved most of the monuments from destruction at the hands of the new converts.

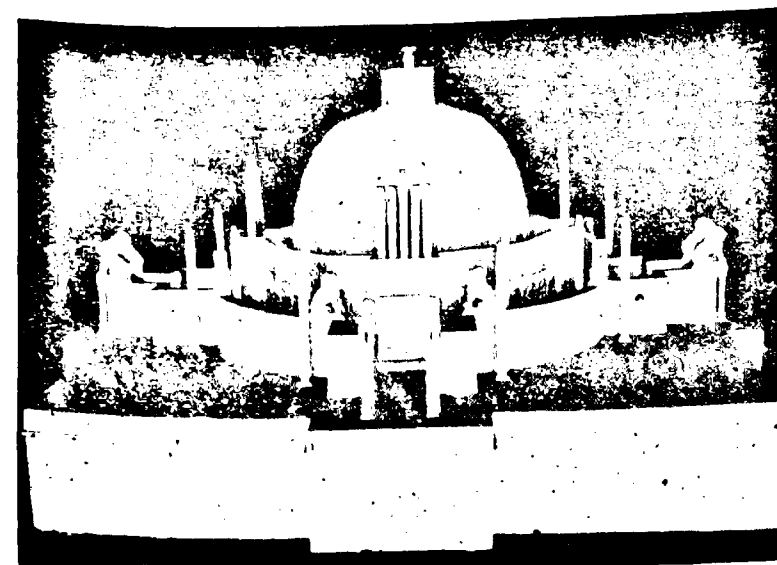
Indian genius and wisdom flourished in Java for a number of centuries, but it did not synthesize with the native culture to evolve something new. To-day, one looking upon the cupolas of Borobudur feels that it was a monument to the Gods of an alien land, planted there by aliens who remained aliens to the thought and culture of the country of their adoption until the day of their disappearance. Local pride classifies it as one of the wonders of the world.

Perhaps in a way it is.

S. SWAMINATHAN.



Rama—In shadow play



WHEAT AND MAIZE COMBINATIONS

1. CONJEE

Ingredients	South Indian Measure	Standard Measure
Wheat Raval ..	¼ Ollock	1¼ Oz.
Maize Raval ..	¼ Ollock	1 Oz.
Water ..	3 Ollocks	2½ Cups
Salt ..	1½ Teaspoon	1½ Teaspoon

METHOD :

1. Boil water.
2. Add wheat raval and stir for about 5 minutes.
3. Then add the maize raval and salt and keep on stirring. Cook for 45 minutes. Remove from fire.
4. Serve hot.

2. UPPUMA

Ingredients	S. I. Measure	Standard Measure
Maize Raval ..	¼ Ollock	1 Oz.
Wheat raval ..	¼ Ollock	1¼ Oz.
Black gram ..	¼ Ollock	½ Teaspoon
Mustard seeds ..	¼ Teaspoon	¼ Teaspoon
Curry leaves ..	A few	A few
Onion ..	One	One
Green chillies ..	One	One
Ginger ..	A piece	A piece
Salt ..	¼ Teaspoon	½ Teaspoon
Dalda ..	2 Teaspoon	2 Teaspoon
Water ..	1¼ Ollocks	1 1/7 Cups

METHOD :

1. Chop green chillies, onions, ginger, and curry leaves fine.

(Continued from page 4.)

weaver had become extinct through sheer neglect and lack of encouragement. The exuberant sympathy for and championship of the handloom weaver so freely exhibited now by the opponents of khadi has all the appearance of a crocodile shedding tears for its intended victim. Any expansion of or encour-

2. Heat the frying pan adding the oil. When it is hot add the mustard, black gram, green chillies etc. Stir until brown.
3. Add the water, bring to boil and add salt and wheat, raval stirring constantly.
4. After 2 or 3 minutes add the maize raval and stir till most of the water gets absorbed.
5. Remove from fire and serve hot.

3. DHOSAI (A).

Ingredients	S. I. Measure	Standard Measure
Wheat flour ..	¼ Ollock	1¼ Oz.
Maize flour ..	¼ Ollock	1 Oz.
Water ..	3 Ollocks &	2/3 Cup (approx.)
Salt ..	1 teaspoon	1 Teaspoon

METHOD :

1. Mix all ingredients.
2. Make dhosai. Fry on flat iron pan.

4. DHOSAI (B).

Ingredients	S. I. Measure	Standard Measure
Black gram-dhal ..	¼ Ollock	1¼ Oz.
Wheat flour ..	¼ Ollock	1 Oz.
Maize flour ..	¼ Ollock	1 Teaspoon
Salt ..	1½ Teaspoon	2/3 Cup (approx.)
Water ..	¼ Ollock	

METHOD :

1. Soak the black gram for 4-6 hours and grind well.
2. Mix it with other ingredients and leave it to sour overnight.
3. In the morning make dhosai. Fry on flat iron pan.

agement to the handloom industry in the real sense of the term is impracticable simultaneously with the expansion or encouragement of the mill industry. This is the hard and irresistible logic of recent developments in the textile industry. The oppositionists at the Textile Protection Conference have unconsciously refuted their own thesis out of their own mouths.

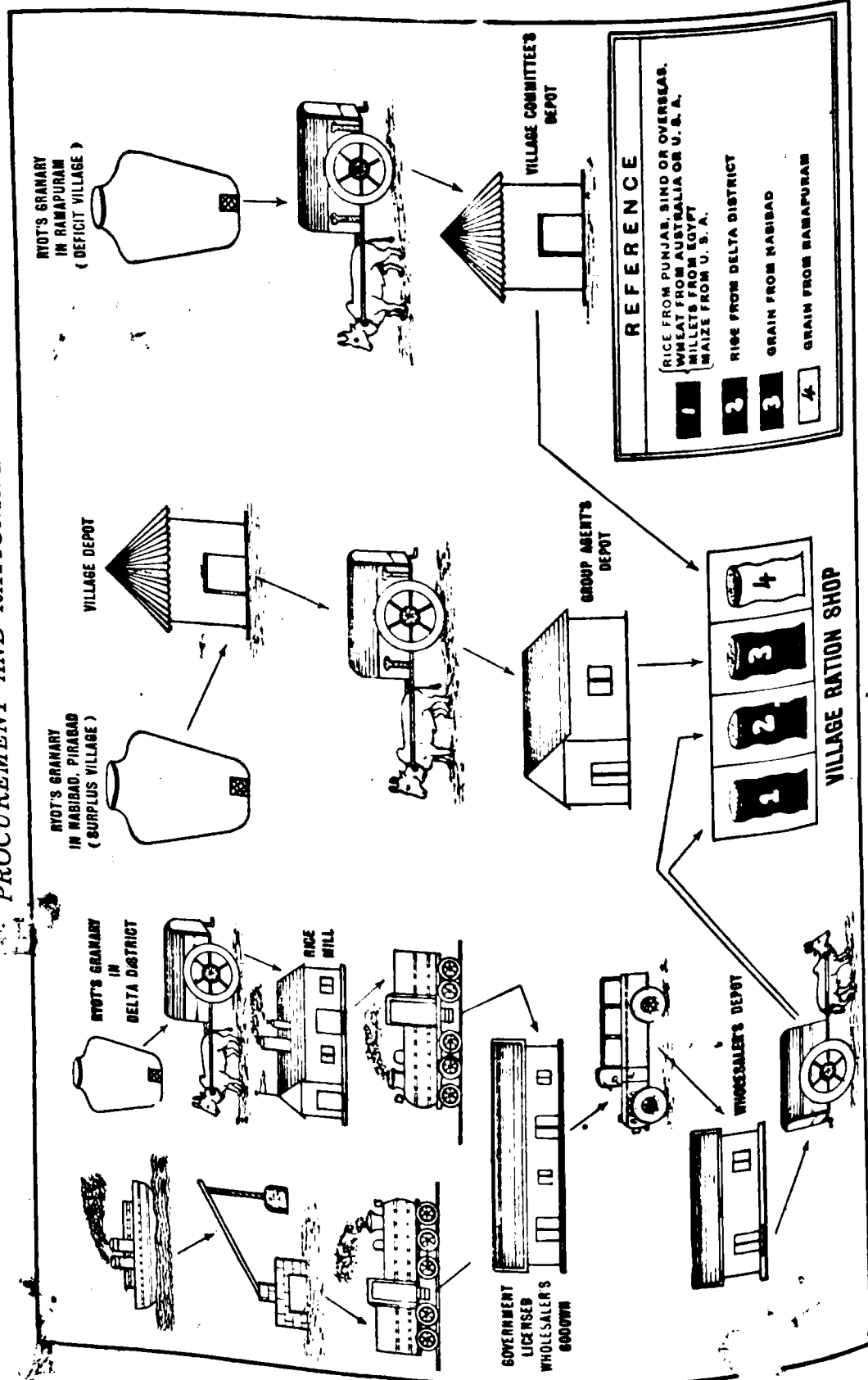


Dagobas—These are a prominent feature of Buddhist shrines



Bas-reliefs on the sculptural gallery of Chandi Borabudur
Note the Indian features and the ship. Probably this was the type of vessel used by the Indian seafarers.

PROCUREMENT AND RATIONING



MAIN FEATURES:

- 1) Meet Them At The Zoo—Cover Page
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- 3) Some Press Notes
- 4) Prohibition
- 5) Strikes And Lock-outs
- 6) Government Departments At Work
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The object of *Madras Information* is to give a brief record of the Madras Government's activities and to educate the public opinion on the Government's policies.

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WE SEEK TO SERVE AND NOT TO COMPETE

December 1946

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Govt's Textile policy and Cotton-growers' Interests

In a clinching statement the hon. Sri. T. Prakasam has answered those critics of the Madras Government's textile policy who assert that it is detrimental to the interests of cotton growers in the province, particularly of the Rayalaseema area. Among the points emphasised by him are first, that there had been no substantial increase in the area under short staple cotton in the province during the last twenty years to justify the anticipation that its potential expansion would be stopped by a check on the expansion of the mills. Between 1923-24 and 1945-46, inspite of the increase in the number of mills and the efforts made by the Government, the increase in the yield of cotton has only been about 28,000 bales, and no question arises of impeding the development and the growth of a crop which, even under the most favourable auspices, had shown only a comparatively insignificant response to existing demand during two decades. On the other hand the cotton-growers of Rayalaseema and other areas will continue to cultivate the cotton crop as they have been doing all along, because it pays them to do so and because whatever they produce will find as ready a market hereafter as hitherto. It is bad logic and unsound psychological appreciation of the position to maintain that the cultivation of cotton will be interfered with by the development of the khadi industry, when the industry can be depended upon to consume all the cotton that will be available at the present rate of production and may even require more than what is available *pari passu* with its own expansion and development under the aegis of the State.

Secondly, it is an undeniable fact that the production of better varieties of cotton has been insufficient to meet the requirements of the existing mills themselves and it passes comprehension how the requirements of a larger number of mills can be met by the

cotton growers. On the other hand under a systematically developed khadi industry, the whole of the finer varieties of cotton that can be grown will be consumed by the hand-spinning industry itself; and as the Premier's statement pointed out, hand spun yarn of finer counts is being produced at present in the Chicacole area on a fairly extensive scale and can conveniently be taken up in other places to.

Thirdly, the cotton-growers may rest assured of a fair price for their produce as much under a khadi development scheme as under a mill expansion scheme. In fact it is preposterous to suggest that under the khadi scheme executed under Government auspices, whose main concern is to ameliorate the conditions of the cultivator and the handspinner and the khadi weaver, their interests will be in greater jeopardy than under a mill expansion programme and its concomitant of a continuance of the capitalistic, individualistic economy. The argument about danger to cotton growing interests if further expansion of mills is stopped, therefore, contains its own refutation. It is based on the superficial and unwarranted assumption that the cotton-growers' interests are somehow bound up with the establishment of more mills, and that the former will be in danger if the latter is checked.

That the Government of Madras have accepted the principle of nationalisation of certain vital industries is evident from the appointment of a Cabinet Committee to investigate the question of nationalisation of bus transport. According to the Hon'ble Sri V. V. Giri, the Government are contemplating nationalisation of some other basic industries too like cement and fertilisers and though nothing has been said about textiles, suggestions have been put forward in that respect too. There is no need to regard the term

"nationalisation" with exaggerated alarm, as it is a principle, the soundness and validity of which has been accepted everywhere in respect of industries of a key character and which are classified as public utility industries.

But transport is one of the industries which is peculiarly appropriate for being brought under State control and management and cannot be taken exception to after we have had an implementation of that principle in the case of railways. What form nationalisation of the road transport industry will ultimately assume is of course a matter for careful consideration and will no doubt be decided in the best interests of the public. As a competent writer recently put it, "State ownership and control do not mean that enterprises should be administered by the ordinary machinery of Government." The new economy may be what we may describe as a "managerial economy", and as the same writer points out, "the system of administration by a public authority freed from political interference in day-to-day administration has now become an accepted method of managing nationalised concerns." The paramount consideration in all nationalisation schemes is the promotion of public interests subject to democratic control through a technically efficient agency. It may be mentioned here that steps have already been taken in the Punjab and Bombay to bring bus services under Government control, with the result that the public are able to have an improved and more satisfactory road transport.

Communist Propaganda

The press note issued on November 16th on police firing in Coimbatore C. S. W. Mill area should clear up the many inaccuracies and exaggerations in the mendacious propaganda that is being carried on in the Communist press against the Government in connection with that incident. The Communists have systematically evolved a technique of twisting and embellishing simple facts with lurid details to suit the requirements of their party propaganda and they have a method of creating situations, in which the use of force will become necessary, so that afterwards they

can turn round and exploit that development for purposes of propaganda. Another vital part of their technique that was noticeable in Coimbatore and at other places also has been to utilise women workers as pawns in their party game, and poor and innocent women are made to pay the penalty, sometimes with their lives, to enable party "comrades" to score a point against organised Government. The present Government, being a popular one, is probably expected by them to condone and cover up their mischievous propensities, to countenance their acts of deliberate defiance of law and order and their attempts to create confusion and chaos. But when they find that their calculations have misfired, and the Government determined not to allow them a free hand, they pursue their anti-social activities by indulging in the vilest of anti-Congress and anti-Government propaganda. So far as the Coimbatore incident is concerned, there has been evidence to show that the Communists demanded impossible conditions like the reinstatement of sixteen workers dismissed as a disciplinary measure and for the employment of only members of the Communist Union in the mills. The demand was as utterly unreasonable as it was unacceptable, and to enforce it, they resorted to a sit-down strike to prevent loyal workers from entering the mills and coupled it with stone-throwing and soda bottle throwing at them. The Communist technique is clearly evident in this incident; and when the police had to intervene to enable loyal workers to enter, they were also attacked and thus forced to open fire. In the result, seven persons were killed and twenty-five injured, though the party propagandists put the number of casualties much higher. It may suit the book of the designing Communists to provoke incidents and clashes with the police; but in the process those who suffer and pay with their lives are mostly innocent women and men. It is time that the Communist game is thoroughly exposed and that all sections of the community who are for orderly progress and peace combined themselves to fight the menace. It is time that mischief-mongers realised that even though it is a popular Government that is in power, it will not tolerate conditions in which chaos is proposed to be substituted for law and peaceful progress.

Some Press Notes of Madras Govt.

Scheduled Castes and Public Services

Issued on November 25

Under the Statutory Service Rules, in the case of services and posts to which recruitment is made on a communal basis, one out of every twelve vacancies is reserved for members of the Scheduled Castes. In actual practice even for this one vacancy sufficient candidates are not forthcoming from those castes. The vacancies which have been kept unfilled for want of suitable and qualified candidates of the Scheduled Castes are being accumulated so that they may be filled at a future date when suitable and qualified candidates become available.

In June, 1946 the Government of India decided to increase the proportion of reservation of vacancies in favour of the Scheduled Castes to be filled by direct recruitment in Central Services from 8 1/3 per cent to 12 1/2 per cent, so as to bring it into accord with the population ratio. The Government of Madras considered the question of adopting the policy of the Government of India and increasing the percentage of appointments to be allowed to the Scheduled Castes to 12 1/2%. In view, however, of the dearth of suitable and qualified candidates among Scheduled Castes mentioned in para 1 above, the Government have decided that the increased percentage can be given effect to only when sufficient numbers of suitable and qualified candidates become available from the Scheduled Castes.

Cholera Epidemic

Issued on November 26

An examination into the trends of cholera epidemic in the Province during the next three months shows that cholera may occur in mild epidemic form in the Districts of South Arcot, Tanjore and Trichinopoly. The Health Officers and local authorities in these and neighbouring districts have been instructed to take all necessary preventive measures well in advance of expected outbreaks.

Holidays Restored

Issued on November 25.

The Government have decided that all the Statutory and sectional holidays which were in force before the war should be restored and that the non-Statutory holidays should also, with one exception, be restored, but that in substitution of Easter Thursday and Easter Tuesday, a holiday one day before and one day after Ayudha Puja be granted. The local and special holidays which were kept in abeyance since 1942 will also be restored. The Government have further decided to restore the old office hours in Government offices from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. both in the city and in the mofussil.

Ex-Servicemen's Relief Committee

Issued on November 15.

At the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Provincial War Committee held on the 9th November 1946 at Fort St. George, it was resolved that His Excellency the Governor's Amenities and Relief Fund be wound up and the Provincial War Committee and its various sub-committees be dissolved. A statement of accounts of the fund from its inception will be published in due course. The balance now remaining in the fund is about Rs. 10 lakhs. It was decided that this should be administered in future by a committee set up for the purpose, for the benefit of men in the Defence Services and their families and for ex-servicemen. The committee will be constituted as follows:

1. His Excellency the Governor, who will be the Chairman.
2. Three Representatives of the Army, Navy and Air Force respectively.
3. Diwan Bahadur Sir A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar.
4. Kumararaja Sir M. A. Muthiah Chettiar of Chettinad.
5. Mr. N Sivraj.

Ceiling Prices for Groundnut

Issued on November 20.

Representations have been made to the Government that the prices of unshelled groundnut and refined oil should also be fixed and that the margin of profit allowed

MADRAS INFORMATION

at present to a retail dealer is uneconomical and should be increased. The Government after a careful consideration have fixed ceiling prices for unshelled groundnut and refined oil and revised the ceiling prices for ordinary groundnut oil as:

Southern Zone		Northern Zone	
(1)		(2)	
(Chingleput, North Arcot, South Arcot, Tanjore, Trichinopoly, Salem, Coimbatore, the Nilgiris, Malabar, South Kanara, Madurai, Ramnad and Tinnevely.)		(Madras, Vizagapatam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Kistna, Guntur, Nellore, Cuddapan, Bellary, Anantapur, Kurnool, and Chittoor.)	
Unshelled Groundnut	Rs. 9-13-0 per Imperial maund loose.	Unshelled Groundnut	Rs. 10-0-0 per Imperial maund loose.
Groundnut Oil		Groundnut Oil	
(1) Sale ex mill: (whether by a miller or dealer in any quantity)		(1) Sale ex mill: (whether by a miller or dealer in any quantity)	
(a) For oil containing not more than 4 per cent of free fatty acid.	Rs. 36-8-0 per Imperial maund ex-mill naked exclusive of sales tax.	(a) For oil containing not more than 4 per cent of free fatty acid.	Rs. 33-0-0 per Imperial maund ex-mill naked exclusive of sales tax.
(b) For oil with a free fatty acid content exceeding 4 per cent.	Rs. 35-0-0 per Imperial maund ex-mill naked exclusive of sales tax.	(b) For oil with a free fatty acid content exceeding 4 per cent.	Rs. 36-3-0 per Imperial maund ex-mill naked exclusive of sales tax.
(c) For refined oil the free fatty acid content of which has been reduced to below $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. by the use of chemicals and which has also been bleached.	Rs. 40-0-0 per Imperial maund ex-mill naked exclusive of sales tax.	(c) For refined oil the free fatty acid content of which has been reduced to below $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. by the use of chemicals and which has also been bleached.	Rs. 41-8-0 per Imperial maund ex-mill naked exclusive of sales tax.
(2) Sale by wholesaler: (i.e. sale other than ex-mill sale in quantities of one Imperial maund or more at a time.)		(2) Sale by wholesaler: (i.e. sale other than ex-mill sale in quantities of one Imperial maund or more at a time.)	
(a) For oil containing not more than 4 per cent of free fatty acid.	Rs. 38-0-0 per Imperial maund ex-godown naked exclusive of sales tax.	(a) For oil containing not more than 4 per cent of free fatty acid.	Rs. 33-8-0 per Imperial maund ex-godown naked exclusive of sales tax.
(b) For oil with a free fatty acid content exceeding 4 per cent.	Rs. 36-8-0 per Imperial maund ex-godown naked exclusive of sales tax.	(b) For oil with a free fatty acid content exceeding 4 per cent.	Rs. 29-0-0 per Imperial maund ex-godown naked exclusive of sales tax.
(c) For refined oil the free fatty acid content of which has been reduced to below $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. by the use of chemicals and which has also been bleached.	Rs. 41-8-0 per Imperial maund ex-godown naked exclusive of sales tax.	(c) For refined oil the free fatty acid content of which has been reduced to below $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. by the use of chemicals and which has also been bleached.	Rs. 43-0-0 per Imperial maund ex-godown naked exclusive of sales tax.
(3) Sale by retailer: (i.e. sale in quantities less than one Imperial maund at a time.)		(3) Sale by retailer: (i.e. sale in quantities less than one Imperial maund at a time.)	
	In districts other than the Nilgiris Rs. 1-7-0 per viss exclusive of sales tax and in the Nilgiris Rs. 1-9-0 per viss exclusive of sales tax.		Rs. 1-3-6 per viss exclusive of sales tax.

The prices for unshelled groundnut are for nuts of fair average quality, free from moisture and dirt.

The higher prices for refined oil will be allowed only if the oil is packed in containers marked "Refined Oil" with a declaration that the fatty acid content is below $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The price is exclusive of the containers.

Contracts entered into on or before the 19th November, 1946, in respect of unshelled groundnut at rates higher than those mentioned above may be fulfilled at such higher rates until the 19th December, 1946 and the subsisting contracts in respect of ordinary groundnut oil for a sale in bulk not being a sale ex-mill may be fulfilled before the 19th

December, 1946 at the rates that were in force on the 19th November, 1946. When the prices are revised next, such a long interval of time will not be given to clear the existing contracts.

Reservation of vacancies for Servicemen Issued on November 21

With the two-fold object of stopping diversion to the civil service, with its superior attractions, of men who would otherwise form the best material for the fighting services and encouraging offers to serve with the fighting forces by offering the inducement of suitable civil appointment on demobilisation, the Madras Government decided in 1941 to reserve for persons who had rendered war service a percentage of all substantive vacancies arising on or after 1-4-1941 which should be filled by direct recruitment. Later, all substantive direct recruitment vacancies, with a few exceptions, were similarly reserved and later still temporary vacancies of long duration were also reserved. Thus the position is that practically all appointments to be made by direct recruitment are reserved for candidates with war service. Those who have been appointed pending recruitment of war service candidates have no claim for permanent appointment as they are regarded as being only on a purely temporary basis.

The orders of reservation referred to above will cease with effect from 1-4-1947 unless there are still vacancies left to war servicemen by the confirmation of non-war servicemen in vacancies which arose between 1-4-1941 and 31-3-1943 to be made good.

The Government while fully appreciating the claims of war service candidates for reserved vacancies in Government service feel that those who were recruited to civil posts on a temporary basis are also entitled to some recognition and they have for some time been considering how to reconcile these conflicting claims. They have now decided that two-thirds of all the vacancies reserved be filled by candidates who have rendered service in the War 1939-1945, the actual appointments being suitably spaced out to enable those whose demobilization is delayed up to 1-4-1947 to apply for reserved posts for which they are qualified. The remaining vacancies, i.e., one-third of the total, will be candidates who have not rendered war service, the selection being from amongst the most suitable of those who have been filling the civil posts temporarily. In this connection the Government have considered to what extent men who belonged to the Indian National Army should be eligible for reserved vacancies. They have decided that

Indian National Army personnel should be treated in exactly the same way as ex-servicemen and have equal claims to be considered for reserved vacancies for which they are suitable but that they will not be considered for any vacancies in the Police services.

Prices of Sugar-cane and Jaggery Issued on November 21

In a Press Note issued on the 2nd November, 1946, the Government announced their intention to fix

(1) The minimum prices for cane delivered to the sugar factories; and

(2) ceiling prices for jaggery, both wholesale and retail, for all the districts in this province which were however subject to the approval of the Government of India.

The approval of the Government of India has since been obtained and the prices fixed have been finally notified in the Fort St. George Gazette dated 19-11-1946. The levels at which the various prices range are given below:—

Sugarcane prices: From Rs. 26 to Rs. 35 per ton according to factories, to come into effect forthwith.

Ceiling Jaggery, whole sale prices: (1st Sort) Rs. 13-8 to Rs. 17-8 per Imperial maund according to district; (2nd Sort) Rs. 12 to Rs. 16 according to district.

Retail prices: (1st Sort) Rs. 0-9-0 to Rs. 0-12-0 per viss according to districts; (2nd Sort) Rs. 0-8-2 to Rs. 0-10-11 per viss according to district.

Salary of Teachers Issued on November 25.

Government have received representations from teacher-managers and Managements of schools that the 15 per cent of the salary of teachers sanctioned in G.O. No. 1495, dated 31-7-1946 as the grant to the Managements concerned is not sufficient for their expenses. Besides, it was laid down in the G.O. that in higher elementary schools where fees are being charged, they will not be eligible for this grant and representations have been made that as the amount accruing from fees in these schools is very little, the grants should not be stopped in their case. Government are at present considering these representations.

Food Position of Bellary and Anantapur

Issued on November 23.
There was moderate rainfall in Bellary and Anantapur during the first two weeks of

October, the average being more than 1½ inches. There was no rain worth mentioning during the latter half of the month. The irrigation sources in both the districts received appreciable supplies during the month. Sowing of Hingari crops is in progress; weeding is being attended to. The harvest of Mungari crops yielded a fair out-turn.

The seasonal conditions have very much improved in both the districts and the relief works are being closed one by one except those which are nearly complete or are of such a nature that their stopping would result in wasting the work already done and consequently result in monetary loss to Government. With the exception of such works, the Collectors of Bellary and Anantapur have been requested to close down all other works. The number of works in progress in each of the districts under each category is given below:—

District.	Works.	Irriga- tion works.	Other works including wells.	Total
Anantapur	25	3	29	57
Bellary	1	8	18	27
	26	11	47	84

The daily average number of persons relieved was 3,325 in Anantapur and 1,907 in Bellary.

Out of 26 fodder depots sanctioned for Anantapur district, only 11 are now working, the remaining 15 have been closed and the staff attached to them with the exception of a watcher has been disbanded as there was no demand for fodder as a result of the recent rains. The Government have ordered the closure of all the depots in Bellary. But only 4 have been closed. The other 3 are functioning. Particulars of receipts and sales of fodder in the districts are given below:—

District	Receipts.	In tons Sales	Balance.
Anantapur	1,831	68	1,563
Bellary	611	5	606
Total	2,242	73	2,169

Gratuitous relief in the shape of cash and grain is being distributed to the infirm and decrepit persons in the villages in both the districts. The daily average numbers relieved under this category are 15,234 in Anantapur and 1,952 in Bellary. Distribution of relief has been ordered to be stopped with effect from 16th November, 1946 as it is expected that there will be ample supplies of grains

in the districts as a result of the harvest by the middle of this month and that it will be easier for persons to provide grains for their dependants.

Four relief kitchens were opened at Perur, Kambadur, Amarapuram and Agali villages in Anantapur district on 15th September, 1946 for the relief of poor and indigent children who were supplied with cooked food. All the four kitchens have been closed with effect from 31st October, 1946.

Milk Distribution

Large consignments of condensed milk supplied to the Collectors for distribution among expectant and nursing mothers and children up to 8 years have been exhausted. This scheme has been discontinued and a new scheme of distribution of milk to elementary school children has been introduced.

The seasonal conditions in the districts have considerably improved and it may be said that normal conditions have been restored.

Food Situation

Anantapur. The Board has allotted 1,000 tons of rice from Tanjore, 500 tons of cholam from Gwallor, 1,586 tons of maize and 325 tons of barley to this district recently. Arrangements have been made for importing the allotment of 300 tons of cholam from Banganapalle State.

The stocks of rice and millets are sufficient to meet the requirements of the district.

Bellary. The stock position of food-grains in the district is as follows:—

	Bags
Paddy	1,574
Rice	13,965
Cholam	32,614
Korra	2,843
Ragi	1,207
Sajja	160
Varagu	377
Maize	11,945
Wheat	11,947

The above stocks are expected to last for about 1½ to 2 months.

Rural rationing is working throughout the district. The stocks of food-grains allotted for October have been moved almost completely.

Compost Manure

Issued on November 28.

A conference of selected Commissioners of Municipalities was held at the Secretariat on November 28 in connection with compost manufacture and distribution. It was presided over by the Hon'ble Mr. Kumaraswami

Raja, Minister for Agriculture. The Additional Secretary, Development Department, Director of Agriculture, Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards, Registrar of Co-operative Societies and the Director of Public Health attended the conference.

The steps to be taken for effective and consistent propaganda among cultivators, maintenance of demonstration plots by the Agricultural Department, the assistance to be given to the local bodies to facilitate the production of compost, and the machinery for the distribution of the manure were some of the items discussed at the conference.

The general view was that co-operative societies should be entrusted with the distribution of compost manure and that if co-operative societies were unwilling to come forward to undertake the work the local bodies themselves may sell the compost direct to the ryots or in public auction. Some of the Commissioners stated that they required help in the matter of transport.

It was observed that while compost was in great demand in certain municipalities there was very little demand in certain other areas.

There was a free discussion on the merits of compost manure and the general opinion of the conference was that all steps should be taken to popularise compost manure and to step up its production.

Mulberry Cultivation Order Explained

Issued on November 20.

Owing to the imperative need for ensuring the maximum cultivation of food crops at present, it was ordered in a G.O., dated 9-10-46 that further extension of mulberry cultivation on lands which have not been cultivated with mulberry before the issue of this order in the Kollegal Taluk in the Coimbatore district should be prohibited for a period of 2 years and that the order shall come into force from 15th October, 1946. It has been brought to the notice of the Government that this order has created an erroneous impression in some quarters that even re-planting in the existing mulberry gardens will not be allowed and that the new mulberry planted during the planting season of 1946 (before the receipt of the order referred to above) which will be ready for picking from January 1947 onwards will also be seized. The Government desire to make it clear that such an interpretation of the order is erroneous as the ban imposed is only applicable to lands that will be newly planted with mulberry in the coming season of 1947 and not for the season which is already over. It is not the intention of the Government to prohibit re-

planting of mulberry in the existing mulberry gardens. The Government wish to make their intention clear that the newly planted mulberry in 1946 which will come to the leaf picking stage in January 1947 will be left untouched and will not be seized under clause 2 (ii) of the order under notification.

Sales Tax Exemptions

Issued on November 30.

Soon after the present Ministry assumed Office in April last, a number of representations and memoranda were received by the Government from various Merchants' Associations, Chambers of Commerce and individuals pointing out that in spite of the exemption granted under Section 8 of the Madras General Sales Tax Act, 1939, commission agents had been unjustly and illegally assessed to sale tax in many places. The Government asked the Special Officer for Commercial Taxes to investigate into the grievances of the commission agents and to submit a detailed report to the Government in the matter. At the same time, the Government ordered that the collection of tax from commission agents who had taken out licences under Section 8 of the Madras General Sales Tax Act, 1939 should be stayed pending further orders.

The Special Officer for Commercial Taxes has since submitted his report. After carefully considering his report, the Government are satisfied that the commission agents in question were rightly assessed to sales tax for failure to comply with one or other of the conditions of the licence granted to them under Section 8 of the Madras General Sales Tax Act, 1939.

The Government have accordingly directed that the assessment of commission agents who do not satisfy the conditions of the licence should be proceeded with and that doubtful points should be settled by decisions in appeal or revision as hitherto. They have also ordered the collection of the tax which had been stayed.

In the case of certain assessments on dealings in cotton in the Bellary district for contravention of the conditions of the licence under Section 8, the Government have ordered that the assessments should be cancelled, as cotton is an exempted article, and that licences under Section 5 of the Madras General Sales Tax Act, 1939 should be issued to the dealers with retrospective effect on payment of a nominal penalty. In the case of certain assessments of commission agents in groundnut in the same district, the Government have ordered that they should be revised and calculated on the amounts which the agents paid to the seller instead of on the amounts paid by the buyer.

MORE BUSES FOR CITY

Measures to Prevent Overloading

The Central Road Traffic Board, Madras, has issued instructions to all Regional Transport Officers to prevent overloading and excess fare collection in buses. The Regional Transport Officers have been instructed to take severe disciplinary action when these offences are detected.

The Government propose to run 30 buses in the Madras City to relieve congestion. The construction of bus bodies is in progress and the services are expected to commence from the beginning of January, 1947.

PROHIBITION NEWS

Kurnool

Thrift schemes have been introduced among the Nandyal Municipal workers. In the wake of prohibition 2 Cinema houses have sprung up in the District.

Coimbatore

The Hon'ble Mr. Kottli Reddy toured in the District and addressed many public meetings. The two refreshment stalls in Coimbatore Taluk are doing good work. The Annur firka tournament was organised on a

A free reading room—in the wake of prohibition in Salem.



grand scale. About 15 Jaggery Manufacturers' Societies have been organised.

Salem

The Hon'ble Mr. Kottli Reddy toured this district also. During the last fortnight 6 firka tournaments were organised. Arrangements are being made to organise wool carpet industry on a co-operative basis for the benefit of ex-tappers. 500 hundi boxes have been distributed.

North Arcot District

Variety entertainments are being organised in villages.

Chittoor District

Six recreation clubs have been organised in six villages in the district. In several villages thrift campaigns have been launched and games organised.

Salem District

Eight firka tournaments in 'chadugudu' were conducted.

A Taluq Tournament in 'chadugudu' was conducted at Harur on 28th October, 1946, when a rural exhibition of agricultural products and small handicrafts and also a cattle-show were conducted.

A new reading-room was opened at Yercaud and the local gramasangham conducted a village drama.

Cuddapah

Eleven gramasanghams have been organised. Tournaments and rural games were held in twenty villages. Bhajana parties were organised at six places.

Arrangements are afoot to open a park in Mannur of Rajampet town and to provide it with a radio. One park has been opened in the Mannur Harijan quarters by the side of the temple for the Harijans. The ryots of Chintakommadinne have agreed to equip their local park with a radio. The district Central Bank and the town bank, Cuddapah, have agreed to go in for radios, to be installed near their bank premises.

Four schools for adults, two in Chitvel (in Telugu and Urdu) and another at Kodur by the Mission authorities and another at Jammalmadugu by the Divisional Development

Committee were organised during the fortnight.

Hundi boxes were distributed to the ryots. Intensive rural uplift work has been taken up in the Virapandy firka. Dramas were staged in two villages. Reading rooms were re-organised in two villages. In one village a kathakalekshepam was conducted. A thrift drive was inaugurated at Virapandy and El-lampalli by the Special Officer of the National Savings Scheme and the Special Development Officer.

A co-operative stores was opened in the Tiruchengode taluq by the President of the District Board. 25 hundi boxes were distributed among the people and they were encouraged to save in them.

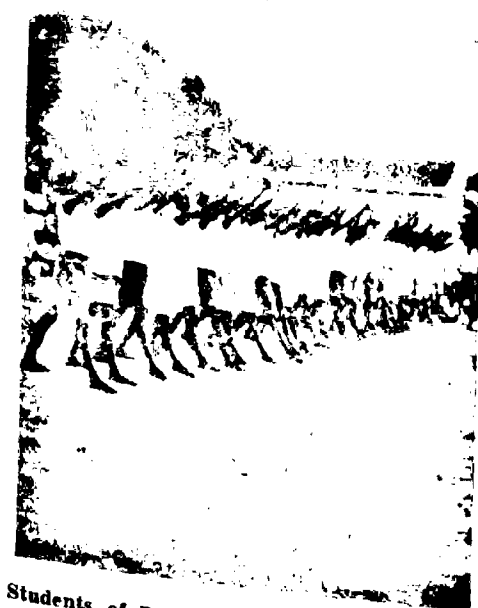
On 31-10-1946, a new radio was installed in the park at Jalakantapuram-Malayampalayam. The Hon'ble Mr. Daniel Thomas, Minister for Local Administration switched on the radio and the electric lights.

Anantapur

The Uravakonda Panchayat Board has laid out a park. The Weavers' Co-operative Society has agreed to instal a radio set for community listening.



Variety entertainment at a recent firka tournament in Salem.



Students of Rural Uplift School presenting Hundi boxes to the villagers.

ENFORCEMENT AND AMELIORATION

DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF PROHIBITION SCHEME EXPLAINED

(By A. F. W. Dixon, C.S.J., C.I.E., I.C.S.)

PROHIBITION is not an end in itself, but a means to an end. The object of introducing Prohibition is to raise the economic, social and moral level of the masses. It is necessary therefore, not only to attempt to enforce Prohibition effectively, but also to ensure that the public, in particular the poorer section, benefit to the full from the measure. Hence it is that Government have divided Prohibition work into two parts, Enforcement and Amelioration. The two parts are closely inter-related, since successful ameliorative work will not be possible unless enforcement is adequate, while on the other hand without ameliorative work, enforcement will be rendered more difficult and even if effective, will not fully achieve its objective of raising the economic, social and moral level of the people.

A Difficult Task

Coming first to enforcement, I consider it necessary not to under-estimate the magnitude and difficulty of the task of enforcing the Prohibition Act effectively in the 8 Districts. The population of the eight Districts is approximately 15 millions. In these districts, we have closed 3,445 toddy shops, 2,055 arrack shops, 161 ganja shops and 103 opium shops. In these districts, perhaps 1 million people were spending about 11 crores of rupees on drink and drugs annually. The task before us is thus to change the habits of about a million people. Most of us know how difficult it is to change any settled habit in our own lives and few habits are more difficult to break than drinking and drug-taking. The enforcement staff is also faced with the further difficulty that unlike the position in ordinary crimes, there is usually no injured party in prohibition crime.

If some one illicitly distills arrack or taps a tree for toddy, there is no injured party, and the offender's neighbours will generally be loath to come forward with information which may result in their neighbour being sent to jail for what they may not consider to be a crime at all in the ordinary sense.

Inflation Also Helps

There is another difficulty peculiar to these times. In comparison with pre-war conditions when Prohibition was first introduced, there is more money in the hands of the people, and less to spend it on, particularly less food and cloth, the two major items in the poor man's budget. Hence the urge to spend money on drink is greater (this has been shown in the last few years by the huge increase in Excise receipts. An increase of nearly 3 crores in 1945-46 over 1944-45, an increase by 30% in one year in arrack consumption, and by 1/3 in foreign liquor consumption, including Indian-made foreign spirit). Hence the money and effort which will be expended on illicit practices will be greater. It is of interest also to note that all the 8 Prohibition Districts are included among the 14 in the Province in which illicit distillation (the Prohibitionist's bugbear) is particularly prevalent.

I have not minimised the difficulties because I believe that it is necessary to state them clearly and face them squarely if they are to be overcome, and because I wish to emphasise how necessary it is for officials of all departments of the Provincial Government and local bodies and for the general public to give all the assistance in their power to the enforcement staff so that the Act may be made effective.

Responsibility of Officials

The enforcement staff itself is small, and handicapped as it is by lack of information it has to be assisted in every way possible. This was realised by the framers of the Act and I would remind those who are in the employ of the Provincial Government or of local bodies, of Sections 35 and 36 of the Act. Under Section 35 of the Act, they are legally bound to assist any Prohibition or Police Officer in carrying out the provisions of the Act. Under Section 36, they are bound to give immediate information of all breaches of any of the Act which may come to their knowledge and to take all reasonable measures in their power to prevent any such breaches

which they may know or have reason to believe are about or are likely to be committed. It may not be a pleasant task to give information regarding Prohibition crime, but it is a duty which every officer of the Government and of local bodies is bound to perform, and if they are constantly on the alert they can be of the greatest use to the department.

Duty of the Public

It is, however, upon the co-operation of the general public that we have chiefly to rely. At the last elections the public returned an overwhelming majority of candidates pledged to reintroduce Prohibition. It has, therefore, to be assumed that, large though the number of drinkers and drug-takers may have been, the great majority of the population favour Prohibition and wish it success. Success cannot be attained without hard work and some sacrifice. If this large body of persons co-operate fully with the enforcement staff then success is assured. If they feel they have done their duty having recorded their vote and perhaps joined in a procession on the opening day, then success is doubtful, and I would warn you that while Prohibition successfully enforced will bring many benefits to the homes of many thousands of poor people, a failure would have disastrous consequences. The general public must help by acting as the eyes and ears of the enforcement staff, and through propaganda and in other ways create such public feeling in towns and villages that ex-drinkers and drug-takers will not resume their former habits on account of fear of disgrace and social ostracism. Some will become members of the Taluk Prohibition Committees, which have the statutory functions of reporting offences and reporting on the working of the Act to the Collector. Others may be appointed members of Village Prohibition Committees, assisting the department in successful enforcement in villages; but the great majority will not belong to these committees. We want their active, not merely passive, support also.

Ameliorative Aspects

I have dealt with the less pleasant side of Prohibition, the importance of which, though, cannot be glossed over. There is also the equally important constructive ameliorative side. The objects of ameliorative work are (1) to provide counter-attractions to drink and drugs, making it easier for the ex-addict to give up his old habits, (2) to carry through a programme of urban and rural uplift, which will ensure that towns-men and villagers obtain the maximum benefit from this measure of social reforms.

Use Love Rather Than Fear

Most of my talk so far has been concerned with enforcement, and the necessity of assisting the enforcement staff in bringing offenders against the Prohibition Law to book. But we should rather prefer to deal with ex-addicts in another way. Our aim is to create conditions in the villages which will minimise the urge to drink to the greatest extent possible. It is essential for Prohibition workers to sympathise with ex-drinkers and to understand their feelings. For the majority of them, drinking is a form of escapism. After perhaps a heavy day's toil, they have nothing to do but to return to probably a small, dark and dirty hut, and sit on the pail. Small wonder that they prefer to resort along with their friends to the toddy shop and spend an evening of jovial companionship and drinking where they forget their worries and the boredom of village life. It is our duty when we take away what the drinker would consider a valuable amenity, to substitute something in its place; it is our duty to do all in our power to make the change over from drinking to abstinence easy, to prevent the commission of offences by removing or lessening the desire to commit them, rather than to wait until the offence is committed and to send the offender to jail. Of the two great forces in the world, love and fear, we prefer to make use of the former.

Alternative Refreshments

The most obvious counter-attraction in the early stages is the provision of some form of refreshment in or near the toddy shop itself. About 1,000 refreshment stalls have been opened in the more important centres in the Prohibition districts. Such refreshments as jaggery water, butter-milk, tea, coffee and food made from Bengal gram, maize and wheat are provided free for the first month and at reduced rates for the 2nd or 3rd, after which it is expected that the urge to visit the toddy shop will have died down and private enterprise will have provided alternatives. Government sanctioned Rs. 100 for each stall, but this is not and was not expected to be sufficient to cover the whole cost and the many persons who are interested in the successful working of Prohibition have been asked to help with gifts in kind or in money. This is a good opportunity for the public to show that they do not pay only lip service to the cause of Prohibition.

Entertainments & Sports

It is not, however, enough merely to provide for a short period some kind of alternative to the toddy shop. Much more has to be done

to relieve the tedium and boredom of the evening hours. A large-scale movement has, accordingly, been launched, having as its object the provision in towns and villages, of sports and games and entertainments, mainly indigenous, such as chedugudu, harikatas, pandari bhajanas, kalakshepams, dramas, radio, cinema shows and the like, so as to enliven the evening hours. That it is possible to do this on a big scale was shown in Salem district, where there were at one time over 1,000 centres of rural recreation. A special staff has been sanctioned to guide this movement, but Government must rely mainly on non-official support. You can help by joining or offering your services to the local rural recreation club, grama sangham, or betterment committee, or by serving on or helping the Firka Committee, the Taluk Association or the District Committee, by providing facilities for recreation and by entertaining villagers yourselves. You can even adopt a village and make yourself or yourselves responsible for seeing that adequate entertainment is provided.

Rural Uplift Drives

The provision of counter attractions is the first task, but more than this is required, in order that the object of Prohibition, the uplift of the masses, may be attained. It is necessary to organise district-wide rural uplift drives.

The establishment of a rural recreation organisation in the village providing games and other entertainments, though intended primarily to provide counter-attractions to drink has been found to be an excellent preparation for rural uplift. Games and entertainments bring villages together, unite them, waken them from lethargy and make them more ready both to undertake village betterment work themselves and to profit by Government schemes for village improvement.

This prepares the way for the formation of a grama sangham or village betterment committee whose work, after counter-attractions have been organised, will be to carry out a programme of village uplift.

Thrift Movement

An obvious early task will be to organise a thrift movement particularly intended for ex-addicts but open to all. 11 crores of rupees were formerly spent per year mainly by the poor on drink and drugs in the 8 districts. It is clearly most important that good use should be made of the money saved. A part will be required at first for clearing debts, and providing necessities if available, such as a sufficiency of food and clothing; but, especially at a time like this, when there is a shortage of consumer goods, a unique

opportunity is offered to launch a thrift drive to transform the masses of poor people into creditors instead of debtors. The most popular form which the thrift movement takes is the Home Safe Deposit or Hundi box scheme, organised by co-operative societies, favourable rates of interest being given. The best alternative is investment in National Savings. Supposing it were possible to persuade ex-addicts to save even only $\frac{1}{4}$ of what they used to spend on drink and drugs, 29½ crores of rupees would be invested annually mainly by the poor, in Small Savings. Not only would the crushing burden of rural indebtedness be largely lifted, but in many thousands of homes money would be available, for instance, for the purchase of cattle, to meet the expenses of a daughter's wedding or a son's education, and even for the construction of a house or the purchase of land. Thus, one of the first tasks of the Village Uplift Committee would be to inaugurate a thrift drive. It would then undertake a regular programme of village betterment which might be on a six monthly basis. During the first six months, besides organising amusements and launching a thrift drive, the programme might include regular village cleaning days, removal of cattle from houses, filling up of insanitary pits and improvements to drains and communications. Other items to be considered then or later might be, a house building scheme, improved agriculture and animal husbandry, better facilities for education, provision of a village hall with reading room, park and radio—a playground would, it is hoped, have already been provided—and provision in the large villages of a rural dispensary.

Finance

The question may well be asked, where is the money coming from for so many improvement schemes in ten thousand villages. Unfortunately, it is not possible for Government in view of their heavy commitments to provide large sums for village improvements. Except in one firka in each district, in the other 39 or whatever it may be, we have to ask the villagers to rely, for the present, mainly on self-help, though it is hoped that help will be received from local bodies (For example in Salem, the District Board gave to the Village Committees half grant for work on the improvement of villages) and from Government, who may be expected to give special assistance to Village Committees which have shown by their good work that they are deserving of help. Once the villagers have been brought together and interested, however, there is a great deal which can be done by common effort to improve village life, and a great deal that can be learnt once interest is awakened.

CAUSES AND ASPECTS OF LABOUR DISPUTES

STRIKES AND LOCK-OUTS

The following is a joint discussion broadcast from the All-India Radio, Madras, by (1) The Hon'ble Mr. V. V. Giri, Labour Minister, Madras; (2) K. O. Antony, Esq., M.L.C.; and (3) K. P. Ramaswamy, Esq.

Ramaswami: This is an age of freedoms. The latest prescription for the world's ills consists of the four new freedoms: freedom from food, freedom from fuel, freedom from habitation and freedom from freedom. I wonder what you think of that.

Antony: This new recipe must have emanated from a cynic. Freedom from freedom! It is tantamount to absolute regimentation and the worst form of totalitarianism.

Giri: I quite agree with Antony. Liberty is often mistaken for licence. But freedom which recognises the rights of others to equal freedom is essential.

R: But what kind of a freedom is it which allows people to think that they are free to do whatever they like irrespective of the consequences to society and other individuals. Take strikes for example.

G: Well it has been a matter of grave concern. For instance, we had as many as 208 industrial disputes. Of these 140 were settled by the intervention of the Labour Department while 5 were settled by conciliation and 12 by adjudication. A few still await settlement.

P: Is it not rather strange that this strike fever should have started almost at the same time as this Government assumed office?

G: That is easily explained. The Adviser-regime concentrated only on war-effort. Their sole objective was optimum production. Strikes were just not tolerated. The workers also had a fear-complex. But every repression must have a reaction. Immediately the popular Government took office there was an outburst of pent-up feelings.

A: Nor is this a new phenomenon. That is exactly what the Blum Government in France and President Roosevelt's administration in the U.S.A. experienced.

R: I have been told that all these strikes were not due to economic causes. I wonder if there is any substance in this charge.

G: I believe that view is shared by several others.

A: Another regrettable feature is that quite a number of strikes have taken place without notice. It is only fair that strikes or lock-outs should be declared only after giving notice provided for by law. This I say is not only in the interests of the parties directly concerned but in the public interests as well.

G: The Congress Government of Madras made it clear in the year 1937 and again reiterated it in 1946 that it was not their intention to curtail the rights of the workers in any way. They also made it clear that they feel it incumbent on them to declare that all available methods of representation should be exhausted before resorting to direct action; and that they would always encourage internal settlement of disputes by bringing employers and workers together whenever issues arose between them.

A: That brings us to the question as to who are really concerned in a strike or a lock-out? Is it only the employer and the worker? To my mind, the community is an equally important party. It has its own interests to safeguard. If that is so in normal times it is much more so now when almost all the necessities of life are controlled or rationed. This creates both a right and a responsibility for the public to intervene in a trade dispute. I would like to see a body of independent, enlightened citizens studying every industrial dispute and educating the public on the case for the workers as well as the employers.

R: I am substantially at one with Antoni there. The public has a lot at stake in industrial warfare and they must have their say especially when it menaces the life of the community. Strikes in the health and safety industries are not like strikes in other forms of enterprise.

A: There is some criticism that Government machinery is much too slow. Is there any basis in this?

G: A certain minimum delay is sometimes inevitable in the movement of the Government machinery, but speaking broadly I think there has been no avoidable delay.

A: There is one other aspect of the strike which I think we cannot ignore. That is the element of violence. We have recently had manifestations of violence in strikes and the use of force by Government. No doubt when strikes occur, feelings are roused. The workers are agitated and if some workers go to work, violence may result. But if there is one distinct contribution that our country could make to the conduct of strikes it should be the complete elimination of violence in strikes from whichever quarter.

R: I am in entire agreement with Antoni. As the Chinese proverb says, "He that rides the tiger cannot lie down with the lamb."

G: I personally do not believe in violence in any of our struggles, political, social or economic. The several strikes that I have conducted consistently observed non-violence. The workers stand to gain sympathy and support by observing non-violence.

A: Closely allied to this question is that of picketing. Non-violent persuasion I can understand, but I wonder if all picketing is really carried on in a non-violent manner.

G: Picketing to be lawful must be peaceful and non-violent in the real sense. So long as this is done there should be no interference on the part of the Police or other concerned authorities. That is the Government's attitude.

R: You mentioned in the last session of the Legislature that you were contemplating comprehensive legislation for amelioration of labour conditions and particularly for the investigation and settlement of trade disputes.

A: Subsequently didn't you see from the papers that the Central Government had taken upon themselves this and other labour

legislation? Mr. Giri may be able to give us some enlightenment on these matters.

G: This is pertinent. The results of the Labour Ministers' Conference held in Delhi on the 14th and 15th October constitute a landmark in the history of labour legislation in India. Both Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Vice-President of the Viceroy's Executive Council, and Mr. Jagjivan Ram, Labour Member of the Government of India, were emphatically of the opinion that labour legislation should be Central and based upon the greatest common measure of agreement among the Provinces, so that no Province may have any difficulty in enforcing or applying it. The Madras Government contemplated introduction of the following bills in the local Legislature:

1. The Trade Disputes Bill.
2. Madras Maternity Benefit Act Amendment Bill.
3. Minimum Wages Bill.
4. Agriculture Wages Bill.
5. The Madras Shops and Establishments Bill.

6. The Madras Non-power Factories Bill. As the provisions of the first four Bills will be nearly the same as the Centre's proposals, they have been dropped. The other two will be taken up for consideration at the next session of the legislature. Besides these two, courts of enquiry are now functioning to enquire into the conditions of service of workers in the textile industry, beedi and cigarette factories, and tanneries, with a view to the improvement of labour conditions in all aspects. (For details see *Madras Information*, No. 4, dated 16-11-1946. Ed.)

R: Mr. Giri, legislation alone will not bring industrial peace. Fundamentally, the problem of good industrial relations is not one that can be solved by legislation, punitive or otherwise. It can only be solved by a fair, intelligent and judicial approach on both sides, through honesty in facing facts and a free exchange of information, through good procedures for settling grievances which prevent small differences from becoming large issues, and through spread of enlightenment and recognition of the social necessity of industrial peace. The problems are both psychological and economic. The responsibility of the Government is to define rights and duties fairly and to protect Labour and to protect Management in equal proportions.

IRRIGATION SITES IN S. KANARA & MALABAR

PUBLIC WORKS MINISTER'S INSPECTION TOUR

The Hon'ble Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam, Minister of Public Works and the Hon'ble Sri K. R. Karant, Minister of Revenue, recently toured the South Kanara District and inspected the various sites where irrigation and highways work has been taken up or is required to be taken up. There are about 21 irrigation schemes under investigation at present. These schemes deal with exclusion of salt water from irrigated lands, improvements to tanks, reclamation of swamps, construction of anicuts and excavation of channels.

The whole district is mostly hilly and the scheme may not be so remunerative as in the plains. To increase the food production in the districts, the schemes may have to be carried out in spite of their poor return.

Mr. Bhaktavatsalam inspected also the minor ports at Mulki, Malpe, Coondapoor, etc., for development of coastal navigation.

Malabar District

From South Kanara the Minister for Public Works went to Malabar and toured the district to inspect the sites for irrigation schemes at Thiruvangad, Vadakkampad, Ayinkad, Payyoli, Elavanna and other villages, the Enamakkal dam and also the sites for the Malampuzha and Walayar Reservoir projects. A number of memorials relating to irrigation schemes and road works were presented to the Minister.

There are, at present, about 37 schemes under investigation, of which the biggest is the Malampuzha reservoir project which is expected to irrigate more than 40,000 acres at a cost of nearly 2 crores of rupees, with possibilities of developing hydro-electric power. Other schemes relate to construction of reservoirs, anicuts and channels, bunds to conserve water and exclude salt water, and reclamation of the several swamps in the District, etc.

The schemes are comparatively costly but to make the District self-supporting, they may have to be executed in spite of their comparatively poor return.

A: To my mind this is essentially a human problem. I do not believe in the so-called class-conflicts. What is needed in most cases is a change in the attitude of employers towards the workers. They have to have a real caring for them. This does not mean appeasing. The more employers insist on their rights, the more Government will find it necessary to legislate. William Penn once said, "If men are not governed by God, they will be ruled by tyrants". As an American employer said, "Employers must realise that there is doubt and distrust. They must be replaced by trust and confidence." There is a good deal of scope for peace if employers and workers get together and discuss problems around the table, not as master and men but as equal parties. From my experience I have found that the Works Committee movement can do a great deal in settling differences between employers and workers.

G: I have always believed in the settlement of disputes by the parties themselves.

R: But does not the proposed Central Bill provide not only for conciliation but also for adjudication? I thought you held the view that compulsion in the settlement of trade disputes is not sound in principle.

G: I am a believer in courts of enquiry and conciliation rather than in arbitration and adjudication. But in our country trade unionism is still in its infancy and the workers have yet to know the complete technique of negotiations. The employers must be in greater touch with the psychology of workers and their organisations and the trade union leaders must be thorough with the technical side of the industry and also to understand when to concede and when to demand. In short, tact is wanting on both sides which could only be secured by experience.

A: There must be, in other words, greater understanding in the relations between employers and workers. The employer must recognize the human needs of the worker and must pay him a fair wage, ensure decent working conditions and treat him as a partner in a common enterprise. The worker on his part must also do his duty by his employer and give him an honest day's work. The State must recognise that the worker is its first care.

R: That is just the point that I, too, want to stress. As Antoni said there is a good deal more that employers speaking generally have to do for the worker. But trade unions

(Contd. on page 34)



A chadugudu tournament, recently held in Salem.



Mr. M. Bakthavatsalam at Malampuzha, Palghat.



Mr. Raghava Menon at Palghat.

FIGHTING BACK THE FAMINE

STORY UNFINISHED—BUT END IN SIGHT

UNTIL recently the stock of rice available for distribution in the Province has been falling steadily. At the beginning of June 1946 it was 429,000 tons. The situation eased slightly early in August owing to the first bonus and the cut in the rice ration, but this only lasted for two weeks and then the fall continued. By the middle of September the total stocks went down to 223,000 tons which is about 6 weeks' requirements of ration shops and establishments. The lowest point was reached in the middle of October when the figure was 173,000 tons. Thereafter there was a sharp rise till 7th November when the stocks reached 275,000 tons. This was due to the September-October harvests combined with the appeal by the Hon'ble the Prime Minister and the special bonus. Since then, however, the fall again set in and by 21-11-46 the stock was back to 250,000 tons. However with the season now definitely a favourable one and the main harvests in the Northern surplus districts on the point of starting, it can be said that the danger period for this year is over. The most critical time was towards the end of September and in October.

Below Safety Margin

It is usually considered that for safety there should be stocks in hand equivalent to 6 weeks' actual requirements. The stocks in the Province were below this figure from the third week of September until the end of October. Moreover, these figures are for the Province as a whole and in the deficit districts the picture was much grimmer. Naturally the surplus districts and to some extent the surplus parts of deficit districts had to be allowed to keep enough to last them until the next harvest so that though the provincial stocks might on paper appear to be sufficient for 5 or 6 weeks, they would not in fact be sufficient to keep deficit areas fed for anything like so long. In fact from August onwards there always used to be not less than four districts, excluding Madras City, which had only stock for less than a month. By the beginning of September this number rose to 7, and by October to 9, after which, with the harvest on the West Coast and in Madras and Trichinopoly, the number fell again. And among these districts there were usually one or two which had only under two weeks'

supplies, while a majority had only less than 3 weeks' supplies.

Universal Rationing

There is one reason and one reason only why these deficit districts were able to survive so many weeks with rice stocks far below the safety level. That reason is the universal application of rationing. In the first place universal rationing enabled Collectors to judge accurately the amount of rice needed in each village and consequently in each wholesale depot. Knowing this they could distribute their small stocks over the depots to the best advantage. They knew to what point the better stocked depots could be allowed to fall and above what point it was essential to maintain the poorer depots. They could direct the imports to the places where they were most needed and if necessary even transfer stocks from one depot to another within the district. Secondly, they could maintain rationing with a much smaller reserve than would be necessary to avoid famine if distribution were uncontrolled. It was definite that no one could buy more than a week's needs during the week and that consequently no ration shop would need to be supplied with more than a week's requirements. This in turn meant that a wholesale depot could just manage as long as it had stocks to meet one week's demand from the ration shops attached to it. In practice, of course, more than a week's supply in a wholesale depot is necessary as the receipts into the depot from outside the district are likely to come irregularly; but still as long as a week's supply was there rationing would continue to work normally.

Public Confidence Maintained

The third and not the least important result of universal rationing was the maintaining of public confidence at a very high level. Nowhere in the province was there ever any panic no matter how low the district stocks had fallen. People had confidence that the Government would maintain rationing, that rationing would assure everyone a fair share of food and at least the minimum necessary to keep them alive, and that before the situation became worse they would receive some warning in the shape of

(Continued on Page 33)

FOOD SITUATION IN THE PROVINCE

For the Fortnight Ending 15-11-46

Rainfall

DURING the fortnight the North-East monsoon established itself everywhere except in the extreme north of the Presidency. Rainfall was widespread and heavy in nearly all districts. Tanks and irrigation sources have received ample supplies, the river Pennar recording the greatest depth known in the last 30 years. If further rain comes, the season should be a normal one.

The water level in the Mettur Reservoir was 120.75 feet on 15-11-46 as against 51.15 feet on 15-11-45.

Prices

There was no perceptible change in the prices of foodgrains and pulses during the fortnight. There was a further slight fall in the price of chillies. As regards oils, oilseeds, etc., the position was as follows:—

Groundnut oilcake	.. No change.
Gingelly seed	.. Slight fall.
Groundnut (Shelled), Copra	.. Slight increase.
Coconut Oil, Gingelly Oil and cotton-seed	.. An increase of 18.7%
Gingelly oilcake	..

As a result of the decision to decontrol jute in Bengal, the price of gunnies has increased sharply in this Province and extra allowances had to be allowed to millers, thus slightly increasing the price of rice.

Procurement

115,096 tons of paddy and rice in terms of rice and 5,838 tons of millets were procured in the fortnight ending 31-10-46. This represents a further considerable rise in procurement over the figures for the two previous fortnights.

The total paddy and rice procurement which is four times higher than the preceding fortnight is due to the harvesting of the short-term paddy crops, the delivery of which was accelerated by the bonus of Rs. 2 per maund offered by the Madras Government up to the end of October.

Imports

During the fortnight under review the following quantities of cereals and pulses were

imported from sources outside the Province.

(i) Receipts from other Provinces and States.

Rice	.. 9,421 tons.
Millets	.. 437 "
Wheat & Wheat Products	.. Nil "
Pulses	.. 6,446 "
Comprising Redgram	.. 1,696 "
Blackgram	.. 697 "
Greengram	.. Nil "
Bengalgram	.. 4,053 "

(ii) Imports from Overseas and abroad:—

Rice	.. 15,375 tons.
Millets	.. Nil "
Maize	.. Nil "
Wheat	.. 51,535 "
Wheat products	.. Nil "
Barley	.. Nil "

Supply and Stock Position of Foodgrains

The closing stock of rice in the Province on 14-11-46 was 265,367 tons as against 226,467 tons on 31-10-46. The increase was mainly due to procurement of short-term paddy the harvesting of which is in progress. Owing to heavy rains transport of paddy and rice from the main Provincial supplying sources viz. Tanjore district to deficit districts was hampered as a result despatches to many districts, particularly the Central Districts was greatly behind schedule. The delay in the arrival of S.S. "Thistledale" carrying Brazil rice and the threat of the diversion of its cargo to Mysore complicated the supply arrangements to Madras and the Central Districts. The rain also retarded milling operations in Tanjore and the Circars. In Madras City the stock position became precarious and caused anxiety for a while, but is showing improvement with the arrivals of Central Provinces and Orissa rice.

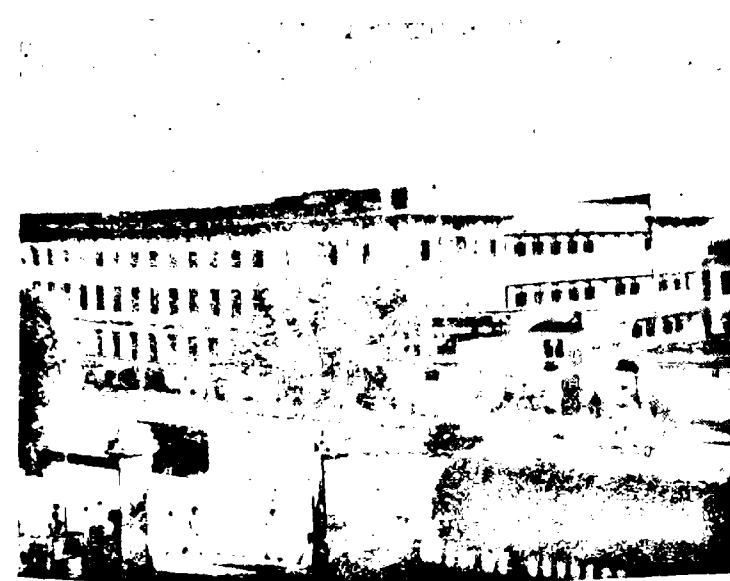
Millets

Stocks of millets decreased slightly to 26,624 tons, representing rather less than 1½ months' stocks. The "Fort Walsh" carrying 5,000 tons of Argentine millets has since arrived at Tuticorin on the 18th November. Imports from Gwalior continued to be slow. The stock position is low in Coimbatore, Ramnad, Salem and Guntur districts.

(Continued on Page 34)

MADRAS IN PICTURES--II

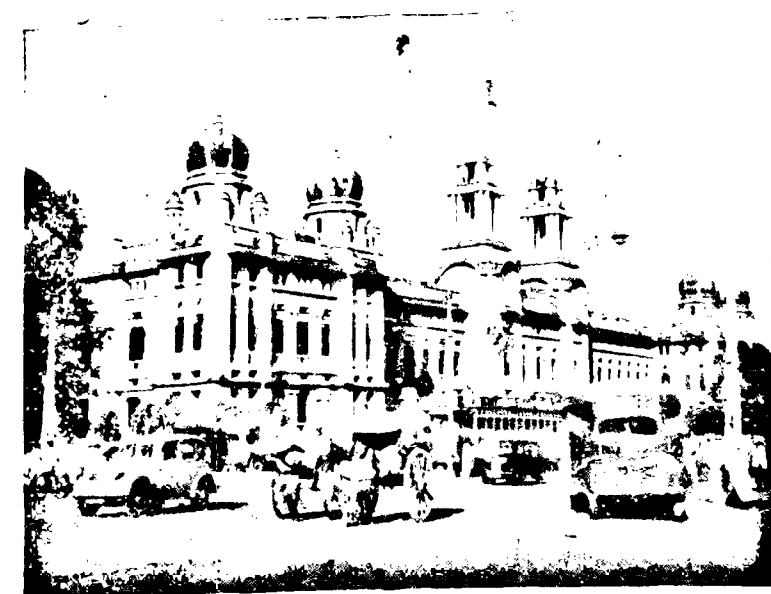
(Central Station and People's Park Areas)



(1)

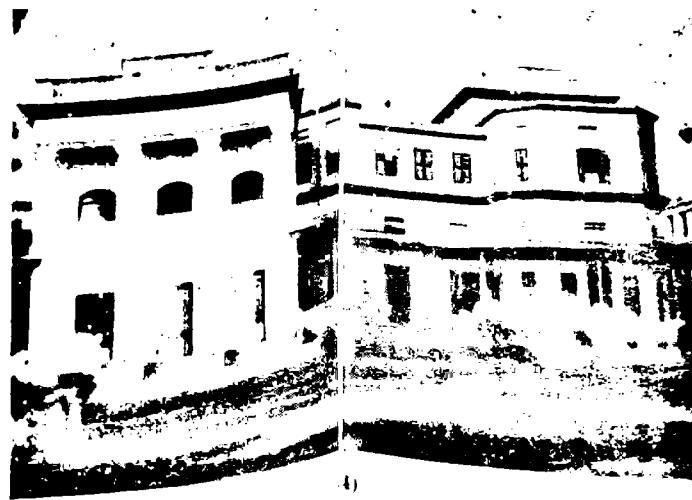
Medical College.

(2)
M. & S. M. Railway
Head-quarters Office.





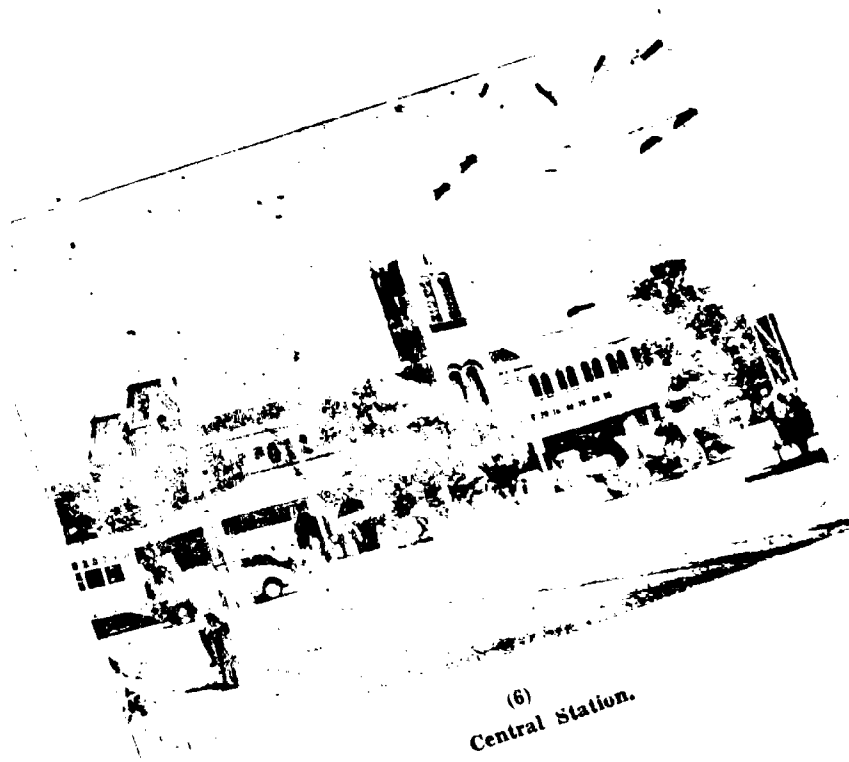
(3)
The Stanley Viaduct traffic control post—a general view of the
General Hospital Road.



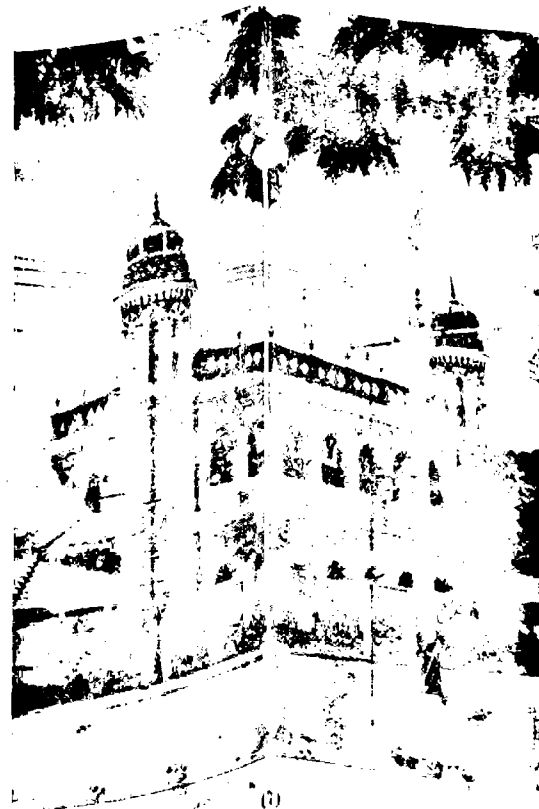
4)
Two different views of the General Hospital.



(5)



(6)
Central Station.



(7)



(8)
Moore Market.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AT WORK

I. AGRICULTURE

The following is a report on the Free Distribution of Manures in Malabar and South Kanara.

In G.O. No. Ms. 151-Food dated 2nd April, 1946, the Government sanctioned the free distribution of groundnut cake and ammonium sulphate for the first crop of paddy in Palghat and Walluvanad taluks of Malabar and Kasargod taluk in South Kanara district. The dose proposed per acre was 2 cwt. of groundnut cake and 56 lbs. ammonium sulphate. On the basis of the normal area under paddy in these three taluks sown in April, May, June, the estimated quantities required to cover the entire area were

Groundnut cake	..	28,200 tons
Ammonium Sulphate	..	7,050 "

(4) For various reasons the cultivators in the West Coast are not accustomed to the manuring of paddy with fertilisers. If, therefore, a campaign of manure supply and distribution was launched, there were reasonable prospects of securing by October and November the sorely needed increase in paddy production and of educating the ryot to the advantage of using manures and fertilisers.

Distribution

Since the transport and distribution of manures had to be done in a short period from the middle of May to the end of June the students of the Agricultural College were also engaged as propagandists in the campaign.

The actual quantities of manures distributed were as follows:

	Quantities in nearest ton.		
	Malabar (tons)	S. Kanara (tons)	Total (tons)
Groundnut cake	.. 11,761	3,844	15,606
Ammonium Sulphate	.. 3,393	964	4,357
Fish Manure		2	2

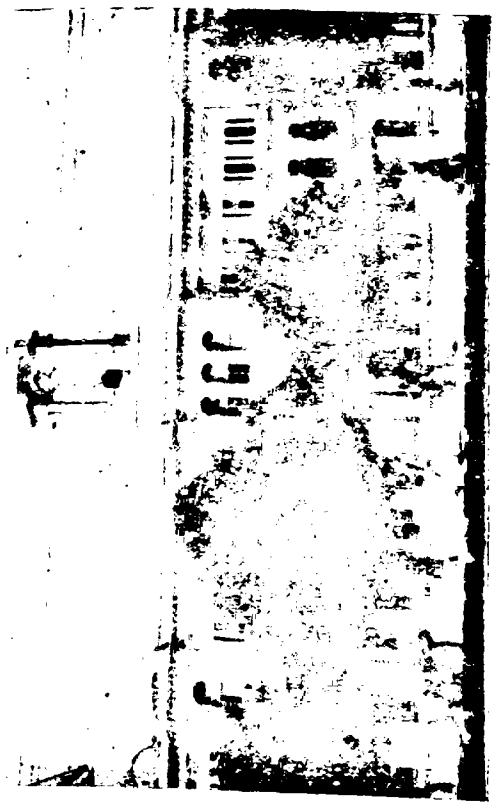
The area for which manures were distributed was:

Malabar	..	134,867 acres.
S. Kanara	..	39,100 "
Total	..	173,967 "

(2) The West Coast districts are heavily in deficit in paddy.

(3) The earliest sowings of paddy are in the West Coast with the advent of mango showers in April.

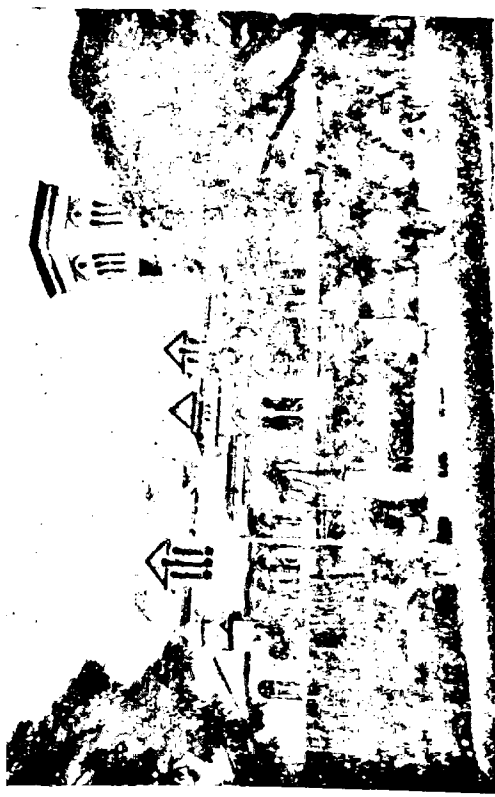
There was a good demand for groundnut cake in Palghat taluk. The entire quantity of groundnut cake that could be supplied to



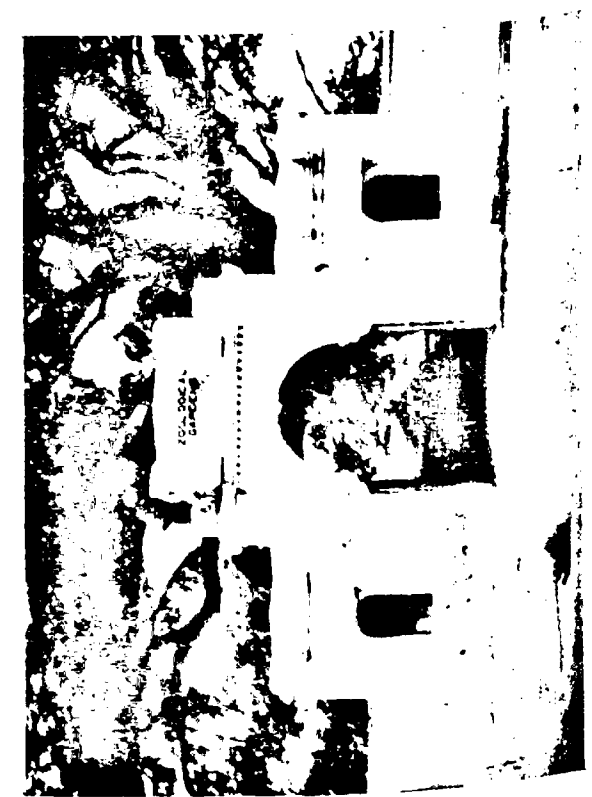
(10) Ripon Buildings-Corporation Office.



(9) Victoria Public Hall.



(11) Entrance to the Zoo.



Palghat area was disposed of. The demand from the ryots in Walluvanad and Kasargod was not so keen as that from the ryots of Palghat. As the use of Ammonium Sulphate was new to the West Coast the ryots there were generally averse to its application.

	Number of ryots to whom manures were supplied.
Palghat taluk	15,665
Walluvanad taluk	12,374
Kasargod taluk	15,647
Total	43,686

About 70% of the ryots in Palghat taluk and 34% in Walluvanad taluk took advantage of the free distribution.

Season: The rainfall during the period June to September was unusually heavy. During AUGUST when the crop was in flower 39.14 inches of rain was recorded in Kasargod against 14.49 inches in the corresponding month in 1945. The low-lying lands especially on the sides of the rivers, were reported to have been badly affected by floods. Due to the heavy rains in the flowering period the setting of the grains was affected.

Crop Cutting Experiments

In order to evaluate the effect of manuring on the crop yields, the district staff was instructed to carry out actual crop cuttings and take weights of both grain and straw.

The number of plots from which the crop was cut for weighment was:

	Manured.	Unmanured.
Malabar:		
Palghat taluk	64	64
Walluvanad Taluk	116	72
S. Kanara:		
Kasargod Taluk	111	89
Total	291	225

Size of each plot 10 cents.

The average yields of grain and straw per acre of manured and unmanured or those plots in which local manures were used and the percentage of increase in straw and grain are tabulated below.

Increase of Grain

The average increase of dry paddy per acre in Palghat taluk was 499 lbs. or 34.5% over the yield of usual local manured or unmanured plots. In Walluvanad taluk the increase of grain per acre due to manuring was 455 lbs. or 31.5% over the unmanured plots. In Kasargod taluk the average increase was only 235 lbs. or 15.3%.

Increase of Straw

In Palghat taluk the average increase of straw per acre was 1,421 lbs. or 43%.

In Walluvanad taluk the average increase was only 464 lbs. or 27.5%.

In Kasargod taluk there was an increase of 261 lbs. of straw per acre or 10.9%.

On the above basis the increase in production of grain and straw in the areas where the manures were distributed is estimated as follows:

Estimated increased production due to free distribution

Grain:

Taluk	Area manured. Acres.	Estimated increase in grain. Tons.	Value of the increased produce. Rs.
Palghat	99,265	22,113	at Rs. 1-5-0 per 16 2/3 lbs. or Rs. 177-4-0 per ton
Walluvanad	35,603	7,232	
Kasargod	39,100	4,102	
Total:	173,968	33,447	Rs. 59,28,480

Straw:

Taluk	Area manured. Acres.	Estimated increase in straw. Tons.	Value of the increased produce. Rs.
Palghat	99,265	63,415	Straw at Re. 1 per 75 lbs. or Rs. 29-14-0 per ton
Walluvanad	35,603	7,375	
Kasargod	39,100	4,556	
Total:	173,968	75,346	Rs. 22,50,962

Expenditure on Manures

Tons	Rs.
15,605 groundnut cake at Rs. 140 per ton	2,184,700
4,357 ammonium sulphate at Rs. 250 per ton	1,089,250
2 Fish manure at Rs. 60 per ton	120
Total:	Rs. 32,74,070

II. LABOUR

Labour situation during the fortnight ending 15th November, 1946.

On the representation of several organisations of textile workers that they should be given an interim relief by increase in basic wages, dearness allowance, and bonus, the Government have in G.O. No. 4153 Development, dated 6th November 1946, referred the question of the need for the interim relief to textile workers, pending the result of the Court of Enquiry, to Sri Rao Bahadur M. Venkataramayya, for adjudication. The adjudicator is now touring in Coimbatore District.

The Commissioner of Labour and the Deputy Secretary to Government, Development Department, left for Bombay on 10th November 1946 to study the labour set-up there.

The Deputy Chief Inspector of Factories who has been deputed by Government to attend the Conference of Chief Inspectors of Factories convened by the Government of India, Labour Department, has left for Delhi on 15th November 1946. The following subjects will be discussed at the conference:

- International Labour Organisation's questionnaire on factory inspection.
- Strength of the factory inspectorate.
- Organisation of a training course for factory inspectors.
- Consideration of the draft of revised Factories Act.
- Industrial museum.
- Functions of the Chief Adviser, Factories Organisation.

Sri Rao Bahadur M. Venkataramayya who was appointed as the sole member of the Conciliation Board to settle the dispute between the rickshaw pullers and the rickshaw owners in Madras City has submitted his report to Government. He has also sent his award as adjudicator of the dispute between the management of the City Motor Service Ltd., Madras, and their workers.

Coimbatore Workers.

The Coimbatore Spinning and Weaving Mills Ltd., Coimbatore, which were closed from 12th September, 1946, on account of the workers who are under the influence of the Communists resorting to strikes and violence inside the factory as a protest against the

recruitment by the management of workers who are not amenable to Communist influence, were reopened on 1st November, 1946, with police protection. As the Communist workers staged a stay-in strike they were dismissed and the workers were required to give an undertaking that they would work properly inside the mills. About 1,000 out of 3,000 workers in the A. & B. Mills of the factory attended on 9th November, 1946. On 11th November, 1946, the Communist Union organised violent picketing which led to serious rioting in which the workers of Kaleeswara and Somasundara Mills and the Brooke Bond Company joined by forcing their way out of their factories during working hours. The police had to open fire and the District Magistrate passed curfew orders (9 p.m. to 6 a.m.) in the industrial area around C.S. & W. Mills for 15 days from 11th November, 1946. The C.S. & W. Mills are now working with about 20 per cent of the workers, but the Kaleeswara and Somasundara Mills and the Brooke Bond Co., have declared a lock-out till normal conditions are restored.

The Mettur Chemical and Industrial Corporation Ltd. which was closed from 16th September, 1946 on account of the strike organised by the Mettur Chemical and Industrial Corporation Ltd. Labour Union, of which Sri M. Surendran is the President, was reopened on 2nd November, 1946. The Management and the Union have come to a settlement in the presence of Sir N. Gopalaswamy Iyengar, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Corporation.

In the Nellimerla Jute Mills there was a partial strike of workers of the sewing section owing to a private quarrel between the men and women workers of the section, from 22nd October, 1946 to 4th November, 1946. The workers have again gone on strike on 11th November, 1946, demanding that the duties of the machine-sewers and hand-sewers should be clearly defined. The Labour Officer, Vizagapatam, and the Sub-Collector, Vizianagaram, are looking into the matter.

The workers of the Madura Mills, Tuticorin struck work on 31st October 1946 as a protest against the suspension of a worker who refused to do the work allotted to him. The management insisted on an assurance from the Union that the workers would do the work allotted to them and the mill was reopened on 5th November, 1946.

(Continued on Page 27)

RE-SETTLEMENT OF EX-SERVICEMEN

PROGRESS OF WORK IN DISTRICTS.

THE work of resettlement of ex-servicemen is being carried on vigorously. The following are a few facts and figures from the reports of work in the various districts of the province.

Bellary

In Bellary, 28 men have been helped to find appointment in the month of October. During the fortnight ending 15-11-1946, 12 men have been secured appointments, thus bringing the total number to 271. Eleven candidates have been selected as constables. The land colony at Pullampet is being got ready.

East Godavari

In the East Godavari District, 2 land colonies, at Komaragiripatnam and Kandikuppa have been started. There are 50 members in the former and 33 in the latter. 46 acres of land have been transplanted with paddy 1 crop; but due to want of adequate water supply, the crop is not thriving. Subsidiary occupations such as spinning, fishing, and carpentry have also been introduced. Out of the 1,592 men who have been registered in this district, 545 have been absorbed in general employment.

S. Arcot

44 men have been given employment during this period, in the S. Arcot District.

Salem

In Salem, about 600 acres have been transplanted with paddy (Samla) under the Manivilandan Land Colonisation scheme. One clerk and 12 peons have been appointed from among ex-servicemen, while 53 have been selected as constables.

Tinnevely

Out of 4,277 men who have registered themselves in Tinnevely District, 1,439 have obtained appointments up to the end of 15-11-1946. 216 men have joined the Labour Contract Society. It is proposed to entrust the construction of the Resettlement office to the Society.

Madura

554 out of 2,063 who have registered have been settled in suitable appointments in the district of Madura.

N. Arcot

In North Arcot, 6 more men have been absorbed in Government jobs.

Chingleput

346 men out of 1,996 registered, have so far been placed in civil employment in Chingleput district. 42 acres have been cultivated under the Meyyur-Gudapakkam Ex-Servicemen's Co-operative Agricultural Colonisation Society.

South Kanara

The number of men for whom appointments have been secured in the South Kanara District is 3,647 leaving 974 persons yet to be placed.

Madras City

In the city of Madras, the number of ex-servicemen registered upto 15-11-1946 is 509. Out of these 49 have been absorbed in the various offices in the city. There is no land colonization scheme in the city.

Trichy

Out of 18 ex-servicemen who registered at Trichy, 15 have been re-settled.

Tanjore

There are no new schemes promulgated by Government during the fortnight. The Radio Sales and Service Societies which the Government are considering to start have not yet taken any definite shape.

Five more applicants have joined the land colony as temporary members.

The second session of the short-term course in the Hood Co-operative Institute, Tanjore is expected to begin by about the beginning of January, 1947, and orders of the Government are awaited in the matter. This would train the ex-servicemen for suitable jobs.

Guntur

The Resettlement office here has begun to function as a Branch Employment Office with effect from 15-11-1946. 95 men have been registered.

Vizagapatam

4 ex-servicemen have been placed in Government jobs.

Anantapur

A colony covering 1,006 acres has been started at Siddaramapuram. It can accommodate 67 colonists.

468 men out of 836 registered have been employed through the Resettlement Office.

TIRUCHENDUR TEMPLE THROWN OPEN TO HARIJANS

EDUCATION MINISTER'S OPENING SPEECH

THROWING open the famous Subrahmaniar Temple in Tiruchendur to the Harijans and hitherto excluded communities, Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar, Minister of Education, said that it was an event which would gladden the hearts of millions of people in this Province. He continued, "The Government hope that this will be the starting point for the opening of all the other temples which are still putting a bar upon their brother Hindus from worshipping their Gods."

"It is unfortunate that the name of our glorious religion has been tarnished by this very unholy custom. I have no doubt that the new Hinduism that is being born will not tolerate this social injustice towards any portion of its community. What we want today is our consolidation into a single people and a single race in this great country, and God willing, all our social customs should be such as will help us in this great task."

"People have been telling me that apart from throwing open all these temples certain social disabilities which Harijans and some others have in entering public places, such as hotels, wells, tanks, etc., should also be removed by law. I am glad to be able to announce here that the Government are contemplating legislation which will give equality to all people in all public places. But I must add that without the living and earnest co-operation of the people these legislations by themselves cannot be a panacea for all our social evils and I have no doubt that you will kindly give the Government your fullest co-operation in these matters."

"If this great country is to live again and live in glory which was once its special distinction, we must consolidate all that is noblest and best in our own religion. Let us build a society which, while it will cater to the individual needs of persons and communities, will be based on the democratic principle of giving each man the opportunity of developing his own powers to the utmost. Opportunity should be given to every individual to develop his own best and rise to the highest levels of human thought and action. It is such a society that the world wants today and it is such a society that we should build if we are to renovate this great country of ours. The great work that we have done today in throwing open this holy and ancient temple to millions of men and women, who have been anxious to enter it and who have been denied their rights of all these long

years, will, I hope, be a small step in this great task of building up a consolidated and unified community in this great land.

(Continued from Page 25)

Disputes in Malabar

About 60 out of 1501 workers of the Commercial Textile Corporation (a hosiery factory in Cannanore) were served with a notice of discharge as the management had to close down the shirting section for want of work. Under the leadership of the Hosiery Labour Congress, the workers have gone on strike from 29th October, 1946 after due notice. On the intervention of the Assistant Commissioner of Labour the management and the President of the Hosiery Labour Congress have come to a settlement on all points in dispute except the need for retrenchment of the 60 workers. The workers were advised to resume work pending the reference of this question to an Expert to be appointed by the Government. The workers have resumed work on 15th November, 1946.

About 170 workers of Messrs. K. P. Neelambi & Sons (Handloom Weaving Factory), Calicut, have struck work from 1st November, 1946, demanding increase in wages, payment of arrears of dearness allowance, reinstatement of a worker, provision of a canteen etc. On the intervention of the Assistant Commissioner of Labour, the parties have come to a settlement on all the points in dispute except an increase of 37½% in their wages. As the increase in wages will involve an increase in the cost of production, the Management are not prepared to consider the demand but they are willing to adopt the schedule of rates of the Calicut Handloom Weavers Association in which there are about 35 handloom factories and to continue to pay the existing rates wherever they are higher. The matter is under the consideration of the Government.

The workers of the Andhra Cement Company, Bezwada, struck work without notice on 29th October, 1946, demanding the reinstatement of a worker. They resumed work on 8th November, 1946, on the advice of the Commissioner of Labour.

The stevedore labourers working in the Madras harbour who struck work on 13th November, 1946, resumed work on 14th November, 1946, on the advice of the Hon'ble Minister of Industries and Labour.

WELFARE OF ABORIGINALS

GOVERNMENT TAKE PRELIMINARY STEPS

THE Aboriginal Welfare Enquiry Committee appointed by the Government of Madras was formally initiated by the Hon'ble the Premier on 19th November in his room. All the members of the Committee were present. After the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. V. Ragavaiah, introduced them to the Premier, the Premier gave them a few words of advice and drew their attention particularly to the various South Indian aboriginal tribes living on mountain tops and in the midst of unhealthy forests, and exhorted the Committee to make a special study of them.

On the morning of November 20th, the Committee again met in the Chairman's room where, by invitation, the Hon'ble the Minister for Revenue and the Hon'ble the Minister for Industries and Labour were present.

The Hon'ble the Minister for Revenue suggested to the Committee that wherever land was available, proposals might be made for colonising the landless aboriginals by means of Land Co-operative Societies and promised full support of the Government in regard to land proposals. He suggested that there was no advantage in trying to draw the aboriginals to the plains and create further unemployment. He observed that all facilities should be afforded to these backward people in their own natural surroundings so that they could preserve their freedom, follow their own modes of life, unfettered by the civilisation of the towns or by the exploitation of the traders. He suggested that co-operative societies could play a large part in their uplift, particularly when the machinery can be harnessed to land reform.

The Hon'ble Mr. V. V. Giri, Minister for Industries and Labour, drew the attention of the Committee to the existence of semi-slavish conditions among the aboriginals like the Gothi system, prevalent in the Godavari Agencies, and invited the members to make a special study of the labour conditions of

the aboriginals, their average income, the way they spend it, etc. He also wanted the Committee to suggest ways and means of improving the economic conditions of the aboriginals. He suggested that co-operative loan societies and land colonies may go a long way to reduce their sufferings, increase their literary attainments and enable them to march abreast with their brethren of the plains. The Minister of Labour felt that the Government should be always ready to do their best for the uplift of the oldest of India's inhabitants. Special officers, if necessary, should be appointed to look after their welfare, to safeguard them against exploitation and to promote collective farming. Both the Ministers wished the Committee every success in their work.

The Committee consists of the following members:—

Mr. V. Raghavaiah, Parliamentary Secretary, *Chairman*.

Mr. V. Subbaroyan, I. P., *Secretary*.

Mr. B. S. Murthy, Parliamentary Secretary.

Mr. T. K. T. N. R. Thatachari, M.L.A.

Mr. L. N. Rao, Member, Servants of India Society, Chalapuram, Calicut.

Mr. K. Kelappan, President, Kerala Provincial Congress Committee, Calicut.

Mr. U. Muthuramalinga Thevar, M.L.A., Ramnad.

Dr. A. Iyappan, Superintendent, Madras Museum (who is a noted anthropologist).

The Committee will commence their tour on the 21st of November. They tour the Andhra Districts till the 2nd December, complete the Ceded Districts between the 7th and 17th of December, and then cover the Tamil Nad and Kerala.

—X—

Rs. 66 CRORES SAVED IN 6 YEARS

SAVINGS CAMPAIGN IN MADRAS PROVINCE

History and Progress So Far

THE Savings Movement was started in this Province in 1940 by a Committee of non-official European businessmen under the auspices of the National Savings Movement, Calcutta. In 1941, the Committee was enlarged so as to include some non-official Indian gentlemen of influence and a few officials. It was named the Provincial Defence Loans Committee, Madras, and was given secretarial and financial assistance by the Government. It was in charge of propaganda and canvassing for Defence Loans which included War Bonds, Interest Free Bonds, Prize Bonds, Collective Subscriptions (that is, lump sum investments on behalf of villages or groups of inhabitants, of monies raised for specific public purposes), and Defence Savings Certificates. As the total subscriptions for all these Defence Savings only amounted to Rs. 7.20 crores for the three years 1940 to 1943 June, the Provincial Defence Loans Committee requested the Government to appoint a full time Special Officer to organise both propaganda and canvassing for Defence Savings in the Province. Accordingly the Government appointed in June 1943 a Defence Loans Commissioner for the purpose. He organised the "Canvassers Scheme"—authorising officials and non-officials to canvass Defence Loans etc., issue receipts, and deposit them in Government Treasuries. Publicity was undertaken for advertising and giving correct information to the public about the nature and advantages of the different classes of "Securities". Advice was given freely to investors on the form of security suitable to them. Thus the total investments in the different securities rose from Rs. 7.20 crores for the period from January 1940 to June, 1943, to Rs. 61.20 crores by the middle of December 1945 when the War Loans were closed.

An Anti-Inflationary Measure

The Defence Savings Certificates were introduced in 1942 as an anti-inflationary measure. These ten-year Defence Savings Certificates which were cashable at any time

and carried interest at 3½% (simple) did not serve the purpose well. Nor did it serve as "Savings" in the real sense, as the liberty to cash the certificates at pleasure and to use the money was still there and saving could be made possible only by some restriction on this liberty. Therefore, the Defence Savings Certificates came to be replaced by National Savings Certificates (a more appealing name) which were made non-cashable for a period of three years. These were introduced in October 1943, and were intended to help the small savers. Defence Savings Stamps were also sold which could be bought and affixed on a card until its total value became sufficient to buy a certificate. However, it was found difficult to spread this idea among the masses with the aid of the "Canvassers" who were a small number of people doing both propaganda and collection for the big loans as well. Early in 1944 the Government of India decided to organise this work for the benefit of the masses and introduced this "Small Savings Scheme" in all Provinces and States. A separate organisation was provided for making this scheme work at as little a cost as possible. With the end of the War the work for Defence Loans closed and the Defence Loans Commissioner continued to work as Provincial National Savings Officer for Madras Province.

Takes a Permanent Shape

Though the Small Savings Scheme was conceived as a war-time measure, it is now on quite a different footing. Its primary object is the encouragement of the habit of thrift and the Government of India place it in the forefront of their post-war economic and social programme. Its successful working will banish economic insecurity and will enable the poorer sections of the community to escape from the habitual indebtedness which has been the greatest obstacle to economic and social reform. Therefore with the end of the war, the Government of India have now placed the Small Savings Scheme on a permanent footing.

Essentials of the Scheme

The scheme is worked by a system of authorised agents who receive a commission of 2½% on the face value of certificates sold by them. Their services are free to the investors. These authorised agents collect the money from the "savers", issue a temporary receipt, deposit the money in the post office, get the required certificate, and deliver it to the investor taking back the temporary receipt. The commission can be claimed only on the production of the foil with the post office seal and signature in token of having received the certificate. Certificates are issued in denominations of Rs. 5; 10; 50; 100; 500; 1,000 and 5,000. No individual can hold more than Rs. 5,000 at any time in these certificates. These certificates mature after the expiry of 12 years and earn interest at 4½% simple interest, that is, every Rs. 10 invested becomes Rs. 15 at the end of 12 years. With the introduction of Rs. 5 certificates, the period of non-cashability was reduced to 18 months in the case of such certificates and to 2 years in the case of other denominations. The poor are also enabled to buy these certificates by sale of the Savings Stamps of the value of 4 annas, 8 annas and 1 rupee, which, when sold, are affixed to a Savings Card supplied free and left with the saver. When the stamps accumulate to Rs. 5 or Rs. 10 the investor exchanges it for a certificate. The interest earned on these certificates is Income Tax free.

Organisation

The Provincial National Savings Officer is in charge of the working of the scheme over the whole province. He is assisted by 9 Assistant Circle Officers, one of whom is assigned for Madras City. The province is divided into 8 areas or groups of districts, and to each area is assigned an Assistant Circle Officer. He supervises the working of the scheme in his area and attends to the propaganda work also.

The Madras Government decided that in rural areas, each village headman should be appointed authorised agent with a view to assure the mass contact so necessary for the development of the scheme. Only in urban areas are selected non-officials of character and integrity appointed authorised agents. The Collector of the district is the appointing authority. Receipt books are printed in various colours according to denominations, and each authorised agent is supplied with the necessary receipts books. The Tahsildar of each taluk is the Checking and Issuing Authority for these receipt books. G.O. No. 54 Finance (Ways and Means) dated 10-2-1944 deals with this.

Savings Committees Needed

If the scheme is to be a complete success, it has to be made popular with the assistance of Savings Committees functioning in each district, taluk and village and formation of savings groups on a large scale. In Madras there is at present a Central Committee under the chairmanship of Mr. C. R. Srinivasan, Editor, "Swadesamitran". This Committee is expected to supervise and co-ordinate the working of the district, taluk and village committees wherever they are formed. These committees can work successfully in their turn, only if they are assisted by savings groups formed in each village and town.

The formation of Savings Groups is being attended to now by the Assistant National Savings Officers alone. They are but a handful and cannot cope with the work. The Revenue Department, which alone has a historical connection for over 150 years with the ryots of this province, is regarded by the ryots as a parent department. Without the whole-hearted co-operation of this department, it was found not possible to increase the numbers of Savings Groups. There are now 403 groups consisting of a total of 8,704 members who save Rs. 20,639 each month. For a population of nearly 50 millions, this is but a very modest achievement. The Central Government desire that there should be a group for every village and a number of groups in each town. Though no target is fixed, the ideal is to make people save at 3½ annas per head of the population per month, which would bring nearly Rs. 13 crores a year for this province alone. This large sum would be made available for national reconstruction. The following figures show the progress so far made in the Small Savings Schemes:—

From	Rs.
28-6-1943 to March 1944	2,06,080
April 1944 to March 1945	2,35,67,090
April 1945 to March 1946	1,80,08,010
April 1946 to October 1946	1,01,77,230
Total	5,19,58,410

The following are the average value of certificates and the number of Rs. 5 certificates sold in the province during the

several months noted below:—

	Average value.		Number of Rs. 5 certificates sold.
	Rs.	A. P.	
1945			
April	44	10 0	4,351
May	54	0 0	3,461
June	73	7 0	2,675
July	101	10 0	2,839
August	89	8 0	3,139
September	76	4 0	3,777
October	94	3 0	3,899
November	81	12 0	4,670
December	97	15 0	4,113
1946			
January	118	4 0	3,499
February	114	14 0	2,958
March	136	13 0	3,504
April	138	12 0	2,616
May	121	3 0	2,329
June	209	13 0	1,324

It will be seen that the number of Rs. 5 certificates sold (which is a fair indication of the progress of the scheme among the poor) was going down since March 1946. The sales by the village headmen were also very unsatisfactory. This was probably due to the preoccupation of the Revenue Department in matters of greater priority, such as food rationing in rural areas, procurement of food and so on. The attitude of the incoming Government was also uncertain at the time. Further the election stood in the way. As soon as normality was felt to be nearing, the Provincial National Savings Officer placed these matters before the Madras Government for their consideration and requested greater co-operation from them with the result that the present Government have also expressed themselves to be keen in advancing the Small Savings Scheme and have issued orders accordingly [G.O. No. 830 Finance (Ways and Means) dated 11-11-1946]. The Board of Revenue have also been requested to implement the scheme in the districts. The Provincial National Savings Officer had an interview with the Commissioner for Prohibition to intensify the scheme in the Prohibition Districts, and he has promised his entire co-operation.

'Savings Week'

The Government of India proposed that each province should this year as in previous years continue to hold the "Small Savings

Week or Fortnight", as this has been found to be of the very greatest advantage not only in stimulating investments for a short period but also in arousing interest in the Small Savings Scheme as a measure of permanent economy. The Government of Madras have accordingly decided that a Small Savings Week should be held throughout the province from the 8th to the 14th December 1946, notwithstanding the fact that the food situation in this province would demand much attention from the Revenue Officers this year. The intention is to have an intensive drive to encourage investments in National Savings Certificates and to form Savings Groups for the purpose all over the province.

The last National Savings Fortnight was held from 1st to 15th December 1944. The special efforts succeeded in increasing the sales to Rs. 45 lakhs in that month, nearly three times the sales in the previous months.

Statement of Savings Campaign

DEFENCE SAVINGS:

- 3% Victory Loan.
- 3-Year Interest-free Defence Bonds.
- 5-Year Interest-free Prize Bonds.
- National Savings Certificates.
- Post Office Defence Savings Bank Deposits.
- Post Office Savings Bank Net Deposits.
- Cash Certificates.
- Collective Subscriptions.

COLLECTIONS:

	Rs.
From June 1940 to June 1943	7,19,53,000
From July 1943 to March 1944	23,92,11,050
From April 1944 to March 1945	15,30,50,568
From April 1945 to March 1946 (Victory Loan closed from 15-12-1945)	14,77,20,200
Total	61,19,34,818

Defence and National Savings certificates

	Rs.
Defence Savings Certificates:	
From 28-6-1943 to March 1944	2,06,080
National Savings Certificates:	
From April 1944 to March 1945	2,35,67,090
From April 1945 to March 1946	1,80,08,010
From April 1946 to 2-11-1946	1,01,77,230
Total	5,19,58,410

PREMIER DEFENDS TEXTILE POLICY

Sri T. Prakasam, the Prime Minister of Madras, has issued the following statement:—

As indicated in my last Press Statement, there remain only the criticisms based on the alleged repercussions on the production of cotton in the Province to answer. The criticisms advanced on this point may be summed up as follows:

(1) Cultivation of cotton which has made great strides as a result of the expansion of the mill industry will suffer a set back.

(2) The production of the finer varieties of cotton will also receive a set-back.

(3) The cotton growers' profits will be affected and he will be hit hard.

(4) In view of the ban on the erection of new mills the Ceded Districts, in particular, will suffer badly, and the power generated under the Tungabhadra Hydro-Electric Project will go to waste as necessary facilities for any other industry do not exist in the areas served by the project, and the dependence of the local handlooms on yarn imported from outside will be perpetuated.

Point (1) above: This Province like many other areas in India was a large cotton growing tract even before any mills came into existence, and it is incorrect to state that the development of the mill industry has been accompanied by a proportionate increase in the area cultivated with cotton. The following figures will be found instructive in this connection:

Period.	Area under cultivation in this Province.	Yield
1923-24	2.6 million acres	4,80,260 bales (1 bale=400 lbs.)
Normal (pre-war)	2.4 million acres	5,08,210 bales

(The picture would remain substantially the same even if we go back to 1913-1914).

In spite of the mills and the efforts made by the Government to improve the yield of cotton, there has been only a small increase of 27,950 bales during this interval of nearly 20 years. There is, therefore, no reason to apprehend any serious fall in the area under cotton because mills are not encouraged under the textile policy announced by the Government.

The cultivators of the Ceded Districts and other areas where short staple cotton is now grown cannot help doing it. That is their money crop and rotation crop. In the prevailing circumstances of soil and climate, they have no alternative but to grow cotton. What the position will be when the Tungabhadra Irrigation Project comes into being, it is difficult to say with any degree of certainty. But the fact that in spite of the efforts of the Government and of the Indian Central Cotton Committee and the enthusiasm of the public, cotton production did not show an appreciable increase, is a significant pointer.

Point (2) above: The production of the better varieties of cotton has been insufficient to meet the requirements of even the existing mills and the deficit has had to be made good by importing such varieties from outside. I am confident that, in the event of the revival of hand-spinning on a large scale as contemplated by the Government, there will be a great incentive to the production of hand-spun yarn not only out of short staple cotton but also out of the finer varieties of cotton grown in our Province. This is by no means an idle dream. Hand-spun yarn of very fine counts is being produced even now in the Chicacole area, and there is no reason why we should not be able to produce hand-spun yarn out of the better varieties of cotton grown in this Province. In fact, as production of khadi increases and displaces other kinds of cloth, there will be an increasing demand for khadi woven out of the finer varieties of hand-spun yarn. The Government do not, therefore, share the apprehension that the production of the improved varieties of cotton would receive a set-back as a result of the textile policy announced by them.

Point (3) above: Like the other arguments, this must also be examined on the assumption that the Khadi Scheme will be successful as expected by the Government. The mills in this Province are now consuming over six lakhs bales of cotton, while our production is only a little over five lakhs bales and the deficit has to be made good by imports of Egyptian, African, American and other cotton. The demand for, and the price of, cotton depend ultimately on the demand for, and the production of, cloth. There is, therefore, no need to apprehend that, under

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the Khadi Scheme, the ultimate aim of which is to give a much higher ration of cloth than now to consumers in this Province, the cotton grower would not be able to secure a fair price for his cotton.

The price of cotton which is a world crop is not determined either in Madras, or Delhi or Bombay or Liverpool. It is determined and controlled in America. The grower of short staple cotton is not, therefore, likely to get a better price than what he is now getting proportionately to the price of long-staple cotton. Even the establishment of mills in the short staple cotton areas, is not likely to benefit because the price of short-staple cotton will still continue to be in proportion to that of the long staple cotton.

Point (4) above: Far from the Khadi Scheme causing particular hardship to the Ceded Districts, it will prove to be a boon to that area if the villagers there co-operate and make it a success. This area grows large quantities of short staple cotton and the marketing of it has been a difficult problem since the entry of Japan into World War II. The revival of hand-spinning in all villages offers the best prospects for the profitable utilisation of the cotton grown in this area. While mills can employ only a negligible fraction of the population of the Ceded Districts, the revival of hand-spinning and weaving of cloth out of such yarn will provide employment on the largest possible scale for the largest number of people. The revival of hand-spinning is also the best way of ending the dependence on mill yarn imported from outside.

It is completely misleading to suggest that facilities for utilising Tungabhadra Power for other industries do not exist in this area. The Government will see to it that all the available power generated under the Tungabhadra Hydro-Electric Project is fully and profitably utilised and the schemes formulated by them in this connection will be announced in due course.

I may add that our experience during the recent war years has shown that the most serious problem in connection with cotton is the large surplus of short staple cotton in this country and that nothing can help in the profitable utilisation of this large quantity of cotton so much as hand-spinning and production of khadi.

To sum up, even apart from the merits of the Khadi Scheme, it is unsound economy to establish more mills while there is not enough cotton to feed the existing mills and with little or no prospect of increase in the production of cotton in the near future.

a further cut in the ration. In other words they knew that as long as the ration scale was maintained the Government believed they would be able to continue to supply that quantity of food. It is probably this very high morale which has impressed foreign observers more than anything else.

In the Absence of Rationing . . . !

It is not difficult to picture what would have happened had there been no rationing. In the first place distribution of bulk stocks within a district would have been uneven. Some villages would have enough and to spare while others would be short. The Collector would have had no reliable information to guide him in allotting his imports and it might well have happened that the most vociferous village got the largest supplies regardless of real needs, and at best villages in difficulty might not come to notice until widespread suffering had already begun and even then it would take time before stocks could be found and moved there. The worst evil of all, hoarding and the concealment of stocks, would quickly make its appearance; stocks would be rapidly depleted; there would be a loss of confidence; the public would get panicky and people would scramble to buy up all the rice they could find and afford. Some no doubt would also buy it up to resell at a high price when the shortages became still more pronounced. This in turn would make the situation even worse and it would not take long for it to get entirely out of control. Among the rich a few would prosper exceedingly, others would impoverish themselves trying to live on blackmarket supplies, while the poor would starve.

Austerity to Continue

Without universal rationing and without the confidence of the public which sustained it, in many of our districts famine conditions as known in Bengal in 1943 would undoubtedly have set in. The Government and public of the province may now congratulate themselves on having dealt competently with a very difficult situation. There are still difficulties ahead and until the main harvest has been gathered in, austerity will still be the rule, but the rise of stocks at the end of October can, like the Battle of El Alamein, be called the "end of the beginning".

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Wheat

The wheat position has improved considerably due to the arrival of 51,535 tons from overseas during the fortnight. The province now has sufficient wheat for two months at the present rate of consumption of 30,000 tons per month. Since no maida was received during the fortnight and only 3,000 tons is expected up to the end of the year, the maida stock position continues to be poor.

Maize

Although no maize was received, stocks rose to 42,726 tons, due to quantities being in transit from ports. The off-take during October was between 9,000 and 10,000 tons. The province therefore has over four months' supplies in stock.

Pulses

Large quantities of Bengal gram continued to be received from Bahawalpur, Sind and Punjab. The stock position of pulses is now generally satisfactory in all districts. Some districts are beginning to report shortage of red gram. The red gram position is not satisfactory since the import quotas are inadequate.

Other Commodities

Shortage of chillies continued in the urban areas of Trichinopoly District. Fuel was reported to be inadequate in parts of Guntur and Anantapur Districts and in the towns of Kumbakonam and Ootacamund. Matches were not easily obtainable in parts of Nellore, West Godavari, Anantapur, Cuddapah, Kistna and Trichinopoly Districts.

(Continued from Page 15)

must also recognise that their obligations are co-equal with their rights. Workers can also be charged with bad faith and irresponsibility just as employers can be.

G: From my experience both as a trade union leader and Labour Minister, I must say that there is a good deal that employers and workers' organisations must learn: workers must be assured of their fundamental rights and must be guaranteed living wages, good housing and social insurance and social security. The workers must be made to feel that they are not merely wage earners, but are

ENQUIRIES FROM THE PUBLIC

Clarification of the Government policy has been sought by a reader on the following points:—

Questions

(1) When the Budget was sanctioned for this year in the Legislative Assembly, it was said that each teacher of an Elementary (Aided) School in the Province would get an additional grant of Rs. 2 each per month (Rs. 14 plus 2, Rs. 18 plus 2) from 1st August 1946. It is a surprise that no orders have yet been issued regarding it.

(2) Arrears of Dearness Allowance at Government rate from 1-7-44 have not yet been paid to teachers of the Aided Elementary Schools, whereas all other employees have been paid the said arrears in full by this time.

Answers

(1) The first question is covered by the G.O. No. Ms. 2061 Education, issued on 29th October 1946, the relevant portions of which are given below:—

"The Government direct that the rate of teaching grants for teachers of all grades employed in Aided Elementary Schools and in Elementary Schools under panchayats be increased by Rs. 2 each per mensem with effect from the 1st August 1946.

The Director of Public Instruction is also requested to suggest suitable amendments to the rules relating to the grant of aid to elementary schools."

(2) The question of paying dearness allowance to the teachers of Elementary (Aided) Schools in the province with effect from 1-7-44 was considered but found impracticable because of the prohibitive cost involved.

citizens who have a duty towards the community. At the same time, I have no hesitation in saying that there is need for greater discipline in the ranks of workers and trade unions. If both the partners in industry can recognise their respective rights, duties and privileges, much of the troubles that we experience in the industrial world will disappear. Every one must realise that the world is progressing towards a socialistic order of society and nobody need regret it.

(By kind courtesy of the A.I.R., Madras).

SCHEME FOR THE INDEPENDENT FUNCTIONING OF THE JUDICIARY**MADRAS COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION.**

The report of the Committee appointed by the Government of Madras to examine the question of the separation of the Judiciary and the Executive has been published.

The Committee have recommended that the office of the District Magistrate should be separated from that of Collector and that the two offices should be held by two different persons independent of each other. The following is the summary of the recommendations:

Our recommendations have been made within the frame-work of the Criminal Procedure Code as it now stands.

A revision of the Code, which applies to All-India cannot now be undertaken. It is possible that small amendments may be made by the Provincial Legislature without much difficulty. But even this will involve delay. The Governor-General's assent is required for amendment of the Code under Section 107 (2) of the Government of India Act, 1935. We have, therefore, preferred to proceed on the basis of the existing Code. This course has one further advantage, viz., that amendments to the Code, when its revision is taken up, will be based on proved experience of the working of the scheme of separation here, and possibly in other Provinces.

Magistrates for Judicial Work

(a) For doing purely judicial work, there should be a hierarchy of salaried Magistrates, consisting of (i) District Magistrates, (ii) Sub-Divisional Magistrates, and (iii) Sub-Magistrates.

(b) The above hierarchy should be assisted and supplemented by the following honorary agencies: (i) Special Magistrates, sitting singly, (ii) Benches of Magistrates constituted under the Criminal Procedure Code, and (iii) Panchayat Courts constituted and empowered under Madras Act II of 1920, amending the Madras Village Courts Act (Madras Act I of 1889).

(c) For attending to non-judicial work, including that relating to the preservation of peace and tranquillity and the prevention of the commission of offences in the districts,

the following in the hierarchy of Revenue Officers should also be Magistrates: (i) District Collector, (ii) Revenue Divisional Officers, (iii) Tahsildars, and (iv) Deputy Tahsildars.

(d) The District Collector should *ex officio* be Additional District Magistrate, Revenue Divisional Officers, First Class Magistrates, and Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars Second Class Magistrates.

(e) Provisions in the Code and in other Acts, which vest powers of an administrative character in the "District Magistrate" should continue to be exercised by the District Collector.

The two sets of Magistrates, namely, the Judicial Magistrates and the Executive Magistrates, should be kept within their respective spheres by executive orders issued by Government.

District Collector's Powers

(a) The District Collector *cum* Additional District Magistrate should continue to be the head of the Police as at present.

(b) The District Collector and the other Executive Magistrates should continue to possess and exercise all the magisterial powers referred to in Chapters VIII to XII of the Code regarding arrest, detention, and the taking of interim security. So too, the Police should continue to possess and exercise all their existing powers, preventive and other, under the Code.

(c) In particular, the Executive Magistrates should, (i) exercise the powers conferred by Section 144, and (ii) deal with unlawful assemblies under Chapter IX:

Provided that in the absence of the Executive Magistrate, the Judicial Magistrate may be moved by the Police in regard to (i) and (ii) above; but as soon as the Executive Magistrate arrives and takes charge the Judicial Magistrate should relinquish all further action to him, and it will be open to the Executive Magistrate to maintain, supplement, modify or cancel any order passed, or action taken, by the Judicial Magistrate.

(d) In respect of—(i) Chapter VIII—Security for keeping the peace and good behaviour —(except Section 106, which provides for the

taking of security from persons convicted of certain offences involving a breach of the peace, a power which can only be exercised by the Judicial Magistrate; (ii) Chapter X—Public Nuisances, and (iii) Chapter XII—Disputes as to immovable property, all preliminary action should be taken by the Executive Magistrate; but the inquiry or trial should be conducted by the Judicial Magistrate.

Generally speaking, it will be for the Judicial Magistrate to examine witnesses and write "judgments", and any final order restricting the rights or liberties of individuals should be passed by him.

Sub-Magistrates

(1) The Sub-Magistrate will generally be in charge of a taluk; but where local conditions so require, more than one Sub-Magistrate may be appointed for a taluk or the Sub-Magistrate may be given jurisdiction over an area larger than a taluk.

(2) Sub-divisional Magistrates should have jurisdiction over a group of taluks formed into a sub-division. Sub-divisions need not be the same as at present, nor need they coincide with the revenue divisions.

(3) (a) The District Magistrate should be in charge of the headquarters sub-division and try original cases and hear appeals arising from it; and there will be no separate Sub-divisional Magistrate for this sub-division.

(b) The District Magistrate will have power to transfer to his own file and try any case or appeal arising in the district; he is expected to exercise this power in respect of any case or appeal of special difficulty or importance.

(1) The salary of a Sub-Magistrate should be Rs. 150—25/—250.

(2) The salary of a Sub-divisional Magistrate should be Rs. 250—50/2—700 with an efficiency bar at Rs. 500.

(3) The salary of a District Magistrate should be Rs. 800—100/2—1,000.

Recruitment of Qualified Men

(1) The appointment of fully qualified men as Magistrates is necessary for deriving the fullest benefit from the scheme of an independent criminal judiciary proposed in the report, and recruitment should be confined to persons qualified by their legal equipment and training to discharge the duties of Magistrates.

(2) The suitability of existing incumbents should be examined carefully in each case, the claims of those who are not graduates being investigated with special care.

(3) Direct recruitment from the Bar (which will include Assistant Public Prosecutors and Assistant Crown Prosecutors) should be made, without injustice to existing incumbents who are found capable.

(4) Except for existing incumbents, no person should be appointed as a Magistrate who has not had legal training or does not possess legal qualification.

No person should, at one and the same time, exercise both civil jurisdiction as a District Munsiff and criminal jurisdiction as a Magistrate. But capable Magistrates should be posted as District Munsiffs, and likewise capable District Munsiffs should be posted as Magistrates, so that they may receive training in both civil and criminal work and become well equipped to discharge their duties, when they are promoted as Subordinate Judges cum Assistant Sessions Judges or as District and Sessions Judges.

Panchayat Courts

(1) In villages, Panchayat Courts should wherever possible, replace Village Headmen's Courts.

(2) The jurisdiction of Panchayat Courts may be extended.

Bench Magistrates

(1) (a) Honorary Bench Magistrates should continue only where suitable persons are available. The Bench Magistrates should not be invested with first-class powers.

(b) The President of the Bench should be a qualified person, and all should be men of position and character.

(2) Honorary Special Magistrates should be selected from retired gazetted officers, preferably those with legal qualifications or judicial experience. They may be invested with first-class powers.

(3) For selection to the honorary magistracy of either category, recommendations for careful selection are made in the Report. Where suitable men are not available for either category of magistrates, stipendiary magistrates should be appointed.

(4) Adequate staff for both these categories of courts should be provided; and they should not be made to depend on precarious loans of staff from other establishments.

Before this scheme is brought into force the Government should make all preliminary reorganisation. Selection for new magisterial

appointments is best left to a Committee consisting mainly of Judges of the High Court.

The Government should issue executive instructions to implement our proposals, particularly those in respect of the allocation of functions between Executive and Judicial Magistrates.

(The Committee was presided over by Mr. K. Rajah Aiyar, Advocate-General, and Messrs. T. R. Venkatarama Sastri, V. L. Ethiraj, Pappu Somasundaram and P. V. Balakrishna Aiyar were the other members.)

Law Minister's Proposals

After examining various schemes put forward before them, the Committee came to the conclusion that the scheme suggested by the Law Minister would be more in accord with the needs of our Province. The Law Minister's proposals as given in the report are:

(1) A separate District Magistrate, apart from the District Collector, should discharge the duties and exercise the powers of the District Magistrate. In other words, the office of District Magistrate should be separated from that of Collector; the two offices should be held by two different persons independent of each other. The District Magistrate should not be subordinate to the District Collector but should be directly under the Provincial Government.

(2) Sub-Divisional Magistrates should be in charge of two or three taluks and should dispose of cases of a first-class nature within their jurisdiction, and also hear appeals from the second and third-class magistrates working in their sub-division. They should be subject to the superintendence and control of the District Magistrates appointed as proposed above. They should tour within their jurisdiction and so far as possible, try cases and hear appeals arising from each taluk at its headquarters. The present Revenue Divisional Officers should be relieved of their magisterial work.

(3) Second and third-class magistrates should continue to function as such under the superintendence and control both of the District Magistrate and Sub-Divisional Magistrate. The present second and third-class magistrates should have the option to choose either the Revenue or the Magisterial side. Fresh recruitment for the Magisterial side should be made only from persons qualified in law.

(4) The cadre of magistrates should be distinct from the cadre in the Revenue Department.

(5) District Collectors and Revenue Divisional Officers should retain their present

powers under Chapters VIII to XII of the Code, subject to some sort of appeal to the regular criminal courts at a later stage.

Mr. Venkatarama Sastri's Note

Mr. T. R. Venkatarama Sastri, while fully concurring with the recommendations, has added a separate note.

"It is well to recognise," Mr. Sastri states, "that while a separation of the Judiciary from the Executive is involved in our scheme, the real object is the independent functioning of the Judiciary freed of all suspicion of executive influence or control, direct or indirect."

Referring to those who opposed the reform in this country seeking to derive support for their case in the increasing tendency of English legislation to throw judicial or quasi-judicial work on the executive, sometimes even freed from any judicial examination of the validity of the orders passed by them, Mr. Sastri says that that is an irrelevant discussion for their purpose. "We are not concerned," he says, "with the performance of judicial duties by the executive, but with the performance of judicial duties left in the hands of the Judiciary without being subjected to executive interference or control."

"There is really no just ground for any difference of opinion," Mr. Sastri continues, "on this question of judicial freedom from executive control" and refers to the recognition of the principle by generations of eminent statesmen, administrators and judges.

Mr. Sastri proceeds to state that the only important point is the need for due provision for the maintenance of peace and tranquillity and that no scheme of judicial administration designed to secure judicial freedom from executive control should, in any manner or in any degree, hamper the discharge of this essential duty of the Government and adds that it will be found from the report that "we have made adequate provision for the due discharge of this arduous duty." "Powers vested in the District Magistrate by the provisions of the Code and by numerous minor Acts for administrative rather than judicial action," Mr. Sastri says, "are left in the hands of the District Collector in his capacity of Additional District Magistrate."

Referring to the possible absence from the station of the executive authorities when sudden emergencies arise, Mr. Sastri says: "We have suggested that the judiciary should merely assist, but as soon as the executive officer arrives and takes charge, the judiciary is to relinquish all further action into their hands."

WHY VILLAGISM?

By RAFIQ

Scientific Superstition

Superstitions, like all evil customs, die hard. Particularly so the 'scientific' superstitions of our scientific age. One such—and most of its adherents will be shocked to hear it termed a superstition—is the belief that in this our mechanical age—the atomic age, to be more fashionable and up-to-date,—there is no escape for humanity from centralised production in big factories, that human progress is inevitably and inextricably tied on to the wheels of the machine. Every Napoleon has his Waterloo, they declare, and Mahatma Gandhi with his outmoded spinning-wheel philosophy has his Waterloo awaiting him just round the corner. "Mechanize or perish," they cry, and the call 'Back to the village' is demned as a call to the jungle, an anachronism, an attempt to turn back the clock, an obscurantist inspiration to abandon the immensely fruitful principle of division of labour.

"Indiscriminately Mechanize and Perish"

The first pitfall to be avoided by sincere aspirants to escape from this fallacy is the idea that the Gandhian scheme of village self-sufficiency is identical with the complete exclusion of all machinery from the nation's economy. No, there is no such identity between the two concepts. It is agreed that there should be a proper dovetailing of the two types of industry; only, Gandhiji holds that this division would involve, if guided by the peculiar conditions prevailing in India and the demand of the dignity of man and the peace of the world, the use of cottage industries to achieve self-sufficiency in the primary necessities of life and of heavy industries to do essential jobs far too technical for the human hand. You cannot construct the Howrah Bridge, the Mettur Dam, the Railways and all the rest of them with your bare hands and simple tools, and Gandhiji is certainly sane enough not to turn his back against bridges, irrigation schemes, public utilities and the like. But he would certainly have heavy machinery dispensed with in a good many those producing the essentials of every-day life like food and clothing. He wants every village or small group of villages to take up these industries with the aid of what small capital it could command and strive to make itself as far as possible self-sufficient. Instead of completely tabooing centralised industry, he makes a purposeful selection for the achievement of peace and progress.

Once this idea that all machinery is like a red rag to the Gandhian bull is done away with, the lousiness. The question may now be asked, in what way is the sort of dovetailing advocated by Gandhiji superior to that attempted in Socialist States, it being agreed that the capitalist organisation of industry in Soviet Russia, but the emphasis is preponderantly

on centralized production and the evils of capitalism are sought to be remedied by stringent over-all Governmental control of the production and distribution of commodities. If the war-weary world, and more particularly our own poverty-ridden India, are brought to choose between the Gandhian way of village self-sufficiency and the Socialist system of totalitarian centralization, what considerations should weigh with them in making the choice?

Economic Centralization Vs. Political Democracy

The first consideration that suggests itself in favour of decentralized village industries is the fact that, in the political sphere, centralization means death to the idea of democracy. A strictly planned system of production and distribution inevitably involves the concentration of political power in the hands of the planning authority and regimentation of the entire life of the people so as to be in conformity with the approved pattern. Even when the planning authority is a democratically elected Parliament, the complexity of the enormous planning structure will be beyond the understanding of the common citizen who will leave the job in despair to the specialist and the politician. Initiative and direction will remain in the hands of a progressively narrowing group and there will be a few effective checks on and intelligent understanding of the will of the centralised bureaucracy. Even the show of popular control over planning in democratic countries is dispensed with in Soviet Russia where the Communist Party exercises dictatorial control over both the Government and the economic life of the people. Economic decentralization, on the other hand, which means decentralization of political power, too, which not only prevents the chances and temptations of corruption at the Centre, but has the additional merits of having more men responsible for the work and welfare of the world and making the average citizen better appreciate what this business of Government is all about. Individual initiative may be stimulated in ways not injurious to society, for small industries allow no scope for the accumulation of capital in a few hands. Every able-bodied person is bound by the law of bread-labour and has to put in enough physical labour to produce his daily bread or its equivalent by application in some occupation like agriculture or weaving or allied pursuits. Such men will form voluntary associations for the regulation of social, political and economic life. This free, integrated, co-operative society can preserve the gains of both political democracy and economic socialism. Complete negation of individual liberty is too high a price to be paid for a promise of economic security, and large-scale industry in economics seems to be the very antithesis of democracy in politics.

Restores Initiative and Self-Respect

There are other social gains too—by no means insignificant or unrelated to the first—that accrue to

humanity from the system of decentralized industries. Handcraft is a subtle but powerful restorative of hope, initiative, self-respect and self-reliance which are all so badly damaged by the rush and hurry of the modern urban civilization and the very magnitude of industrial units. Instead of being a mere insignificant cog in the gigantic productive machine, the artisan works on his own, producing mostly finished goods. Engaged thus in some creative craft, he develops inventive and artistic capacities. This creative power of handicraft is well recognised by psychiatrists, and is, under the name of "occupational therapy", widely used for the cure of mental disease, particularly depressive insanities.

Ineradicable Evils of Factory Labour

Again, dirt, din, unhealthy congestion, and uselessly expensive habits are inevitable concomitants of centralized factory labour. It is doubtful if communism can eliminate every vestige of such depressing conditions that mark capitalist industries. 'For instance', says Acharya Kripalani in his brilliant book '*Politics of Charka*', 'A worker in coal mines cannot help being cooped underground, cut off from the light of the day, whether he works for a monopolistic capitalist or a monopolistic state. Whether a factory belongs to an individual or a group, the deafening sounds of hammer and anvil cannot be eliminated. Fumes from a chemical factory or oil well do not change their odour according as the economy is capitalist or communist. Congestion in large cities will be the same under both regimes.' The artisan, on the other hand, works in the purer atmosphere of his village home with plenty of sunshine and fresh air. His social life is cleaner and his enjoyments natural and healthy, and, free from the oppressing sense of tyranny, he is also refreshingly free from group jealousy and group hatred.

Technique for Inter-Group Harmony

Another important social gain which is of special significance in the context of the conflict-charged international atmosphere of today, is the fact that self-sufficiency in necessities and limitation of foreign trade to surpluses are sure steps to the establishment of peace among groups and nations. Absolute dependence on others for the primary necessities of one's life has a tremendous demoralizing effect on the dependent group in the event of—even at the prospect of—the slightest disturbances; and demoralization, prevalent or potential, breeds jealousy and hatred, war and destruction, among groups. For the export-importing country, such trade-vantage will be a constant temptation for the acquisition of vested interests and political control; the line that divides trade interests from imperialism is remarkably thin. Two misconceptions in this connection have to be corrected. First, it is not correct to say that, with decentralization, the source of all international commerce and exchange of goods will dry up. Ancient and medieval India had valuable commercial relations with almost the whole of the then known world, exporting fine manufactured goods, invariably the products of cottage industries, embodying great value in small bulk, and getting in return gold, silver and precious stones. It is not difficult to conceive of a situation to-day when we could have a number of industries producing a surplus for export, while satis-

fying the condition of self-sufficiency in necessities. Secondly, it is said that decentralization would bring in its wake a parochial and narrow outlook. Here again, to quote the inimitable words of Acharya Kripalani, "narrowness and fanaticism are not caused so much by the lack of communications and contact as by the lack of the spirit of neighbourly co-operation and good-will. The barriers separating man from man and nation from nation are more psychic and moral than physical. So far as they are based on greed, exploitation and material inequalities, they will be greatly diminished with decentralized industry."

Leisure and the Social Value of Work

Before we turn to the purely economic aspects of the problem, reference must also be made of the dire social consequences of unemployment and compelled leisure that follow the large-scale use of labour-saving devices, even if the material needs of the people could be amply met by means of State-controlled production and distribution. Man needs work, not only as a means to an end but also as an end in itself. Production is to be advocated not merely for the satisfaction of human wants but also for making a living possible for man and the development of his personality. In a society where education is not neglected and the occupational distribution of labour is well-planned—it is precisely such a society that the model village republic is expected to be—leisure is not an important determinant of the development of personality. Provided the work he has to do suits his ability and inclination and is done under sound moral and hygienic physical conditions,—unlike the crushing drudgery that it is in the capitalist economy,—a worker needs only so much leisure as is sufficient to keep him in a fit physical condition and cultivate his capacity for refinement. Work then has an element of play in it, and is by itself part of his cultural education.

The Economics of Villagism

What now are the economic repercussions of decentralization? With the discarding of the highly productive machinery, would not production dwindle considerably, and would not this be a calamity to this country where people live already below the subsistence level? Moreover, would not the scheme raise the cost of necessities far above the reach of the limited means of our people and consequently be just so much of well-intentioned tyranny pushing the poor from the frying pan to the fire?

No Curtailment of Output

The argument about lessened output is inspired by the idea that decentralization is all handicraft. But the idea that decentralization do not necessarily involve small-scale industries do not necessarily involve eschewal of all mechanical power. There would have been no escape from big factories if steam power alone could be used to drive industry, but the Charkka and the loom could be worked by power generated and supplied to each village and cottage, and electricity to-day can be transmitted in small regulated units over wide areas. In India, the home of the great rivers, rural electrification schemes can make considerable headway. Every town and village in

Switzerland enjoys power facilities and even watches are often home-produced. Again, in a number of industries, different factor-combinations—different proportions in which labour and capital are combined—are possible, and one combination is as good as the other in the matter of producing a given output. Provided no bottleneck arises in the use of labour, a low capital intensity does not necessarily mean lesser output. We shall later see that in certain circumstances it is also more economic. There is no possibility of such a bottleneck in India for a long time to come considering the vast amount of unemployment and under-employment prevalent in our economy, and besides, it is expected that, as the philosophy of Charkka permeates society, everyone will devote part at least of his time to some industry. A good deal of production to-day can thus be decentralized without any considerable curtailment of production, and mechanical power could be effectively used without multiplying big factories or creating a class of proletariats.

Inaccurate Costing and False Claims

In the matter of costs, too, several important circumstances are overlooked in the usual computations which therefore over-draw the picture in favour of mill products. Many small-scale industries make a more economic use of raw materials than the corresponding large-scale ones. A large paper mill, to be constantly worked to capacity, requires large forests of bamboo to be grown and kept in good condition throughout the year and cut and carried to the mill straightaway at the proper time. But for the cottage manufacture of paper, the raw materials are rags, disused basketry articles, old paper and such like, in the making of which the bamboo has already been used and accounted for, so that the cost of the mill paper ought in fact to include the value of the intermediary articles which were sacrificed to enable mill-utilization of the bamboo.

Again, many expenses involved in the long-drawn out process of centralized production are put to the account of bodies other than the mills who charge the final selling price. A yard of foreign mill made cloth can sell in India at a lower price than a yard of Khadi partly because the Government of India and other cotton-growing countries bear the cost of maintaining great research centres for the growth of long-staple cotton, a great part of the vast and complicated transport systems which carry cotton back again to the Indian consumer is maintained by public money, provision for the welfare of industrial labour has to be met from public revenues. Such instances can be multiplied. These illustrations apply to Indian mill products too, for Khadi does not require such delicately refined types of cotton and such elaborate transport arrangements, and does not create such vast centres of dirt and squalor, as do the mills.

Further, in a country like India where there is a great scarcity of capital and a greater plenty of labour, the most economic way of using the available resources, that is, the best method of making the limited resources go the longest way, is that which uses a greater proportion of labour to capital. It is a perfectly sound economic maxim that, in any scheme of national planning, the capital intensity—to be

more technical, the technological time-preference—should be so arranged as to have no residue of unemployed labour. In India, with her tremendous rate of increase in population, there is a great deal of unemployment and under-employment, and, in spite of our being the eighth of the industrial countries of the world, during the last few decades the proportion of our working population to the total has actually diminished. According to a modest estimate, at least 30 per cent. of our agricultural population, about 100 million people, have to be shifted on to industries in order to relieve the pressure on land, but with all the vast strides we have made so far in industrialization, we have not been able to give work to more than 3 millions. With such vast numbers to be provided for no responsible and disinterested planner would plead for the employment of labour-saving instead of labour-using devices. When capital is scarce and labour abundant, it is pointless—it is positively wasteful—to dump capital on industries which could as well be worked by hand and allow essential industries, where it is indispensable, to go unexploited. Thus, in countries where unemployment is rampant, the value of goods and services foregone on account of the wrong use of capital—not to mention anything about the loss of social values—is really an item in the cost of mill-made articles.

Permanent Increase in Purchasing Power

Finally, the higher cost of cottage-made goods should be considered along with the fact that as employment increases, the purchasing power of the masses increases too. A rising price level is not in itself a bad thing, being a mark of vigorous economic activity. Only, if suffering is to be avoided, the purchasing power of the people should also keep pace with the prices. This is precisely what cottage industries seek to do. There is the additional advantage that, since private profit does not play a decisive role in production and distribution is simultaneous with production, the increase in purchasing power is not the flow that precedes an ebb, and the periodical crises and the consequent wastes, so characteristic of the capitalist economy, are avoided.

'High' and 'Low' Standards of Living

It is the reasonable hope of the advocates of village lagism that cottage industries, properly worked and judiciously supplemented by large-scale industries, can raise the standard of living of our masses considerably above the present deplorably low level, and Professor S. N. Agarwal in his "GANDHIAN PLAN" discusses in detail an economic plan for India based on village self-sufficiency. Here again, there are likely to be conflicting interpretations of what high and low standards of living are. If a high standard connotes an indiscriminate multiplication of wants, and if every villager should be taught the use of, and supplied with, all the external paraphernalia of western civilization, then undoubtedly the whole scheme of self-sufficiency will fail the test of that ideal. But the protagonists of villageism need not be and are not, apologetic about confessing that they judge standards more by the quality of the life than by the quantity of material needs satisfied. They firmly assert that beyond a narrowly variable quantity, every pleasure, every indulgence, exacts a price in terms of creative activity.

RICE RATION INCREASED BY 2 OZ.

MAINTENANCE OF 10 OZ. DEPENDS ON PRODUCERS

PRIME MINISTER'S ANNOUNCEMENT

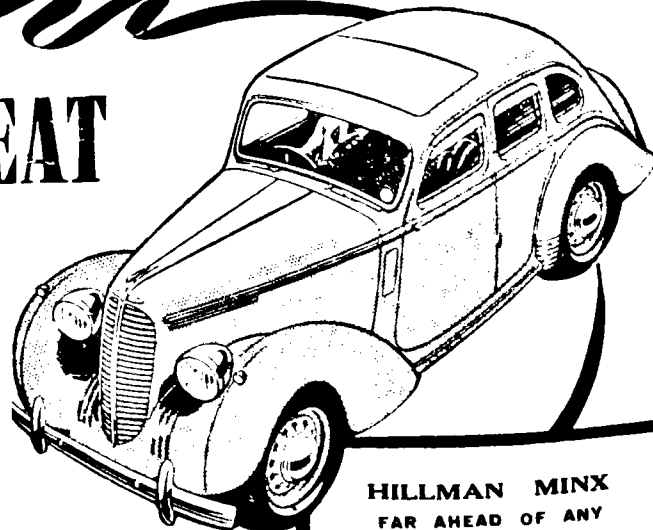
The following statement has been issued by the Prime Minister:—

In my statement dated 11th November 1946, while thanking producers for the splendid co-operation they extended to the Government by selling all their surplus paddy, I indicated that it should be possible to raise the rice ration in December and that I would watch the position and raise the rice content of the ration as soon as possible. A review of the position has accordingly been made now. The procurement of rice has been fairly satisfactory and the lean months are over. The stocks of rice in the Province are expected to last for about six weeks. The main harvests are due in December, January and February and the Government expect that, with the same co-operation which producers have so far extended procurement in these three months also will be fully satisfactory.

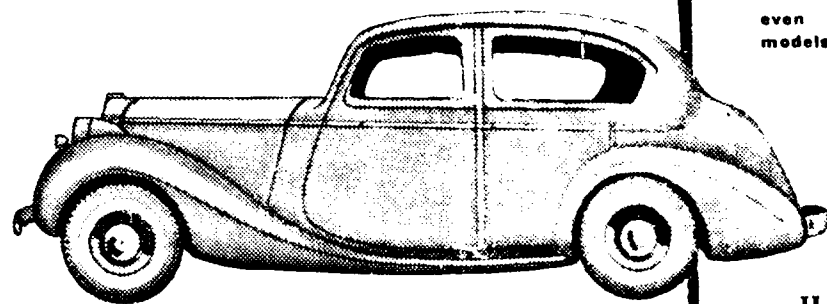
Prospects of import are not, however, very bright and only nominal quantities are expected to be received in December and January. There is therefore an element of risk in increasing the rice ration at present; but as the people have put up with the low scale of rice ration for over 4 months now, the Government have decided to take the risk in the hope that the producers will respond as generously as they had done in the past. They have therefore decided that with effect from 15-12-46 the rice content of the ration of rice eaters should be restored to 10 ozs., the balance of 2 ozs. being available in the shape of wheat, wheat products, maize or millets and barley flour. The composition of the ration in respect of mixed diet eaters and millet eaters will remain unchanged. Heavy manual labourers will continue to get 10 oz. of rice and 6 oz. of wheat etc. as at present.

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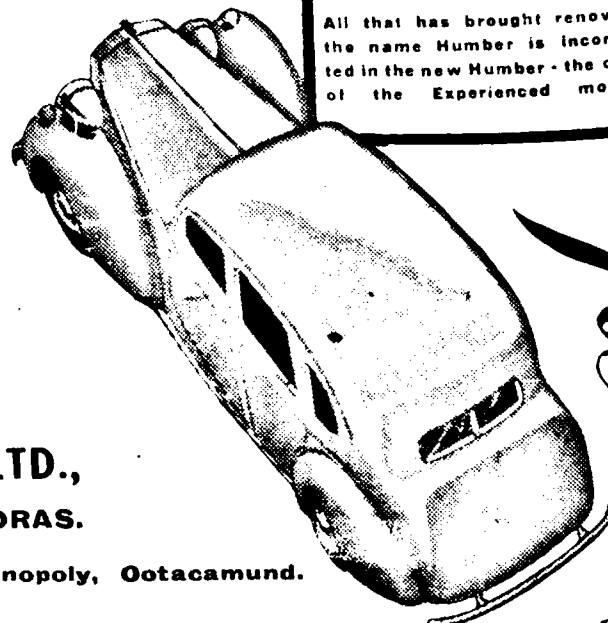
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The object of *Madras Information* is to give a brief record of the Madras Government's activities and to educate the public opinion on the Government's policies.

However, the views expressed and the articles published in this journal do not necessarily represent the official opinion.

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Owing to the Christmas vacation, there will be no issue of **MADRAS INFORMATION** for the first fortnight of January, 1947.

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WE SEEK TO SERVE AND NOT TO COMPETE

December 23, 1946

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Increase in Rice Ration

ON account of circumstances beyond their control, the Madras Government have been constrained to postpone the benefit of the decision to increase the rice ration to 10 ozs. per head to the people of certain districts in the province. The postponement will apply to the entire area comprised by the Vizagapatam, Bellary, Cuddapah, Chittoor, North Arcot, Ramnad and Malabar districts and the non-statutorily rationed areas of Coimbatore, Salem, Nilgiris and Tinnevely. The fundamental reason necessitating postponement of the introduction of increased ration in these areas has been the low stocks of the rice there and the difficulties, in view of the recent heavy rains and floods, involved in moving fresh stocks into them with the speed necessary for the purpose. It is unfortunate that nature should have thus interfered with the Government's intentions, and where nature takes a hand in disposing off things man sometimes feels helpless. The Government in a press note have appealed to the people of these unlucky districts "to put up with this temporary inconvenience which is solely due to causes beyond the control of this Government".

Producers-cum-Consumers Societies

Among the criticisms, sound and unsound, interested and helpful, directed against the scheme of Producers-cum-Consumers Co-operative Societies sponsored by the Government, the one that is least convincing even as it is the least intelligible is that their constitution would lead to the imposition of a "tyranny" on the villagers worse than any that they have known. The new societies that they have known. The new societies are being organised for specific purposes, to subserve some important and specific objectives and they would be helpful to the villagers in the procurement of food and other essential commodities and requirements

without their having to resort to unauthorised agents or middlemen, more intent on profiteering at the expense of the villager than in assisting him. Share capital of these societies will be subscribed for by everyone and every section of the village population and thus the management will automatically vest in the shareholders themselves. How in the face of all these safeguards there can be tyranny over any section of the public is impossible to see, particularly when the very essence of a cooperative organisation is to eliminate all kinds of individual profits by vesting the management in all the shareholders. To condemn the scheme without according adequate credence to the basic co-operative principle on which the societies will be established is to condemn out of court the principle itself, whereas it has been the acknowledged merit of the cooperative system that it confers innumerable advantages on the villagers in promoting harmony of ideas and views. Two points may be emphasised in this connection to remove what appear to be honest misconceptions about the scheme. One is that the Consumers-cum-Producers Societies to be constituted are not intended to supplant the existing cooperative stores or societies wherever they have been found to be working efficiently and satisfactorily, but only to supplement them. Secondly, the societies' working will be supervised regularly by the Government agency and they will not be permitted to become at any time hotbeds of corruption or inefficiency. Under all these safeguards everyone can rest assured that they will prove themselves instruments for the promotion of public welfare.

Temple Entry for Harijans

Criticisms are being made of the attitude of the Madras Ministry in regard to the throwing open of temples in the province to Harijans and the demand is made for legislation being passed in the Legislature for the

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2

purpose. The critics do not, however, seem to have taken note of the fact that there is already a measure on the statute book known as the "Removal of Civil Disabilities Act" passed by the Legislature in 1938. The preamble to the Act says:—

"Whereas it is increasingly felt by the Hindu community that the disabilities, which are imposed by social custom and usage on certain classes of Hindus commonly known as Harijans, Untouchables or Depressed Classes, and which have been in certain matters even legally recognised in the adjudication of rights and duties in civil and criminal proceedings, are repugnant to modern conditions and ideas of justice and social solidarity, and should no longer be recognised by law or otherwise enforced, it is hereby enacted as follows

The ban on Harijans entering temples is a social disability which neither enlightened public opinion in this age is prepared to tolerate, nor can be justified on any rational grounds. There is a growing volume of support for the throwing open of temples to members of the Harijan community and a number of temples are in fact being thrown open to them day after day in different places in the presidency. Should this support be allowed to gain volume and intensity by its own inherent moral strength and on its own merits, or should external pressure be applied by means of legislation? Does not the existing law suffice to secure the result aimed at, or should it be supplemented by another law? These are questions which are seriously engaging the attention of Government and criticisms of their attitude which are generally varied, are, therefore, based on misunderstandings and misconceptions. The Hon'ble Sri K. Kotli Reddi has assured everyone concerned that the Government are duly seized of the growing public demand. The Madras Government which hold the palm for measures intended for the uplift of Harijans by allotting a crore of rupees for that work, cannot conceivably be considered as being impervious to the need for ensuring that Harijans enjoy the right of entry into temples.

Hon. Home Member Criticises Communists

In the light of the experience we have of the communist methods in this Presidency, the warning uttered by the Hon'ble Sirdar

Vallabhai Patel in Bombay to the workers against being misled by the Communists, who, he emphasised, are "advocating a path of violence and strikes and the disruption of industries" is particularly apposite. They have organised, and will not hesitate to organise hereafter, a number of strikes in the country with intent to disrupt the industries and dislocating certain essential services; but such methods can be advantageous neither to the workers nor to the general public. Mr. Patel's warning, uttered primarily to the workers in Bombay, may as well have been addressed to the workers elsewhere and particularly in the Madras presidency. Working their way into the workers' organisations in their insidious game of disrupting them from within, the Communists sedulously indoctrinate the unwary among the latter with their disruptionist slogans and indoctrinate them with dangerous ideas of class war. Organised trade unionism, which is a recognised avenue for joint action by the workers, is exploited by the Communists to subserve their own nefarious ends, and those who are left high and dry as a result thereof are none other than the workers themselves. A state of chaos cannot be beneficial to any one, but those who want to utilise it for some ulterior ends of their own and the Communists by engendering such conditions condemn themselves as the promoters of chaos.

MILL CLOTH DISTRIBUTION SCHEME

Implications Explained
THE fundamental considerations inducing the Government to approve of the mill cloth distribution scheme which involves the allotment of 5 yards per adult and 2 yards per child of cloth at a flat rate have been set forth and the implications of the position explained in a statement issued by the Hon'ble the Prime Minister printed elsewhere. The scheme, it is emphasized, pertains only to mill cloth and does not include handloom cloth, which constitutes an essential part of the per capita allotment of 10.8 yards made to this province under the All-India Cloth Distribution scheme. The Premier desires the public to realise that it is absolutely misleading for anyone to assert that the allotment of 5 yards and 2 yards per adult and child respectively as mentioned above is all the cloth that one can have, because any one is free to draw on the supplies of handloom cloth available in ample quantities to supplement the ration of mill cloth.

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One vital characteristic of the latest scheme that has been particularly stressed in the statement is that it eliminates altogether the differential treatment in respect of cloth distribution under the previously existing scheme between Madras City and other urban areas on the one hand and the rural areas on the other and introduces the patently equitable principle of uniformity in the treatment accorded to the people of all parts of the province. The differential and higher allotment of mill cloth made to the towns and the correspondingly insignificant and limited ration allowed to the villagers under the previous scheme amounted in effect to subordinating the interests of 46 millions for the sake of satisfying 7 millions. As it is unjust, unfair and inequitable, its abolition is an act of bare justice towards a long suffering section of the people.

Control of Handloom Cloth Prices

It is in furtherance of the same principle of enabling the vast majority of poor people to secure handloom cloth at cheaper rates that the Government are also contemplating effective measures to bring down the prices of handloom cloth and to augment the totality of stocks of this cloth. When these measures are finalised the prices of handloom cloth should come down to reasonable levels.

The problem of course bristles with difficulties, one of them being that under the yarn distribution scheme, the province is constrained to export every month 13,000 bales out of the 40,000 bales produced in the local mills without any corresponding recompense. If this export can be stopped, it will automatically augment the supplies of yarn available for the handloom weavers and relieve under-employment among them. The effective organisation of the handloom weavers on a cooperative basis is another method not only of stabilising and strengthening the handloom weaving industry but of rooting out the prevailing evil of blackmarketing in yarn and cloth and the Premier's statement promises immediate action to implement this reform. Control must be exercised right from the initial production stage, so that when the finished product reaches the consumer he will not have to bear the accumulated burden of profits calculated at different percentages at the various stages.

(The only other method of augmenting cloth supplies in the province, as throughout the country, is the encouragement of hand-spinning and hand-weaving, which is an essential part of the Madras Government's own scheme of rural reconstruction and development. It is imperative that those who regard the Khaddar expansion programme as an apology for primitivism should ponder the words of Mr. Dharma Vira, Textile Commissioner to the Government of India and Chairman of the All-India Handloom Board, in the course of his address to the Board held in Bombay on December, 16. Mr. Dharma Vira, according to report, commended to the serious consideration of the provincial and state Governments the desirability of encouraging hand-spinning on a wide and organised basis. "The Indian handloom industry" he points out "in the pre-machine age owed its world renown as much to the skill of the hand-spinners as to the ingenuity of the weavers. It may not be possible to attain perfection in the spinning of even coarse to medium counts in the initial stage, but if properly fostered hand-spinning has not an unimportant role in providing a part-time vocation for the agriculturists, relieving the present unsatisfactory yarn position and in providing cloth for those whose needs are genuine and not confined to fine or superfine varieties."

View in Proper Perspective

The mill cloth distribution scheme must, therefore, be viewed in its proper and correct perspective if its implications are to be understood and one of the most important of these implications is that, in the existing circumstances, over which the Government of Madras have no control, it is impracticable to expect a higher allotment per head, granting of course that justice and equity demand that no differentiation be made between the city dweller and the villager.

Those who have been making consistently a great point of the inadequate cloth ration to the public cannot justifiably turn round now and argue that the Government are being inconsistent because they have removed the discrimination. Such an argument involving a twist of logic indicates only the extent of the disappointment felt by them at being deprived of special treatment, and not a flaw in the Government's scheme.

Some Press Notes of Madras Govt.

A Mischievous Propaganda

THE attention of the Government has been drawn to the "Mail's" attack in its issue dated 9th December, on the Co-operative Producers-cum-Consumers' Societies scheme sponsored by the Government for the procurement and distribution of foodgrains and other essential commodities in the villages. Under the caption "Menace to Freedom" it indulges in a series of comments which are clearly calculated to prejudice the public mind against the scheme. It says, for instance, that the new societies threaten to cause a grave set-back to the co-operative movement in the villages and ultimately to paralyse the village administration. "In actual working," says the "Mail", "the societies are more likely to impose on the villages a tyranny worse than any they have known". It goes on to assert that because these new societies will be functioning under the village committees as mentioned by the Additional Minister for Food, in a speech at Ellore, they will work with a political motive. "Being the only suppliers of food, the Producers-cum-Consumers' Societies can easily force villagers to abide by the dictates of any party bosses who happen to control the societies".

The Government desire to point out that all these criticisms of the "Mail" are entirely without foundation. The attention of the "Mail" and of the public may be drawn to the rules governing the constitution of the village committees, which will show that these committees are not intended to be, and in actual fact, are not dominated by any political party or section of opinion. They have been constituted on the principle of giving the widest and fairest representation to all sections of local opinion and ample checks and safeguards are provided to protect them against becoming the handmaids of one particular class of people or section of opinion in the villages. If these committees develop and function on the lines that Government intend them to develop and function and hope they will, they can certainly become the cornerstones in the structure of village administration in the province.

As regards the multi-purpose co-operative societies proposed to be constituted, the working of these societies in Malabar has not revealed that they have imposed any kind of "tyranny" as that alleged in the "Mail" article on any section of the people.

In certain cases where complaints were received by the Government that a particular community did not secure adequate representation or otherwise in the management of the societies, the complaints were looked into immediately by the Hon'ble Prime Minister and remedied forthwith. There is therefore no reason to presume that, if and when any defects will be noticed or complaints will be received about the societies to be formed in the East Godavari, West Godavari, Kistna and Guntur Districts, they will not be similarly removed. It may also be pointed out that in course of time the societies will deal with other commodities which are essential for the people and to function on regular commercial lines and for the sole good of the community.

The new societies are designed to be financed and managed by the people who are to be directly concerned in their working and the Government official machinery will always be ready at hand to check and control, to advise and warn whenever it is found that things are likely to go wrong. In the face of all this, there is no justification at all for all the misapprehensions that are sought to be created in the public mind about them by the "Mail". In any case the "Mail" is not being fair either to itself or to the Government or to the public, for whose interests it exhibits such exaggerated solicitude by its preliminary scaremongering propaganda against the societies, which amounts to nothing short of prejudging the issue.

Assignment of Colours for Elections

Issued on December 13

In a Press Communique dated 21-10-46, the Government have specified the colours which should be assigned to the official candidates of the various councils. No colour has been assigned to candidates standing on behalf of the Hindu Mahasabha. The Provincial Secretary of the Hindu Mahasabha has requested the Government that orange colour may be allotted to candidates put up by the Sabha at the ensuing elections to district boards and municipal councils. The Government have decided to direct the election officers to allot orange colour to the candidates set up by the Hindu Mahasabha in connection with the elections.

In partial modification of the directions in the Press Communique dated 21-10-46, the Government have decided that candidates standing on behalf of the Congress should produce as their credentials individual certificates from the authorities specified below in respect of all the elections held in the districts noted against them.

President, Tamil Nadu Congress Committee—
Districts of Chingleput, South Arcot, North Arcot, Tanjore, Trichinopoly, Madura, Ramnad, Tinnevely, Salem, Coimbatore and Nilgiris.

President, Andhra Provincial Congress Committee—Vizagapatam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Kistna, Guntur, Nellore, Chittoor, Cuddapah, Kurnool, Bellary and Anantapur districts.

President, South Kanara District Congress Committee—South Kanara District.

President, Kerala Provincial Congress Committee—Malabar District.

Return of Car Permits

Issued on December 12.

Out of a total of 559 new cars received till 1-11-46 in this province, 85 had to be sold as "unfrozen", as permit-holders were not willing to cash their permits against them. During control, cars are allotted to essential users because of urgency and, though there is every desire to help essential users to secure cars of the type and make mentioned in their applications, it does not appear right that they should be allowed to retain their permits for the full period of validity and to return them to the P.M.T.C. with a request for re-issue subsequently. The Government desire that all essential users to whom permits are allotted should make use of their permits within the validity period by purchasing any car that will be available for purchase in the show-room. If they are not prepared to follow this course and if they are anxious to get permits again, they should, within 24 hours of the receipt of their permits, return them to the P.M.T.C. so that he may re-issue them. It is only when the P.M.T.C. can utilise the returned permits that the original allottees will be getting fresh permits. The practice of returning permits to the P.M.T.C. on the last date of their validity interferes seriously with the proper administration of the control order. There can naturally be little room for a free choice of cars so long as control is continuing.

Advisory Board of Education

Issued on December 10.

The Government of Madras have constituted a Provincial Advisory Board of Education. The Hon'ble Minister for Education will be the Chairman, and Mr. D. S. Reddi, the Deputy Director of Public Instruction, will be the Secretary. The following will be the members:—

- The Director of Public Instruction, Madras.
- The Vice-Chancellor, University of Madras.
- " Andhra University.
- " Annamalai University.
- Rao Bahadur V. R. Ranganatha Mudaliar, Divisional Inspector of Schools.
- Rev. A. J. Boyd, Principal, Madras Christian College, Tambaram.
- Rev. Fr. De Souza, Principal, Loyola College, Madras.
- Dr. B. V. Narayanaswami Naidu, Principal, Pachaiyappa's College, Madras.
- Dr. J. J. Rudra, Principal, Arthur Hope College of Technology, Coimbatore.
- Miss Mathew, Principal, St. Christopher's Women's Training College, Madras.
- Dr. Kutumbiah, Principal, Stanley Medical College, Madras.
- Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed, Secretary, Muslim Education Board.
- Justice Yahya Ali Sahib Bahadur.
- Sir C. V. Raman.
- Sri R. Suryanarayana Rao, M.L.C.
- Sri B. Gopala Reddi, M.L.A.
- Mrs. Bharathi Ranga, C/o Prof. Ranga, M.L.A. (Central).
- Prof. Yegnanarayana Iyer.
- Sri M. Satyanarayana, Secretary, Hindi Prachar Sabha, Madras.
- Sri Varadarajan, B.A., B.L., Madras.
- Mr. Sargunam, Headmaster, Union High School, Coimbatore.
- Prof. Sanjiva Rao, Madras.
- Sri C. Subramaniam, B.A., B.L., Advocate, Coimbatore.
- Mrs. Kuttimalu Amma, M.L.A., Calicut.
- Mrs. Amritha Ramasubramaniam, B.A., LL.B., C/o Dr. P. N. Ramasubramaniam, Madura.
- Sri T. P. Meenakshisundaram Pillai, M.A., B.L., Chintadripet, Madras.
- Sri A. Rama Iyer, Principal, National College, Trichinopoly.

Pumps for Agriculturists

Issued on December 11.

Hitherto agriculturists who wanted to instal pumps etc. for irrigation purposes had to apply to several authorities for the supply of materials such as engines, pipes, power, etc. With a view to enable agriculturists to obtain assistance for their requirements expeditiously the procedure has now been simplified. They have now to address practically only one department, viz. the Agricultural Department:—

(1) Persons requiring engines or pumps may apply to the Director of Agriculture, Madras, who will supply these either from the stocks available with the Agricultural Department or render assistance or advice for the purchase of these from stockists.

(2) The Deputy Director of Agriculture (Engineering) working under the Director of Agriculture has been authorised to sign with effect from 1-12-46 essentiality certificates for the supply of pipes required for all agricultural purposes from the Iron and Steel Controller's stock. Applications for the supply of pipes should be sent to him in the prescribed form which can be had from the Regional Deputy Iron and Steel Controller, Madras.

(3) The Deputy Director of Agriculture (Engineering) will also make recommendations for the supply of electricity for agricultural purposes.

(4) In cases of difficulties in getting iron and steel for agricultural purposes the Director of Agriculture may be approached for assistance.

Surplus Army Vehicles

Issued on December 9.

Many surplus army motor vehicles are now being offered for sale by auction to the public, and it is understood that many of these vehicles are being bought with the intention of placing them on the road as buses or lorries after reconditioning them. The Government desire to bring to the notice of the public that as the provincial quota of motor spirit is extremely limited, it is not possible to guarantee the issue of petrol coupons for daily operation to any vehicle which may be bought in this way. So long as the existing

petrol supply position continues, petrol will not be issued to such vehicles. Such vehicles may, however, be fitted with gas plants.

Prices for Foodgrains

Issued on December 3.

Since 1943, the Government have been fixing the prices for paddy, rice and millets for the ensuing season beginning from the 1st of November with reference to the cost of production and the price levels of essential commodities other than rice. And the price once fixed remain unchanged for one year till the next season. Revision of prices for 1946-47 was similarly considered by the Government. They also set up a non-official committee to advise them on the subject. The recommendations of the Committee were reported to the Government of India.

Madras is a deficit province and does not grow enough foodgrains for its own requirements. The Government of India have to arrange for supplies by allocating the surpluses from surplus provinces and States and by arranging for imports from overseas. They have, therefore, to follow an integrated price policy for the whole of India and no province can pursue an independent policy of its own in the matter of prices. In the course of the food debate in the Central Assembly, the Hon'ble Minister for Food, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, stated that, speaking generally, the index of the cost of essential commodities other than foodgrains had not risen higher than the index for the foodgrains and there was no sign to indicate that the production of foodgrains had become unremunerative. There was, therefore, no case for increasing the present prices of foodgrains. Further, an increase in the price paid to the producers for foodgrains must inevitably result in an increase of prices to consumers which will set up an increase in the cost of labour and cost of other essential commodities thus creating a vicious spiral of increase all round. The Government of India have therefore directed that there should be no increase in the prices for paddy and rice during the current kharif year.

Conditions in Burma are returning to normal and a large surplus for export is expected to be available next year. The season in Madras is so far normal and a normal long-term crop is expected from January onwards.

There should therefore be a tendency for prices to come down if natural economic laws were allowed to operate. But the Government of Madras have decided to continue the existing prices during the ensuing year except for slight adjustments necessitated by the order to confine the milling of rice only to de-husking. These adjustments will be made to prevent prices of foodgrains from dropping too rapidly; but they would, however, assure the producers that during the ensuing year they will try to maintain the existing price levels.

Control Over Oil Distribution

Issued on December 12.

The question of taking steps to secure more effective control over the price and distribution of oils, oilseeds and oilcake has been under the consideration of the Government of India for some considerable time. The Oilseeds Conference convened by the Government of India in September 1946 adopted a resolution stating that control over oilseeds, oils and oilcake was necessary and that regulation of inter-provincial movement and allocation of quotas by the Centre and regulation of prices in exporting as well as importing areas at co-ordinated price levels were essential features of such control. The Conference recommended that in respect of movement within the country Governments of the exporting provinces and States should do everything possible to see that accepted quotas are moved at controlled rates and that the Governments of the importing provinces and States should receive the quotas and distribute them at parity prices. The Government of India accepted this recommendation and have accordingly allotted quotas for the current year—November 1946 to October 1947. They have also stated that they consider that movement of oils and oilseeds on a Government to Government basis is the ideal method and they have requested this Government to take steps to that end. They have also recommended that in the main surplus areas ceiling prices should be stabilised at about Rs. 12 per imperial maund, ex-seller's godown loose, for groundnut kernel (our main oilseed crop) and oil prices should not be more than 2½ times the kernel prices.

Regarding the best method of procurement and movement of quotas on Government account. At that conference he also stated that the price ex-wholesaler's godown in respect of groundnut kernel (shelled) will have to be brought down to Rs. 12 per imperial maund and a corresponding reduction will have to be made in the price of oil. The representatives of the trade there assembled recommended that there need be no intermediate stepping down of prices and the new price may come into effect on 1-1-47 and due notice of their decision may be given by the Government. If this was done, they said, no time need also be given for clearing subsisting contracts at higher prices. They urged however that the Government of Madras should not put their scheme into force unless they were satisfied that other Governments would follow suit and that importing administrations would not allow their merchants to profiteer on kernel and oil imported from Madras at controlled prices.

The Government of Madras have now ascertained that all the main exporting and importing areas are willing to introduce price control and enforce parity prices. On this understanding the Madras Government have decided to proceed with their plan for fixation of prices and Government-to-Government procurement and movement of groundnut kernel and oil.

The Government have accordingly created a post of Deputy Commissioner of Civil Supplies to be in charge of this work. The Deputy Commissioner will arrange for the procurement of the quotas allotted for export from Madras by the Government of India under the procedure which will be explained later.

Regarding prices, the Government of Madras have decided that the ceiling price for dry decorticated groundnut kernel ex-seller's godown should be fixed at Rs. 12 per imperial maund for 4 per cent refraction, with mutual allowances as laid down in the all-India standard contract form recommended by the Agricultural Marketing Department of the Government of India. They have also decided that there should not be differential prices for kernel as between the northern and southern parts of the presidency. The

The Hon'ble Minister for Food held conference with the millers and dealers re-

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price announced above will therefore apply to all parts of the presidency. This price will come into effect on 1-1-47.

Millers have represented that the price of unshelled groundnut should also be fixed. The Government consider this request reasonable and have fixed a ceiling price of Rs. 8-8-0 per imperial maund for shelled groundnut of fair average quality, free from moisture.

With regard to oil the Government have decided that the basic ex-mill price should be Rs. 30 per imperial maund. As millers generally carry large stocks of kernel the Government have decided to allow a time-lag of three weeks to enable millers to dispose of oil produced from kernel obtained at higher prices prior to 1-1-47. The price fixed for oil will therefore come into effect only on 22-1-47 and not on 1-1-47.

Recently the Government reduced the margin of profit for the wholesaler from Rs. 2-8-0 to Rs. 1-8-0 per imperial maund. On further representations the Government have decided to allow a margin of Rs. 2 per imperial maund for the wholesaler to cover sales tax, incidental charges, leakage and profit and the wear and tear of drums.

So far the Government have been allowing a premium of Rs. 1-8-0 per imperial maund for oil containing 4 per cent free fatty acid or less. This does not correspond with the usual trade practice where a high contract rate is agreed upon for oil of very good quality and deductions are made for quality which falls below that standard. The Government have therefore decided to make the price mentioned above applicable in respect of oil of fair average quality. The Government will notify from time to time the percentage of f.f.a. that will be allowed for f. a. q. oil. Their intention is that, as the season advances, a more liberal allowance should be made. Since this is the beginning of the new season, they have fixed 4 per cent f.f.a. as the percentage to be allowed in respect of f.a.q. oil. A premium will be allowed in respect of oil containing less than 4 per cent f.f.a. and deductions will be ordered where the f.f.a. content of accepted oil is higher than 4 per cent.

The Government have decided to fix the retail price of groundnut oil over the entire

province from 22-1-47 at Rs. 1-4-9 per viss plus sales tax.

The Deputy Commissioner of Civil Supplies will call for tenders month by month for moving the quotas of kernel and oil. Tenders will normally be accepted on a competitive basis. Tenders will be f.o.r. despatching stations for quotas moving by rail and f.o.r. ports for quotas moving by sea or rail-cum-sea, packed in gunnies in the case of kernel and in drums in the case of oil. Tenderers will be asked to say separately how the prices apportioned among the following (1) price of the kernel or oil; (2) cost of containers; and (3) the other incidental charges which may be incurred up to the point of delivery as mentioned in the tender. Tenderers may be called upon to deposit some security amount before their tenders can be considered. Successful tenderers will be asked to deposit one-half per cent of the value of the oil or kernel as the surcharge due to this Government before the quota is allowed to move. The present system of registered millers and dealers will not apply in respect of tenderers. There will be no restriction as to who can tender and who cannot, but the Deputy Commissioner will have to be satisfied that the tenderer has the capacity to fulfil the terms of the tender. In regard to mills, no mill will be allowed to tender for a quantity exceeding 60 per cent of its own production.

Each quota-holding importer will have his own inspecting agents who should be acceptable to the Madras Government. The work of the inspecting agents will also be watched on behalf of the Government of Madras by their own officials. The acceptance of tenders will be intimated to the inspecting agents. Each importing administration will nominate a Bank in Madras which will receive the railway receipts from the despatcher and pay out the amounts due according to the advice of the inspecting agent. The inspecting agent will be responsible for quality and weight. On his endorsement the Bank will receive the railway receipt and pay 90% of the value of the consignment. The balance will be paid after the final acceptance by the inspecting agent of the particular consignment which will be signified after the analysis has been completed. In any case the time taken for analysis and intimation of final

acceptance will not be allowed to exceed 10 days.

The Government have considered the question what is the fair proportion to be reserved for tendering by millers and dealers. At present the rule is that millers can get 20 tons per expeller and dealers can get 50 tons at a time. As the average oil mill consists of 3 expellers, this gives a fair proportion of 60 to 150. The Government have accordingly decided that 55% of the total exportable surplus should be reserved for millers and 45% for dealers. Competition will be allowed with regard to tenders from the millers only for the millers' quota and amongst dealers only for the dealers' quota. If sufficient tenders are not forthcoming from the millers, a larger proportion will be allowed to the dealers.

The Deputy Commissioner will shortly be calling for tenders for the quotas to be exported in the course of December-January.

Export of Groundnut Oil

Issued on December 13

The Government have received several representations, especially from the millers and dealers in groundnut oil in the districts of West Godavari, Kistna and Guntur, that they were not able to avail themselves of the recent concession given by the Government allowing free export of groundnut oil up to 30 tons per expeller and 60 tons per dealer owing to the difficulty in getting wagons for Calcutta and in moving goods by sea to Calcutta. In some cases the oil is said to have reached the rail head but could not move because the extended period of validity of the permit had expired. In order to remove any hardship resulting from the wagon shortage etc. Government have decided that some further concession should be shown especially to millers and dealers who have not been able to export any quantity and those who have been able to export only limited quantities against the permit already issued to them.

As Madras merchants had opportunity to move oil by sea as well as by rail, the Government have decided that no concession need be shown in respect of Madras permits. The Government have also received complaints about the serious shortage of cooking oil in the city. They fear that if movement via Madras port is allowed this shortage would be aggravated, especially as the dislocation of railway transport consequent on the recent rains will prevent the free flow of oil into Madras city for some more time.

They have therefore decided that movement by sea via Madras port should also not be allowed.

Similarly, in regard to Vizagapatam permits, the Government understand that a larger number of wagons were made available on the B.N. Railway than on the M.S.M. Railway and further they had the opportunity to export oil by sea via Vizagapatam port. The Government have, therefore, decided that permits from Vizagapatam district should also not be extended.

The Government have therefore decided that the present concession should be confined to permits for export of groundnut oil from the four districts of East and West Godavari, Kistna and Guntur. Even in these districts the Government consider that preference should be shown to people who have been able to export little or no quantity. They have accordingly decided that no consideration should be shown to permit holders who have already exported 50 per cent or more of the quantity covered by the previous permits. In regard to permit holders who have exported less than half the quantity, the permit should be only for a quantity which is sufficient to bring up the aggregate to half the quantity covered by the original permit. Permit holders who have not been able to export any quantity against their old permits will get permits for half that quantity.

The Government intend to issue these as fresh permits instead of revalidating the old permits themselves, as the old permits would have already been overwritten and corrected more than once. The concession is applicable only in respect of permits where the destination has been shown as Calcutta, (e.g., Shalimar, Ramakrishnapur etc.). The new permits will be issued only on application made in writing stating the quantity for which the applicant is entitled to a fresh permit on the basis outlined above. The application should be accompanied by the expired permit.

These permits will be valid only up to 31-12-1946. The Government wish to emphasise once again that further extension of permits will not be given under any circumstances, even though movement may be slow owing to rain or any other cause. Permit holders will be allowed at their discretion to move goods by rail or sea or rail and sea. But they will not be allowed to export oil by sea via Madras port or any port south of Madras.

The Government also understand that the Government of India have issued orders that all oil intended for Bengal should be moved only to Howrah. The object of this order is understood to be to enable the Bengal Government to lay their hands on all stocks coming into the city, so that they may be commandeered and sold at fair prices. The Government wish to inform permit holders even now that the stocks are liable to be commandeered by the Bengal Government at the other end, especially as this movement will count against the Bengal quota for 1946-47.

Increased Rice Ration

Issued on December 13

On 4-12-46 the Hon'ble Prime Minister announced that the scale of rice ration will be raised from 8 to 10 ozs. in the case of rice eaters with effect from the 15th of December 1946. Since then, however, there have been continuous heavy rains in many parts of the province, disrupting communications and preventing the building up of sufficient supplies to give effect to the increased ration with effect from that date. The Government have very carefully considered the situation in each district with reference to the present available stocks and the prospects of moving more stocks into them in order to enable the increase of the ration from 15-12-46, and have decided that the increased scale of rice ration should be given effect to on the date already announced viz., 15-12-46 in all districts except in the following:—

Vizagapatam	} entire district
Bellary	
Cuddapah	
Chittoor	
North Arcot	
Ramnad	} in non-statutorily rationed areas only
and Malabar	
Channarayana	} in non-statutorily rationed areas only
and	
Tinnevely	

In the excluded areas, the present stocks are low and it is not possible to move more in time to give effect to the increased ration with effect from 15-12-46. The Government will endeavour to increase the stocks in these areas also before the 1st of January, 1947, and give effect to the increased ration from that date, if not earlier. The people of these

areas are requested to put up with this temporary inconvenience which is solely due to causes beyond the control of this Government.

Flood Relief Work

The taluks of Vridhachalam, Chidambaram and Kallakurichi and some portions of Cuddalore in South Arcot District were affected by floods in the Manimuktha and Vellar rivers following heavy and widespread rains on November 15 and 16.

In the low-lying areas of Vridhachalam town and in Manalur village the mud walls of a number of houses collapsed on the 16th morning. Similar damage was also reported from Malayaperumal Agaram village in Cuddalore and Panjaimahathuvaikai village in Chidambaram. The Government have granted the affected families substantial cash allowances to help reconstruction.

There has been no damage to standing crops except that certain lands in Vridhachalam taluk have been silted up.

Irrigation channels, tanks and anicut systems have incurred extensive damage, estimated at about Rs. 1,50,000. Ring bunds have been put up where breaches in minor irrigation tanks have occurred. The P.W.D. is attending to the necessary repairs.

Considerable disruption of road traffic was caused by the rains. The breaches on the Grand Southern Trunk Road, once repaired, again gave way on November 25. The Cuddalore—Porto Novo Road has yet to be restored. The other roads are passable.

The Collector of South Arcot has submitted tentative suggestions for combating the flood menace. Among the long-term remedies are mentioned the appointment of a permanent Commission, or else a Flood and Irrigation Research Station, to study the behaviour of rivers, streams and floods, afforestation in the catchment area, and construction of flood regulator dams along the streams. Suggestions for short-term relief in Vridhachalam town include assisted migration towards the high-level areas and flood banks part of whose cost should be contributed by the residents of the town.

ABOLITION OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

by K. Bashyam, Law Minister

A Historical Survey

CAPITAL punishment has been the subject of discussion by Governments and the public for sometime past. In this Province it has received the attention of the present Ministry ever since it assumed office and the question is being examined. In this matter credit cannot go entirely to this Government, for the matter was being investigated into even earlier. The question of abolishing capital punishment was raised in 1922 by the late Mr. J. C. Adam, then Public Prosecutor, Madras, who submitted a memorandum to the Government. He traced the history of capital punishment from psychological points of view. He argued that while a legal menace is generally efficacious in all matters of delinquencies and misdemeanours, from an ethical point of view the argument when applied to capital punishment not only becomes revolting but involves a helplessness on the part of the State, which is forced to confess that it is so fearful of a particular criminal that he does not deserve any lesser punishment. He finally came to the conclusion that generally a person who commits murder has chances of escaping through seven stages: (1) detection, (2) committal, (3) conviction, (4) condemnation, (5) acquittal on appeal, (6) reduction of sentence on appeal and (7) reprieve by the Crown. Death as such is not a deterrent as it is said to be. If death penalty is to be retained it must be made more certain of infliction. Therefore he would withdraw the power from the Sessions Judges and keep it only in the High Court. The matter did not proceed further and was shelved.

The question was again raised at a conference of Inspectors-General of Prisons in 1929. The majority of the members thereof was for restricting the punishment to cases of deliberate and premeditated murder. No action was taken by Governments in the matter.

In The Thirties

Again in January, 1931, a Bill was introduced in the Legislative Assembly by Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh, who pleaded strongly for the removal of this punishment which he called a barbarous and antiquated method of social revenge demoralising in effect on human mind and coarsening public sentiment and also involving an interference with the sense of

sacredness of human life. It was strongly opposed by Sir James Crerar and the motion was negatived. Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh again introduced a Bill in 1933, but no progress seemed to have been made.

Even in England the question of abolishing capital punishment was engaging attention. A Select Committee of the House of Commons was appointed in 1930 for this question. The committee referred to India and said that India had not been without her experiments in abolition. During the seven years, 1804-1811, when Sir James Mackintosh presided as Judge of the Supreme Court of Bombay, he entirely suspended the death penalty, and at the end of that period, in his farewell address to the Crown Jury at Bombay, after comparing the statistics of his term with those of the preceding period, he said that this small experiment has been made without any diminution of the security of the lives and properties of men. Two lakhs of men have been governed for seven years without capital punishment, and without any increase of crime.

The question was again considered in England by a Select Committee in 1931. The Select Committee suggested that a Bill should be introduced and passed into law providing for the abolition of Death penalty for an experimental period of 5 years in cases tried by Civil Courts in times of peace, and that in the meanwhile, a resolution should be passed by the House of Commons declaring that the Secretary of State for Home Affairs, should recommend in each case that the death sentence should be commuted. Though this was done in 1931 no action was taken by the Government of that day.

Recent Developments

Recently, when the Labour Government came into power in England with an overwhelming majority, Mr. Chuter Ede, the Home Secretary, proposed that the penalty should be abolished for a period of 5 years at the first instance and that if, as anticipated, no adverse consequences followed, the penalty may be finally abolished. The question has not yet been settled and probably it was thought that the time was not ripe or proper for introducing such a measure in England where persons returned from War

are fresh from slaughter on a large scale, and therefore cannot be expected to take a humane and sympathetic view of the sacredness of human life at home.

Pros and Cons

Having traced its history so far I shall try to give some arguments for and against the death penalty.

Methods of inflicting death penalty have in course of time assumed a more and more humane form. Hanging was originally a public spectacle, but now it has become more secretive and except for some newspaper notes no notice is taken of any execution now-a-days. In many places public executions have been abolished. This development took place evidently because it became apparent that public executions, instead of deterring people from crimes, brutalised them and incited them to crime. I do not know if I should describe the method of hanging.

The victim stands or sits upon a trap-door in a scaffold built up ten or twelve feet from the ground. A noose formed by the lower end of a rope attached to a cross-beam above his head is placed round his neck. A black cap is pulled down entirely over his face and fastened around the neck. At a given signal from the officer upon the platform, the executioner, usually stationed at some distance, pulls a rope which releases the trap and allows the victim to fall through the scaffold by several feet. The fall usually breaks the neck and causes instant death. Occasionally, however, the neck is not broken and then death occurs by strangulation.

This was later substituted by electrocution which is supposed to be less painful and also less distressing to those who witness the death. The culprit is fastened to a firmly built chair. Upon his head, which has been shaved, there is strapped one of the electrodes in a cap filled with a sponge soaked in salt water so as to make the contact close in order to prevent burning. The other electrode is fastened to the ankle. The current is turned on at the switch by the executioner, left on for a certain number of seconds, and turned off. After a short interval it is again turned on and then turned off, this process being repeated as long as is necessary to produce death.

In more recent years asphyxiation by gas was restored to and this is the most humane and least painful. This has been still improved upon by the use of liquid hydrocyanic gas which causes instant death.

The full description of these various punishments had to be given to show how the human mind recoils at such gruesome details.

Unproved Assumptions

The apologists in favour of death penalty argue that this is the only method of liquidating a hopeless enemy of society and that the criminal who commits the crime is incorrigible. But it must be noted that in cases where death penalty is inflicted nobody has cared to go into the criminal's previous history, his antecedents, his mental and physical conditions, and arrive at a conclusion as to the probability of his being redeemed. It is again said that it is a powerful deterrent; but experience has shown, as stated already, that because of the existence of capital punishment murders are not any the less. In many States in America and in Continental countries, capital punishment has been abolished. In some of the Northern Indian States also the extreme penalty is not enforced. Coming nearer home, in the State of Pudukottah, capital punishment has been abolished decades ago, apparently without any evil results. The number of cases of murder in the Pudukottah State do not seem to be higher in proportion to its population than the number of murders committed in the adjoining districts of Madura and Ramnad. Therefore naturally the argument that it acts as a deterrent, cannot be said to rest on sure foundation. Its psychological effect on the executioner is certainly a consideration that cannot be overlooked. It deadens the regard and respect for the sacredness of human life and the frequent presence at the struggle of criminals dying of hanging will affect the subconscious mind of any human being.

The death penalty is also supported on the ground that a person who injures society by anti-social activities is not entitled to the protection of society nor is he entitled to remain in it. It will be better, therefore, to get rid of him once for all. This argument cannot be taken seriously because the number of such persons is so small that it will not certainly be a burden on society; besides it is also a confession of helplessness on the part of the State to reform such criminals. The argument assumes that any measures taken to improve them are bound to fail. Even these apologists would limit capital punishment to very few offences.

Judges not Infallible

On the other hand there is the fact that it is an irrevocable penalty and when once carried out it is beyond recall. There have been cases where innocent persons have been condemned and there have been many cases where, after a man has been hanged for murder, it is subsequently found that the crime was committed by another. History is full of tragic stories in which innocent people have been condemned. The trial of Adolf Beck will be remembered. Beck was sentenced in 1896 by overwhelming evidence, but after 9 years he was able to establish his innocence. Had he been convicted of a capital offence and executed in consequence, instead of being imprisoned, the error would probably never have come to light. Judges are not generally infallible and mistakes often occur. To inflict such an irrevocable sentence would be a gross piece of injustice.

Revenge or Reform?

The motive behind the death penalty may be said to be retributive. It is more out of a motive of revenge that it is enforced, and that means it is a relic of ancient times when the Law was "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth." In those primitive days it was considered a legitimate principle to apply. But it will now be considered barbarous to gouge out in cold blood the eye of a man who has deprived another of his sight; and

modern law recognises that the offender should not be dealt with in any such barbarous manner.

Does not the same principle apply to capital punishment also? What is the proper theory, in such cases? If it is accepted that the object is to reform the offender and deter others from the path of crime, if that is the criterion, death penalty is not the solution for such purposes.

There is also the further fact that abolition of capital punishment diminishes the certainty of unjust punishment. Any ordinary man is loath to take life even though it may be for a life that has been done away with. After all, it cannot be denied that capital punishment is a most deliberate kind of murder. No man of culture or refinement feels but an instinct of abhorrence to inflict this punishment, if he is called upon to do so himself. Why then put it on a public executioner?

The question has now been put before the public from both sides, and it is for the public to tell the Government what is to be done in the circumstances. Would you believe in capital punishment and limit the cases to be applied, or would you take a more liberal and humanitarian view of it and abolish capital punishment altogether?

(By the kind curtsy of the A.I.R., Madras)



The Madras Penitentiary

CLOTH RATIONING SCHEME

PREMIER CLARIFIES POLICY

THE Premier Mr. T. Prakasam has issued the following statement:—

There has been of late some criticism in the Press and platform on the Mill Cloth Rationing Scheme announced by the Provincial Textile Commissioner on the 25th November, 1946. The Press Note issued by him related to one item only in the entire scheme that had been under the consideration of the Government. This probably led some critics to presume that the whole quantity of cloth available to the Government for distribution was that covered by the Press Note, namely, 5 yards per adult and 2 yards per child. But that is neither true nor correct. It is a well-known fact that the quota allowed to this Province by the Central Government under the All-India Cloth Distribution Scheme is 10.8 yards *per capita* consisting of 4.2 yards of mill cloth and 6.6 yards of handloom cloth. The Government have sufficient quantity of cloth for distribution on the above basis of 10.8 yards *per capita*; but the whole of it is not mill cloth.

So far as distribution of the mill portion of *per capita* ration of cloth in the Province is concerned, under the previous scheme in force from July a differential allotment of mill cloth between people living in the City of Madras and towns with over 10,000 population on the one hand and the rest of the population living in villages on the other, was being followed. Under it, in the city of Madras an adult was allotted 12 yards and a child 6 yards. In towns with over 50,000 population, an adult was allotted 9 yards and a child 4½ yards and in towns with a population of over 10,000 an allotment was made of 7 yards per adult and 3½ yards per child and for the rest of the province 4 yards per adult and 2 yards per child. The total population of the City and the towns referred to above is about 7 millions, whereas the total population in villages is 46 millions. Out of the 12,000 bales of mill cloth allotted to the province on the *per capita* basis, the 7 million

population in the urban areas were getting 3,100 bales of mill cloth as against 8,666 bales of mill cloth available for the rest of the population numbering 46 millions living in the rural areas. Of the two varieties of cloth, the cheaper mill-made cloth was being allotted to the people in towns in greater quantity to the disadvantage of the rural population. This defect of differential rations of mill cloth was set right by the Government when the scheme came up for finalisation, by removing the discrimination and by introducing a flat, uniform rate of 5 yards per adult and 2 yards per child for every part of the Province so far as mill cloth is concerned. The *per capita* allotment of mill cloth to the province by the Central Government does not admit of a higher ration. It is but natural that the City and urban population who had been deprived of the preferential rate should get upset. Now that the whole position has been explained, I have every hope that the urban population will reconcile themselves to the situation in the interests of the larger section of the people. It is, however, wrong to suppose that this 5 yards of mill cloth allotted is all the cloth that a person will get. In addition to the ration of 5 yards of mill cloth for an adult and 2 yards for a child, the handloom cloth allotment of 6.6 yards *per capita* allows a ration of 7.6 yards per adult and 3.8 yards per child of handloom cloth.

In the scheme of rationing of mill cloth, the family is the unit for the purpose of purchase of cloth and it should be possible for each family to make necessary adjustments in the long lengths of mill-made cloth required by women within the total ration of the family, supplementing unsatisfied requirements by handloom cloth which is available in sufficient quantities to enable every family to clothe itself in varieties to which it is accustomed. Every family will be free to buy its annual ration at any time within the ration year and any quota remaining unused will lapse only at the end of that

year. At the same time every care will be taken to see that the villagers get only the type and varieties of mill cloth to which they are generally accustomed.

Handloom Cloth:

Next, with regard to the handloom cloth, the price of it is, at present, very high and is generally beyond the resources of many. The Government are taking and will continue to take all possible steps to bring down the prices of handloom cloth as well as to increase its production. Under the All-India Yarn Scheme, out of 40,000 bales of yarn produced in the Province, the Province is exporting 13,000 bales. A little over 6,000 bales of yarn is consumed by the mills themselves in the province. Thus about 20,000 bales only are available for distribution amongst the handloom weavers and they are just sufficient to keep a weaver employed for 10 days in a month.

While the position of mill yarn and cloth was such the handloom cloth has been selling at 3¼ times the mill cloth. The present high wage levels in handloom industry are due to the fact that the weaver has to earn enough during the 10 days he works, to enable him to maintain himself and his family for the whole month. If the 13,000 bales out of the 40,000 bales of yarn produced in the Province, which are being exported out of it, are retained in the Province itself and are made available for distribution amongst the weavers, the problem of under-employment amongst weavers can be solved and their wage levels brought down considerably and the prices of handloom cloth reduced to a very great extent. The Government of Madras have taken up this question with the Central Government. If this quantity of 13,000 bales of yarn is available for the weavers of the Province, it will ease the cloth position to a considerable extent.

The Government have decided to set up a Provincial Handloom Wages Advisory Board in consultation with which the maximum wages in respect of each variety of handloom cloth will be fixed and notified. The Government have also decided to reduce the margin of profits allowed to the producers and dealers of handloom cloth so that price to the consumer will only be the cost of production plus 18¾%. The price of handloom cloth will thereby be brought down from its present high level of 3 to 3½ times the cost

of corresponding variety of mill cloth to about 2 times the cost of mill cloth. The Government are organising vigorously Co-operative Societies with a view to bring down the price of handloom cloth. Stamping of prices of handloom cloth also will be strictly enforced. Arrangements will also be made to see that the weaver gets no further supply of yarn until he has satisfactorily accounted for the previous supply.

The Government, in the meanwhile, are doing everything possible to put down black-marketing in yarn and cloth. They appointed recently authorised controllers for four of the textile mills in the Province to prevent leakage of yarn and cloth from the mills. They have decided to extend similar control over all the other mills in the Province. The Government are also trying to step up production of yarn by arranging with the owners of spinning mills for 3-shift working of the mills as far as possible. To ensure efficient working of the new scheme of distribution of cloth and yarn and quicker disposal of local complaints, Collectors will be made fully responsible for all items of textile control work in the districts and they will be given the assistance of a Special Assistant for the control work to enable them to discharge their duties effectively.

Lastly I must repudiate the allegation that the rationing of mill cloth is a disguised attempt to encourage khadi, as being altogether unfounded.

ON THE INDIAN FOOD FRONT

Imports.—The following quantities of food-grains arrived in India from overseas during the week ended November 28:—

Wheat (including flour)	41,700 tons
Rice	18,500 "
Maize	2,100 "
Millet	1,600 "
Barley	19,700 "

Rationing.—The Madras Government have decided to restore the rice contents of the ration of rice-eaters to 10 ozs. from December 15.

The U.P. Government have reduced pure wheat ration in the regulated towns of the province by half a chatak from December 1.

FOOD SITUATION IN THE PROVINCE

FOR THE FORTNIGHT ENDING 30-11-1946

Seasonal Conditions

DURING the fortnight under review, the North-East Monsoon continued unabated and there was widespread and heavy rainfall particularly along the Coromandel Coast and in the Central and Southern Districts. In Guntur District 14,000 acres of wet land were submerged and the harvest of millets has been affected in some districts. Breaches of tanks were reported in several districts.

Prices

There was no perceptible change in the prices of foodgrains and pulses. There was, however, a slight fall in the price of chillies. The position regarding the price of other commodities was as follows:

Groundnut oil cake	Stationary.
Copra, gingelly seed, cocoanut oil, groundnut oil, and cotton seed	Slight increase.
Machine-shelled groundnut and gingelly oil	Slight decrease.
Gingelly oil cake ..	An increase of 26.4%

PROCUREMENT

The quantities of foodgrains locally procured in the procuring districts and those obtained from sources outside the province are furnished below:—

(a) Local procurement		
Paddy ..	45,592 tons	Equivalent to
Rice ..	59,716 "	93,910 tons in
Millets ..	3,597 "	terms of rice.

The quantity procured during the fortnight has fallen considerably when compared with the procurement during the previous fortnight.

(b) Receipts from other Provinces and States		
Rice ..	11,942 tons	
Millets ..	263 "	
Wheat ..	Nil	
Wheat products ..	Nil	
Pulses. Blackgram ..	1,890 "	
Redgram ..	520 "	
Greengram ..	198 "	
Bengalgram ..	201 "	
Total pulses ..	2,809 "	

(c) Imports from overseas		
Rice ..	5,500 tons	
Millets ..	5,000 "	
Maize ..	Nil	
Wheat ..	Nil	
Wheat products ..	Nil	
Barley ..	3,000 "	
Rye ..	540 "	

Supply and stock position of foodgrains

Rice: The closing stock of rice on 28-11-1946 was 2,27,932 tons as against 2,65,367 tons on 14-11-1946, which was mainly

due to falling off in procurement. During the fortnight stocks of rice became very low in Coimbatore, Malabar, Ramnad, and Madras City, and steps were taken to replenish them. In Malabar, the supply position in the deficit taluks in the northern portion of the district became precarious, and supplies were made to those taluks by making internal adjustments and by imports from outside. Incessant rains continued to retard the preparation of rice and its movement. With rice stocks at this present low level, even a brief disruption of communications is apt to produce a crisis. The fortnight did however see an improvement in the stock position in Madras City.

Millets: The stock of millets fell slightly to 22,986 tons on 28-11-46, which represents rather less than 1½ months' supplies. The receipt of 5,000 tons of millets at Tuticorin has replenished the low stocks in Madras and Coimbatore. The only other district, which is short of millets, is the Nilgiris, which requires more ragi.

Wheat: The stock of wheat and wheat products were 40,101 tons and 8,098 tons respectively on the 28th November. No more wheat is expected in December or in January, although some maida is expected in exchange for wheat. The off-take of wheat and wheat products will decrease as a result of the increase in the rice ration to 10 oz. and accordingly, the present stocks should suffice at least until the end of January.

Maize: The stocks of maize and barley on 28-11-46 were 39,103 tons and 3,843 tons respectively. 4,000 tons of maize is being exported to Travancore, but even after the export of this 4,000 tons, the maize available will last for several months.

Pulses: The stocks of pulses are adequate in most districts. Appreciable imports of Bengalgram are expected from North India in December.

Sugar and Jaggery: The Sugar Controller has allotted a quota of 70,000 tons of sugar to this province for 1946-47. The district sugar quotas are being revised to correspond more closely to the population of each district. The Gur Controller has allotted export quotas totalling 59,900 tons of jaggery from this province to other provinces, in 1946-47.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AT WORK

I. EDUCATION

Secondary Education

THERE was a large expansion in the facilities for secondary education in the Presidency during the current year. The Director of Public Instruction sanctioned this year the opening of 114 secondary schools, most of which were in the interior of the districts and the opening of higher forms in as many as 117 existing secondary schools. Besides, the Government have permitted as a strictly temporary measure the admission of a relatively large number of students in the existing schools by relaxing rules governing the minimum class-room area required per pupil.

Important developments have taken place in this field of education during the last few months.

First, a new body has been constituted, known as the "Board of Secondary Education" with both advisory and executive functions replacing the old S.S.L.C. Board. The strength of the Board is 25, with the Director of Public Instruction as the Chairman and the members represent besides the teaching profession, all other interests concerned with secondary education. The essential difference between the old and the new Board is that while the old was directly participating in the conduct of the S.S.L.C. Examination the new one cannot, as all examiners should be persons not on the Board.

Secondly, the secondary schools have, as a rule, adopted the regional languages as the media of instruction. In a few cases, English has been permitted to be used as the medium, as a temporary measure.

Thirdly, the Government have sanctioned a scheme under which, at least, half the number of existing high schools will be teaching Hindustani as a part of the school programme before the end of this year. It is hoped that the rest of the schools will be able to provide courses in Hindustani from the beginning of the next year.

Fourthly, with a view to increasing the supply of well-equipped women-teachers in the various regional languages, the Government have sanctioned, with effect from the current year, the grant of special scholarships tenable by lady students undergoing the Intermediate course with a view to pursuing the B.O.L. course as well as by lady students undergoing B.O.L. or Honours course in the regional languages. Steps will be taken to award these in the course of this year.

Lastly, in order to ameliorate further the conditions of employees in aided secondary schools, it has been decided that grants calculated at one-half of the Government rate of dearness allowance or war allowance should be paid to the management, irrespective of whether the managements pay from their own funds the other half of the allowances in full or not, so that the Government's liability in this behalf may be discharged in full. The Government have ordered that in addition to the teaching grant for 1945-46 payable in the current year, a special grant equal to half the difference between the maximum amount of allowance admissible at Government rates and the amount of allowance actually paid by the management to the staff in aided educational institutions in 1945-46 which will be taken into account in assessing the teaching grant, be paid to the managements in the current year. The Managements will also be required to disburse to the staff the amount of allowance due out of the special grant.

Elementary Education

The aim of the Government is to liquidate illiteracy within about 15 years. Compulsion was introduced during 1945-46 in selected centres in each of the districts of this Province. Further centres have been selected for the introduction of compulsion during the current year. The Hon'ble Minister for Education is contemplating measures to bring all school-age children under instruction in less than 15 years. The chief obstacles that stand in the way of quickening the pace of

mass literacy are the lack of accommodation and lack of teachers. Government is considering proposals for type designs for school buildings which may be put up at Government cost. The provision of further facilities for the training of teachers is receiving the active attention of the Educational Department.

Feeding Scheme

This scheme was introduced in 1945-46 at selected centres and food was supplied to poor children in the centres thus selected. The feeding arrangements were to be made by local committees but unfortunately at many of the centres the scheme could not work on account of the indifference of the members of the local committees. Thus the greater portion of the Rs. 20 lakhs allotted for the purpose remained unutilised. During the current year too, feeding has not been introduced at many centres but it is hoped that when there is an improvement in the supply of rice, the local committees will take more interest in providing the poor children with the midday meal.

Teachers

Government have proposed to train about 40,000 teachers during the next five years. The provision of higher rates of stipends and the prospects of higher scales of salaries have already attracted larger number of candidates for training than during the previous year. Additional training schools and classes were opened in 1945 and 1946 and steps are being taken to provide further facilities for the training of teachers. In addition to this, the course of training for secondary grade teachers has been reduced to one year. This is called the "emergency course of training." The higher grade teachers trained in or after 1940-41 and those trained prior to 1940-41 but who have had five years' teaching experience subsequent to their passing the T.S.L.C. examination have been given permission to appear for the secondary grade T.S.L.C. examination without further training provided they have passed the University Matriculation examination or are otherwise eligible for admission to the university course of studies. Government have also permitted higher grade trained teachers who have put in 3 years' service in recognised schools after passing the T.S.L.C. examination to appear as 'private' candidates for the S.S.L.C. examination. It is, therefore, hoped that within a year or two, there will be no dearth of trained teachers.

Basic Education

A school for the training of teachers for basic education has been opened at Perianaickenpalayam in the Coimbatore district and about 80 trained teachers have been admitted for this training. The Government propose to open basic training schools in a number of centres in 1947-48 as the ultimate aim of Government is to establish basic primary education in this Province. Selected teachers have also been sent to Wardha for training and some of these will be in charge of the new training schools next year. The Government have also appointed a Committee to consider all questions relating to basic education.

Collegiate Education

During the current year, the Government have sanctioned the opening of Engineering Colleges at Vizagapatam and Anantapur, these colleges being temporarily located at Cocanada and Guindy respectively pending construction of buildings at Vizagapatam and Anantapur. Government have also opened a College for Muslim women in the Madras city.

II. Revenue

The Government of Madras have sanctioned a provisional grant of Rs. 5,000/- for distribution of food and repairs to huts in flood-affected areas in Dharmapuri division of Salem District.

III. Development

The Government have ordered an increase in the basic rations of yarn to looms owned by members of Weavers' Cooperative Societies by 20%. They have also ordered the admission of new members to Weavers' Co-operative Societies and the organisation of fresh Weavers' societies. They propose to review the position when the aggregate number of looms in the Co-operative field reaches 80,000.

Sanction has also been accorded to the payment of a subsidy of Rs. 1,000/- to the Khadi Spinning Centre, Uravakonda, Anantapur District, to enable the centre to meet the cost of 200 charkas which are being distributed by the Centre to the poor spinners of the locality.

THE BACKGROUND OF THE GOVERNMENT TEXTILE POLICY

By R. Vinayakam, M.A., B.L.

Assistant Development Commissioner, (South).

KHADI is to clothe the villagers in the province. It is no longer to be merely 'the livery of our freedom.' It is to lead in the progressive decentralisation of industry and the restoration of man to his rightful place in production and distribution. It is to be the livery of a new way of life based on self-sufficiency and integration.

This is the New Deal for Khadi. This is the basis of the Khadi Scheme of the Madras Government. This is the objective from which we have to consider their decision to prevent the erection of new mills and the expansion of the old. Their decision has given rise to a spate of one-sided and over-weighted criticism in the Press. The agitation and frenzy of the industrialists who are afraid of losing a tried and established enterprise for investing their large war-profits could be understood. No Government, not even one based on non-violence, could wait till the heart-conversion of these capitalists before launching upon schemes of amelioration. Can prohibition wait till the blessing of toddy shop contractors is obtained?

But one gets somewhat worried at the nervousness shown by the urban public and the upper middle class as a result of misleading propaganda. They should study the question with open-mindedness and awareness of all the issues involved in it; and, if they are convinced of its soundness, give it their whole-hearted backing. No scheme of any Government can succeed without the understanding and co-operation of the people.

What is the basis of the Khadi Movement? Social structure in the world was simple and wholesome till the middle of the 18th century when the Industrial Revolution in England and the establishment of Imperial control over India changed the face of things. The invention of machinery and the discovery

of steam power to drive them opened the eyes of greedy money makers to the possibilities of enormous profits. The 'enterprise' of the East India Company helped English industrialists to obtain large funds, greater quantities of raw materials and a clear market for finished goods which are required for the success of large scale industry. The result was the finest textile industry in the world was destroyed, the artisans driven to unskilled work in agriculture and the masses in India reduced to a rustic life of under-employment and semi-starvation. What happened in textiles followed in one industry after another and we are even to-day witnessing the decay of the old village economy which was the basis for our prosperity.

But we are told we cannot go back to the days of the 'bullock cart' but have to step up industrialisation through which the world everywhere else is 'progressing.'

What is this industrialisation? It is the use of power and machinery in the limitless production of goods and services for the use of man. It is based on the dictum that the more man gets by way of goods and services the happier he is. Jesus said that the Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath; similarly one would feel that goods and services are only for the benefit of man's realisation of his full personality and should be regulated in accordance with that aim. Man, the common man, who constitutes the preponderant majority of the 200 crores of people or more in the world should not be made just a tool for the production of goods and services. Those who have followed the course of events in the world since the Industrial Revolution are agreed that it set the European Powers on a race for the grab of colonies, of Lebensraum, of markets and raw materials. All these are compendiously

connoted by the term 'Imperialism'. These are the bases on which we have to rear centralised industries. Centralisation or industrialisation, so-called, cannot function without imperialism. It is untrue to think that Imperialism is the sin of the Britisher or the Westerner. It is the inevitable way of life of those who choose centralisation. We saw its operation in Japan. Should India also follow suit?

Centralisation, again, brings in its train all the evils of an over-emphasised money economy. Money, instead of functioning as a medium of exchange, becomes a commodity which is to be accumulated and which is to replace the necessity of having to work for your living. Under money economy, the poor are always worsted. Wages may increase, money may become easy but the lot of the poor only deteriorates. Do we not see this face to face to-day?

It does not matter for this purpose, whether the Government of the country is capitalist or socialist. Socialist countries also are obliged to become empire-builders. Look at Russia's zeal for the oil wells in the Middle East. Russia might say that it has to follow the Western Powers for self-defence; or she may feel that she is thereby making the world 'safe' for socialism. The result, for the common man, is much the same, if not worse. Global wars, for which the world has become the Kurukshetra every twenty years, are the inevitable concomitant of industrialisation. The atom bomb, which has been certified by eminent scientists as capable of destroying all the cities in the world in a few days, is the logical outcome of an economy based on indefinite mechanisation.

And to what is man reduced in the meanwhile? He becomes the mill operative who is to work endlessly in minute and unintelligent occupation and waste his body and mind in the process. In the village economy man's personality was whole and wholesome. Under mechanized economy it is broken to bits and, for consolation, he is shown the enormous production which he has helped to produce and which is for his use. In other words he is to follow the fellow in the old fable who purchased a glow worm to help him in the dark in exchange for his eyes. His instincts and sensibilities are to be dulled by his occupation. His moral sense is to be nullified. Industrialists should gloat over the wholesale destruction of enormous quantities of foodstuffs (should not large scale production reconcile you to large scale destruction?) in an attempt to keep up prices. Imperialist Powers should be allowed to force Indians and Chinese to mass des-

truction by nationwide famines. Socialists should be allowed to grow self-righteous over scorched earth policies.

We would rather follow Gandhiji's scheme of life which postulates that man is more important than 'his purchasing power' or rather producing power; that man's mind and body and soul are dearer possessions than goods and services, that the latter are welcome only in so far as they conduce to the former, that simplicity with sanity is better than self-indulgence which takes us 'through the primrose path to the everlasting bonfire'.

Centralisation and decentralisation cannot go together, at any rate not in the same industry. We cannot ride on two horses at a time. Khadi, if it is to become the cloth of the millions, and not remain the dress of the fastidious few, cannot grow along with the spinning and weaving mills. Till today Governmental functions, such as communications, research, tariffs etc., have been used for the benefit of centralised units and to the detriment of village industries. The result is that the former are well developed and well entrenched and can always beat Khadi in an open competition. Government which protected Indian as against foreign mills in the past have now to protect the village, as against the mechanised industries. The baby can never beat the puppy in a running race in open competition.

This is the foundation on which the Khadi scheme of the Madras Government is based. It stands or falls according to the popular acceptance or rejection of this scheme of life. Being a pioneer Governmental venture, the Madras Ministry is proceeding about it with moderation and step by step. Wealthy persons who are in need of luxury goods are welcome to the benefits of mechanized and centralised production. But centralisation is not allowed free play in the production of primary needs of the masses, the poorest of the poor, like food and clothing.

The scheme is to be tried as an experimental measure, under the immediate and detailed supervision of Gandhiji and his expert colleagues, in selected areas, and to be extended, in the light of experience. Congressmen themselves might differ about the advisability of the scheme; legal and administrative difficulties might help to protect the vested interests; but if the people understand and appreciate the background of the scheme, Government would have secured its moral authority, which is after all their real authority. Governments stay or fall, not on legal technicalities, but on the will of the people.

PROTECT POULTRY FROM RANIKHET DISEASE

DISCOVERY OF NEW VACCINE

(By R. Venkataraman, G.M.V.C., Research Officer, Ranikhet Vaccine Production).

THE havoc caused by this dreadful disease of Ranikhet among fowls and the consequent economic and financial losses sustained by poultry owners are well known to the public. Due to this epizootic, poultry breeders and fanciers were vexed over the problem of successfully raising poultry. The rapid course of the disease with a high mortality resulting from it, has baffled the efforts of scientists in discovering a suitable curative or preventive remedy all these years. The search for a remedy against this disease that would make poultry rearing a success began in 1928 and efforts were continuing even till last year, when, as a result of experiments conducted by Specialists at the Imperial Veterinary Research Institute, Mukteswar, a new vaccine of proved immunity was evolved. The discovery of this vaccine, during the war, proved a boon to the Army Authorities in India, as it enabled them to supply table birds and eggs in sufficient numbers for the troops. At last, the long awaited remedy for this scourge of poultry has been found in this vaccine.

Preparation of the Vaccine: The new vaccine behind which is the secret of this disease control and prevention is manufactured from chicken embryos infected with a strain of Ranikhet Disease Virus lowered in virulence by laboratory methods. It is a live vaccine.

For the preparation of this vaccine, fresh eggs of good size are obtained from a farm known to be free from this disease. The eggs are cleaned and incubated in an incubator. They are then examined by candling on the ninth day, when the infertile eggs and those showing dead embryos are removed. The fertile eggs are reset in the incubator and taken out from it again on the tenth day and recandled to eliminate those showing subsequent deaths, if any, and to enable the location of the embryo which has to be injected with the seed

material. A piece of shell is removed with a cutting disc attached to a dental drill and the shell membrane is punctured; the underlying chorio-allantoic membrane is depressed to receive the inoculation. One or two drops of the seed material is instilled into this spot which gets deposited over the chorio-allantoic membrane. A sterile cover-slip is placed over the triangular window and sealed air-tight with paraffin. The inoculated eggs are incubated at 37°C. for 48 hours. The inoculation is absorbed by the chorio-allantoic membrane which is rich in blood-vessels and the embryo having become infected, usually dies in the course of 36 to 48 hours. After this period, the eggs are opened under sterile precautions and the fluid surrounding the embryo which is akin to the placental fluid of mammals, is collected with a small sterile pipette and stored in a refrigerator. The fluid collected from several such eggs is pooled and tested for sterility culturally. No preservative is added. The safety, potency and immunity of the vaccine are assessed by biological tests at the laboratory. This constitutes the standardised vaccine.

Properties of the vaccine: This vaccine is not a curative one. It is very fragile and sensitive to exposure to atmospheric temperature and is therefore always stored in ice in hermetically sealed glass ampoules. Near freezing point, however it remains quite stable for at least 3 to 4 months. Immunity is set up in 2 days after vaccination; a definite and lasting immunity is conferred to the birds. This vaccine is highly concentrated and 1 c.c. of this is sufficient to protect 1,000 birds. As three to four c.c. can be collected from each chick embryo, vaccine from one egg can protect three to four thousand birds.

How to use this vaccine: This concentrated vaccine is transported to the field through reliable persons in wide-mouthed, one pint

thermos flasks containing ice which should be replaced before all the ice melts away, (i.e.) at least every 24 hours; at the time of use, 1 c.c. of the concentrated vaccine is diluted in 1,000 c.c. of low temperature water which has been previously filtered, boiled and cooled on ice or in a refrigerator overnight. This diluted mixture is vigorously shaken and used immediately. It is kept protected from direct sunlight especially in hot weather. The diluted vaccine is injected under the skin or into the muscles in doses of 1 c.c. A good site in adult birds is under the fold of skin on the inside of the wing and in the case of chickens, the leg muscles. Healthy birds alone are protected. This vaccine should not be used on sick birds or on birds in the incubative stage of the disease as it will not cure the disease. Any diluted vaccine not utilised in the day of preparation must be discarded.

Advantage was taken of the recent advance made in the control of this disease and this vaccine is now being produced at the Madras Veterinary College itself. The Government are now in a position to prevent, by vaccination, serious losses among fowls on account of this disease. The poultry at the Government Research stations and at several of the poultry Demonstration Units, Mission poultry farms, and those of the private bodies, have been protected by this vaccine with successful results.

Vaccine reaction and after-care: After vaccination, some birds may show drowsiness from the 4th to 6th day followed by greenish loose motions; the birds generally feed well; when appetite is impaired in a few birds, they may be nursed and fed on soft wet mash and buttermilk till they are normal; a few birds show slight weakness in gait or lameness which usually clears up in a fortnight. Birds exhibiting illness or symptoms of paralysis at a later stage (i.e.) after 2-3 weeks of vaccination should be suspected for Coccidiosis and necessary preventive measures taken. Birds with severe lameness or paralysis should be segregated and if no improvement is noticed within the few following days, they should be disposed off for table purpose. This occurs only in a small percentage of vaccinated birds (say 1-3%). In laying hens, a temporary drop in egg laying occurs, but usually returns to normal in about 4 weeks. So it is generally advisable to have the vaccination done before the pullets have started laying (i.e.) between 4 and 5 months of age. Vaccinated birds should not be exposed to infection for at

least a week following vaccination. They should be fed carefully and housed properly against inclement weather, chill winds, etc. This vaccine cannot eradicate the disease. It is advisable to withhold vaccination against this disease, if some other infectious poultry disease prevails in the area and also during very hot months.

Get your birds protected: Pea-fowls, turkeys and fowls of all breeds and chickens above two months of age can be protected with this vaccine. Since all healthy birds can be protected, do not wait till the disease sets in and then think of protection. Prevention is always better than cure. You may consult the Principal, Madras Veterinary College, the District Veterinary Officer, or the Veterinary Assistant Surgeon in your locality, to arrange for the immunisation of your flock.

Poultry owners in the City of Madras are informed that fowls are vaccinated against this disease at the Madras Veterinary College. The vaccination is done free of cost on all working days between 7-30 to 10 a.m.

Food Propaganda in the Districts

Despite heavy rain and bad weather, the work turned out by the District food propaganda officials was encouraging for the fortnight ending 30-10-46, according to the report received from the office of the Provincial Controller of Food rationing. During this period, 546 demonstrations were held in the districts excluding Malabar. In some places the Mistresses of schools and the members of I.W.C.C. helped the lecturers and demonstrators in their work.

The villagers in some districts are still suspicious of unfamiliar foodstuffs like maize. For example there was a complaint from a few villagers in N. Arcot district that they have got rheumatic pains and swelling in the joints on account of using maize, for a week. Another lady from Trichy was reported to have said that scabies all over the body would be the result of taking maize. The lecturers repudiated these and convinced them that those diseases were not the results of eating maize but due to other reasons.

TOWARDS INCREASING THE CATTLE WEALTH OF INDIA

Steps and Schemes of Government Outlined

ONE of the greatest obstacles to the improvement of livestock in this presidency is the acute shortage of suitable breeding bulls. The two Government livestock farms in Salem and Guntur Districts are being expanded considerably. Yet it is essential that private breeders should be encouraged to maintain as many good bulls at stud as possible. With this end in view, the Government have initiated the following schemes.

A premium of Rs. 170 for the first year, and a slightly less amount for the subsequent four years is granted towards the maintenance of stud bulls. The District Boards also undertake the purchase of a certain number of pure bred, breeding animals and distribute them among the ryots. The Government usually bear 2/5 of the cost of purchase. The Government also purchase a certain number of young and adult breeding animals and distribute them free to ryots in the breeding tracts. If these bulls serve 180 cows during a period of three years, they become the property of the custodian. Besides these, bulls are also maintained in veterinary institutions, where they can be of free service.

A large number of good cows and buffaloes, are brought into the Madras City annually for urban milk supply and are either slaughtered prematurely or rendered unfit for breeding. Steps have been taken to prevent this depletion of cattle wealth.

A Breed Society has been formed in the Coimbatore District and a scheme for the improvement of Kangayam cattle is also working there.

In order to care for the welfare of the progeny, a calf subsidy scheme has been put through and a liberal subsidy of Rs. 35 per calf is granted.

An effective start has also been made in grading village cattle. This scheme aims at eliminating bad blood.

The creation of village livestock farms, where breeding operations will take place under the control of the Government is also being considered.

The Coimbatore District Board has also been maintaining some stallions for pony breeding.

Steps are also being taken to teach the shepherd the proper methods of shearing. An experiment in the improvement of the local sheep is also being conducted.

In addition to the many poultry farms, 24 poultry demonstrations are also being maintained.

Many schemes providing for much additional veterinary aid and more supervisory staff and research workers are being considered.

Resettlement News

The following is a report of resettlement activities, giving the number of ex-servicemen who have been helped to find employment.

During the second fortnight of November, 9 men at Nellore, 10 at Bellary, 27 at Cuddapah, 48 at Trichinopoly, 85 in Madras City, 20 in N. Arcot, 13 in West Godavari district and 60 in S. Arcot district have been resettled.

The number of men who have been resettled during the whole month of November is 33 in Ramnad, 90 in Madura and 61 in Nilgiris.

In Chingleput district 371 men have been resettled so far, 1,654 in Tinnevely, 909 in Tanjore, and 484 in Anantapur.

In Kurnool the Rudravaram Land Colony was registered on 26-11-46. Besides these, land colony schemes in many other places are also in operation. Work is also being carried on in Siddarampuram Land Colony at Anantapur.

SOUTH INDIAN VILLAGE COMMUNITIES

RETROSPECT AND PROSPECT

(V. R. R. Dikshitar, University of Madras)

Evidence of Tamil Literature

THAT great historian of India E.B. Havell wrote, "Neither ancient nor modern history in Europe can show a system of local self-government more scientifically planned nor one which provided more effective safeguards against abuses, than that which was worked out by Aryan philosophers as the social and political basis of Indo-Aryan religion. The liberty of the Englishman was wrung from unwilling rulers by bitter struggles and by civil war. India's Aryan constitution was a free gift of the intellectuals to the people; it was designed, not in the interest of one class, but to secure for all classes as full a measure of liberty and of spiritual and material possessions as their respective capacities and consideration for the common weal permitted." What Havell has said is true of South India also. He built up a theory that South Indian institutions were all based on northern Indian model. The fact is that local institutions and methods of administration had an independent growth and perhaps ran on parallel lines in the North as well as in the South. This is made abundantly clear from a study of ancient classics in Tamil and the vast mass of inscriptions.

A Self-contained Unit

If we turn to the pages of Sangam works we meet with the statements which go to show that the village which went by different names such as *asur*, *perur*, *mudur*, *sirur* formed the unit of administration. Each village was a self-contained unit. Agriculture and cottage industries ministered to the essential needs of the people, food and clothing. There was no difficulty for shelter. Every village had its own occupational or functional groups such as drummers, fishermen, merchants, carpenters, smiths, agricultural labourers, washermen, oil mongers, etc., each group plying its own trade and without competing with other professionals. Each artisan or trader was schooled in the home in his teens by his elders, generally the father or elder brothers of the family. Such training enabled them to become master carpenters,

master smiths, etc., in their turn. Thus the organisation of the village was communal in character. All the various professions became different groups of a big community which we call the great village community. All of them contributed in their own way to the welfare and progress of the village. The bond of common religious beliefs and practices further cemented the kinship between the various groups and promoted the happiness of the villagers as such.

Independent Republics

These village communities were tiny independent republics. They were not disturbed by the Central Government. They owed their allegiance to the central executive by the payment of a fixed annual sum. Otherwise the political affairs of the village were in the hands of elders of the village, normally designated *Kilar*. The term *Kilar* appended to a certain village and mentioned as the name of a post or chieftain suggests the idea of that post or chieftain being the head of the village. The ancient name for the village sabha or assembly was *manram*. It was the meeting place of the village folk either for administering justice and adjudicating case, or for social amenities. It formed often the village theatre or dancing hall. Even members of the fair sex seem to have participated in the *manrams*. It is said that women whose husbands were dead, stopped from going there and avoided mingling with the public. Otherwise it was a resort of men and women.

In this *manram* or village assembly, culprits and offenders who were brought to book were taken for examination of their case and punishment. The elders of the village who evoked respect and adoration from the public formed a Court of their own. They went into the cases and awarded punishment according to the gravity of the offence. Their decision was binding. And their order amounted to obedience by the whole country. This was the nucleus of the future panchayat system. Besides administration of justice,

affairs of local importance came under the purview of these elders who represented the village community as a whole. They looked after the sanitation and health of the village besides attending to the protection and defence of the village. It appears that theft and robbery were rampant. By a system of night watchmen, the whole village was guarded. They patrolled the streets of the village all night with lights in their hands. It was usual for grain dealers and others engaged in merchandise to carry bales of goods from one village to the other. Lest they should be molested by robbers, efficient watchmen were stationed on the rural roads separating one village from the other.

By means of small committees the village community looked after the general interest of the village. These Committees supervised gardens, tanks, irrigation canals and bunds and saw that efficient work was turned out. In fine the village enjoyed absolute independence in the arrangement of its internal affairs and all business was transacted by men of integrity and impartiality. Thus the foundations of true democracy were truly laid in the early centuries of the Christian era.

II

Under the Pallavas & the Cholas

If we turn from literature to South Indian inscriptions, we shall see that the old system of village sabhas continued to work more vigorously and more efficiently in the Pallava and the Chola periods. The name of the assembly was known as *ur* or a *Sabha*. These village parliaments, as they have been happily designated, took keen interest in beautifying rural parts, in promoting their welfare and in keeping peace. If they were in any way responsible to the Central Government, it was only in the payment of taxes which were purely annual. These village community organisations distributed lands among cultivators, collected the share of the produce, effected now and then sale of lands, approved grants of land or other things to religious purposes and took over the holdings in default of payment of taxes.

Benevolent Kings

Though the decision of the Assembly was final in almost all matters, sometimes there was a dispute over complicated matters

when the King was made aware of them. He usually sent a representative as Arbitrator who finally decided the disputed points between the party and the assembly. When the assembly could not deal satisfactorily with certain land-holders who had evaded payment of taxes continuously for a period of three years, it appealed to the King to settle the matter. The Chola King Rajarajadeva himself adjudicated in this case. The King ordered that the lands in question might be sold by the village community, the defaulters being excluded from it. But it may be noted that such interference was the exception and not the rule. The constitution provided that the village assembly had to appeal to the Mahasabha, which lorded over a group of neighbouring villages and this Mahasabha, a great assembly, had the power to book these offenders and punish them generally by fines. Again in times of emergency the King could order an increase in revenue but he generally did it after previously consulting the village assembly and getting its approval. Far from oppressing the subjects the king tried to please them as far as possible. A certain Chola King by a stroke of pen abolished all tolls and came to be popularly known Sugandavrita Chola.

Constitution Of Sabhas

Of the constitution and working of the village assembly we are in a possession of a wealth of details. The inscriptions at Uttaramerur, Chingleput District, throw considerable light on the method of organisation and administration. This was in the reign of the Chola King Parantaka. The Sabha was divided into several Committees. The members of the Sabha at this place were thirty. It was a big village or township and the whole village was divided for purposes of collection and representation into thirty wards. Each ward put up its candidates for election.

The qualifications to contest elections for candidates were explicit. Some of them were:—

(1) One should possess more than a quarter *veli* of the tax-paying land.

(2) He must have built on his own site.

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(3) He should not be less than 35 in age or more than sixty.

(4) He must be proficient in the Mantra and Brahmana literature.

An impartial observer could judge from this that property qualifications, educational qualifications and age qualifications were taken into account.

The list of disqualifications was a more formidable one. Some of them were:—

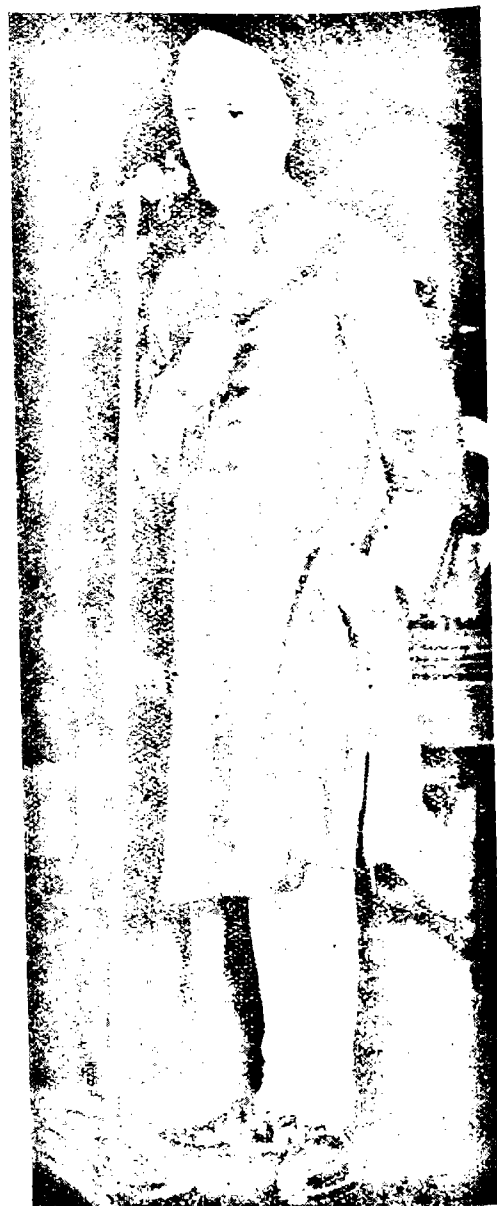
(1) Those members who had served on the Committees and had not submitted their accounts properly were disqualified.

(2) The near relatives of members were ineligible to avoid favouritism being shown.

(3) Those who have committed heinous sins such as killing Brahmans, drinking intoxicating liquors, thieving and committing adultery were not eligible for election. In other words, persons who had no character and who would not consequently command the respect of the public were excluded.

(4) Those who had infringed the conventions of the society and had been dubbed as outcastes, by taking forbidden dishes and by indulging in illicit intercourse were disqualified. These are enough to show how public opinion asserted itself in the matter of election. Only those who were reputed for their morals could be chosen. To say the least there was no room for corruption in such elections.

The elections by themselves anticipated the modern parliamentary procedure. After the nominations were declared valid, the names of persons thus nominated were written on bits of palmyrah leaf. These were thrown into a narrow-mouthed pot and shaken several times in the presence of the whole assembly. Then a child was asked to take out of the pot one chit after another, and the names of the persons were read out and declared elected. These persons held office normally for a year. The elected 30 members formed themselves into various committees, some of six each. These were Annual Committee, Garden Committee, Gold Committee, Irrigation or Tank Committee, Tax Committee, the Committees for administering justice and for other purposes. Severally and jointly those committees looked after the interests of the village or township.



Pandit Jawaharlal, addressing the Irrigation Conference held recently, emphasised the need to educate the common man on the potentialities of irrigation and electricity.

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WHEAT & MAIZE RECIPE

IDDLI

Ingredients.	S. I. Measure.	Std. Measure.
Blackgram ..	1/2 Ollock	1 1/2 Oz.
Wheat flour ..	1/2 Ollock	1 1/4 Oz.
Maize flour ..	1/2 Ollock	1 Oz.
Salt ..	1 1/2 Teaspoon	1 1/4 Teaspoon.
Water ..	1/2 Ollock	7/10 Cup.
Baking soda ..	1/2 Teaspoon	1/2 Teaspoon.

Method:

1. Soak the blackgram for 4-6 hours and grind.
2. Mix with other ingredients except baking soda and leave it to sour overnight.
3. In the morning add baking soda, mix well and steam iddlis.

ADDAI

Ingredients.	S. I. Measure.	Std. Measure.
Wheat flour ..	1/2 Ollock	2 1/2 Oz.
Maize flour ..	1/2 Ollock	2 - Oz.
Onions ..	Two	Two
Green Chillies ..	Four	Four
Ginger ..	A small piece	A small piece
Curry leaves ..	A few	A few
Salt ..	3 Teaspoons	3 Teaspoons
Water ..	1/2 Ollock & 2 Tablespoons	

Method:

1. Chop the onions and green chillies and ginger.
2. Mix all ingredients well.
3. Take portions and spread over a grated iron pan in the form of addais and turn over when half cooked and remove when fully cooked.

PAGODA

Ingredients.	S. I. Measure.	Std. Measure.
Maize flour ..	1/2 Ollock	1 Oz.
Wheat flour ..	1/2 Ollock	1 1/4 Oz.
Onion ..	1/2 Ollock	1/2 Oz.
Green Chillies ..	Two	Two
Salt ..	1/2 Teaspoon	1/2 Teaspoon.
Water ..	4 Tablespoons	4 Tablespoons.
Ginger ..	A piece	A piece.

Method:

1. Mix chopped onions and green chillies with other ingredients adding water to form a thick batter.
2. Shape small portions and fry in deep oil till brown.

VADAI

Ingredients.	S. I. Measure.	Std. Measure.
Wheat flour ..	1/2 Ollock	2 1/2 Oz.
Maize flour ..	1/2 Ollock	2 Oz.
Onions ..	Two	Two
Green Chillies ..	Four	Four
Ginger ..	A small piece	A small piece
Curry leaves ..	A few	A few
Coriander ..	A few	A few
Salt ..	2 1/2 Teaspoons	2 1/2 Teaspoons
Curds ..	7 Tablespoons	7 Tablespoons.

Method:

1. Chop onions, green chillies etc.
2. Mix all ingredients with curds.
3. Shape vadais and fry in deep oil.

MURUKKU

Ingredients.	S. I. Measure.	Std. Measure.
Wheat flour ..	1/2 Ollock	2 1/2 Oz.
Maize flour ..	1/2 Ollock	2 Oz.
Greengram ..	1/2 Ollock	2 1/2 Ozs. (approx)
Salt ..	1 1/2 Teaspoon	1 1/2 Teaspoon
Water ..	7 Tablespoons	7 Tablespoons.
Gingelly seed ..	1 Teaspoon	1 Teaspoon
Cumin ..	1 Teaspoon	1 Teaspoon
Asafoetida ..	A bit	A bit
Dalda ..	1 Teaspoon	1 Teaspoon

Method:

1. Roast the green gram and powder it on the "ammi kal" to dry flour.
2. Mix all ingredients to form a thick paste.
3. Extract the paste through a squeezer (murukku kola) and fry in deep oil until crisp and brown.

PANIGARAM

Ingredients.	S. I. Measure.	Std. Measure.
Wheat flour ..	1/2 Ollock	2 1/2 Ozs.
Maize flour ..	1/2 Ollock	2 Ozs.
Sugar ..	5 Tablespoons	5 Tablespoons.
Salt ..	1/2 teaspoon	1/2 Teaspoon
Plantain ..	One	One
Egg ..	One	One
Soda bicarbonate ..	1/2 Teaspoon	1/2 Teaspoon
Water ..	6 Tablespoons	6 Tablespoons.

Method:

1. Beat egg and add sugar to it.
 2. Add maize flour and wheat flour and mix well.
 3. Mash the plantain well and add it to the above.
 4. Add salt and water and mix well.
 5. Fry in oil, pouring the batter from a spoon. Remove when brown.
- Note.—Panigaram may also be done without egg, using 2 plantains and enough water to make a pour batter i.e. 8 tablespoons instead of 6.

OUR CULTURAL CONTRIBUTIONS

II. SIGRIYA

(The first article of this series, "Borabudur: Java", appeared in the 4th issue of *Madras Information*.)

WHEN Buddhism penetrated Ceylon through the efforts of the missionaries of Emperor Asoka, art also accompanied it from the mother country.

During the creative age of the great Guptas, Buddhist art flourished from the Oxus to Ceylon on account of the settled conditions of the country attributable to a time of peace and prosperity: and during this reign no antipathy was shown to the Buddhist faith though the rulers were themselves Vaisnavite Hindus.

Painting and plastic art evolved and blossomed out in an exquisite form and style, and the names of Ajanta, Bagh and Sigriya are landmarks in the history of painting in India and Ceylon.

The fresco paintings in these places are records of the consummation of Buddhist painting in India and are the only survival of a number of them which existed in the country during the early centuries of the Christian era. The famous Chinese pilgrims Fa-Hian in the 5th century A.D. and Hiuen Tsang in the 7th century A.D. have recorded buildings at widely different places which were remarkable on account of the mural paintings they contained. As the influence of Buddhism declined, these wonderful paintings gradually fell into decay; and they disappeared completely with the Muslim invasion. Ajanta and Bagh survived as they were monastic retreats lying far from the sphere of political and religious strife and Sigriya owes its security to its inaccessibility. These paintings have outlived the ravages of time and have come down to us as they were executed on the surface of imperishable rocks well protected against the effects of the elements. These frescoes hold the same position in

Indian painting as the works of the "Old Masters" hold in the art of Europe. It is said that these paintings were a source of great inspiration to artists all over the East and that their influence extended far beyond the country of their birth. The breadth of conception and simplicity of treatment stamp these frescoes as the work of a school of great artists, and particularly as one of the finest achievements of the Buddhist artists. The treatment is so subtle that it embodies all the essential elements of the art. The complexities of the human form have been well analysed and by means of simple lines the whole universe is revealed masterfully.

On the summit of a 600 foot hill adjoining Anuradhapura in Ceylon is situated Sigriya surrounded by immense plains in whose womb was discovered the famous frescoes that thrilled an astonished world. This place was founded by King Kasyapa and its origin is as romantic as its appearance is majestic.

About 460 A.D. Lanka was ruled by King Datusena to whom was born Kasyapa through a courtesan, and Mogalana and a princess through the consort. When the princess came of age King Datusena got her married to his army chief Migara who it is said one day publicly disgraced the princess in the open court of her father by flogging her for some misconduct. This exhibition roused the indignation of the king so much that he at once ordered that Migara's mother should be burnt alive as the person responsible for all this trouble. The sentence was carried out and Migara and the King became inveterate foes. Finding that there was not much love lost between Kasyapa and King Datusena, Migara the scheming villain, contrived to enlist the support of the illegitimate son of the king and one day set upon the king and buried him alive.

Hearing of this Mogalana fled from Ceylon to India fearing the wrath of his half-brother and the vicious brother-in-law.

Kasyapa became the undisputed master of the situation and declared himself King of Ceylon and began his reign from the ancient capital Anuradhapura. His conscience never giving him peace of mind and ever dreading his brother's revenge, Kasyapa decided to entrench himself and gain security by turning his brother's revenge Kasyapa decided to fortress and safe refuge. The idea was soon executed and the fortress of Sigriya with its formidable rampart walls and battlements soon lifted itself up to the skies like a mighty giant. Kasyapa constructed a palace for himself on the summit of the hill of which only the foundations survive today, and as a means of access to the hill he built a walled gallery with a facade in the form of an enormous seated lion (which has given its name to the rock) facing north, the direction of his enemy. Thither the king migrated with his subjects abandoning the ancient Anuradhapura and for a period of 18 years (479-497 A.D.) had an undisturbed sway.

Early morning one day King Kasyapa seated in his royal garden saw in the north a thick forest—another forest as it were—crawling towards Sigriya; and as the sun rose higher and higher the moving forest revealed itself into a million glittering lances and spears and Kasyapa knew that his brother Mogalana had now returned from India with a vast army to avenge his father's death. Collecting his army the king now descended from his mountain stronghold—a very foolish thing to do—and clashed with great fury against his brother's hordes who stood their ground with poise and calm; and the battle raged with terrific violence. While attempting to negotiate a ditch his elephant suddenly turned its back to the opposing army and stood so obstinately that all Kasyapa's persuasions and proddings proved unavailing. His men imagined that the king lost the battle, suddenly gave up the fight and were soon overpowered and crushed. King Kasyapa dreading his fate if he were to fall alive into the hands of his brother, cut his throat with his sword and fell dead on the battlefield. His men now stood abjectly before the victorious Mogalana who furiously gnashed his teeth at the traitors that had helped the usurper for so long that one of his front teeth protruded out of the mouth and remained so till his death, earning for him the nickname of Rakshasa.

Fearing no enemy henceforth, Mogalana gave up Sigriya as the seat of government and again transferred his capital to Anuradhapura where his predecessors had ruled.

While leaving Sigriya he charged a few Bikshus to stay behind as on account of its seclusion and isolation it appeared suitable for their penance and meditations and such other religious activities. And to these Bikshus is attributed the authorship of the fresco paintings considered a marvel of paint and brush-work.

Today Sigriya looks shorn of those battlements and towers, and ruined foundations of this citadel are found strewn here and there.

After the Bikshus had taken up residence in Sigriya in response to the desire of Mogalana it is believed some very clever artists among them in order to beguile their tedium employed themselves on the very pleasant task of adorning the walls inside two sheltered rock pockets with figures of angelic damsels in paints of astonishing colours whose compositions are even today a puzzle to the modern mind. Those colours appear today as fresh and bright as if they were laid on only yesterday. Who those wonderful geniuses were that had amused themselves with such pleasant pastime is the thought that arises in everybody's mind as he looks entranced at those captivating figures.

The technique adopted by those artists in the execution of their work is believed to be as follows. On the surface of the hard rock a layer of clay, cowdung and powdered from mixed with rice husk to a thickness of from three to twenty millimetres was spread evenly. A thin coat of fine white lime plaster was overlaid on this and kept moist while the colours were painted which were afterwards lightly polished. The underdrawings were red, then the local colours followed by a fresh outline of brown or black with some shading to give the effect of roundness.

The famous Ajanta frescoes in the State of Hyderabad which have attracted world-wide attention are considered today by art connoisseurs of the West as incomparable masterpieces of painting. And when the frescoes of Sigriya attributed to the fifth or sixth century A.D. were discovered about the end of the 19th century, critics were astonished at their similarity to the Ajanta frescoes and averred that both should have been executed by the same artists or artists trained in the same school as dress, ornaments, pose and colouring are similar in both the frescoes. The artist-ascetics who created Sigriya had abandoned this haven, probably owing to the inconvenient situation of the hill.

Exposed to the mercy of wind and rain and overwhelmed by jungle vegetation and completely uninhabited by man and totally forgotten, Sigriya had sunk into oblivion for fifteen hundred years until it was discovered towards the close of the 19th century.

In the scenes depicted in the wonderful paintings of Sigriya there are in all twenty-one female figures, very delicately drawn with an eye to beauty and these handsome forms with beautiful arms and slender waists appear with their legs obscured by cloudlike formations, which gave rise to the surmise that these may be angelic beings. They are portrayed with flower-laden trays in their hands with a full-blown blossom held between the fingers in the act of going to a temple with faces wreathed in broad smiles. Their youth is emphasised by the clever artists by bringing out in full vigour the physical developments of their anatomy. Some opine that these damsels are not imaginary angels but the portraits of queens and princesses of King Kasyapa's court with their attendants on the way to worship at the Buddhist vihara of Piduragala about a mile north of Sigriya. The figures are apparently walking in that direction.

In order to show prominently their bodies the artists very cunningly hid their legs behind the clouds. The subtlety with which this idea is executed reveals at once the master minds that planned and perfected this great work of art. Not only that, it also shows with what facility they could master different colours as well as produce new ones and apply them in the best possible manner with the best possible effect.

Though apparently these female forms are nude, a more careful examination shows that they are draped in the most transparent muslin robes as thin as a film. A redundancy of ornament is evident on the queen or maid. Some of these women have yellow and some others orange complexion and do not look alike. Some scholars are inclined to the view that they are Mongols or Aryans. The Aryan types have oval face, thick fleshy lips, straight Grecian nose and forehead. And the Mongol types are characterised by almond eyes. Their female servants are painted in a mixture of blue and green colours supporting the view that they were dark complexioned. That in Kasyapa's court

various classes and races of people lived is another view.

Some think that the Bikshus confined to the caves of Sigriya took advantage of the inaccessibility of the place and its unfrequented nature to give expression to their suppressed emotions in a riotous manner by painting to their great delectation lusty female figures: and lest the world should misunderstand and misjudge their sense of moral values for resorting to such motifs they had given a turn to them by representing them as bound for a temple. How far such interpretations are just to those divine artists who had strained every nerve to leave to posterity a great art treasure that raised this nation to an outstanding place of pre-eminence in the scale of cultural evolution, perhaps nobody will ever be able to tell.

(Broadcast from the A. I. R., Madras by S. Swaminathan).

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WORKERS MUST CAST OFF THE RED YOKE

Sardar Patel Condemns Communists' Activities

"THE Communist Party in India, which always seeks its inspiration from Russia, is advocating a path of violence and strikes and the disruption of industries," said Sardar Vallabhai Patel, addressing the Hindustan Mazdoor Sevak Sangh workers in Bombay on December 3.

He warned the workers not to be misled by the Communists, but to organise themselves in a disciplined way and prepare themselves for the supreme task of governing the country.

Sardar Patel said the British were relinquishing their hold on India, and an Interim National Government was in power at the Centre. The workers should realise that India was on the threshold of freedom, and they should help their own Government to solve the many grim problems facing them. "India will soon rank with the most advanced and modern countries in the world."

He criticised the role of the Communist Party in India, which was always advocating a diametrically opposite path to that of the Congress, and was trying to mislead the mass of workers.

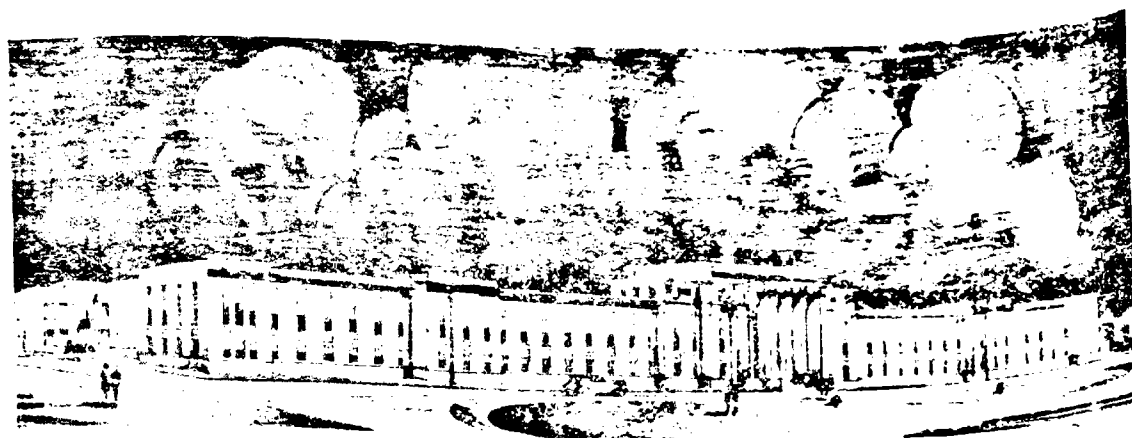
"When the Congress was asking the British to quit India in 1942 the Communists raised the slogan of people's war, and asked the people to cooperate with the British Government in war efforts. Now, when the British were preparing themselves to hand over power to the Indians, the Communists were clamouring for launching a struggle with the British Government."

Strike Fever

The Communists in the course of last year, organised many strikes in the country, disrupting the industries and dislocating certain essential services. But these strikes brought no benefit to the workers. These strikes were neither in the interests of the workers nor the people. The only result of these strikes was a big fall in the industrial production and great loss to the industries.

Sardar Patel wanted the workers to note that when there are continuous industrial strikes, it was the common people who suffered mostly from scarcity of essential goods like cloth, textiles and other consumer goods. The workers must realise their responsibility in the task of stabilising industrial production in this country for the benefit of the community as a whole. He asked the workers to join the Hindustan Mazdoor Sevak Sangh, which was a model organisation started to serve their interests.

"If you are well-disciplined and properly organised," said the Sardar, "nobody can turn down your legitimate demands and ignore you. But you must also remember that the strike is a weapon that is not to be used cheaply and frequently. You must not go on strike, unless your own Union has given you the call. You must try all the means at your disposal to settle your industrial disputes through conciliation, or through an Industrial Court. That alone would bring immense good to you and also strength to your Union."

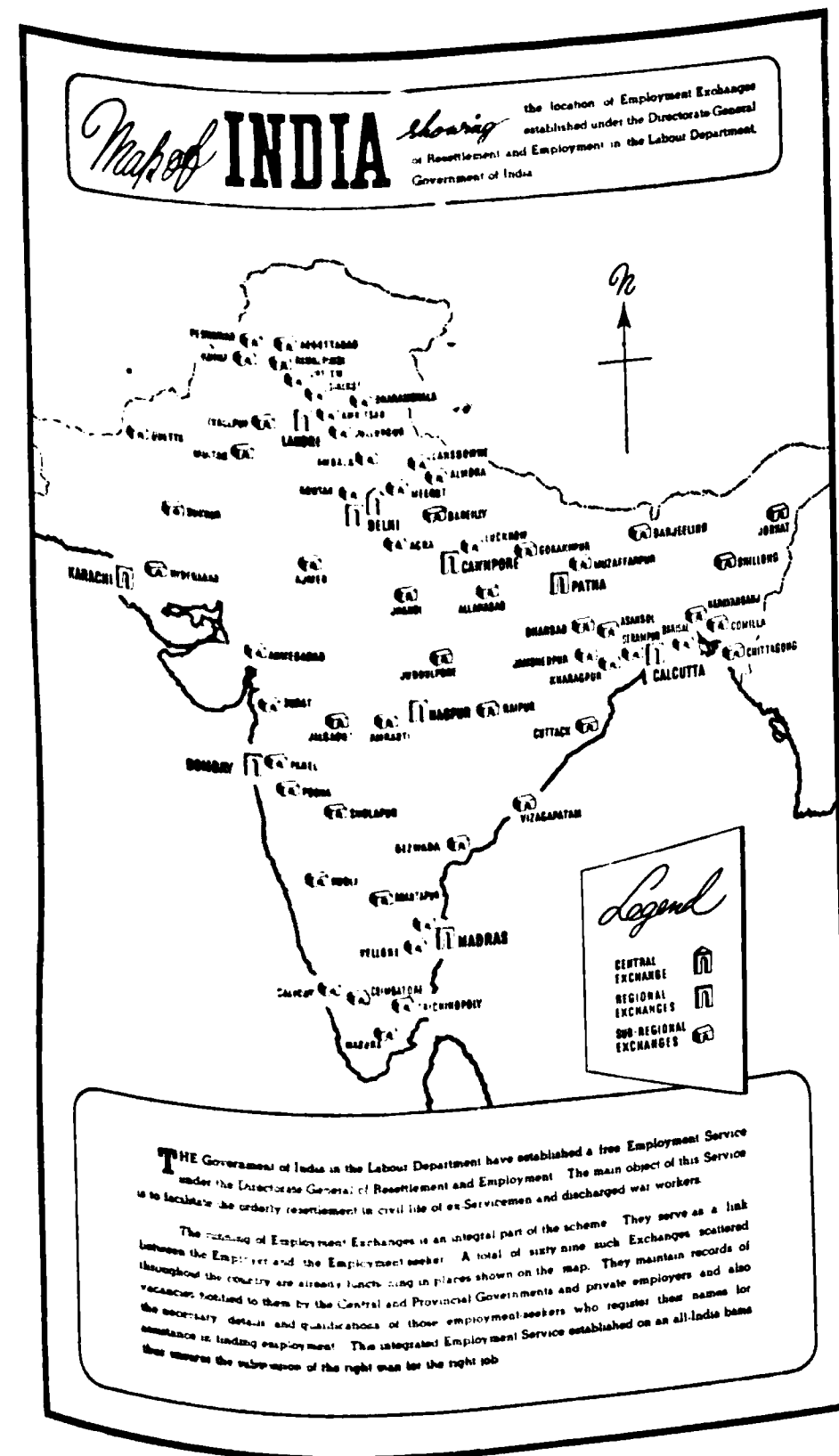


THE NATIONAL METALLURGICAL LABORATORY.

An artist's view of the National Metallurgical Laboratory, Jamshedpur, as it will look when completed. The Hon'ble Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, Minister for Education, laid the foundation-stone of this Laboratory at Jamshedpur on November 21, 1946. The estimated capital cost of this Laboratory, the third in the chain of India's five National Laboratories, planned by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, is about Rs. 43 lakhs. Researches both fundamental and applied, in regard to ferrous and non-ferrous minerals and metals will be carried out in this Laboratory.

"If India is to embark on any kind of industrialisation, and achieve success in a reasonable measure, high priority must be given to the proper establishment of metallurgical industries, on an adequate scale", said the Hon'ble Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, Education Member, Government of India laying the foundation-stone of the National Metallurgical Laboratory of India at Jamshedpur on November 21.

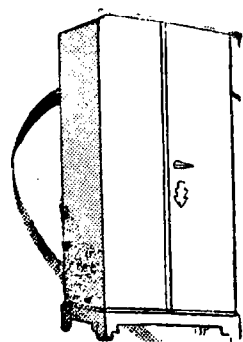
A large part of the hydro-electrical energy expected to be produced in the near future as a result of various hydro projects, he observed, would be available in the vicinity of the raw mineral resources of the country. "Electro-metallurgical and electro-chemical industries based on electricity thus available at low cost, can play a great role in the industrial life of the country".



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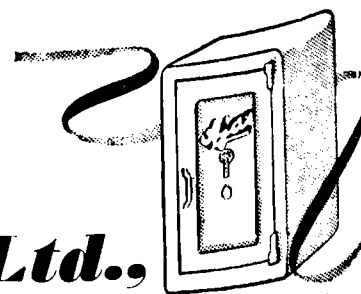
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WE SEEK TO SERVE AND NOT TO COMPETE

February 8, 1947

Notes and Comments

PUBLIC SAFETY ORDINANCE

Justification for the promulgation of the Public Safety Ordinance is provided in abundance by the comprehensive statements made by the Hon'ble Premier in the Legislative Assembly on January 30, 1947, and in the Council on January 31, 1947. The statements contained an unvarnished narration of some of the most vital features of Communist activities in the province during the last few months, all of which were producing a progressively devastating effect on law and order in the province and threatened peace and good government. Fomenting of unrest and a proneness to defiance of law among industrial workers, incitement of innocent and illiterate Kisans to illegal encroachments on the rights of property of individuals and sections of the people, looting of crops ready for harvest by marching into the fields in large numbers, organization of sit-down and other kinds of strikes of industrial workers in important industrial centres and forcing the police to open fire on them, and last of all, preparation for the defiance of Government and the police, in Malabar particularly, by collecting weapons, are the various links in the chain of Communist activities culminating in the Government's decision to take province-wide action to prevent further mischief. For a long time, Government, as pointed out in the Premier's first statement, forbore from taking action, because they were reluctant, as a popular Government, to do anything which would have had an appearance of interference with the freedom of speech and association and of violation of civil liberties. But their forbearance had only the effect of encouraging the Communist Party to persist in their subversive activities and the freedom thus allowed to them actually degenerated into a licence to indulge in practices which threatened public safety and security on

a large scale and tended to result in widespread unsettlement and unrest in important centres of the Presidency. This was inimical to security and orderly and rapid restoration of the normal conditions of life after the stress and strain of the war period.

The events narrated and the incidents mentioned by the Premier as having happened in Tanjore, Coimbatore and other districts, emphasize the Communist group's deliberate interference with the Government's efforts for restoring normal conditions in regard to the supply of essential needs like cloth and food to the people suffering from acute shortage of these articles. He gave a number of instances to illustrate how the Communists led (or misled) the peasants to march in huge mobs into Mirasdars' fields, and destroyed or looted the crops transforming, as the Premier stated, a district like Tanjore which is the granary of the province into a veritable desert, and how the Communists led (or misled) labourers in the Coimbatore textile mills and systematically fomented labour strikes in the mills thereby seriously handicapping their production. He also gave instances of how in Malabar the Communists and their press organs had been trying to incite innocent Moplahs to rise in rebellion, how they resorted to systematic fomentation of trouble on the agrarian front in the shape of organized trespass into private lands, forcible occupation of lands from which tenants have been evacuated and obstruction to the removal of paddy. In Malabar a significant development in the Communist methods of agitation had been the use of firearms against the Malabar Special Police which was deputed to deal with them. This indubitably indicates, first, that the Communists have been spoiling for

Readers are invited to send questions seeking clarification of the policy of the Government or allied matters. Answers will be published as soon as possible.

The object of *Madras Information* is to give a brief record of the Madras Government's activities and to educate the public opinion on the Government's policies.

However, the views expressed and the articles published in this journal do not necessarily represent the official opinion.

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Owing to the failure of Messrs. Associated Printers, Ltd., to do the work in time, we regret that we had to drop the issue for the second fortnight of January 1947.

a fight and, second, that they do not hesitate to indulge in violence for the attainment of their ends.

In the Andhra districts the activities of the Communists were not less objectionable, nor their ramifications less wide and their activities less subversive of peace and good government. Systematic incitement of peasants, particularly in Zamindari areas, to occupy lands and take possession of harvests has been an important part of their party programme. On the ostensible plea of exposing black-markets, they had been continuously engendering disaffection against the Government and actually impeding their efforts to check black-markets. A fruitful soil for the sowing of the seeds of the Communist ideology of promoting strikes and disorders and general unrest had been the student community. The Communists had achieved some success for their infiltration tactics among a section of the students, as evidenced from the number of strikes in educational institutions in Andhradesa in recent months, notably Masulipatam and Guntur. The boys in schools and colleges were made the innocent dupes of an organized campaign of incitement to stoppage of work for the redress of all kinds of grievances, supposed and real.

The Communist press in the province had been regularly carrying on a campaign of creating discontent and disaffection by the publication of reports of alleged grievances in a garb which is insidiously intended to show that the Government have been allying themselves with capitalists and other vested interests to suppress the workers and the peasants. And when police action was decided upon to maintain law and order, the step was exploited by the Communist press as an example of the Government's capitulation to the police. It is a method of propaganda in which the Communists are past-masters, namely, deliberate creation of situations in which action becomes indispensable and then turning round to proclaim that the so-called rights of the poor and downtrodden are being suppressed by the authorities with the aid of the police. The existence of a popular Government was sought to be exploited by them for persistent indulgence in all manner of subversive activities; but when the popular Government, in discharge of their elementary responsibility for the maintenance of peace and protection of the lives and properties of the people, took rigorous and strong measures to counteract the mischief, the Communists, seeing that their game was up, are turning against the Government themselves and attacking them for alleged siding with capitalists and vested interests. The writings in the three papers *Prajasakti*, *Desabhimani* and *Janasakti* involved a continuous

campaign of incitement to and glorification of strikes as if strikes were something common and nothing extraordinary, which can be resorted to without a second thought. The freedom of the press is a sacred ideal but that ideal has been interpreted by the Communist papers as being coeval with absolute licence to write things which not even the strongest advocate of that freedom can regard as unobjectionable or justified.

It is against this background that the Madras Government's decision to promulgate the Public Safety Ordinance has to be considered. Probably there was a case for taking stern action even earlier and before the situation showed signs of developing into serious and intolerable proportions. But it was not done because, as the Prime Minister said in his statements, "it was not a pleasant task for this Government to think in terms of an Ordinance and to apply its provisions to anybody in this province. But it could not be avoided when matters went from bad to worse and from worse to still worse. We wanted to prevent the worst happening in this province and promulgated the Ordinance when forced to have recourse to a measure of this nature. Members of the Government had for so many years suffered from Ordinance rule and all kinds of repression and nobody could speak with greater competence than them that the terms of the Ordinance should not be applied under ordinary conditions to the people of this province." But when forbearance and a reluctance to restrict civil liberties are either misinterpreted as weakness or are going to be regarded as affording indirect countenance to lawless activities, there can be no further desistance from action. The executive authority cannot abdicate their responsibility for the peace and order of the province.

In his statement in the Legislative Council on January 31, 1947, two points were emphasised by the Hon'ble Premier. One is that while Communist activities directed against the maintenance of public peace would be sternly suppressed, the provisions of the measure would be restricted to the strictly limited purpose of maintenance of established authority and preventing dislocation of industry, production and transport, which is of fundamental importance in the present context of food and cloth shortages. The second is that the Ordinance will be placed in the form of a Bill before the Legislature and the Legislature's approval would be obtained for it. These statements reveal the anxiety of the Government to assure public opinion as much about the imperative need for the action taken now as about their intention to secure the popular sanction for the measure at the earliest possible moment.

Agricultural Income Tax Bill

The Agricultural Income-tax Bill, which the Madras Government propose to introduce, is not a measure designed merely for providing the Government with a source of additional revenue. That intention is, of course, not denied; nor is it denied that it will have that result, particularly as the Government have now embarked on a series of measures of reconstruction which have as their objective the amelioration of the material prosperity and moral progress of the people and the elevation of the standard of living of the masses by improving the economic resources of the province and, therefore, stand in need of all the money that they can get to carry their policies into effect. At the same time, it is intended also as a measure of making the bigger and more substantial landlords, whose net income from land exceeds Rs. 5,000, contribute in an equitable manner to the revenues of the State in the same way as those earning incomes above a certain sum in industry, business or other occupation are made to contribute to the public exchequer through the levy of the income-tax. There is thus nothing offensive in the provisions of the draft Bill to the canon of equity and it inheres its own defence and justification *vis-a-vis* the other accepted canons of taxation.

Other Provinces Have It

Nor is Madras the first or the only province where this kind of tax is proposed to be levied. Other provinces like Bengal, Bihar and Assam have already got the tax as also some Indian States like Travancore. Land tenure systems and other conditions in these provinces and States may differ from those prevailing in Madras in some respects; but the essential principles governing the imposition of the tax in those provinces and in Madras, as proposed, do not differ very much. The fundamental principles on which the Madras Government's draft Bill has been formulated are more or less the same as those on which similar taxation measures had been formulated in Bihar or Bengal. That is to say, there is an initial exemption limit; there is the principle of progression in the rates of the tax proposed *pari-passu* with the rise in income; there is the principle of allowance for essential agricultural operations involved in the earning of the income from land and capital expenditure incurred on improvements in it. The smaller ryot or landlord whose net income is not more than Rs. 5,000 will be excluded from the scope of the taxation, while even in the case of those whose income exceeds that figure, there is an initial tax-free limit up to Rs. 1,500. So long as the tax is

progressive and so long as the principle of equity is not offended against, and the principle of ability to pay is taken into account, any measure of taxation, the proceeds of which are proposed to be utilized for the benefit of the community as a whole, cannot be legitimately considered as unjustified.

Some Criticisms Answered

In press articles on the measure, it has generally been agreed that the claim of the Government to levy a tax on agricultural incomes should be conceded. It is also agreed that the Bill for the levy of Agricultural Income-tax has endeavoured to respect the maxim of ability to pay by accepting the principle of progression. Among points of criticism, however, are that in the interests of equity, the Bill should reduce the land revenue system as a whole to an agricultural income-tax basis applicable to all ryots irrespective of the size of the income of their holdings, with suitable exemptions for the poorer ryots and that the tax should be in lieu of land revenue. The reform suggested is in a way *ultra vires* of the present Bill and is inter-related to the larger and comprehensive issue of reform of land tenures and the connected problems of reform or abolition of the Zamindari system. The present Bill's scope is admittedly more limited and restricted. There is nothing to prevent the Government from considering the question of exemption of poorer ryots from payment of tax or similar relief when the larger question of dealing with the Zamindari system as a whole is taken up as is proposed to be done.

Reference has been made in connexion with this matter to the report of Dr. B. V. Narayanaswami Nayudu, who enquired into the rural indebtedness problem in the province. Dr. Narayanaswami Nayudu, it may be noted, has specifically recommended in his report the levy of a progressive agricultural income-tax on all agricultural incomes above Rs. 3,000 and commended it on the ground that "it is bound to be a very fruitful source of revenue especially when zamindaris are abolished." Incidentally, he pointed out, it will also make the land revenue system elastic which it is not to-day. He no doubt coupled it with a recommendation that an exemption from land revenue collection must be permitted to all ryots owning lands smaller in size than the economic holdings. Investigation into this matter is a complicated process and will inevitably involve elaborate district-war enquiries and Dr. Nayudu has himself

(Continued on page 15)

[FEBRUARY 8, 1947]

Madras Government Press Notes

Voluntary Surrender of Foodstuffs

In response to the appeal of the Hon'ble Member for Food and Agriculture in the Interim Government over the All-India Radio, in the last week of September, a large number of letters, telegrams and messages from individuals and organized groups of people have been received by the Hon'ble Member offering to surrender or stating they have surrendered some of their ration for the sake of those in distress. The Government of India desire that facilities for such voluntary surrenders should be given, that they should be taken advantage of in augmenting supplies and that arrangements should be made to see that the same are properly utilized and not allowed to go into the black-market. The Government of Madras agree with the Government of India that opportunities should be given to philanthropic gentlemen who are desirous of doing so to surrender the whole or a part of their ration or to sell a part of the food-grains kept for their personal consumption and that arrangements should be made to see that these offers are properly utilized and do not go into the black-market. In fact, though the rice situation in the province has somewhat eased, it is still giving anxiety and the Government of Madras would appeal to all those who can do so to make such voluntary offers. The following instructions are issued for the purpose:—

(1) People who desire to surrender the whole or a part of their ration are requested to convey their desire to the Rationing Officer concerned in writing if they are living in statutorily rationed areas or to the Taluk Supply Officer concerned if they are residing in non-statutorily rationed areas.

(2) On receipt of such applications, the Rationing Officer or the Taluk Supply Officer, as the case may be, will enter the particulars and the quantity offered to be surrendered in a special register kept for the purpose. He will call for the ration card of the individual concerned and make the necessary corrections therein. At the same time he will issue instructions to the retail shop-keeper with whom the ration card is registered to allow ration only at the reduced scale. The individuals who surrender their ration should thereafter draw their ration only at the reduced scale. They are requested to satisfy themselves that in the receipts given to them by the retail shop-keepers only the reduced quantity actually drawn by them is entered.

(3) Where a producer or a ration card-holder is willing to sell a part of his ration kept for his

own personal consumption, he is requested to convey his desire to the Rationing Officer if he is in a statutorily rationed area or to the Taluk Supply Officer if he is living in a non-statutorily rationed area. On receipt of the application, the Rationing Officer, or the Taluk Supply Officer, as the case may be, will enter the particulars in a separate register kept for the purpose and make necessary arrangements for the purchase of the quantity surrendered by the applicants.

[December 18, 1946]

Purchase of Bread Ration

With effect from 15th December 1946, the rice content of the ration was raised from 8 ounces to 10 ounces and orders were issued that card-holders can purchase the balance of two ounces as wheat or maize in alternate weeks, i.e., a person can purchase wheat in a week but only maize in the second week. There seems to be some misapprehension regarding the applicability of this order to bread. Sale in alternate weeks does not apply to bread. Persons who desire to buy bread can purchase it every week.

[December 20, 1946]

Relief Measures in South Arcot

The Collector and Special Officer, District Board, South Arcot, has reported to the Government that heavy damages have been caused to roads, bridges and culverts by the heavy rains and flood which occurred on the 15th and the 16th of November and from the 2nd to the 4th of December 1946. The Divisional Engineer, Cuddalore, has reported that breaches occurred in several places in the Vikravandi Lower Anicut Road, Sholatheram-Srimushnam Road and Keerapalayam-Shetiatope Road. In a further report, dated 8th December, the Divisional Engineer states that extensive damages and breaches have occurred on many district board roads in the district. The Divisional Engineer was to close the breaches on the important roads temporarily with the existing engineering staff and restore single-line traffic. But as it was considered not desirable to be content with the single-line traffic, he was asked to take urgent steps to restore the usual width of the roads. Estimates submitted by him, amounting to nearly Rs. 44,000 for repairing the flood damages on the second and third-class and village roads in Cuddalore, Chidambaram and Vriddhachalam taluks, have

FEBRUARY 8, 1947]

been sanctioned in anticipation of the Board's approval in view of the urgency.

The Collector's report further states that the Divisional Engineer, Salem, has reported that among the roads affected during the recent floods in Kallakurichi taluk of this district are Kallakurichi-Sankarapuram Road and Kallakurichi-Kuthakoodi Road.

The recent floods have again caused heavy damages to roads, bridges and culverts, the restoration of which to their original condition has imposed an additional burden on the finances of the District Board to the extent of nearly Rs. 1,25,000 in all the eight taluks of the districts. The Collector has recommended an allotment of 50 per cent of the expenditure at least on the second, third and other classes of roads, without which they cannot be restored immediately.

[December 20, 1946]

Consumers' Co-operative Societies

The Government have received representations and have also perused comments in papers about the scheme of producers' cum consumers' co-operative societies now being organized in the four Circar Districts of East Godavari, West Godavari, Kistna and Guntur. Some of the criticisms against the scheme appear to be rather propagandist in character, calculated to create doubt and uncertainty in the public mind and thereby dissuade the public from joining the societies.

The aim of the Government, as has already been stated, is to create a socio-economic fabric based on the Co-operative principle in as high a degree as possible, so as to enable the society to have the production and distribution of its essential needs planned and worked out in the interests of the people by the people themselves and by this means eliminate or minimize the chances of private profiteering and exploitation, hoarding, black-marketing and corruption. This necessarily entrenches on certain existing institutions and individuals; the Government do not want to injure anyone but would suggest that such institutions and individuals should readjust themselves so as to fit into the new fabric, as the new one covers the entire population of the area and the benefits are evenly divided among all as compared with the limited values and circumscribed scope of the existing ones.

Lest there be any doubt in the matter, Government want to make it clear that it is their firm intention to complete the formation of the societies and entrust the procurement work to them commencing with the procurement of the main crop now under harvest in these districts.

As already announced, the ultimate intention is to retain these societies as a permanent feature and to convert them into multi-purpose societies. The public need not therefore apprehend that these societies will be ephemeral in character and will be wound up after the present food emergency ceases to exist.

One of the points of criticism is that the share capital of 4 lakhs of rupees for each society for the procurement of 5,000 tons of paddy is excessive and would lead to over-capitalization and ultimately loss to shareholders. The share capital has been fixed after due consideration and an examination of the working capital required by the societies formed in Malabar. It is not possible or safe to reduce the share capital still further, as the borrowing capacity of the societies will depend upon the subscribed share capital and, if the share capital is kept at a low figure, their scope for borrowing will be correspondingly limited. Further, the lending capacity of the co-operative banks in the four districts cannot meet the huge capital required by the societies for the procurement work and it is therefore necessary that the share capital of the societies should be as high as possible.

It is stated that, as this is the time of harvest, no ready money will be available with poor ryots to buy shares and that therefore the share capital cannot be completely collected and that they can only be collected from capitalists who will thus secure a hold over these societies. Neither of these fears has any basis in fact because the officers organizing these societies have insisted on payment in money of only one-fourth the share value which a producer intends to take and have allowed him to pay the value of the remaining three-fourths in grain before the 31st of January, 1947. This concession is ample to meet any genuine difficulty which may be experienced by prospective shareholders. Capitalists cannot monopolize all these societies as the maximum share capital which can be invested by a person has been limited to Rs. 2,500.

It has been suggested that the minimum share capital which is now Rs. 25 should be reduced. As the Circar Districts are a surplus producing area and the general prosperity of ryots there is higher than in other parts of the province, the amount of Rs. 25 is not too high.

The public are informed that the millers are also taking shares in the societies and the millers as a class are not opposed to the scheme. The scheme in general is intended to benefit the public at large and it is inevitable that some of the mercantile community will be affected to a certain extent.

But if they co-operate with the scheme and make it a success, they will also ultimately benefit from the scheme. They are therefore desired to join the societies and work for their success.

The Government intend to notify the societies as procurement agents, as soon as they are formed. The societies are therefore ensured of business. The Government have under consideration the question of fixing the prices which should be paid to the producers and for export to the deficit districts. It is not their intention to allow any general increase in prices during the year except for some adjustments that may be found necessary.

Government would like to impress upon all producers that they will be deriving a double advantage by joining as shareholders in the new societies. While a non-member producer can get profit only out of a single transaction of the sale of his paddy to the society, the member producer will earn a double profit once in his sale to the society and again on export of the paddy by the society to other districts, as he will share in the profits of the society.

It has been suggested that Government should guarantee the societies against losses. Government cannot possibly do this unless they themselves join as shareholders and get elected to the directorate of the societies which they have no intention of doing as the societies are intended to be purely non-official in character. The question of loss scarcely arises as the entire business is entrusted to the organizations and the Government are at the back of them; and as it is the hope that all producers and most of the consumers will join, it will be a common and joint enterprise; loss can arise only if shareholders do not act up to the ideal of co-operation. The Government believes there is sufficient co-operative enthusiasm as also business talent in the citizens and the chances of losses are less than the chances of gains. Short of guaranteeing against loss, the Government will take all necessary steps to see that the societies work on proper lines.

Some point is sought to be made that pressure is being used by officials for collection of share capital; the Government would make it clear that this is a scheme for the people to be run by the people themselves, and none would be more glad than they if the non-official organizations themselves could immediately take up the work; when that is not so, it is wrong to think that compulsion is being used. At the same time the Government would make it clear that, in order to achieve the full co-operative ideal, all the people must join; no family unit can afford to keep itself out.

The public will now readily understand that the new societies will be wider in scope and confer greater benefits on a larger section of the public than the existing co-operative marketing or other limited purpose societies. In view of the Government's intention to entrust procurement and export of foodgrains to the new societies immediately after their formation and convert them into multi-purpose societies in due course, it will be advisable for existing societies to merge themselves in the new organization.

[December 23, 1946]

Representations of Commission Agents

At a Merchants' Conference held recently at Calicut, it was stated that the Government had summarily rejected the widespread complaints, representations, etc., submitted on behalf of the commission agents of this Province against their assessment to sales tax and a request was made that a fresh investigation of the complaints should be ordered, says a Revenue Department Press Note, dated January 18, 1947.

The Government have examined the representations carefully. Section 8 of the Madras General Sales Tax Act, 1939, provides for the exemption from sales tax of the type of commission agent who is not a dealer but who acts on a reasonable margin of commission for a principal in effecting a sale or purchase, the margin of profit being so small as not to admit of payment of tax even at the original rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The main conditions that are to be satisfied by a commission agent before he can claim exemption from tax are—

- (1) the principals on whose behalf he buys or sells should be known principals;
- (2) the principal should pay only a fixed commission previously agreed upon to the agent;
- (3) the full sale or purchase value of the goods bought or sold by the agent should be reported to the principal who should include it in his turnover and pay tax on it, if he is not otherwise exempt from tax;
- (4) separate accounts should be kept for the commission business and the business as a dealer in cases where the same person acts both as a dealer and as a commission agent; and
- (5) the commission agent should take out a licence under section 8 of the Act.

The Special Officer for Commercial Taxes examined the points raised in the various petitions with reference to the facts in more than 50 cases

selected at random at the places to which the petitions related. His investigation showed that the nature of the business transacted by the so-called commission agents was not such as would entitle them to exemption under the provisions of section 8 of the Act and the conditions of the licence granted under that section, and that the transactions were not genuine agency transactions.

The commonest and most serious irregularity noticed was the failure to report to the principal the full price obtained on the sale of his goods. In most cases the selling agent made some extra collections from the buyers besides the commission got from the selling principal. The actual sale value in such cases includes those extra charges and only if they are reported to the principal and included by him in his turnover and tax is paid thereon by him can the transaction be exempt from tax under section 8.

If the full purchase or sale value is not included in the principal's turnover, the amounts omitted will escape taxation and this will result in loss of revenue due under the Act.

In another case a dealer who claimed to act as a selling agent did not give the principals full credit for the quantities sold by him. He charged the buyer for $\frac{1}{2}$ seer per maund more than the weight of the goods sold and paid the principals for the weight of the goods sold less $\frac{1}{2}$ seer per maund and thereby earned a profit which he credited to the account of a fictitious person. Another dealer bought and sold goods on his own account and on behalf of principals but did not maintain separate accounts for the two kinds of business and was therefore ineligible for exemption from tax. In some other cases the principals on whose behalf goods were sold could not be traced. In several cases the so-called commission agents claimed exemption under section 8 but themselves collected sales tax from the customers. Cases like the above in which the accounts of the petitioners which have been carefully gone into by the Special Officer were so many that Government were satisfied that there was no general illegality or injustice in the assessments complained against.

The assessments are made in accordance with the provisions of a statute and if in individual cases the assesses still wish to dispute their validity they can do so by the usual procedure of appeal and revision specifically provided in the Act. An assessee who still disputes his liability to be taxed under the Act, has his remedy by suit as permitted under it. The Government do not therefore propose ordering a fresh enquiry into

the complaints made regarding the assessments in question or appointing a tribunal for it. They do not also propose to stay the collection of the tax.

Development of Cottage Industries

In pursuance of the announcement by the Hon'ble Premier at a meeting of the Legislative Assembly in September 1946, that steps will be taken to develop cottage and village industries on intensive lines as a part of the Firka Development Scheme, the Director of Industries and Commerce formulated a scheme for the consideration of the Government. The main features of the scheme are—

- (1) Opening of demonstration and training units.
- (2) Re-organization of industrial and commercial museums.
- (3) Provision of financial assistance to cottage industrialists.

Demonstration and Training Units

Of the 35 industries selected by the Director of Industries and Commerce, the Government have directed that demonstration and training units be started in respect of 32 industries in the 25 districts of the Province. (Among the 32 industries thus selected are: blacksmithy, woodwork, pottery, handloom weaving, soap-making, toys and lacquer work, manufacture of suitcases, trunks and buckets, fish-net making, cumby weaving, fish curing, palm jaggery manufacture, stone cutting, lime burning, rattan and bamboo work, manufacture of hand-made paper, dyeing and printing, distillation of essential oils, kora mat weaving, light metal casting and boat building.

In working the demonstration and training units, the Government have asked the Director of Industries and Commerce to arrange to convert certain of these industries to more utilitarian trades such as employing goldsmiths on clock and watch manufacture instead of on the production of common jewellery; switching over of bell-metal casting to the manufacture of water-pumping sets and directing the manufacturers of steel trunks to pressing iron sheets and producing enamel-ware. (The Director of Industries and Commerce will award stipends to 50 per cent of the number of trainees in each of the units. He will also distribute as bonus among the trainees 25 per cent of the recoveries effected by the sale of articles produced in the respective units. Steps will be taken to supplement the number

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of stipends available to the trainees for enlisting local support for donations, contributions, etc.

The Government have sanctioned the employment of the necessary staff in the demonstration and training units. The Government have also sanctioned the expenditure on raw materials and have approved provisionally the lump-sum estimate of Rs. 6 lakhs for the construction of sheds and Rs. 8,56,580 for the equipment required for the scheme. The proposal of the Director of Industries to incur an annual expenditure not exceeding Rs. 1,09,772 on the provision of midday meals to the trainees at a cost of two to three annas per meal is also approved by the Government.

The Government consider that wherever possible, the existing demonstration and training units in respect of several cottage industries should be merged with the proposed units under the Firka Development Scheme.

The Government have also under consideration a proposal for the re-organization of the industrial and commercial museums.

The Director of Industries and Commerce had suggested that a sum of Rs. 5,000 be provided for each firka for payment of subsidy, loans, etc., for development of cottage industries by persons who had received training at the training centres or for payment of scholarships to persons for further training, that another sum of Rs. 5,000 will be required for purchase of raw materials required by cottage industrialists in each of the firkas and that a further sum of Rs. 10,000 is necessary for general development work on cottage industries in the district as a whole, as apart from the selected firkas. The Government consider that it is essential to provide for the "follow up" of the work in the training units and therefore direct that a sum of Rs. 5 lakhs per annum be placed at the disposal of the Director of Industries to meet the expenditure on the several items indicated above.

The Government have included two more firkas in the Agency tracts under the Firka Development Scheme.

[January 6, 1947]

Flood Relief Measures

The following details of damages due to floods and relief measures undertaken by the local officials are issued by the Director of Information and Publicity:—

In continuation of his reports, dated 8th and 9th of December, 1946, on the flood damages in Nellore district, the Collector of Nellore has sent a further report to the Government on the 11th of

December, 1946, in the course of which he says that the floods in the Warnamuki and the Pennar rivers are receding and that conditions are rapidly returning to normal.

Referring to damage of life and property, the Collector says that reports received so far show that 13 persons were killed during the floods. This number includes the casualties referred to in the previous report. Eight workers were drowned in the Pattabhirama Mica Mine near Gudur while they were working in that mine. The Inspector from Dhanbad has come to Gudur to hold a regular enquiry into the causes of the accident, and proceedings under the Workmen's Compensation Act are being taken and the dependants of the deceased persons duly compensated according to the rules. About 900 cattle are reported to have been washed away by the floods in Sydapuram. About 1,500 huts have either collapsed or badly damaged in Gudur division and 1,000 huts in Nellore and Kovur taluks. No damage has been reported from the rest of the district.

So far as crops are concerned, the Collector's report says that there has been no serious damage to the standing paddy crop in the delta taluks of Nellore and Kovur, but damage to the paddy crop in Gudur and Sullurpet taluks, particularly in Kota, Yellasiri and Mallam firkas has been considerable. It is roughly estimated that at least 1,000 acres were damaged in Kothapalem village as a result of inundation by a breach in the Challa Kalva. Reports so far received indicate that the paddy crop on another 15,000 acres will yield much below normal owing to the crops being submerged for several days. As regards the dry crops, cholam has suffered most. Large tracts of land are still lying waste without cholam being sown, as the ground has been slushy during the last one month. The upland taluks of the district being mostly a cholam producing area, it is apprehended, says the report, that there will be a deficit in the production of millets this year.

Referring to damage to irrigation sources, the Collector's report says that all the reservoirs of the district are in tact. From the reports received from local officers it is learnt that the Boggeru Anicut near Atmakur and the anicut in Swarnamukhi near Gudur have been badly breached. It is stated that several P.W.D. minor irrigation and estate tanks in Rapur, Gudur, Sullurpet, Nellore, Atmakur and Venkatagiri taluks have been seriously damaged.

As regards damage to roads and communications, the report states that there have been several breaches between Manubole and Gudur and all bus, lorry and cart traffic has had to be entirely suspended for some days. Every effort is being

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made to repair the breaches and it is expected that through communications would be restored shortly. The District Board roads between Nellore, Sydapuram and Podalkur and between Venkatagiri and Sullurpet and between Gudur and Kota have been badly breached.

The following relief measures are reported by the Collector to have been taken:—

Except in Nellore and Gudur towns, where free feeding had to be arranged at Government expense, the response from the public has been splendid in Kovur, Naidupet, Sullurpet, Venkatagiri, Kota and other villages. Out of Rs. 2,000 originally sanctioned for immediate relief, Rs. 500 has been allotted to Kovur taluk, Rs. 500 to Nellore taluk and Rs. 1,000 to Gudur taluk. Another amount of Rs. 500 to Nellore taluk and Rs. 2,500 to Gudur division have been allotted as a second allotment out of Rs. 3,000 sanctioned by Government. For the reconstruction of houses, free grant of trees and palmyrah leaves from the Government poramboke, wherever they are available, is being sanctioned. Where Government poramboke trees are not easily available, arrangements are being made to purchase materials and distribute them among the poor. About 200 surplus army, coarse used woollen blankets from the wholesale Co-operative Stores, Nellore, were purchased for distribution among the poor who have been rendered homeless. About 500 new blankets have been purchased locally by the Sub-Collector of Gudur, who has distributed them to some of the worst affected villages in Kota firka. Distribution of some quantity of mill cloth has also been arranged in consultation with the taluk and village committees. Relief operations for the reconstruction of houses have started in right earnest in Nellore and Kovur and Sullurpet taluks. It is expected that the entire work will be finished by the 25th December 1946.

Anti-cholera inoculations are being conducted in Gudur taluk which is the worst affected area. Arrangements have also been made to render medical aid in the interior villages in case fevers or influenza should break out in an epidemic form. So far, the public health in all the villages has been well maintained. Water supply which broke down on the 7th of December in Nellore town was resumed from the 9th. There has been a breakdown of water supply in Gudur town on account of damages caused to a pumping engine, which are being urgently repaired.

It may be noted in this connexion that the Government have sanctioned a further allotment of Rs. 7,000 for immediate relief and for purchases of building materials to the flood-affected people in the Nellore district.

[December 20, 1946]

Reorganization of the Textile Department

After a comprehensive review of the present position in regard to the distribution of cotton cloth and yarn, the Government have decided to reorganize the administration of the Textile Control Department on the following lines:—

The Government consider that in order to secure the efficient working of the new scheme of distribution of cloth and yarn with the assistance of local committees, it is necessary that the Collectors should be made fully responsible for all items of textile control work which can be done on a district basis. It has therefore been decided to allot the following items of work to the Collectors:—

- (i) all licensing;
- (ii) enforcement of all textile control measures; and
- (iii) distribution in consultation with the District, Taluk, Town and Village Committees of the district quotas of cloth and yarn.

2. The Provincial Textile Commissioner's functions will be limited to—

- (i) Khadi Scheme;
- (ii) co-ordination of the textile control work of the Collectors so as to secure the uniform application of the principles and policies laid down by the Government; and

- (iii) all items of textile control work which must necessarily be done on a provincial basis, such as regulation of exports, control of mills, deliveries of the district quotas, etc.

The above arrangements will come into force in each district with effect from the date on which the Inspecting Assistant Textile Commissioner appointed for the district enters on his duties. The dates will be notified by the Provincial Textile Commissioner and the Collector concerned.

3. The Government have decided that the licences issued to cloth and yarn dealers in this Presidency should be overhauled with reference to the following principles:—

- (1) Suitable existing co-operative organizations which are willing to undertake the distribution of cloth or yarn should be utilized fully.

- (2) To facilitate effective control and minimise the temptations to indulge in black-marketing and other malpractices, it is necessary to reduce the present excessive number of dealers, particularly in the category of retailers in mill cloth. No dealer should be allowed to continue in business if it is clear that, having regard to the location of his shop, the area served by it and the monthly quota of cloth which he can expect to receive, he cannot earn an adequate net profit.

(3) The location of shops should be so fixed, and new shops opened, that all areas in the district, including interior and remote villages, will be conveniently served.

(4) Some shops, should, wherever possible, be located in Harijan quarters, Harijans being made the licensees in respect of such shops.

The existing rules regarding the basic period and other licensing restrictions will not be allowed to stand in the way of implementing the principles set out above. The Collectors of the districts will, after consultation with the District Committees, submit for the approval of the Government, a scheme indicating the lines on which the licences should be overhauled. The Collector will, in consultation with the District Committee, decide on the persons to be licensed to deal in yarn and cloth. The Taluk, Town and Village Committees will be consulted before the selection is made.

The Government have ordered that, pending the overhauling of the licences as indicated above, no fresh licences of any kind should be issued either for cloth or for yarn without the special sanction of the Government.

4. The Government have also decided to distribute mill cloth in Malabar district exclusively through the Producers *cum* Consumers' Co-operative societies recently set up in the district in connection with the procurement and distribution of food articles.

[December 20, 1946]

Scientific Terms in the Vernaculars

The Government constituted in G.O. No. 1051, Education, dated the 8th June 1940, a committee with the object of preparing a proper and commonly accepted vocabulary of scientific and technical terms in the languages of the Province for adoption in text-books in the subjects. The Committee has made its final recommendations with lists of technical terms prepared by the special language committees appointed to facilitate the work.

The Government approve the lists of technical terms in Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada and Urdu for the subjects of Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Natural Science, Physiology and Hygiene, History, Economics, Administration, Politics and Civics, Geography (except in Urdu language) and Commerce.

The Chairman, Technical Terms Committee, is requested to send the list in Urdu for Geography at an early date.

As regards Tamil, two lists A and B of technical terms have been forwarded to Government. On

a consideration of both the lists, the Government have prepared another list C in which the most acceptable terms in A and B have been incorporated. The Government order that the list C may be adopted for technical terms in Tamil.

The Government agree with the recommendations of the Committee—

(a) that for the next five years, the practice may be adopted of using wherever necessary the English technical terms side by side with their equivalents in the Indian languages by printing (1) in Roman script and within brackets the English terms after the Indian equivalent on its first occurrence and (2) the Indian language terms with their English equivalents in a glossary at the end of every text book;

(b) that the list of terms should be subject to revision and modification at the end of five years and that criticisms and suggestions offered by teachers and authors may be received by the Secretary, Text-book Committee, and action taken by Government on the recommendations of the Director of Public Instruction.

The approved terms should come into existence in actual practice in schools from the next school year, i.e., 1947-48; and in text-books from 1948-49, i.e., only text-books which are using these terms should be recognized by the Text-Book Committee for that year.

The Director of Public Instruction has been requested to issue necessary instructions on the lines of Recommendation (5) of the Technical Terms Committee and also to make necessary arrangements with Superintendent, Government Press, to publish the technical terms immediately, before the commencement of the next school year.

The Government would like to convey to the Chairman and Members of the Committee their thanks for the very valuable work done by them.

[January 27, 1947]

Registration of Jeeps

It has been brought to the notice of the Government that jeeps purchased by civilians in Military auctions are being used on the public roads without fresh registration under the Motor Vehicles Act. Government wish to inform those concerned that under Section 39 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939, the Military registration of such vehicles ceases to be in force on the transfer of their ownership from the Central Government and that it is an offence to use the vehicles on public roads without fresh registration under the Motor Vehicles Act.

[January 28, 1947]

Conditions in Anantapur and Bellary

There was good and widespread rainfall in both the districts during the month, the average rainfall being 4.3" in Anantapur and 4.0" in Bellary. In both the districts, all the irrigation sources received adequate supplies for raising wet crops under them. Harvesting of mungari crops too is in progress. The cultivation of hingari crops was almost over in Bellary by the end of the month.

The Commissioner of Land Revenue and Irrigation toured in the districts during the latter half of October 1946 and noticed that the seasonal conditions were steadily improving. Of the 25 road works that were functioning at the end of October 1946 in Anantapur, 16 works were closed by 9th November 1946, 7 works were closed on 15th November 1946 and the remaining two were closed on 30th November 1946. In Bellary all the expansion works had been closed by the end of October 1946 itself. There were no works in progress during November. The average number relieved on the works in Anantapur was 14.39 on 15th November 1946 and 221 on 30th November 1946. All the well works were transferred to the Rural Water-Supply scheme during the latter half of the month.

Distribution of gratuitous relief both in the shape of grain and cash was discontinued from 23rd November 1946 in Anantapur, and from 16th November 1946 in Bellary except in 9 villages in Alur taluk in Bellary district where conditions were not quite satisfactory. In respect of the 9 villages it was continued till the end of November. The average number relieved under this head in Anantapur on 23rd November 1946 was 10,866 and that in Bellary on 16th November 1946 was 977. The recent harvest in the districts are likely to result in a good supply of grain.

Pasture became available in both the districts as a result of the rains. There was no demand for hill grass stocked in the depots in Bellary, much less for paddy straw. In Anantapur 29 tons of hill grass were sold during the month. The question of disposing of the balance of stock is under consideration.

Food Situation

Anantapur.—The general food position in the district during the month was satisfactory. There were ample stocks of all principal foodgrains except rice. The stock position of rice, too, was expected to improve with the receipt of the allotted quotas. As a result of the recent harvest, procurement of dry grains has started and the stock position of millets in the district has improved considerably.

Bellary.—Although incessant rains slightly affected the mungari korra crop in Bellary taluk, the condition of the food crops in the district as a whole and the outturn of the harvested crops were generally fair. The stocks of millets in the district were expected to last for five months. The district has, however, only three weeks stocks of rice. The stocks of other foodgrains were satisfactory.

[December 23, 1946]

Increased Scales for L.I.M.

The Government have decided that subject to further consideration by the Retrenchment and Reorganization Committee, A and B class practitioners of Indian Systems of Medicine employed by local bodies in regular dispensaries may be granted the scale of pay of Rs. 80—5—150 as against the existing scale ranging from Rs. 40—85, provided the finances of the local bodies permit the grant of this increased scale of pay. The financial position of each local body will be scrutinized before the scale is put into operation.

Licentiatees in Indian Systems of Medicine (L.I.Ms.) and in Modern Systems of Medicine (L.M.Ps.) in charge of rural (Subsidized) dispensaries will hereafter be granted a subsidy of Rs. 600 per annum as against the existing rate of Rs. 500 per annum.

The question of powers of L.I.Ms. to grant medical certificates and of registration of practitioners of Indian Medicine under the Madras Medical Registration Act is under the consideration of the Government.

[January 25, 1947]

Admission to colleges

The Government have been receiving many representations asking them to interfere in the matter of selections in schools and colleges. The Government want to make it clear that it is entirely a matter for the headmasters and principals of the college and that they cannot interfere in the matter. While the Government will discountenance mass detentions and steps have been taken to avoid them, the Government must also discountenance the agitation that is being carried on in this matter. The Government will always be prepared to consider educational matters in their proper place. But they desire to state that strikes are not the ways in which these matters can be settled.

[January 25, 1947]

Supply of Reconstituted Milk

The Madras Government Milk Factory will shortly supply Reconstituted Milk prepared out of separated milk powder with vegetable fat and vitamins "A" and "D" added to it. The reconstituted milk is nutritionally as good as ordinary fresh milk and can be used both for children and adults. Distribution will be made through the branches of the Triplicane Urban Co-operative Society, during morning and evening hours every day at the following places:—

Thyagarayanagar, Nungambakkam, Teynampet, Mylapore, Royapettah and Chepauk.

The exact date when supply will begin will be notified in the press in due course and it is hoped that it will be early in January. Members of the public wishing to obtain this milk should register with one of the branches in the above areas when they will be given coupons for a month's supply. These coupons will entitle the holder to a guaranteed supply of milk (on payment at the time of purchase or on deposit arrangement with the Triplicane Urban Co-operative Society) provided delivery is taken before a certain hour in the day. At first supply will be made either in sealed pint bottles or from sealed cans directly into the customers' receptacle. In the case of supply of bottles a small deposit against the return of the bottles will be required. The supply of bottles is limited at present but a large supply is expected to be received during 1947. Bottle supply up to the quantity of bottles available will be given to applicants in the order of registrations for it. It would be helpful if persons who wish to take this milk would make a provisional registration now with the Triplicane Urban Co-operative Society branch of their choice for either bottled or unbottled supply.

The price of the milk will be Re. 0-1-6 per ollock for supply into customers' own vessel or Re. 0-4-0 per sealed pint bottle containing 2½ ollocks of milk.

[December 23, 1946]

No Special Cloth Ration

As the mill cloth rationing scheme has already been introduced in Madras City from 1st January 1947 and will be introduced shortly in the mofussil areas also, no special rations of mill cloth will hereafter be issued to any particular community in connexion with any of its festivals.

[January 9, 1947]

The Case of Labourers, who are paid in kind

The Government have received representation that the labourers who get their wages in kind are unable to take the grain to their own villages on account of the existence of inter-village or inter-taluk bans against the movement of food-grains and that they are also unable to sell the grain in the villages in which they receive the wages and get cash for purchasing their other requirements. The Government have now instructed the Collectors of districts where such bans exist to make adequate arrangements for the purchase of the wages received by labourers in kind in the village in which they obtain them. The labourers can thus sell the grain which they get as wages and which they are unable to move to their own villages, on account of the existence of the ban, to the procurement agent of the village in which they get their wages. In the alternative they may obtain permits from the village officer for the removal of grain to their villages where they can sell to the procurement agents concerned.

[January 11, 1947]

Defence Services Welfare Fund

In a Press Note issued on 15th November 1946 it was announced that the Provincial War Committee and its Sub-Committees had been dissolved and that His Excellency the Governor's Amenities and Relief Fund has been wound up. It was announced in that Press Note that the balance remaining in the Fund is to be reconstituted as "The Madras Defence Services Welfare Fund" which will be administered by a Committee set up for this purpose. The balance is now estimated to be more than Rs. 8 lakhs. The Fund is intended mainly for the welfare of Indian Defence Services personnel and ex-servicemen, and their families. In addition a sum of Rs. 13,000 has been set apart for the relief of evacuees.

Applications for contributions from the Fund for the purposes mentioned above will be considered from recognized organizations and committees. It is not intended to disburse these funds to individual applications. Applications from individual ex-servicemen or their families cannot be considered but should be sent as hitherto to the District Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Boards.

All applications should be sent so as to reach the Secretary of the Committee—Mr. P. Govindan Nair, I.C.S., C/o Public Department, Secretariat, Fort St. George—not later than the 1st March 1947. No applications will be considered after that date.

[January 4, 1947]

Agriculturists' Relief

The number of cases under the Agriculturists' Relief Act disposed of by civil courts in the province for the quarter ending 30th September 1946 is 507. For the period between 22nd March 1938 (when the Act came into force) and 30th September 1946 (covering 103 months) the number of cases disposed of is 206,177.

The amount involved in application disposed of under sections 8, 9, 13, 19, 19-A and 21 of the Act for the quarter ending 30th September 1946 is Rs. 3,86,059. The amount involved in such applications for the period between 22nd March 1938 and 30th September 1946 stands at Rs. 9,69,47,527.

The amount scaled down by the courts on applications of indebted agriculturists for the quarter ending 30th September 1946 is Rs. 1,99,602. For the period between 22nd March 1938 and 30th September 1946, the amount scaled down stands at Rs. 4,65,05,338.

The amount of reduction by scaling down of debts for the quarter ending 30th September 1946 is Rs. 1,86,457. For the period between 22nd March 1938 and 30th September 1946 the amount of reduction by scaling down debts is Rs. 5,04,42,189.

The number of cases pending at the close of the quarter ending 30th September 1946 and that for the period between 22nd March 1938 and 30th September 1946 is 424.

The figures given above exclude the number of cases voluntarily settled by parties without recourse to courts.

[January 4, 1947]

Adulteration of Milk

The adulteration of milk offered for sale is becoming too common, and the Government have decided that it should be put down with vigour. Such adulteration is an offence under the Madras Prevention of Adulteration Act and the rules made thereunder. There appears to be a mistaken impression that the sale of hot milk adulterated with water or otherwise is not an offence, and that only adulteration of raw milk is punishable. This is incorrect. The High Court has held recently in Criminal Appeal No. 268 of 1946, Public Prosecutor vs. Medi Kondayya [(1946) II M.L.J., 311] that any act, either of addition or abstraction, that diminishes the prescribed percentage of milk fat and milk solids is an offence, that hot milk is only milk in its natural condition that has been made hot, and that it should not be treated as different from milk in the ordinary sense.

[December 20, 1946]

Public Safety Ordinance

In regard to the Ordinance promulgated on the 23rd instant, it has been suggested that the Government could have given reasons for such promulgation. While the Government appreciate the helpful manner in which the publication of the Ordinance had been received by the Press and also by the public, the Government wish to point out that it was not possible to state reasons in advance because of the steps contemplated to be taken by the Government close upon promulgation. The Government had forbore for long and had given full freedom in the press and on the platform even to those who were bent upon creating disorder all over the province. It was only when the violent activities of certain groups reached a climax that it was decided to promulgate the Ordinance and take immediate steps to put a stop to the activities of certain organizations and individuals. When the Assembly meets on the 30th instant, the Members of the House and the public will be taken into confidence and a full statement will be made.

[January 27, 1947]

Tenders for Groundnut Oil Supply

The Deputy Commissioner of Civil Supplies for Exports is passing orders on the tenders received for the supply of groundnut oil excluding the cost of the containers because the tenders have not furnished sufficient details of the containers offered to decide the point. The Inspecting Agent concerned will have the option of accepting the containers offered by the tenderers at the rates quoted by them in their tenders if they are satisfied on inspection with the quality of the containers.

Successful tenderers are requested to deposit in their respective sub-treasuries the surcharge due to Government calculated at ½ per cent on the value of the oil for which the tenders have been accepted and obtain permits for the export of their oil.

[January 15, 1947]

(Continued from page 5.)

stated that the financial loss from exempting all small ryots from the payment of land revenue would be between Rs. 2 and Rs. 2.5 crores. Quite obviously, the Government cannot afford to incur this huge loss immediately without abandoning their other nation-building and ameliorative schemes, though it may be agreed that the ultimate benefit in the shape of increase in revenue owing to better farming methods that is expected to be secured will be substantial.

Government Departments at Work

I Food

In view of the difficult food situation in the Province and as food production and village reconstruction are two pressing problems which require immediate attention, the Government have sanctioned the creation of a post of Development Commissioner in the Food Department for a period of one year. Mr. V. Ramakrishna, C.I.E., I.C.S., has been appointed to this post with effect from 11th December 1946.

During the fortnight under report the scheme of intensive rural reconstruction in selected areas was ordered to be extended to the following seven centres in which the intensive Khadi scheme is to be launched :—

Tamil Nad Area.		Andhra Area.	
1 Vellakoil.		4 Tuni (Uratla cum Tuni).	
2 Avanashi.		5 Guruvareddipalem.	
3 Puliyankurichi.		6 Erragondapalem.	

West Coast.

7. Payyanur cum Nileshtar.

The Government have sanctioned a scheme to develop cottage and village industries on intensive lines as a part of the intensive rural reconstruction scheme. The main features of the scheme are—

- Opening of demonstration and training units;
- reorganization of industrial and commercial museums; and
- provision of financial assistant to cottage industries.

The demonstration and training units are to be started in 25 selected firkas in respect of 32 selected industries. Provision has been made for the award of stipends to 50 per cent of the number of trainees in each of the units and for the distribution as bonus among the trainees of 25 per cent of the recoveries effected by sale of articles produced in the respective units.

As the Government consider it essential to provide for the "follow up" of the work in the training units, they have issued orders directing that a sum of rupees five lakhs per annum be placed at the disposal of the Director of Industries and Commerce to meet the expenditure on account of—

- Payment of subsidy, loans, etc., for development of cottage industries by persons who

had received training at the training centres and for payment of scholarships to persons for further training;

- for purchase of raw materials required by cottage industrialists in the selected firkas; and

- for general developmental work on cottage industries in the district as a whole as a part from the selected firka or firkas.

II Education

The Government of Madras appointed a Special Officer in the office of the Director of Public Instruction, Madras, for drafting a report on the Instruction, Madras, for drafting a report on the Reorganization of Education " issued by the Hon'ble the Minister for Education. As many as 760 replies were received from the presidents of district boards, commissioners of municipal councils, teachers, teacher-managers and several distinguished persons of different occupations in the Presidency. All the replies were scrutinized and a detailed report with statistics was prepared and submitted to Government for discussion at the meeting of the Provincial Board of Education. The special work will be over by the end of this month.

The Government have created a temporary post of "Inspectress" at the Central Office (i.e., in the office of the Director of Public Instruction, Madras), Mrs. R. S. Swarnambal, formerly Inspectress of Girls' Schools, IV Circle, Madras, has taken charge of this new post. She deals with papers mostly connected with women's education.

Basic Education

The Government have sanctioned the opening of a training school at Vinayasramam (at Kavur in Guntur district) to train teachers under the Basic System of Education. The school was opened in December 1946 with 72 students drawn from each of the firkas selected for rural reconstruction work in the Telugu districts. The selected candidates are already trained teachers of the Secondary grade or Higher Elementary grade serving either in the aided or local board schools and they are paid stipends at the rate of Rs. 18 each per mensem while under training, in addition to the pay and dearness allowance which they were drawing while in service. The duration of the training course is one year.

III Labour

In their Order Ms. No. 4637, Development Department, dated 18th December 1946, the Government of Madras have accepted the award of the Adjudicator, Sri Rao Bahadur M. Venkataramayya regarding the grant of interim relief to textile workers in the Province.

In their Order Ms. No. 4636, Development Department, dated 18th December 1946, the Government of Madras have referred the dispute between the workers and the management of the Sayanai Glass Factory, Madras, regarding the demand of the Union for the cancellation of the notice of discharge of workers due to complaint of supply of soda ash and reinstatement of workers who struck work on 27th November 1946 and increased wages and dearness allowance, etc., to Sri Rao Bahadur M. Venkataramayya for adjudication under the Defence of India Rules. The Adjudicator met the parties on 23rd December 1946 and posted the inquiry to 6th January 1947.

About 300 clerks and menials of Messrs. Parry & Co., Ltd., Madras, struck work on 20th December 1946 demanding increased dearness allowance. The President of the Commercial Employees' Association met the management on 28th December 1946 and urged that menials should be given a dearness allowance of Rs. 26-4-0 per mensem and clerks Rs. 30 per mensem as in the Burnmah-Shell, the Standard Vacuum Oil Company, the Caltex, etc. The management declined to increase the present rates of dearness allowance given by them; but promised to introduce new scales of pay for the staff. The Association rejected the management's offer. The Commissioner of Labour, Madras, has recommended to Government that the dispute may be referred to Sri Rao Bahadur M. Venkataramayya for adjudication under rule 81-A of the Defence of India Rules.

The dispute between the workers and the managements of the bus service in Chittoor district was settled amicably at a meeting of the bus owners and representatives of the bus workers held in the presence of the District Magistrate, Chittoor, on 12th December 1946.

One hundred and ninety-nine out of 480 workers of the Brooke Bond (India), Limited, Coimbatore, struck work at 8 a.m. on 9th December 1946 in pursuance of the notice of strike issued on 23rd November 1946 by the Coimbatore Tea and Coffee Workers' Union. The strike terminated at 8 a.m. on 11th December 1946 when about 170 workers resumed work.

In pursuance of the strike notice given by the Tiruppur Textile Workers' Union at the instance of the Madras Provincial Trade Union Congress the workers of the Asher Textiles, Tiruppur,

The Government have constituted an Advisory Board of officials and non-officials to advise them on matters relating to Basic Education.

The Government have in view the starting of some more basic training schools in the Province next year. These schools will require to be staffed with men trained in the technique and service of Khadi (among others). The All-India Spinners' Association, Tamil Nad Branch, Tiruppur, is conducting a 11-months' training course in this line, called the Khadi Pravesika Course. In order that trained craftsmen may become available for basic training schools when they are started, ten candidates have been selected for training in this institution at Government cost Rs. 30 for boarding and lodging and Rs. 5 for pocket expenses being given to each trainee per month.

Increase in Training Grants

The Government have sanctioned an increase in the rate of teaching grants for teachers of all grades employed in Aided and Panchayat Board elementary schools by Rs. 2 each per month with effect from 1st August 1946.

Teachers' Provident Fund

Several modifications to the rules relating to the provident fund scheme for teachers in non-pensionable service have been made with a view to simplifying the procedure for the maintenance and closure of the accounts. An important provision has been made in these rules declaring the scheme compulsory for all permanent certified teachers, according to which a large number of teachers hitherto exercising the option of contributing to the fund are now brought under compulsion. Of no less importance is another provision made in the rules whereby the large bulk of the teachers employed in aided elementary schools on conditions of pay of 85 per cent of assigned grant are also enabled to subscribe to the fund. The rule granting exemptions to teachers from joining the fund has also been made more rigid.

Boarding Grant

During the year steps have been taken to liberalize the conditions for the sanction of boarding grant, keeping in view the rise in the cost of living. The upper age limit of boy inmates in all boarding homes has been raised from 16 years to 18 years. The per capita rate of grant for each eligible inmate has also been increased from Rs. 6 to Rs. 8 per month.

Library Grants

Government have sanctioned for distribution to the Panchayat and other public libraries a grant of Rs. 53,205 and Rs. 34,740 respectively during the current year.

struck work from 1 p.m. on 10th December 1946 and the workers of the Dhanalakshmi Mill, Tiruppur, from 8 a.m. on 11th December 1946. Sri Ramanathan of the Madras Provincial Trade Union Congress met the Commissioner of Labour on 12th December 1946 at Coimbatore and the Commissioner advised him to instruct the workers to resume work pending the result of the Court of Inquiry.

On the advice of the District Magistrate and the District Superintendent of Police, Coimbatore, the Kaleswarar Mill, Coimbatore, which was closed from 19th November 1946 has been reopened on 12th December 1946.

The workers of the Spinning department of Sri Balasubramania Mills, Limited, Coimbatore, staged a stay-in-strike on 14th December 1946 demanding the appointment of tarwallas to piece up spinning frames after doffing. The mills have been closed from that date. The Labour Officer, Coimbatore, is trying to bring about a settlement by conciliation.

The workers of the Spinning and Weaving Section of Sri Ranga Vilas Ginning, Spinning and Weaving Mills, Limited, Coimbatore, struck work without notice on the morning of 14th December 1946 as a protest against the disciplinary action taken against a worker. The workers resumed work unconditionally at 7 a.m. on 16th December 1946.

On the assurance of the Commissioner of Labour that their demand for interim relief was being recommended to Government for adjudication, the strike of the tannery workers at Ellore was called off and the workers resumed work at 7 a.m. on 15th December 1946. The orders of Government are awaited.

The Government of Madras have referred the dispute between the employees and the management of Messrs. Parry & Co., Ltd., Madras, regarding fixation of the amount of dearness allowance for clerks and menials to Sri Rao Bahadur M. Venkatramayya for adjudication under the Defence of India Rules.

All the clerks and menials resumed work on the morning of 7th January 1947.

The Government of Madras have accepted the award of the Adjudicator in the dispute between the workers and managements of the Suryanarayana Spinning and Weaving Mills and the Ramachandra Spinning and Weaving Mills, Pandalapa. Under this award, each male worker would get a dearness allowance of Rs. 8, each female worker Rs. 6, and each boy Rs. 4 per mensem with effect from 1st October 1946.

The Government of Madras have referred the disputes between the workers and the

managements of five more bus services in West Godavari (Sri Venkateswara Motor Service, the Ellore Motor Transport, Limited, Sri Krishna Balaji Motor Service, Sri Maruti Motor Service and Sri Ramanjaneya Motor Service) to the District and Sessions Judge, West Godavari, for adjudication under the Defence of India Rules.

The Government of Madras have referred the dispute between the workers and the management of the Madura Mills, Co., Ltd., Tuticorin, to a Court of Inquiry consisting of the District and Sessions Judge, Tinnevely, as its sole member.

The workers of the Beehive Foundry, Madras, who struck work on 16th December 1946 have not yet resumed work in spite of the advice of the Commissioner of Labour who discussed the demands with the representatives of the Union and suggested certain terms for settlement.

The workers of the Binny's Beach Engineering Works, Madras, struck work after notice on 9th January 1947 demanding increased wages, bonus, reinstatement of a dismissed worker with wages, etc.

The Commissioner of Labour, who discussed the demands with the parties, suggested certain terms for settlement and the management were prepared to continue further discussions with the representatives of the workers. The executive of the union was willing to carry on further negotiations but the workers have struck work.

The workers of the Chrome Leather Co., Ltd., Chrompet, numbering about 1,400 struck work without notice on 31st December 1946 demanding bonus, cloth for Pongal, etc. The management, who declared a lock-out on the same day, have notified on 7th January 1947 that the work would be resumed from 16th January 1947 on new terms in batches.

The Secretary, Coimbatore District Textile Workers' Union, Singanallur, has issued a notice of general strike to all the mill-owners in Coimbatore district to the effect that if six months basic wages are not granted as bonus, the workers will go on strike from 13th January 1947. The South India Mill Owners' Association and the Union representatives met the Hon'ble Minister for Industries and Labour and the Hon'ble Premier on 17th January 1947 at the Secretariat. The Secretary of the Union has been asked to advise the workers not to resort to strike pending the result of the interview with the Hon'ble Minister and the Hon'ble Premier.

The quarry contract workers of the Coimbatore Cement Works, Madukarai, struck work from 9th December 1946 demanding equal privileges as those given to the factory workers of the Company,

(Continued on page 31)

Fighting back the Famine

Madras comes out Unscathed

[Under the heading "Fighting back the Famine" we have been publishing a series of articles describing the genesis of what threatened to be a famine and the steps taken by the Government to meet the grave situation. The shortage in Madras for the year 1946 was much more than that which Bengal had to face in 1943. And yet Madras has come out of the ordeal without the loss of a single life from starvation. The article published here is the last of the series.]

When the food position of the province was surveyed early in 1946, forecasts predicted that the province would be deficit to the extent of 2,083,000 tons in rice and millets, as the following figures show:—

	Rice.	Millets.
	TONS.	TONS.
Production ..	3,827,000	1,942,000
Consumption ..	4,962,000	2,890,000
Deficit ..	1,135,000	948,000

Normally, Madras is deficit only to the extent of 95,000 tons in rice and 285,000 tons in millets.

By the end of 1946, rationing had been introduced into all the districts of the province, the ration card-holders being permitted to draw 1 lb. of food grains per head. It was calculated that, even if the ration of foodgrains was reduced to 12 oz., the grain available would not be sufficient to feed the population up to the long-term harvest early in 1947 but that the province would still be deficit by about 510,000 tons of rice and millets. Furthermore, 12 oz. of foodgrains had a calorific value of less than 1,200 calories and it was possible that, if the population was fed on such a low basic diet for a period of several months, under-nutrition might result. Hence, it was desirable not only to import as large a quantity of foodgrains from overseas in order to keep the foodgrains ration up to the reduced level of 12 oz., but also at the same time to persuade the population to supplement their foodgrains ration by eating larger quantities of products, in which the province was surplus, like groundnuts, jagger and potatoes.

Foreign Imports

Since Madras is primarily a rice-eating province, efforts were made to secure as much rice as possible from overseas. But owing to the world-wide rice shortage, the quantity of rice actually imported in 1946 was only 342,364 tons, of which 145,009 tons came from overseas. This rice came mostly from Burma, Brazil and Java, as the following figures show:—

	TONS.
From Burma ..	100,128
From Brazil ..	29,281
From Java ..	15,600



Hon'ble Sri R. Raghava Menon talking to the President of the Taluk Producers'-cum-consumers' Co-operative Society, Palghat, during his recent visit to Malabar.

The quantity of rice imported, viz., 342,364 tons, was considerably less than the rice deficit in the province, namely, 1,135,000 tons.

Next to rice, millets are the most important foodgrains in the province. Against the deficit of 948,000 tons, 33,300 tons were imported during 1946. Of this quantity, 22,168 tons came from Egypt, and 6,674 tons from Argentina. It was fortunate that the millets imported from Egypt consisted of cholam, very similar to the cholam grown in the province, so that there was no need to popularize the imported Egyptian millets. The millets imported from Argentina were similar to the local korra which, although not so popular as cholam, is familiar to the millet-eating districts of the province.

The total imports of rice and millets from overseas and from other provinces during 1946 totalled 375,364 tons against a total rice and millets deficit of 2,083,000 tons. Other grains, like wheat, maize, barley, rye and oats were available in the United States of America, Argentine, Canada, Australia and Turkey. The normal consumption of wheat and wheat flour in the province had been only about 5,000 tons and 2,500 tons per month respectively in the years before 1946. Maize is grown in only a few places in the province and its consumption by human beings probably does not normally exceed 1,000 tons per year. Barley and rye are not normally consumed at all in the province. The normal monthly consumption of these unfamiliar foodgrains thus totalled only about 8,000 tons, and was negligible when compared with the gap between the imports and the deficit of rice and millets. This gap amounted to 1,707,336 tons during 1946, equivalent to 142,278 tons per month. Early in 1946, it was not known whether sufficiently large quantities of the unfamiliar grains, like wheat, maida, maize and barley, could be imported from overseas in order to meet even a portion of this gap. Further, it was not known whether large quantities of these unfamiliar foodgrains would be consumed even if they were imported. In 1944, when there was a food shortage in the province although admittedly not so serious a food shortage as in 1946, Government had imported a mere 600 tons of barley, but had not been able to get it consumed in the province and had incurred a heavy financial loss on the transaction. This unfortunate precedent gave rise to doubt as to whether it was desirable to import large quantities of maize, barley, rye and oats and whether such large imports would not result in very heavy financial loss.

The actual quantities of unfamiliar foodgrains imported during 1946 were as follows:—

	TONS.
Wheat	214,021
Maida	55,090
Maize	92,853
Barley	4,890
Rye	2,000

In addition, the province was offered 2,000 tons of oats by the Government of India but considered it desirable not to accept the offer. In order to see that these grains were consumed before the long-term harvest in 1947, when it was anticipated that the demand for them would decrease appreciably, the Government took various steps.

Popularization of Unfamiliar Foods

First of all, campaigns for the popularization of wheat, maize and barley were inaugurated. Advertisements were inserted in most of the newspapers. Lectures were delivered by the large propaganda organization that was set up both in the City and in the mufassal and large number of pamphlets were distributed throughout the province. Altogether, nearly four and a half million pamphlets on the different ways of cooking unfamiliar foodstuffs were distributed.

Secondly, in order to increase consumption, the Government reduced the price of these unfamiliar foodgrains. The wheat, which was being imported at Rs. 9-8-0 per maund from overseas was sold at Rs. 8-8-0 per maund to the wholesalers. Maize, which was imported at Rs. 6-6-0 per maund was sold at Rs. 5 per maund to the wholesalers. Maida, which was imported at Rs. 13-6-0 per maund was sold to the wholesalers at Rs. 8 per maund after 2nd July 1946, but is now being sold at unsubsidized rates, with effect from 1st January 1947. The total expenditure on subsidizing the consumption of wheat, maida, maize and barley during 1946 approximated to Rs. 2.71 crores—a considerable budget item in a province, where the total revenue is only about Rs. 40 crores per year.

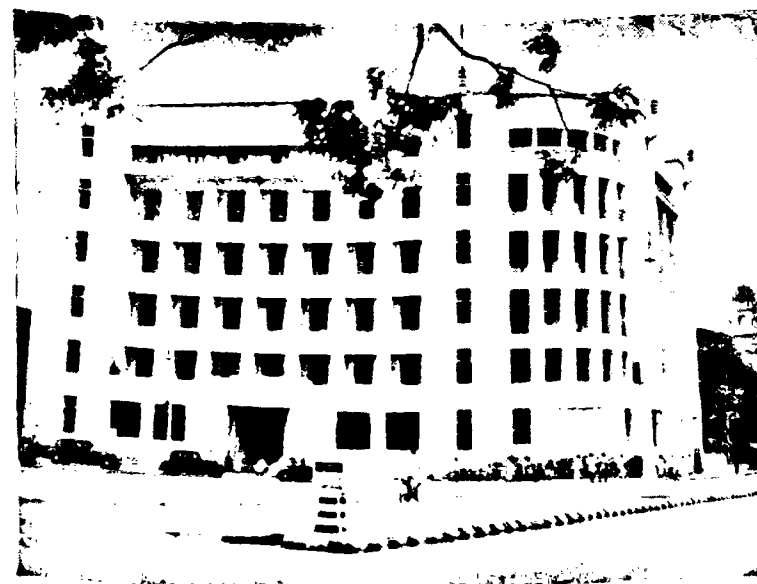
The success of the campaigns to increase off-take of the unfamiliar foodgrains can be seen from the following monthly consumption figures, which showed how the consumption of wheat, maize and maida increased from month to month:—

Month.	Wheat. TONS.	Maize. TONS.	Maida. TONS.
1946—			
April	5,849	..	..
May	3,264	..	2,799
June	9,405	..	6,674
July	13,895	..	9,131
August	28,696	2,819	5,140
September ..	29,385	6,336	3,885
October	22,905	9,825	..

It will be seen from these figures that the wheat consumption increased from a normal of 5,000 tons per month to nearly 30,000 tons in September and that the maida consumption increased from a normal of 2,500 tons per month to a peak figure of 9,131 tons in August. The reduced consumption of wheat flour after August and of wheat after September was due to the reduced stocks of these foodgrains. Although the greatly increased consumption of wheat and maida must be partly ascribed to the fact that the rice ration was reduced to 8 oz. per head on the 4th August, the greatly increased consumption,

MADRAS IN PICTURES—IV

(1st Line Beach and Esplanade Area)



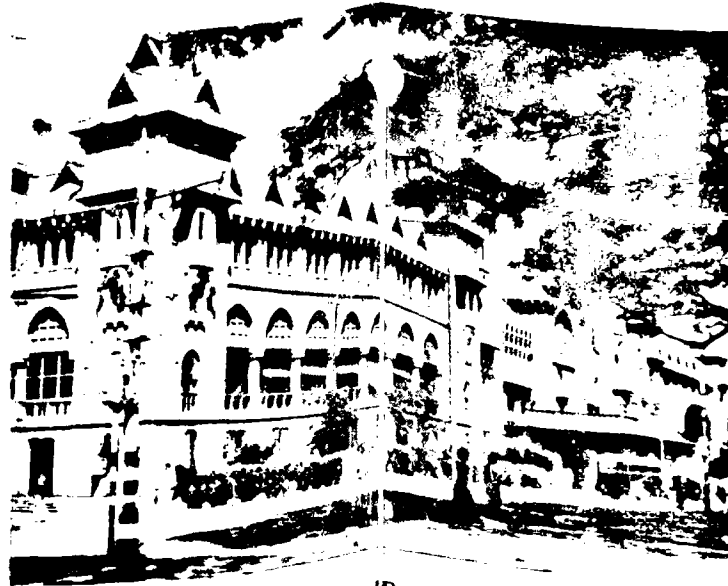
The Dare House



The National Bank of India, Ltd.



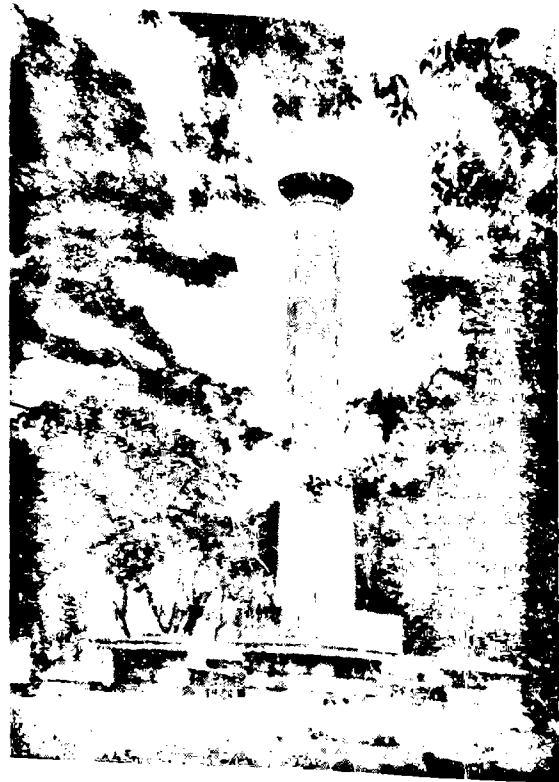
The Reserve Bank of India (Madras Office)



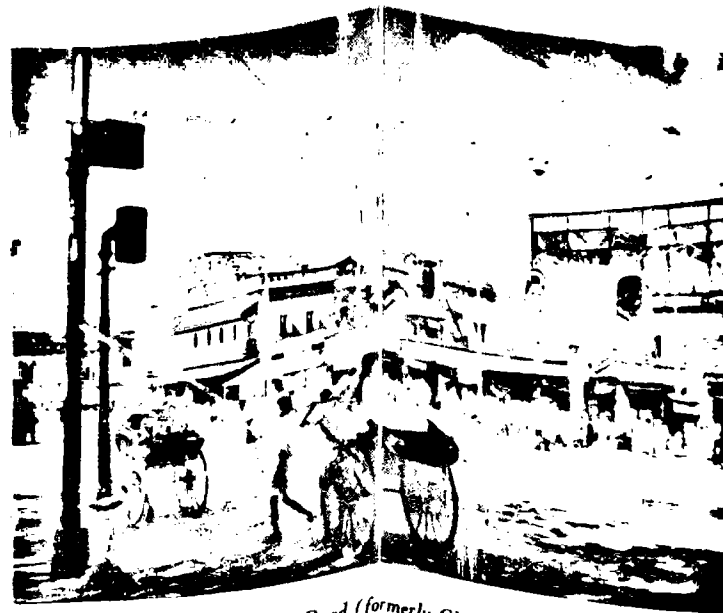
The General Post Office



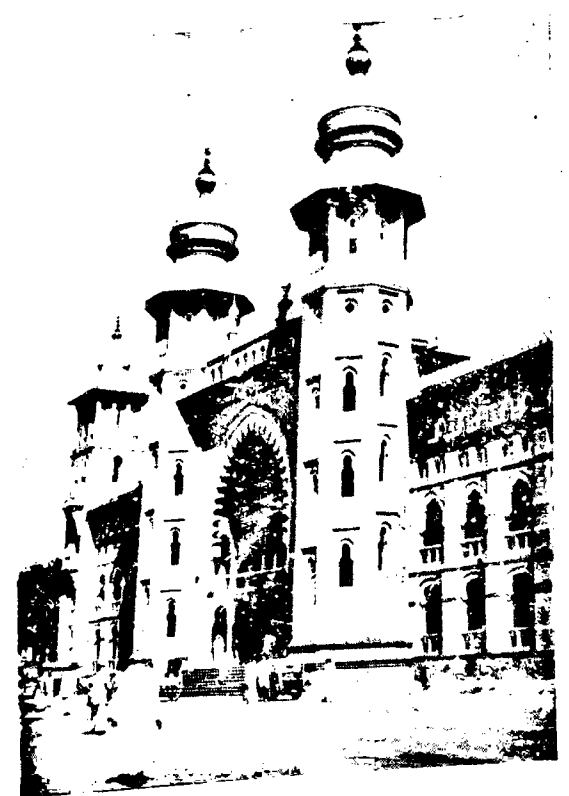
Madras Collector's Office



The Emden Memorial



Netaji Subhas Bose Road (formerly China Bazaar Road)



The High Court

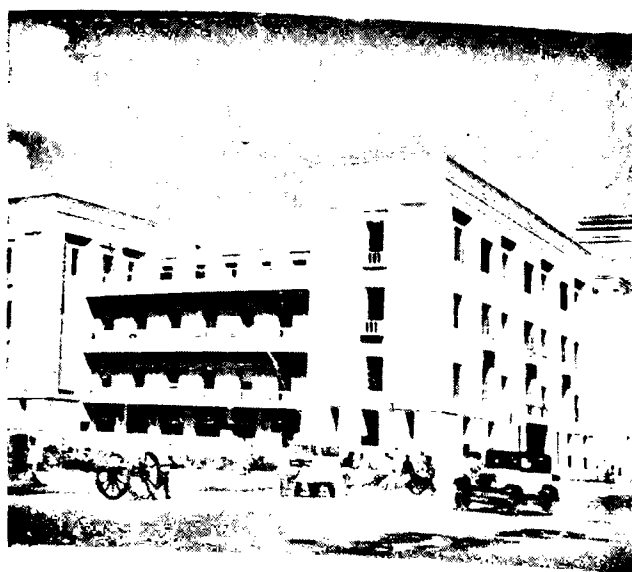
FEBRUARY 8, 1947]



The Small Causes Court



The United India Life Assurance Co., Ltd.



The Burma Shell Building



The Y.M.C.A. Buildings

may be regarded as a triumph for the popularization measures. The maize was less familiar to Madras than wheat or maida and its popularization may be regarded as an even greater triumph. By the end of December 1946, the wholesalers in the province had only 24,000 tons of maize in stock out of the 92,853 tons which had been imported. As in the case of wheat and maida, the districts of Salem and Coimbatore were the most successful districts in popularizing the maize.

Other Steps

When the extent of the shortage was first realized early in 1946, the Government not only endeavoured to import as much grain, both familiar and unfamiliar, from overseas as possible but also examined whether the consumption of unfamiliar foodstuffs grown in the province could not be increased. The only major foodstuffs in which this province is surplus are sugarcane and its product jaggery, groundnuts, potatoes and salt. Normally, this province exports 50,000 or 60,000 tons of jaggery to other provinces. In 1946, no exports at all were allowed during the early part of the year and only towards the end of the year did the Government, on representations received from producers, allow exports to other provinces. Altogether, only 21,000 tons were exported to places outside the province.

Madras is normally surplus to the extent of about 400,000 tons of groundnuts and usually allows this quantity to be exported to other provinces and overseas. In 1946, only 23,992 tons of groundnuts were exported from the province. At the same time, during the year, the Government tried to encourage the consumption of groundnuts as much as possible by the civil population. Collectors of all districts were asked to see that groundnuts were available in the ration shops for sale to the ration card-holders. Supplies of groundnuts were moved from Madras to the districts of Malabar, South Kanara, Tinnevely, the Nilgiris and sold to the people through ration shops in these districts and the City. Recipes for preparations of groundnuts were issued by the Commissioner of Civil Supplies. It was found that ration card-holders did not buy groundnuts in very large quantities and the experiment cannot be regarded as a complete success. It has, however, to be borne in mind that, at the beginning of 1946, it was not known exactly how grave the food situation would be towards the end of the year. If the food shortage had been even greater than it actually was, the experiment for increasing the consumption of groundnuts might have proved a very useful step in preventing starvation.

The province is normally surplus to the extent of about 25,000 tons in potatoes. During 1946, Government considered increasing the consumption of potatoes within the province by subsidizing the price but ultimately this subsidy scheme was not adopted since it was found to be too expensive. It may be noted that the nutritional value of potatoes in certain respects is much less than that of foodgrains—the calorific value being only 28 per cent that of rice. The consumption of fresh potatoes however increased slightly in 1946 to about 15,500 tons and about 32,500 tons were exported. In addition, during 1946, 2,232 tons of dehydrated potatoes were imported from overseas and were consumed within the province at subsidized rates. Two hundred tons of dehydrated potatoes produced by Parry's factory at Mettupalayam were also consumed within the province. The total subsidy expended upon the sale of dehydrated potatoes was about Rs. 45 lakhs.

It will be seen from this brief account that the acute shortage of 1946 in Madras was combated not only by introducing an efficient system of procurement and rationing but also by inducing people to eat the large quantities of unfamiliar foodstuffs imported and available within the province. A feature of the Bengal famine of 1943 was the large financial loss resulting from foodgrains, which had been maldistributed, becoming unfit for human consumption. But in spite of the import of large quantities of unfamiliar foodstuffs in 1946, Madras, by accurate estimation of the quantity required, by judicious use of subsidies and by good distribution dependent upon up to date and accurate statistical knowledge of stocks, production and consumption, has minimized the financial loss resulting from deterioration of the unfamiliar foodstuffs.

Price of Groundnut Kernel

The question of fixing prices for groundnut kernel and oil in parity with prices fixed in Hyderabad and Bombay has been under the consideration of the Government of Madras and the Government of India says a Press Note issued on January 15, 1947. The Government of India have convened a Conference at Delhi on the 20th January to discuss this question and also settle the procedure to be followed in regard to future exports of kernel and oil from Madras. The meeting will be attended by representatives of the Governments of Madras, Bombay and Hyderabad.

[January 15, 1947]

Prohibition News

Kurnool

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR visited Kurnool district during the fortnight under report. At Pyapally members of the Village Uplift Committee explained to His Excellency measures taken so far to improve the lot of the villagers particularly of the ex-addicts under the rural uplift programme sponsored in the wake of prohibition in this district. His Excellency was shown a few hundi boxes that had been distributed to members. To provide work for the weavers for a larger number of days, the local Weavers' Society has made an arrangement to supplement the supply of mill-yarn with the hand-spun yarn, obtained from the neighbouring villages. A few samples of cloth prepared out of this mixed yarn, mill-made and hand-spun, were shown to His Excellency who expressed much satisfaction at the arrangements made.

At Allagadda a cinema was started by the ex-abbkari renters. One of the toddy shops has been converted into the cinema theatre. It is understood that the cinema is providing the much needed recreation in the town.

Refreshment stalls.—One hundred and thirty seven refreshment stalls are functioning for the benefit of ex-addicts.

Employment of ex-tappers.—Arrangements have been made for the grant of licences to tappers for jaggery manufacture by Assistant Development Officers and Revenue Inspectors. Eleven jaggery societies were revived by the Special Development Officer.

Thrift and savings.—Fifty hundi boxes have been distributed during the fortnight and the Salem Co-operative Central Bank is expediting the manufacture of 4,000 hundi boxes.

The Hon'ble Sri K. R. Karanth, Minister of Revenue, visited Dharmapuri during the fortnight and addressed a public meeting on the Prohibition Policy of the Government.

Coimbatore

Eight big public meetings were held under the presidency of the Collector in the following places :—

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Eshumathur. | 5. Nagalingapuram. |
| 2. Unjalur. | 6. Mangalam. |
| 3. Ganapathipalayam. | 7. Thuravalur. |
| 4. Sivagiri. | 8. Vadugapalayam. |

Jaggery Manufacturers' Societies.—The formation of societies and issue of licences are being pushed through by the Assistant Development Officers. For instance, the Assistant Development Officer, Gobichettipalayam, has issued 2,000 licences.

Working of Prohibition Act

The following report on the working of the Prohibition Act in the Districts of Anantapur, Bellary, Kurnool, Cuddapah, Coimbatore, Salem, Chittoor and North Arcot during November 1946 is published for information :—

General situation

Prohibition has been in force for two months in the Districts of Anantapur, Bellary, Kurnool, Cuddapah, Coimbatore, Salem, Chittoor and North Arcot after its re-introduction. The working of the Act remained in charge of the Police department in the Districts of Coimbatore, Salem, North Arcot and Chittoor and the Excise Department in the other four districts. There has been satisfactory co-operation on the enforcement side from the village officers and the general public in some but not in all the districts.

Enforcement work

Cases.—The total number of cases detected during the month has increased by 75 per cent over the number detected in the previous month. There was a marked increase in detection under illicit distillation of arrack. The number of cases increased from 195 to 423. The increase was marked in Salem 110 (28) and in Kurnool 54 (10) and was considerable in Cuddapah 109 (55) and in North Arcot 86 (58). The number of cases in Coimbatore district is surprisingly low, being only 5 as against 2 in the previous month.

Illicit tapping.—The number of illicit tapping cases detected during the month was 15 showing a slight increase over the number of cases (viz., 9) detected during the previous month.

Intoxicating drugs.—There were 196 (150) cases relating to intoxicating drugs most of them relating to the possession of small quantities of ganja.

Denatured spirit.—There was a tendency for consumption to increase in six out of the eight districts. Collectors have been instructed to keep a close watch to ensure that the increase in consumption is not the result of any misuse of the spirit.

Border problems.—It is reported that a large number of persons still continue to visit border shops for drink. The State Governments and the Bombay Government, whose territories adjoin the Prohibition districts, have been moved either to close the border shops or remove them to a greater distance from the border. The Cochin Government have also been addressed to introduce tota

Prohibition in Chittur-Cochin which is surrounded by the Malabar and Coimbatore districts.

Border patrolling has been active during the month particularly in the Police—Prohibition districts. The number of cases of smuggling of liquor has increased from 33 to 68 but there is no sign of large scale attempts to import liquor from outside. The number of cases of drug smuggling detected has increased from 17 to 48 consisting mainly of the smuggling of small quantities of ganja.

Sweet juice tapping.—This has been prohibited in Bellary and Kurnool districts. In Salem district the tapping of palmyra trees alone is allowed subject to the provisions of the Madras sweet toddy rules.

Taluk and Village Prohibition Committees.—The formation of Taluk Prohibition Committees was complete in Anantapur, Bellary, Kurnool, and North Arcot districts and in six taluks of Salem, while in Coimbatore, Cuddapah and Chittoor, they were in the course of formation. Village Committees have been formed in Anantapur and Bellary districts and in the Nandyal taluk of Kurnool district and in the remaining places they were in the course of formation. During the month, only one case was reported by the Taluk or Village Prohibition Committees.

Ameliorative work

Employment of ex-tappers.—Emigration to neighbouring districts for tapping work and employment on agricultural, industrial and road work have relieved unemployment among ex-toddy tappers to a considerable extent.

Co-operative activities.—Co-operative Societies for jaggery manufacture that had already been organised continued to function. The ex-addicts of Mariapuram have been registered as a Co-operative Society for the supply of milk to Cuddapah. The scavengers of Gooty have been similarly organised into a Co-operative Society for the supply of milk. With the savings effected on account of Prohibition, these ex-addicts will purchase cows and buffaloes and improve their income. Incidentally the scarcity of milk at Gooty and Cuddapah will also be relieved.

The scheme of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies for promoting thrift through the system of home-safe deposits in 200 Co-operative Societies in each prohibition district showed progress in all districts except Coimbatore. It will be some time before all the selected Societies introduce hundi boxes for the purpose and systematic progress can be noticed.

Recreation and counter attractions.—Most of the Refreshment Stalls opened in October 1946 were continued during November, 1946. More stalls were opened in the Districts of Coimbatore, Kurnool and Bellary. In general, the refreshment stalls continued to be popular in places where drinks and food were provided free of cost. Private donations to support these refreshment stalls were generous in Coimbatore district.

Bhajana parties were organised at several places. A pandari bhajana party recently organised at Erikuthi in Gudiyattam taluk of North Arcot district, deserves special mention in this connection. This party provides regular entertainment on three nights in the week in a shed newly erected for the purpose. The villagers enjoy the songs and the dances till late in the night and the Adidravidas of the locality provide kolattam in the same pandal.

Kathaprasangam and reading of the Ramayanam and Mahabharatham have been reported from the Districts of Salem, Anantapur, Chittoor and Coimbatore. The Sadhus of Ramakrishna Mutt of Bangalore gave a series of recitals in Hospet in Bellary district. From Cuddapah district report has been received of a Muslim gentleman who has been reading out stories and of a Muslim lady reading books to women gathered in her house in the evenings.

Two amateur dramatic troupes entertained ex-addicts at Gooty and Guntakal in the Anantapur district. Street dramas were enacted in the Districts of Bellary and North Arcot. A dramatic touring party composed of a Maratha family is touring in the villages of Badvel taluk in the Cuddapah district providing entertainment to ex-addicts and others. In Kurnool district several dramatic troupes are being organised.

Two cinema houses in Anantapur district provided free entertainment to ex-addicts. Some touring cinemas in Salem district issued 20 free tickets a day to ex-addicts.

The organisation of radios, rural games and tournaments also continued to show satisfactory progress in all the districts.

Rural uplift schools.—Rural uplift schools were opened in the Districts of Salem, North Arcot, and Chittoor during the month. The main object of this school is to train village-guides in each Prohibition district in rural recreation and rural uplift. It is proposed to conduct two such schools in each of the prohibition districts before the end of March 1947.

Grama Sangams.—Two thousand one hundred and twenty-two sangams have so far been organised

RURAL RECREATION SCHEME

Antidote to Drink

Details Explained

RURAL Recreation is one of the most important items of ameliorative work connected with Prohibition. It includes not only the provision of rural games, the conduct of tournaments, and the organization of Rural Recreation Clubs, but also the encouragement of bhajanas, dramas, harikathas, folk dances, etc.

When Prohibition was reintroduced on 1st October 1946 in the districts of Salem, Chittoor, Cuddapah and North Arcot and introduced for the first time in the districts of Bellary, Coimbatore, Kurnool and Anantapur, Rural Recreation was taken up by the eight Rural Recreation Organizers and their seven Assistants who were already working in these districts, and their efforts were strengthened by transferring to these districts 12 more Rural Recreation Organizers from other districts in the province.

But the provision of recreation on a district-wide scale required a much larger staff. Government, therefore, sanctioned a staff of 77 Rural Recreation Officers on Rs. 75-5/2-100 at the rate of one per taluk. Applications were invited for these posts both from civil candidates and from those who had put in war service. A special com-

mittee consisting of the Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner of Prohibition, the Principal of the Y.M.C.A. College of Physical Education, Saidapet, and the Services Resettlement Liaison Officer, interviewed the applicants and selected 65 candidates.

As most of these selected candidates had not undergone a course of rural recreation suited to the work on hand, it was considered necessary that they should be put through a special course for the purpose with the aid of the Y.M.C.A. College of Rural Recreation. Government were therefore pleased to sanction a sum of Rs. 2,000 for expenses connected with the course and the training of the selected candidates was entrusted to a Committee consisting of the Principal of the Y.M.C.A. College of Physical Education, the Services Resettlement Liaison Officer and the Deputy Commissioner of Prohibition. This Committee is assisted by a Chief Physical Instructor. The Principal of the Y.M.C.A. College and his assistant have very kindly offered to help in the conduct of the course, and the lecture-hall and playgrounds of the College have been made available for the purpose.

Fifty of the selected candidates have reported themselves for duty so far. Thanks to the kind courtesy of the military authorities and the co-operation of the Collector of Chingleput, these students are accommodated in the tents pitched in the Collector's Office compound adjoining the Y.M.C.A. College grounds. Arrangements have been made for their food with a local hotel-keeper, who serves them two meals and two tiffins in the tents every day which will be paid for by the students out of their stipend of Rs. 50 a month. The camp life will be regulated by the students themselves on a democratic basis.

The instructions imparted during the course will consist of three parts. The first and most important part relates to rural recreation. Games will be conducted every morning and evening for three hours in all in which the students will not only participate but will be made to organize the games themselves by turns. Special emphasis will be laid on such games as evoke laughter and merriment; for, what is wanted in villages is gaiety and mirth. Care will also be taken that these games do not require much equipment

General

In general reports received show that there are already signs of improvement in the economic and social conditions of the people. The ex-addicts are better fed now. Domestic quarrels and street brawls are declining. Savings are effected and women particularly are welcoming the home-safe deposits scheme.

A considerable amount of useful work was done during the month both on the enforcement and ameliorative sides. Future progress will depend largely on the amount of co-operation which the Prohibition staff receives from other officials and from the general public.

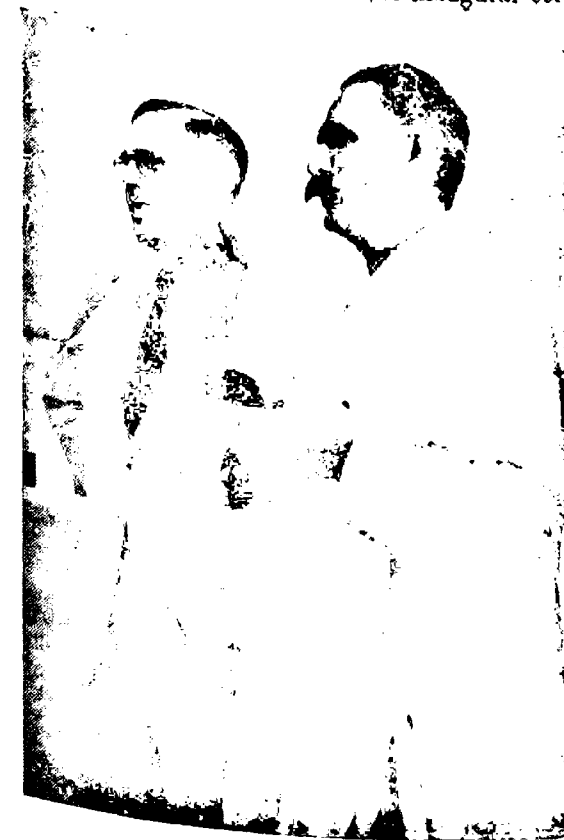
[January 20, 1947]

(Continued on page 31)

Rural Recreation Officers' Training Camp

Mr. DIXON's address at the inaugural ceremony

[The Rural Recreation Officers' Training Camp was inaugurated on the 17th of January, 1947, by the Hon'ble Sri K. Koti Reddi, Minister of Prohibition. The following is the text of the address delivered by Mr. Dixon at the inaugural ceremony.]



Mr. Dixon and the Hon'ble Sri K. Koti Reddi

It may perhaps be asked—what has Rural Recreation to do with Prohibition? To answer this we have to endeavour to place ourselves in the position of average villagers who were formerly addicted to drink. Most of these persons were labourers, who after toiling for long hours in the field had nothing to return to but a hut in a dull and lifeless village, with nothing to do but to sit on the pail of their huts. Can it be wondered that they preferred to resort with their friends to the drink shop where they could purchase forgetfulness, and even merriment? Drinking was largely a form of escapism from a dull and dreary existence. Having taken away this means of escape, we must provide some alternative and endeavour to enliven the village in the evening hours. Otherwise the ex-drinker driven to desperation by boredom will resort to

illicit practices and buy forgetfulness again in defiance of the Prohibition law.

It was Mr. Rajagopalachari, the father of Prohibition in this Province, who conceived the idea of providing counter-attractions to drink in the village, by reviving, encouraging and developing the age-old games, entertainments and amusements provided from time to time in villages, adding new items and endeavouring to provide some form of entertainment on most evenings in the week. In pursuance of these instructions, I was able, with the assistance of Mr. Ryan and other officers, and of the Revenue department, to organize amusements on a districtwide scale in Salem district in the previous Prohibition period. At one time Rural Recreation was carried on in more than 1,000 centres in that district, Chadugudu and other games were played in most villages, and bhajanas, dramas, harikathas, kalakshepams, country dances and the like grew in popularity. Firka, taluk, and district tournaments were arranged, which aroused much enthusiasm and developed a spirit of village unity and village patriotism, besides the original design of providing a counter attraction to drink. Similar activities were carried on later in the other three districts in the earlier period of Prohibition.

Though intended originally to provide a counter attraction to drink, rural recreation was found, almost by accident, to be an excellent preparation for general village uplift. The object of Prohibition is to raise the economic, social and moral level of the people. It is not enough therefore



Trainees at the Rural Recreation Officers' Training Camp

merely to enforce Prohibition and provide counter attractions; side by side with this there should be a rural uplift drive, designed to take the opportunity afforded by the introduction of Prohibition to make the village and the town a healthier, happier and more prosperous place. Rural Recreation, by bringing villagers together and uniting them, by arousing their interest and waking them from their apathy, proved a good preparation for interesting them in ways and means of improving their economic condition.

Thus the rural recreation clubs organized in the first Prohibition period and those that are being built up during the present period are developing into Grama Sanghams or Village Betterment Committees, which, besides providing playgrounds, games, folk dances, dramas and other entertainments are interesting themselves in repairing roads, sinking wells, cleaning up villages, promoting thrift, better agriculture and animal husbandry, organizing co-operative societies and village panchayats, and so on. Rural recreation is the road through which the villager passes into general progress. A further connexion between rural recreation and rural uplift is the firka, taluk and district tournament, at which rural exhibitions are held in cottage industries, combined

with agricultural and cattle shows. Various departments of Government participate in these shows.

The organization of rural recreation in towns and villages in the eight Prohibition districts is a big task and Government have been pleased to sanction the appointment of 77 Rural Recreation Officers at the rate of one for each taluk for organizing rural recreation in the Prohibition districts. A sufficient number of officers trained in rural recreation was not available for employment. The few who were already employed in these eight districts and some who are working under Government in other

Principal of the Y.M.C.A. College of Physical Education

districts were concentrated in the Prohibition districts and rural recreation was organized there to some extent. Now recruitment was essential and after advertising, 65 candidates

were selected against the 77 posts sanctioned by Government, most of whom are from the services. A training course of two months' duration was arranged and the Principal of the Y.M.C.A. College of Physical Education has very kindly offered to assist in training these young men in rural games by permitting them to use the facilities of his college for the purpose, and also sparing the services of lecturers whenever possible. We are very grateful to him for this. The conduct of the training course has been entrusted to a Special Committee consisting of Mr. C. S. Moffat, Principal of the College, Lieut.-Col. H. H. English, Services Resettlement Liaison Officer and Mr. J. C. Ryan, Deputy Commissioner of Prohibition (Amelioration). The course is expected to last till the 14th of March 1947. Government have sanctioned the appointment of one Chief Physical Instructor and an Assistant Physical Instructor to be in immediate charge of the training.

As the chief work of the Rural Recreation Officers, when they are posted to their respective taluks will be to organize games on an extensive scale, to conduct matches and tournaments, to organize bhajanas, dramas, folk dances and other entertainments, and to build up rural recreation clubs for this purpose in villages and towns, the instructions imparted in this course will relate chiefly to rural recreation.

For the reasons, however, which I have already stated, rural recreation is only the starting point for a greater rural uplift drive. The spirit of competition aroused by tournaments gives rise to a spirit of competition for progress in other directions as well. Rural Recreation Officers, who draw out such a competitive spirit in games, are potent agents to rouse interests in rural uplift among rural folk. Hence, they will be given elementary instructions by select officers of the various nation building departments of Government for an hour every day. They will be equipped with information on the various ways in which departments like the Agricultural department, Veterinary department, the Industries department and the Co-operative department are contributing to general uplift. It is not pretended that they will become experts, but it is hoped that they will, in addition to entertaining villagers, be able to explain to them what they can do themselves or with Government help to improve village life. It will be the object of this training class to produce officers who will not only arouse enthusiasm in villages by organizing entertainments, games and amusements but also will work for the cause of general progress. These Rural Recreation Officers will be assisted by Village Guides trained in the rural uplift schools held in the districts.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AT WORK

(Continued from page 18)

etc. The management have closed the factory on 5th January 1947 for want of stones.

The General Secretary, Salem Mill Workers' Union, Salem, has served notices of strike on the Managers of Rajendra Mills, Ltd., and Jawahar Mills, Ltd., Salem to the effect that the workers will go on strike any day after 22nd January 1947 if their demands for 6 months wages as bonus, reinstatement of victimized workers, etc., are not conceded by the managements. The Union has been advised not to resort to strike pending the result of the Court of Inquiry.

The workers of Messrs. Hoe & Co., Madras, belonging to the Madras Press Labour Union, struck work on 13th January 1947 demanding bonus, increased wages, dearness allowance of 4 annas a point above 100 in the cost of living index figure, etc., and prevented other workers from entering the factory. As the management have at the instance of the Commissioner of Labour, granted increased wages, dearness allowance at 3 annas a point above 100 in the cost of living index figure, provident fund, etc., the Commissioner of Labour advised the workers to resume work. The workers belonging to the Hoe and Company Employees' Association resumed work on 16th January 1947; 14th and 15th were factory holidays. The workers belonging to the other Union have not yet resumed work.

IV Revenue

Requests have been made by the Village Officers' Association to the Government that a lump sum grant similar to that which the Government have sanctioned to the Non-Gazetted Officers' may be paid to the village establishments also.

There is no case for a similar grant to the village establishments since the pay of the village officers and servants was increased by Rs. 3 per mensem with effect from 1st August 1946 while the revision of the pay of the members of the subordinate services takes effect from 1st January 1947. The lump sum to the subordinate services has been paid in view of the delay in revising their pay.

The Government do not consider it necessary to increase further the pay and dearness allowance of the village establishments.

RURAL RECREATION SCHEME

(Continued from page 28)

because it will be difficult to command such equipment in villages. Above all, attention will be concentrated on indigenous games like Chedugudu; for, it is easier to revive native games than to introduce foreign ones.

The second part of the instruction will relate to rural uplift work. The Agricultural, the Veterinary, the Industries, the Co-operative, the Educational, the Public Health, the Village Panchayat and the Revenue Departments have been good enough to depute an Officer each to acquaint the students with the activities of their respective departments, so that they may, in their turn, acquaint villagers of them. Each department is allotted three to six hours. It is not expected that the students will become experts in these subjects; but in a country where illiteracy is great, the information which they can convey to the rural folk by word of mouth regarding the various facilities available with these departments will be of immense value particularly when it is conveyed after the enthusiasm of villagers is roused by rural games.

The third part of the instruction will consist of visits on every Saturday to nearby co-operative institutions like the Co-operative Milk Union, the Provincial Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Stores, the Central Co-operative Bank, etc. As Co-operation is playing an ever-increasing part in the rebuilding of rural economy, it is expected that these visits will be of much practical value in rural uplift work in which these Rural Recreation Officers are expected to play a part. Institutions like the Government Poultry Farm, the Fish Nursery Yards, etc., will also be included in the Saturday excursions.

The Training Course will conclude on 14th March 1947, when the successful candidates will be assigned a taluk in each Prohibition district. They will be expected to organize rural games in every village and town, establish a recreation club in each and build it up into a Village Betterment Committee or Gramasangham, through which other rural activities like clearing up the villages, organising co-operative societies or Village Panchayats, mending roads, etc., etc., will be undertaken with the aid of departmental and non-departmental agencies available in the village.

Overcrowding in City Hospitals

By MAJOR SANGHAM LAL, I.M.S.,
Superintendent, Government General Hospital.

Mufassal Patients and Neglected Cases.

The City hospitals are working under great stress as a result of the very large number of patients who come seeking admission into them for treatment. This large number may be attributed partly to the fact that the average person—rich and poor alike—has realised that the hospitals are really doing good work. While this thought is very encouraging to the hospital staff, it is a source of great worry inasmuch as the accommodation at present available in City hospitals is not enough to meet this growing demand.

The realisation of the benefits of hospital treatment by the average man has extended far into the districts of the Province. A large proportion of the patients presenting themselves to the city hospitals for treatment are from the several districts, in some cases even from beyond 300 miles and more. They come in very large numbers daily with the hope of getting admitted and getting the best available treatment but the number is so large indeed that the hospitals are very hard put to it to cope with the demand.

Her Excellency Lady Nye has rightly pointed out that the average person in this Presidency does not take heed of the early symptoms of the disease and seeks treatment at the very commencement of his physical troubles. The result is a large number of people suffering from chronic diseases requiring prolonged treatment.

Remedies.

(a) Extension of Accommodation.

The obvious thing is to increase the available accommodation in the various hospitals or to start a certain number of new hospitals which will ease the tension. The Government are considering the question of extension of hospital accommodation throughout the Presidency.

The next best is to let the average inhabitant of this Presidency know the facilities he has for getting treatment nearer home.

(b) Make the best of local facilities.

Almost every group of villages has got its rural dispensary and different parts of districts are served by Local Fund or District Board dispensaries and hospitals as well as Taluk Headquarters hospitals which are run by the Government. Most of these hospitals have got provision for the treatment of a very large number of the

common ailments of the locality and they are fairly well-equipped with the necessary medicines and appliances for the same. Now and again some complicated cases may turn up in their locality which may require further investigation by more advanced methods which are not available at these centres. Such facilities exist in most of the District Headquarters Hospitals which are in charge of senior and experienced members of the service.

Every person in the Presidency must know that if the advice and suggestions made by Lady Nye are followed that "he should seek advice of the nearest doctor at the earliest possible time when he finds he is not well"—most cases of chronic illness could be avoided. This is the first thing which must be realised by the public at large.

(c) Right Medical Advice.

There is a tendency among doctors to suggest that the patient should go to Madras for further X-Ray treatment straightaway. The fact that the District Headquarters Hospital is fairly well-equipped to meet with almost all types of cases must be brought home to the general public and he will be well-advised to seek further help from the District Headquarters Hospital nearest to him. If the District Medical Officer thinks that the case requires further detailed investigations for which facilities are not available in his own place, or if he feels that the patient should have the benefit of some specialised form of treatment like the X-Ray or Radium Therapy which again is not available in most mufassal institutions, then he should direct these cases for admission to the city hospitals.

This will minimise the number of people who come straightaway to the City hospitals for treatment. Our experience in this hospital has shown that a majority of these cases that come from mufassal could very well have been treated at the District Headquarters Hospitals and would have been treated there if they had gone there. Failure to go there brings about a greater stress in the City hospitals.

The average person when he becomes ill consults his friends and one of them says, "Oh! Go to Madras. There is such and such a doctor in such and such a hospital and he has cured my mother, or my relative, or myself" and straightaway this patient, also hoping to get the same treatment, starts to Madras, often with

money he has had to borrow from somebody else for his expenses and journey and seeks admission into the one of the City hospitals. It is a very hard thing for the doctors to decide as to what should be done after having examined him and found that he is just suffering from a neglected chronic ailment which requires some form of treatment over prolonged periods of two to three months, which treatment he could very well have had in one of the hospitals nearer his own place. Faced with the over-crowding in the hospitals on the one hand and on the other the importunities of this man who has come all this distance in the hope of getting admitted, the position of the doctor is not a very enviable one indeed. In many cases they have to refuse admission telling the man that his disease is so and so and he could get treated on these lines nearer his own home and for lack of beds he has got to be turned away. In other cases, again, they have probably to admit the patient for just a few days, initiate the treat-

ment and, when signs of progress are noticed, send him back in a partially relieved state but not cured, with the advice to follow this treatment at his own home. These patients are also dissatisfied because they are sent away before they are cured. The commonest instances are those suffering from advanced incurable maladies like cancer which will not benefit by any form of available treatment or some disease in the nervous system which cannot be remedied. These patients also have to be refused admission as there is no prospect of benefiting them, and they will be only occupying the bed which could very well be given to some other patient who can benefit from treatment.

I repeat and emphasise the advisability of patients seeking the expert advice of the District Headquarters Hospital before proceeding to the city for admission, if they do not desire to be disappointed.

TEXTILE CONFERENCE IN DELHI



Ways and means of combating the acute scarcity of cloth in the country were discussed at the Conference of Provincial and States Ministers held in New Delhi on January 10, under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Dr. John Mathai, Member for Industries and Supplies in the Interim Government
Photo shows: Mr. T. Prakasam, Premier of Madras and Mr. V. V. Giri and Mr. Dinker Rao Desai, Ministers from Madras and Bombay, photographed during the Conference

Grade and Status of Teachers Raised

Minister's Call for Greater Efficiency and Service

The following is the address delivered by the Hon'ble Sri T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar, Minister for Education, at the Provincial Labour School Teachers' Conference held at Vellore on January 19, 1947 :—

I am glad to get this opportunity of coming into contact with workers who are mostly employed in raising the status of a community in the uplift of which all of us are deeply interested. Before touching upon some of the aspects of our work in that direction, you would expect me to say just a few words about the revision of salaries to which you have been looking forward. The lower-paid officials among the Government servants as well as others have been deeply hit by the large rise in prices. The dearness allowance, though good in itself, has not helped them to get over their difficulties. There has been a feeling that the basic salaries should be raised. The Government have been giving their earnest and deep consideration to the matter. Consistent with their finances, they have gone to the maximum extent possible in the revision of salaries of their lower-paid servants. It is the policy of this Government that the lower-paid services must be given a great deal of scope for reaching higher rungs in the ladder. This scope they have tried to give in the many branches of their services. For the present, we are concerned only with the Education Department. The present salaries of the higher grade teachers is between 20—30. This has been raised for those who know a craft to 30—55. It is not the intention of the Government that these higher grade teachers should remain higher grade teachers all their life. Opportunities have been provided to them to pass the S.S.L.C. as well as the secondary grade training examinations, so that they can have the opportunity of getting into that cadre.

Substantial Increases in Pay

The secondary grade itself has been started with Rs. 45 for those who know a craft and they can rise up to Rs. 75 as against the present Rs. 30—55. You will appreciate the considerable enhancement of the salaries that has been made. In addition, the Government have provided further scope to the secondary grade teachers. It is the intention of the Government to take a large number of secondary grade teachers from all managements as Junior Deputy Inspectors whose pay has been revised to Rs. 60—120, and so, it is possible for a good and diligent higher grade

teacher who continuously qualifies himself and proves efficient to rise up to 120.

So far as L.T's. are concerned, those with craft in Government service start with 85 and go up to 240. The selection to the first grade which was previously confined to 20 per cent has been enhanced to 33½, so that all normally efficient men can reach the maximum 240 without difficulty, and over and above that they have got the scope of becoming District Educational Officers and Divisional Inspectors which are some of the highest posts in the Education Department.

Large increases have also been given to the local board teachers and grants to elementary schools have also been substantially increased. One great innovation has been made in the matter of giving grants to aided elementary schools. Till sometime back, grant to the aided higher elementary school teacher was only Rs. 14 and the secondary grade teacher only Rs. 18. Irrespective of the number of years of service of the teacher, he continued to get the same grant but in the present revision, not only has their grant been raised to 20 and 25 respectively, but also they have been put on a definite time scale. Another important concession has now been given to the elementary school teachers and that is a special allowance to the headmasters of elementary schools.

As far as the aided secondary schools are concerned, while the Government have advised the management to give the local board scale of salaries to the teacher, they have come forward to pay, on their side, half of the net cost on the basis of local board scales and expect the management to fulfil their obligation of paying the other half. So, it will be seen that the Government have gone a long way in improving the status of the teachers in the elementary and the secondary schools. The recent revision of salaries has cost the Government nearly Rs. 2½ crores and a large portion of this is accounted for by the Education Department itself.

Play Your Part Well

The Government have tried to do their best for the teachers and they expect the teachers to do their part well and truly. It is unfortunate that there is a great deal of complaints of inefficiency and indifference in the working of our elementary schools. Unless we can satisfy the public that we are doing our part of work sincerely,

(Continued on page 42.)



A party was given to the Punjab Assembly Speaker (on the extreme left) at the Madras Secretariat during his recent visit to the South

Re-settlement of Ex-servicemen

Progress of work in the Province up to November 1946

A. Total recruitment	413,807	G. Undergoing training under the Technical Training Scheme of the Government of India excluding Indian States.	1,579
B. Index cards of ex-servicemen of the Madras Province received in the Master Register Section at the Regional Employment Exchange, Madras.	126,695	H. Undergoing training in the Provincial Government Scheme—	
C. Ex-servicemen registered at—		(a) Co-operative societies training.	* 295
(a) Employment Exchanges ..	70,122	(b) Agricultural fieldmen and maistris' training.	290
(b) Special Assistants to the Collectors (up to October 1946).	63,640	(c) Co-operative societies (at the co-operative institute).	204
D. Placed in employment by—		(d) Undergoing training at War Disabled Centre at Madras.	115
(a) Employment Exchanges ..	8,750	Total ..	† 2,483
(b) Special Assistants to the Collectors (up to October 1946).	14,644		
(c) Recruiting and Employment Offices.	1,913		
Total ..	25,307		
E. Employed in—		Ex-servicemen—	2,935
(a) Labour Contract Societies including the Moplah Labour Force Labour Contract Society.	246	(a) Who have not availed of opportunities for training (up to 15th November 1946).	1,881
(b) Co-operative Workshops ..	520	(b) Who are rejected or considered unsuitable for employment by Special Assistants.	9,252
(c) Land Colonization Schemes ..	583	(c) Whose registrations at Employment Exchanges have elapsed.	
Total ..	1,349		
F. Found work	1,112		

* This figure is included in E (b).
† This excludes 192 trainees under the Technical Training Scheme and 257 war disabled trainees undergoing training in the States.

Important Role of Co-operative Organizations

Hon'ble Sri Giri's Address

[Inaugurating the Twenty-sixth Madras Provincial Co-operative Conference on January 4, 1947, the Hon'ble Sri V. V. Giri said that the application of the co-operative principle need not be confined to the problems of rural economy alone, but can be employed for the benefit of all classes of people, rural and urban who want to better their economic condition by voluntary association and mutual aid. Extracts from the speech are given below.]

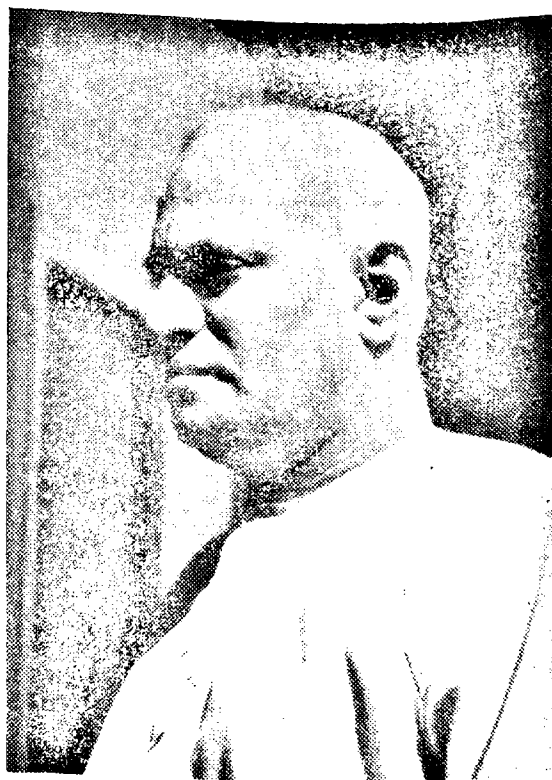
India is a land of villages and the main occupation has been and will be agriculture. The agriculturist, being the back bone of the nation, any movement which can be called 'nation building' must concern itself with the betterment of his conditions and the enhancement of his capacity to contribute to the national income. There is no organization better fitted or more suitable to undertake the twin functions of village improvement and agricultural development than co-operation. The application of the co-operative principle is not confined to the problems of rural economy alone. It can be employed for the benefit of all classes of people, rural and urban, who want to better their economic condition by voluntary association and mutual aid.

Government Policy

I need hardly state the great importance which the present Government attach to Co-operation as an instrument of rural regeneration and prosperity. As you may be aware, it has been made clear in the Congress Election Manifesto that one of the programmes which the Congress is pledged to carry out, is the establishment of a network of co-operative credit societies and banks in rural areas and towns, organization of village industries on a co-operative basis and the starting of a co-operative farming with Government assistance.

One of the earliest practical steps which the Congress Government took when they were in office before, was to appoint a Committee to examine the problems that confronted the movement and to suggest a new orientation of the movement to meet the situation created by the economic depression. Unfortunately, however, before the Committee could submit its report, the war broke out and the Congress Ministry went out of office.

It has been my earnest attempt as well as my desire to take up the threads where they were left in 1939. I have already taken up the question of reforming, strengthening and expanding the movement.



The Hon'ble Sri V.V. Giri.

War-Time Expansion

As you are all aware, the years of the war have witnessed a phenomenal progress of the movement; a lot of new ground has been covered. Thanks, largely to the conditions created by the war and the zeal and the spirit of social service with which the opportunities were utilized by the co-operators, a notable part has been played by

the co-operative societies, in schemes of food procurement and distribution, handloom weaving industry, co-operative milk-supply and marketing of fruit and potatoes. The speed with which the co-operatives responded to war-time needs is ample testimony to the vigour and vitality of the movement in our Province and a tribute to the unselfish services of a large body of non-official co-operators and the efforts of the officers who have been associated with the movement. To-day, the 1,400 primary co-operative grain stores, with a large number of their branches and depots and 21 district wholesale stores, exercise a most salutary effect on the private trade in the Province. The sales of the during the last co-operative year. Co-operative milk-supply organizations, exceeding 217 in number, have played a no less important role in ensuring supply of pure milk to the people in urban areas. During the last co-operative year, they handled milk to the value of Rs. 60 lakhs. Co-operative weavers' societies have distinguished themselves by commanding nearly 40,000 looms and bringing into the market goods worth Rs. 350 lakhs in a year.

Co-operatives for Food Procurement and Distribution

We are now in a period of transition, a transition from war-time to peace-time conditions. Besides tackling the immediate problems, we have to look ahead and plan for the post-transition period. Government have launched several schemes of distribution of foodgrains, cloth and of intensive rural development, and in these schemes the co-operatives have a great part to play. One of the very first thing which we have done after assuming office in connection with food administration, is to matters concerning the procurement and distribution of foodgrains. We have set up village, taluk and district committees consisting mostly of the people's representatives so that the machinery of procurement and distribution may run efficiently and satisfactorily. We have also announced our policy that co-operative institutions, wherever they exist and are prepared to shoulder responsibility, should be utilized fully by the authorities and the committees. I have now and then heard complaints that some of the subordinate officers are slow in enforcing this policy. Believe me that the Government will not allow any officer to obstruct, interfere with or delay the enforcement of our policy. It is pleasing to find that the entire district-wide procurement of foodgrains has been undertaken by the co-operators in South Kanara, Tinnevely, Vizagapatam and

Bellary, and that in other districts many co-operative stores, wholesale and primary, have undertaken procurement and distribution in a greater or lesser degree. Apart from food-grains the co-operative stores have been distributing all controlled commodities including mill cloth and wherever distribution has been undertaken by them, they have been able to put down black-marketing and profiteering.

The benefits of co-operative distributive societies have reached even the industrial labourer. I find that there are about 70 such co-operative stores for the benefit of industrial workers in textile mills, factories and workshops and they have done not a little to ensure to them the distribution of the necessities of life at cheap and economic prices. Similar employees' stores can be formed for the labourers engaged on the plantations and estates. In fact, I have been advising the tea estates to start co-operative stores for distribution of foodgrains and cloth to the workers.

The future of consumers' co-operation will, I am sure, engage the attention of this conference. It is upto you to capitalize the war-given gains and make the co-operative stores a permanent feature of the normal distributive system. On behalf of the Government, I can assure you all the help and encouragement which these institutions richly deserve.

While on this subject, I should like to refer to the experiment that is being tried in Malabar and, more recently, in the Circar districts of East Godavari, West Godavari, Kistna and Guntur, I mean the producers-cum-consumers' co-operative societies. The producer-cum-consumer society is an experiment in co-operative ideology and practice in so far as it seeks on a high co-operative and moral plane a reconciliation of the interests of the producer and the consumer. I am aware of the criticism levelled against these societies. I am also equally conscious that these new organizations are likely to affect the future of some of the existing co-operative organizations. Government believe that these societies will give a new orientation to the co-operative movement and bring into its fold a large section of the community which has all along remained outside it. It is necessary that there should be some sort of adjustment and compromise between the old and new societies. It is also the intention of the Government that these societies should ultimately function as multi-purpose societies. I am sure the Conference will consider the matter dispassionately and offer constructive suggestions for their sound development.

Handloom Weavers' Co-operatives

(Next to agriculture, the handloom weaving is the most important industry in our Province and more than a million people are dependant on it for their living.) I have always felt that this industry can most successfully be organized on a co-operative basis. I am glad to notice that (there are about 350 co-operative weavers' societies with 52,000 active looms under their control and that they produced about Rs. 350 lakhs worth of cloth last year and their sales were nearly Rs. 375 lakhs.) After I assumed charge, I have reviewed (the position as regards the supply of yarn to co-operative weavers' societies) and have directed the societies should be given yarn to the extent of 20 per cent over the usual supplies made to private ration-card holders and also a permanent basic allotment of yarn requirements for about 52,000 looms now under their control. The Government have also removed the ban on the registration of new weavers' societies provided these societies consist of existing ration-card holders.) With these additional facilities, it is my hope as well as that of the Government to see a considerable increase in the number of weavers' societies and the looms under their control in the very near future.

As you may be aware, Government have decided that the licences issued to cloth and yarn dealers should be overhauled and that suitable existing co-operative organizations which are willing to undertake the distribution of mill cloth and yarn should be fully utilized. Government have also made it clear that the existing rules regarding the basic period and other licencing restrictions will not be allowed to stand in the way of implementing this policy. I hope that co-operative weavers' societies and consumers stores will fully utilize the opportunities thrown open to them on account of this new policy and will help the Government and the public both in the matter of production of handloom cloth and in the distribution of handloom and mill-made cloth. It is my desire that all the five lakhs of looms in the Province should ultimately be brought within the framework of the co-operative organization within the shortest possible time.

Co-operative Dairies

Supply of pure and rich milk is a matter of national importance. Apart from the obvious gain to public health in a province where available diet is so sadly lacking in nutrition, milk societies are likely to evolve into satisfactory dairies and lead to an improvement in cattle-breeding. Government have been encouraging co-operative milk supply organizations and affording them the

necessary assistance. For Madras City, we have sanctioned a special scheme for improving the milk supply, as a result of which the production of milk has increased to nearly 7,000 measures a day. In order to formulate schemes for increased production of milk in urban areas through co-operative and private dairies, Government have recently appointed a Dairy Development Officer to work in the Co-operative Department. Government have under consideration a three-year plan for the formation and strengthening of co-operative milk supply organizations throughout the Province.

The problem of salvage of dry animals has also been attempted to be solved by the co-operative method. A beginning has been made in this direction by the formation of a salvage society in Madras and it has been quite a success.

Rural and Cottage Industries Co-operatives

(The chief handicaps facing the rural industries are lack of finance and equipment, want of organized marketing agencies and absence of proper technical advice. There is a consensus of opinion that the most suitable method of organising cottage and rural industries is the co-operative method.) Co-operative societies can provide the artisan with funds and arrange for the supply of raw materials and the sale of the finished goods.) A few cottage industries co-operative societies, such as those for metal-workers, manufacture of leather goods, coir, etc., have indeed done well. But having regard to the great scope for development, much yet remains to be done. Government have under consideration a five-year plan for the development of cottage industries on a co-operative basis. Besides, under the scheme of intensive rural development in selected firkas, it is the desire of the Government that a survey should be made and cottage and rural industries should be organised and developed to ensure some degree of self-sufficiency in respect of consumer goods the rural folk require.)

Fundamental Problem of Rural Credit

Though co-operative village credit organisations have been in existence for over 40 years now, it is a fact that the money-lender, whether agricultural or professional, still constitutes a major source of rural credit. The Agricultural Finance Sub-Committee of the Policy Committee on Agriculture, Forests and Fisheries appointed by the Government of India, has suggested the constitution of Agricultural Credit Corporations to replace the private money-lenders. This school of thought considers that the existing co-operative banking organisations cannot be utilised as an alternative agency of credit (because they are not

equally strong in all Provinces and also because they are essentially autonomous bodies ruled largely by their own members) and that problems might arise in linking the co-operative banking structure with non-members. They envisage an agricultural credit corporation as an autonomous public body established by the State, operating under general official supervision and direction, but whose day-to-day working and normal business is largely conducted on an independent basis. But, I find that the Co-operative Planning Committee appointed by the Government of India is of the opinion that in all Provinces and States, the Provincial Co-operative Banks or other co-operative financing institutions will be in a position to provide the agriculturists with all the facilities which are intended to be given by the Agricultural Credit Corporations if the same measure and type of help proposed to be given to the credit corporations are extended to them.

There is again a school of thought which considers that, institutional credit being for the good of the agriculturists, the voluntary basis of rural co-operative credit organisations may be altered and statutory compulsion may be introduced to make all eligible villagers members of the co-operative credit societies or at any rate to bring the representatives of all the families in the village into the movement. A more conservative body of co-operators feel that the purpose might be achieved through a comprehensive programme of extension, a five-year plan of village credit co-operatives so as to bring every village within their influence. The Co-operative Planning Committee of the Government of India have recommended that an attempt should be made to bring 50 per cent of the villagers and 30 per cent of the rural population within the ambit of rural co-operative credit societies within a period of 10 years, in two five-year periods.

Multi-Purpose Societies

Closely related to this is the proposal that the village credit societies should not confine their activities solely to the supply of credit but take up other activities, such as supply of seed, manures, and fertilisers, and implements, maintenance of stud-bulls, etc., and function as multi-purpose societies. This view has been advocated by the Madras Committee on Co-operation, the Famine Enquiry Commission and, recently, by the All-India Co-operative Planning Committee. The Government have under consideration a scheme for the formation of multi-purpose societies in select firkas under the intensive rural development scheme. It is our desire to broadbase the village co-operative societies on a multi-purpose basis and

try the experiment in these firkas. In the light of the results of the experiment it will be time to consider an extension of the system to other areas.

Stabilisation of Agricultural Prices and Co-operative Marketing

Finally, I should like to refer to the co-operative marketing of agricultural produce. As you all know, Government have under consideration a five-year plan for the development of co-operative marketing of agricultural produce. The Agricultural Prices Sub-Committee, appointed by the Government of India, has recommended a scheme for the stabilisation of agricultural prices and suggested an appropriate machinery to be employed for fixing and enforcing such prices. One of its important recommendations is that reserve stocks should be built up by the Government for maintaining market prices within certain fixed limits and also for meeting emergency deficits arising from abnormal failures in crop production. In a plan like this co-operative marketing organisations would be of great assistance. Schemes of co-operative marketing of agricultural produce and plans for stabilisation of agricultural prices aimed at helping the producer are vitally inter-linked and inter-related. The five-year plan of co-operative marketing now under the active consideration of Government provides for storage facilities, processing, etc. It is possible that co-operative marketing organisations can well act as the agents of the Government or the Commodity Corporation envisaged under the plan, for procuring the stocks and carrying out purchase and sale operations. Final decisions have not yet been taken by the Government of India on the recommendations of the Agricultural Prices Sub-Committee pending discussions at a Conference of Ministers of the Central, Provincial and State Governments.

We are on the threshold of very big changes in our national economy and the co-operative organisations have to play an important role. Many Committees of Enquiry have made suggestions affecting the co-operative movement. The Madras Committee on Co-operation (1939-40), the All-Famine Enquiry Commission (1945), the India Co-operative Planning Committee (1946), the Finance Sub-Committee of the Policy Committee on Agriculture, Forests and Fisheries (1946), and the Agricultural Prices Sub-Committee (1946) have all made a large number of important recommendations with a view to evolving clear-cut, comprehensive and co-ordinated policies and programmes. This problem is engaging my serious attention.

Co-operative Exhibition Inaugurated

Kumaraswami Raja's Opening Speech



The Hon'ble Sri P. S. Kumaraswami Raja

The following are extracts from the address delivered, by the Hon. Sri P. S. Kumaraswami Raja, on the occasion of the opening of the exhibition organized by the XXVI Madras Provincial Co-operative Conference:—

Co-operation has got a great future in this country. World politics is torn to-day between the two rival ideologies of Capitalism and Communism, the champion nations of which seem to be the United States of America and the U.S.S.R., respectively. The greatest political achievement lies in fusing together the good points of both while eschewing their defects. Co-operation affords this *via media* without running counter to our national traditions and culture. For over four decades the tree of co-operation has been growing on our soil. Although its growth has not been spectacular, it has been growing steadily and spreading over all our economic activities. It is a realization of its efficacy to solve many of our national economic ills that made

the Congress envisage the development of a Co-operative Commonwealth in the Free India in its Election Manifesto of 1945. It is, then, obvious that ideals of co-operation are bound to permeate the entire texture of Indian economy.

This will be particularly so in view of the set up of Indian agriculture. Over 60 million families own among themselves the total area of 250 million acres of cultivated land. Most of them are small cultivators with uneconomic holdings and are, therefore, underemployed. No reasonable degree of prosperity can be brought about in rural India unless provision is made for the profitable utilization of the spare hours of agricultural population. Mechanization and large-scale farming will aggravate the problem of rural unemployment. Capitalistic large scale industrialization of the country offers little scope to improve the situation. Huge factories with elaborate machinery and big plants will not be able to absorb the millions of rural folk and give the proper employment. The abundance of manpower, wasting itself in enforced idleness, can be harnessed to productive activity only by a vigorous development of cottage industries on a wide scale. The stimulation and spread of cottage industries have a distinct part to play in the rehabilitation of the agricultural economy of this country. The most suitable mechanism for the encouragement of the cottage industries is certainly co-operation. Producers' co-operative societies must be set up in every village and they should be organized to manufacture such commodities for which natural and other facilities exist. If this method of rural reconstruction is approved, the significance and value of Co-operative Exhibitions can scarcely be overestimated.

Impetus to Industry

An exhibition of this kind is of pivotal importance in the economic regeneration of this country. It brings a vista of new light to the rural folk and the urban people alike. Among the thousands of visitors to this exhibition, a large section will be hailing from the countryside and the numerous and richly diversified exhibits will bring to their minds the innumerable possibilities of using their spare time and most of the materials going to waste in their villages.

The effects of an exhibition of this kind on the townsmen are no less remarkable. The exhibition

South Indian Village Communities

Retrospect and Prospect

By V. R. R. DIKSHITAR.

III

Under Vijayanagar and Akbar

It is reasonable to assume that in the epoch of Vijayanagar, the same system of village Government and village community life persisted. The sabha and the Mahasabha continued to retain their old vitality. The Sabhas purchased and sold lands on behalf of the whole community. They had the function again of collecting taxes and remitting the share due to the imperial Government. It would appear that the Mahajanas of the locality formed one Sabha and were the accredited agents of the imperial Government. The latter could neither impose fresh taxes or remit old ones without the consent and approval of the Sabha. They constituted into a Court

of justice and punished the guilty and the offenders suitably. One method of punishment was confiscation of the property of the guilty persons. They were again responsible to the proper administration of trusts, temples and other charities. Individuals who did some special services to the community at large were often honoured by the Sabha, sometimes by the grant of a title. These local republics continued to function and exercise their rights, though some see a decline in their prestige towards the end of the Vijayanagar period. Even in the time of Akbar one sees that the village communities and townships were left free to manage their local affairs. But it must be admitted that the political influence wielded by these local bodies under Hindu rule was lost. Otherwise, the social, economic and spiritual life of the people in the villages was not affected in the

demonstrates to them that rural India can manufacture numerous articles of utility with a high degree of artistic merit, most of which can easily excel the cheaper but dull and drab mass production goods imported from abroad.

All these advantages are derived from exhibitions by industries, in general, whether they are organized in the co-operative way or not. Certain special advantages that accrue to industrial co-operatives from such exhibitions merit mention. The cottage industries lack both the finance and the flair for advertising their goods. The exhibition of this type is the only powerful substitute to costly advertisements indulged in by capitalistic firms.

Further co-operative stores are usually accused of not providing any scope for the human desire "to pick and choose". But the present exhibition would clearly prove how false the charge is in these days when the whole exhibition is crammed with an endless diversity of innumerable goods. Again, the principle of "cash purchase" insisted upon by the co-operative system always places the co-operative societies at a disadvantage in comparison with private firms. When the pent up demand for goods spends itself out—and it will sooner, rather than later—the forces of private competition will devise several methods such as hire-purchase, discounts and prizes for pushing

the sale of goods. To face this competition, co-operative enterprise has to arm itself only by its superior quality and high finish. To this matter of improving the quality, this exhibition is bound to play a great role because producers of the same commodities from various districts come across goods of varying degrees of excellence. This will naturally impart a spirit of emulation and co-operative industry will, to that extent, be benefited.

Need for Museums

Fairs and exhibitions are not alien to our soil. From very early times they have been held in holy places and political capitals during period of religious festivals and national celebrations. They have attracted people from far and wide and even from foreign countries like China and Central Asiatic countries. Of late, exhibitions have come back into vogue and it is essential that this fashion must be strengthened and fortified to serve the interests of producers and consumers. It is my earnest wish that we should not be content with exhibitions but build central museums in the headquarters of every district, if not every taluk. Museums will render the services done by exhibitions more efficiently and continuously. I look forward to the time when the whole country will be studded with industrial museums and the entire rural sector will hum with industrial activity.

least. It was Elphinstone who observed "these communities contain in a miniature all the materials of a state within themselves, and are almost sufficient to protect their members if all other Governments were withdrawn. In the stability and continuity of Indian Village life and organization is to be sought the secret of the good things achieved by India in the past."

British Period

Again in the famous Fifth Report issued in 1812 (being a report of a Select Committee of the House of Commons) we meet with a list of officers and public servants in a Madras Village. These are the Village Headman, the Accountant, the Watchman, the Boundary man, the Superintendent of the tanks and water courses, the Priest, the Schoolmaster, the Astrologer, the Smith and Carpenter, the Fitter, the Washerman, the Barber, the Cow-keeper, the Physician, the Dancing girl, the Musician and Poet. Dr. John Mathai remarks that this list may be taken as fairly typical of the greater part of the country. It is said that "each of the professions represented in a village has in the majority of cases become crystallized into a caste with its customary duties and monopolies."

The difference between the Pre-British Village community and the village Government in the British period is considerable. Though the original method of remunerating village servants continues in some form or other, the chief officials of the village, viz., the headman, the accountant and watchmen are more servants of the Government than of the village community. Though the Village Panchayat still persists in several villages deciding local matters of importance and local disputes, attending to tank and canal irrigation, or the common pasturage, still the Panchayat has lost much of its rights and its importance as the focus of public opinion in the village. In fact the village community has now lost much of its internal cohesion. The various administrative duties which were once effectively and efficiently carried out by the village committees without any reference to the central or even provincial Government have now been slowly transferred to the agencies of the ruling power. Under the old system the important village officials like the headman, the accountant and even the village watchman were hereditary. Even this has been distributed to a considerable extent. It is now left to the revenue officers of the Government to accept or reject such candidates.

Conclusion

It is a matter for regret that the traditional system of village Government as administered by what is popularly known as Panchayats has died out or is fast dying. It is high time we realize the usefulness of associating local people with the administration. Local Self-Government is the first requisite to any form of self-Government. It is Local Self-Government if the people are allowed to exercise freely their autonomy and create a supreme sense of public opinion. The State should have little or nothing to do in the affairs of the villages or townships. The encouragement of the rural village administration by the voluntary grouping of the village or villages would alone bring about an organized nation. This will again enable us to revive our old and indigenous industrial arts which happily are not still dead. Even the Royal Commissioners on Decentralization in India felt that the village should be the foundation of any stable edifice. The sooner we realize this and resuscitate the villages to their original place in the national economy, the better for us and for our country.

(Continued from page 34)

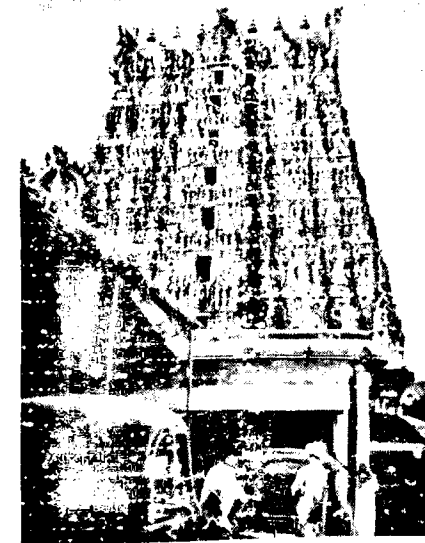
efficiently and well, it will be impossible for us to get their sympathy and consent to raise the status of the teacher. It is my earnest request that all of you should, with a sense of service and missionary zeal, put your shoulders to the wheel and contribute your best towards the education of our children.

It is the intention of the Government to raise the status of the teachers in all other possible ways also, but the real status of any person is raised not by others but by his own character, sincerity and service. And so, as one of you and a brother in profession for nearly twenty years, I would earnestly beg of you to adopt in your own lives higher standards of purity and service, so that the status of the teacher can be permanently raised. God willing, it is the object of this Government to create a type of education which will make our boys and girls manly, strong and fearless and for that purpose the teachers, however humbly placed, must carry with them ideals of purity of service and fearlessness in their own lives. That is the surest way of raising our status in the eyes of the public. I would appeal to you, in the name of this great country and in the name of the glorious future that we have to build for our great country and our children, to put forth your best efforts to this end.



(Top) Tiruchendur Subramaniam Temple was thrown open to Harijans on 14th November 1946

(Bottom left) Messrs. Kurmayya and Jag Jivan Ram (garlanded) after visiting the Tiruchendur Temple

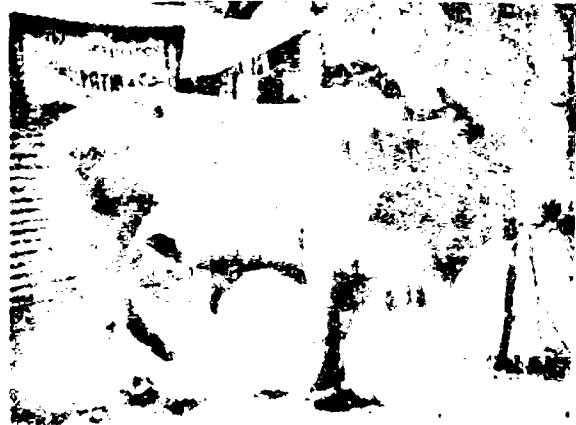


(Right) The Suchindram Temple (Travancore) recently visited by Mr. V. Kurmayya

(Bottom right) The State Congress Leaders received Mr. V. Kurmayya (fourth from right) at Cape Comorin



Photos taken at the All-India Khadi and Swadeshi Exhibition



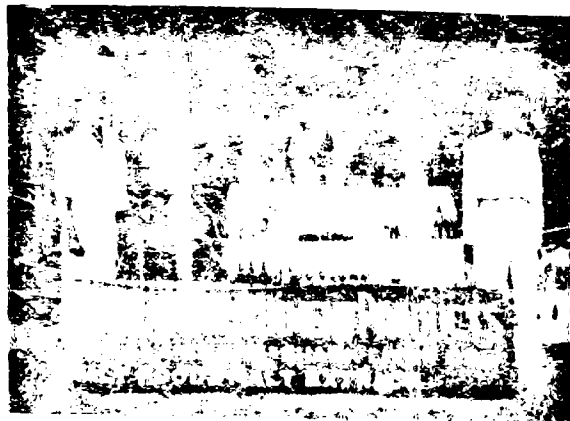
A Sindhi Bull



Grow More Fish



Grow More Food Campaign



A Blind Man Spinning

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WE SEEK TO SERVE AND NOT TO COMPETE

February 22, 1947

Editorial Notes

REMOVAL OF HARIJAN'S DISABILITIES

The Madras Legislature has adopted the Bill introduced by the Hon'ble Mr. Kurmayya, Minister for Information and Harijan Uplift, to amend the Civil Disabilities Removal Act of 1938, in order to prevent discriminatory treatment against Harijans in regard to entry into public places like hotels, coffee houses and restaurants. The enactment makes it penal for the owner of any public place or hotel or restaurant to deny entrance to anyone solely for reasons of caste or community, and statutory recognition has been accorded to the principle of the right of every individual to enjoy a right common to everyone. The placing of the Bill on the Statute Book should go a long way to make the Harijans, who form

an integral part of the Hindu community, feel that their place in the community is based on the recognition of certain fundamental concepts and that they cannot be treated separately or as distinct from members of other castes that belong to the Hindu religion. This piece of legislation should rouse the conscience of the community as a whole and enable it to realise that social disabilities which discriminate between individual and individual will not be countenanced hereafter and that in the eyes of law everyone is equal to everyone else so far as the exercise of social and civic rights is concerned. We have herein the foundation for true social democracy.

WHY THE PUBLIC SAFETY BILL?

The debate on the non-official resolution on the Public Safety Ordinance in the Assembly and the council covered wide ground and every point of view was canvassed to the maximum extent. The over-whelming majority by which the resolution condemning the ordinance was defeated indicates that the general sense of the House was in favour of the measures intended solely to combat a rapidly disintegrating agrarian and industrial situation. Fears expressed that the measure may be used for purposes other than tackling the Communist or some other equally dangerous menace were answered and assuaged by the Hon'ble Premier, who said that the objectionable features of the Ordinance could be eliminated in the course of consideration of the

draft Bill, while adequate safeguarding provisions could be incorporated to avoid abuse of the powers with which it invests the Executive. The Government, at the same time, have provided ample evidence of their *bona fides* in the matter by the manner in which they responded to the criticisms in the Legislature, and so long as the popular Government is in office, everyone can rest assured that the Public Safety measures will be administered with discretion and care, with a full knowledge of the need not to infringe the civil liberties of the people.

The Prime Minister's speech in reply to the debate contains a clear elucidation of the background of the agitation that is being carried on against the Ordinance by different sections of

Readers are invited to send questions seeking clarification of the policy of the Government or allied matters. Answers will be published as soon as possible.

The object of *Madras Information* is to give a brief record of the Madras Government's activities and to educate the public opinion on the Government's policies.

However, the views expressed and the articles published in this journal do not necessarily represent the official opinion.

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the people. The main features of the situation, he pointed out, are "looting, burning and doing every such thing even with regard to food-stuffs that are essential for the peoples' living." The analysis revealingly demonstrates that the compelling force and motive behind the agitation against the measure is not to deny the necessity for it, but to exploit the working class and the peasant by promises of the millennium and by minimising the advantages of the Government's ameliorative measures in various directions. Even the Communist Party cannot, on the basis of the disconcerting and sombre picture drawn by the Premier, assert with any degree of justifiability that the measure is either unnecessary or ill-timed. It is necessary and well-timed in the light of the imperative need to maintain order and

to preserve the legitimate rights of the people against attacks by an organized group of people, though it is recognized that some provisions of the original Ordinance may have to be modified or altered to render them less stringent and less comprehensive. On this point, the Prime Minister's assurance is unequivocal and clear. He said that a Bill was getting ready and "we have been anxious to take note of all the criticisms that have been made." "This measure, let me assure you," he said further, "will not hold the field and will not be law for one day more than the required period. No undue severity will be shown to any of those gentlemen who have been dealt with under this Ordinance." Nothing can be more reasonable or assuring than this statement.

Village officers and servants reinstated

The Government have decided that village officers and servants, who had been removed or dismissed or who had resigned or relinquished their claims to appointment as village officers or whose claims for appointment as village officers were overlooked on account of their sympathy with, or participation in, the Civil disobedience movement of 1940-41 or the subsequent movement of 1942 and the activities that followed on it, should be restored to office. They have accordingly considered the cases of village officers and servants reported by the Board of Revenue and also of others brought to their notice by individual representations, and orders have been passed in the case of several persons. Some of the cases are still under consideration and orders on them will be issued in due course.

As for the village officers and servants who will be ousted as a result of the orders above, they would be given preference when appointments are made to village officers in their respective districts. Moreover, these ousted people will also be given preference when appointments are made to vacancies in other Government departments.

Unsought compliment

The *Sakal* of Poona of 8th December 1946, does me the honour of being made responsible for the programme of Rural Development put forward by some Provincial Governments, notably Madras. Premier Prakasam Garu is no weak-kneed person who would accept any scheme from anybody. He is a strong-willed individual and a clear thinker, capable of looking after himself. Years before he became minister he was running a paper, "The Village Republic," in which he had envisaged

self-governing villages. He began with a political approach to self sufficiency and if his logic has driven him to self sufficiency in economics, too, is it any wonder? I am of course, proud to be associated with a leader like him.

A long term policy like the Madras Textile Policy must not be judged from a short range view of immediate needs. Even so, it must be granted that it will take several years for a newly installed mill to produce goods while the intensification of the Khadi programme will yield immediate results and meet the present shortage in cloth requirements.

This leader writer criticises our policy of converting toddy tappers into palm gur makers on the ground that a "bottle of toddy fetches six annas while gur made from it may be worth only six pies." This is hardly the criterion to be used in deciding national policies. Toddy is an anti social poison, while gur is a nutritive food. Surely these should not be compared and judged on the basis 'money values.' —J. C. Kumarappa

Paper control

Of late there has been considerable increase in the number of applicants for paper from newly established Presses. As the allotment for a new Press has been fixed at a minimum of 750 lb per quarter and as every addition of a Press results in increased consumption of paper which is still in short supply, it has become necessary to restrict the issue of Paper Issue Cards in future. Accordingly it is announced for general information that no card will be issued to person who buy part or portion of the equipment of a Press already in operation and in possession of a Paper Issue Card.

Madras Government Press Notes

Interviews with Ministers

The Honourable Ministers will normally grant interviews to non-official visitors at office on working days, only during the hours specified below :—

Honourable Prime Minister and Honourable Minister (Public Works)—From 3 to 4-30 p.m.

Honourable Minister (Industries and Labour)—From 2-45 to 4 p.m.

Honourable Minister (Motor Transport and Food)—From 3-30 to 5 p.m.

Honourable Minister (Hindu Religious Endowments)—From 3 to 5 p.m.

All other Honourable Ministers—From 3 to 4 p.m.

Any visitor who comes to the Secretariat during non-visiting hours will first go to the Reception Officer and if he has a previous engagement will show the letter making the engagement to him whereupon a permit will be issued by the Reception Officer to see the Honourable Minister or Ministers. If there is no previous engagement but the purpose of the visit is proved to be really important and urgent and the visitor cannot wait till the commencement of the visiting hour fixed by the Honourable Minister concerned, the Reception Officer will telephone to the Honourable Minister and get his permission to issue a permit. Permits issued by the Reception Officer will therefore be required by all non-official visitors during non-visiting hours and they must be produced on demand. The routes from the various usual points of entry to the Secretariat to the Reception Officer have been marked at intervals by cards bearing arrow marks.

Interviews with Secretariat Officers will as usual be arranged by the Reception Officer during all working hours.

[January 29]

Producers'-cum-consumers' societies in Andhra

It has been brought to the notice of Government that there is a strong separatist tendency especially in the villages of the Kistna district and a number of representations are being received to the effect that societies should be formed for smaller units and not for the units as originally constituted. In several cases, villagers brought cash collections of Rs. 50,000 and above to the local authorities

and offered to subscribe the required share capital if the authorities agreed to constitute a society for their village or for a small group of villages. While the Government appreciate this awakening amongst the producers as regards the benefits of the scheme to the ryot in particular, they strongly deprecate this separatist outlook which in the long run will be most harmful to their own interests. The original grouping of societies was carefully done and villages were grouped together after taking into consideration physical contiguity, economic stability, procurable surplus, etc. The Government are satisfied that generally societies with less than 5,000 tons procurement will not be economically sound and have therefore to advise the public against too many smaller societies. One of the reasons advanced in favour of smaller units is that the dominant faction within the smaller unit will be able to run the society smoothly. The Government consider this argument fallacious and do not wish to constitute these economic units on the foundations of village factions. These co-operative organizations are intended to bring people together and not divide them. The Government are convinced that in larger units of six to seven villages each, even a dominant faction from one village will be helpless when faced with totally different groups from other villages and there is every chance of unity arising out of such diversity. The device of Representative General Body adopted in these societies where every hundred shareholders will vote one representative to the Representative General Body consisting of about hundred representatives, who in turn will proceed to elect seven directors will also have the effect of neutralising local factions and promoting harmony. In the light of these considerations, the Government desire the public to drop their request for smaller societies and give all help to the local officers to form the societies according to the original grouping.

[January 31]

Control of coconut transport

In G.O. Ms. No. 2, dated 1st January 1947, Government have passed orders to the effect that no person shall with effect on and from the date of publication of that order transport coconut, copra or coconut oil by rail, road, canal or sea from any district in this province to any place in India outside the said district except under and in accordance with the terms and conditions of a

permit issued by the Collector of the district concerned or the Commissioner of Civil Supplies. As a result a large number of dealers and producers are applying to the Commissioner of Civil Supplies for permits to export coconuts, copra or coconut oil. A scrutiny of these applications has revealed that the proposed movement is only within the province. For the information of the general public it is hereby notified that Collectors of districts are themselves competent to issue permits either for the export or for the import of coconuts, copra or coconut oil so long as the movement is confined to the province. It is only for purposes of exporting the stuff beyond or outside the province that permits from the Commissioner of Civil Supplies are necessary. In respect of inter-district movements it is unnecessary for people to take the trouble of going over to Madras for obtaining export permits.

[January 31]

Unemployed I.N.A. personnel

Indian National Army personnel who seek employment in vacancies reserved for candidates with war service in the Subordinate and Inferior Services should apply in person at the offices of the Special Assistants to the Collectors (Ex-Service men's Resettlement) in their districts before 28th February 1947. The Special Assistants will give necessary instructions and advice and supply application forms for posts for which the personnel wish to apply. Every applicant should produce, before applying, a certificate from the Secretary, Indian National Army Relief Committee, 8, Narasingapuram, Mount Road, Madras, containing the following particulars:—

- (1) Name of the candidate.
- (2) Rank held.
- (3) Date of enrolment in the Army/Navy, or Air Force or any other war service.
- (4) Date of discharge.
- (5) Date of enrolment in the I.N.A.
- (6) Date of discharge.

[February 1]

Distribution of agricultural requirements

Sometime ago criticisms appeared in the press regarding the distribution of manures, seeds and implements by the Agricultural Department. These criticisms, which were generally to the effect that the distribution as done at present was not helpful to the ryots, have been examined by the Government and they wish to place before the public the relevant facts and figures.

Manures, seeds and implements had been in short supply owing to war conditions and their control was therefore assumed by the Government to ensure equitable distribution. The results achieved may be briefly stated.

The main categories of manures dealt with were oil cakes and chemical manures. The former consisted mainly of groundnut cakes and castor cakes while the latter had such varieties as ammonium sulphate, ammonium phosphate, super phosphate and bone meal. The supply position regarding groundnut oil cakes was acute during 1946, mainly because local production had fallen and imports had ceased. Government therefore had to order the total procurement of oilcakes from power mills and presses through the Agricultural Department and distribute them in an equitable manner. This was done in the case of other cakes also. The total quantity of manures distributed during the year ended October 1946 amounted to 162,013 tons as against 106,008 in the corresponding period of the previous year. The Agricultural Department also sold 7,668 tons or 107,500 bags of improved strains of paddy seeds during the same period. Other seeds sold included Daincha, sun hemp, koringi and pillipessuru, improved strains of millets and groundnuts. Distribution of vegetable seeds has been a speciality of all agricultural depots and a separate depot for the distribution exists in the Madras City.

Iron and steel were also distributed in a similar manner with an eye to the needs of the agriculturists. The Agricultural Department obtained 24,851 tons of iron and steel up to the end of September 1946 and they are distributed through agricultural depots. A considerable quantity and variety of implements, 33 kinds in number, were also sold and these ranged from ploughshares to P.S.G. Ridgers. A few sample figures of implements sold are extracted below:—

Ploughshares	107,331
Cattle shoes	32,138
Spades and mamooties	52,880
Crowbars	17,672
Hand hoes	17,996
Manvetty blades	27,053

The department has also taken up the purchase and distribution of pumps, engines, and pipes for irrigation purposes and to accelerate the sinking of new wells.

It will be seen from the above facts that beneficial results were achieved as a result of distribution of these materials through Government agency.

[February 6]

Tenders for groundnut oil

Several enquiries are being received about the continuance of the system of control over groundnut oil and kernel in its present form. The matter is still under consideration. In the meantime it is necessary to find an outlet for the oil which has accumulated in the mills if the mills are to continue to work. The tenders that have been accepted for kernel and oil will, therefore, be enforced in respect of the rates and quantities in accordance with the tenders. But as the orders were communicated late, it will not be possible for the tenderers to complete the deliveries before 31st January 1947 as originally notified. Time for completing the deliveries is therefore extended till 28th February 1947.

Such of the accepted tenderers who have not yet paid their surcharge and taken permits are requested to do so immediately. The amount of surcharge due to Government should be calculated at $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent on the value of the tendered quantity calculated at rates accepted for naked kernel or oil only. The surcharge may be remitted in any branch of the Imperial Bank or in any sub-treasury. The appropriate credit head of treasury account is

“LI—Extraordinary receipts—Receipts of the Board of Revenue (Civil Supplies)—Surcharge on groundnut kernel and oil.”

For the information of the accepted tenderers the names of the inspecting agents who are responsible for lifting the tendered quantities are once again published below—

List of Inspecting Agents.

Province or Administration.	Name of the Inspecting Agents approved by Government.	Remarks.
<i>United Provinces Northern India Factories.</i>		
1. Ganesh Flour Mills, Limited, P.O. Box No. 15, New Delhi.	Mr. Gokalchand, Representative, Ganesh Flour Mills Limited.	For Adoni and Cuddapah sections.
2. Modi Vanaspathi Manufacturing Co., P.O. Modinagar, Meerut.	Rishi Trading Co., Dhanasingh Buildings, Kurnool.	Kurnool and Dhro-nachalam sections.
3. Burma	1. Oil Purchase Depot, Modi Vanaspathi Manufacturing Co., Minchin Bazaar Road, Kurnool Town. 2. Sudershanam, Limited, Dare House, Esplanade, Madras.	Kurnool-Dronachalam Sections—Adoni.
4. Bengal Snow White Food Products, Limited, Vanaspathi Factory, Calcutta.	Do	Guntur—Bezwada section—Nandyal, and Narasaraopet, Madras.
5. Orissa	1. Messrs. Ralli Brothers, Limited, Madras 2. Sudershanam, Limited, Dare House, Esplanade, Madras.	Vizagapatam and Cocanada.
6. Rhotas Industries, Limited, Dalmianagar, Bihar.	Do	Guntur
7. Bombay Vanaspathy	Rhotas Industries, Limited, Guntur	Vizagapatam, Bezwada and Guntur areas.
8. Mysore	Messrs. Ralli Bros., Madras	
9. Bengal	Messrs. Sudarsanam Limited Messrs. Haji Kadir Bux Nurul Huda, No. 10, Tiretta Bazaar Street, Calcutta.	

The inspecting agents of the Bengal Government may take some time to complete their arrangements for lifting the quotas allotted to them. Such of the accepted tenderers who are anxious to make early deliveries are given the option of delivering their stuff for Burma instead of for Bengal. If they choose to avail themselves of this option all that is necessary for them to do is to hand over the oil at Vizagapatam port instead

of at the station of delivery ordered in the tender form. The agents of the Burma Government are prepared to pay the tenderers the additional Railway freight and 1 per cent cost, to cover leakage in transit. Tenderers who accept this proposal are requested to intimate the fact to the Deputy Commissioner (Civil Supplies) by 10th February 1947. For further details they may co. tact the inspecting agents of the Burma

Government for Northern areas, i.e., Messrs. Sudarsanam, Limited, Daro House, Madras.

Messrs. Rally Bros. and Sudarsanam, Limited, who are the inspecting agents for some of the quota holders have undertaken to collect from the accepted tenderers the surcharge due to Government and to pay it in a lump at Madras. Such of the tenderers who have to deliver their stuff to these inspecting agents and who have not yet paid the surcharge amount into the treasury or bank may, if they so choose, pay the amount due to these inspecting agents. They will pay the surcharge to the Board of Revenue (Civil Supplies) and obtain the necessary permits on behalf of the tenderers.

In the permits issued by the Board's office the names of the consignee and place of destination will be left blank. The inspecting agents are requested to fill up these blanks before using the permits.

The accepted tenderers have thus the option of delivering their quantities to the Bengal Government when their inspecting agents complete the arrangements for taking delivery; or if they want immediate cash for the tendered quantity they can divert their stuff to Burma and receive payment from the inspecting agents concerned; or sell it in the local market for the local consumption at the notified rates in force at the time when tenders were offered.

[February 1]

Ceiling prices for coconut

The Government of India have fixed the ceiling prices for copra at Madras and Cochin ports at Rs. 936 and Rs. 884 and of coconut oil at Rs. 1,456 and Rs. 1,390 per ton respectively. On the basis of these prices, the Madras Government have now fixed the wholesale and retail prices of coconuts, copra and coconut oil as follows:—

Coconuts

Malabar and South Kanara districts—Rs. 125 per 1,000 nuts wholesale, and 2 annas 3 pies for single nut.

Other districts—Rs. 170 per 1,000 nuts and 3 annas for a single nut.

Copra

Malabar and South Kanara districts—Wholesale price Rs. 32-7-7 per imperial maund. Retail price Rs. 1-5-1 per viss of 120 tolas.

Other districts—Wholesale price Rs. 34-6-2 per imperial maund. Retail price Rs. 1-6-5 per viss of 120 tolas.

Coconut Oil

Malabar and South Kanara—Wholesale price Rs. 24-8-0 per tin of 35 lb. (inclusive of container). Retail Rs. 2-3-3 per viss of 120 tolas.

Other districts—Wholesale price Rs. 26-2-3 per tin of 35 lb. (inclusive of container). Retail price Rs. 2-7-0 per viss of 120 tolas.

The above prices are exclusive of sales tax. Exports of coconuts, copra and coconut oil from one district to another, and outside the province of Madras, but within India, will be on permits issued by the Collector of the district concerned, or the Commissioner of Civil Supplies, Madras.

Applications for coconut oil required by soap makers, hair oil makers, and other industrial users, should be made to the Collector of Malabar through the District Industries Officers concerned.

[February 3]

Private dealers' employees

Representations have been received from the clerks and other employees of private dealers in the Circular districts that they are being thrown out of employment as a result of the formation of the Producers' cum Consumers' Co-operative Societies and that they should be saved from such unemployment. The societies require considerable clerical subordinate staff and the experience and the knowledge of these employees will be undoubtedly useful for the societies. The Government have therefore issued instructions that as many of these employees as possible should be provided for in the new societies.

[February 6]

Price of coconut punnac fixed

The Government have considered the question of control of coconut punnac in consultation with the President of the Malabar Millers' Association. They have decided that the price of coconut punnac should be fixed at Rs. 255 per ton throughout the districts of Malabar and South Kanara.

The Government have ordered that no export of coconut punnac should be allowed to places outside the districts of Malabar and South Kanara as the cattle in Malabar and South Kanara have no other concentrate for feeding.

The price of Rs. 255 per ton of coconut punnac will be enforced in regard to the existing stock also.

The Collectors of Malabar and South Kanara have been requested to take action according to the Government's orders referred to above.

[February 7]

Producers' cum-Consumers' societies

Regarding the organization of Producers' cum-Consumers' Societies, the Government have observed that there is a feeling that co-operative societies usually incur loss. There is nothing in the Co-operative Societies Act which should lead to the working of a co-operative society at a loss and the belief current in some quarters is a reflection on the capacity of the people to work for the common good. The Government have called for figures of the 54 Producers-cum-Consumers' Societies in Malabar which have completed one complete business quarter and find the following facts which are of general interest:—

- The highest recorded profit was 50 per cent.
- 14 societies made profits ranging from 20 to 50 per cent.
- 6 societies made profits varying from 15 to 20 per cent.
- 12 societies made profits varying from 10 to 15 per cent.
- 14 societies made profits varying from 5 to 10 per cent.
- 6 societies made profits under 5 per cent.
- 2 societies incurred loss of 1½ per cent and ¼ per cent.

It was also observed in the actual working of these newly formed societies that societies with less than Rs. 50,000 share capital were not as profit-yielding as societies with over Rs. 50,000 share capital and in the light of that experience the Government have not allowed any society to be constituted in the four Circular districts with less than Rs. 50,000 share capital.

[February 6]

Cloth distribution through co-ops. postponed

"In view of the representations made to Government that merchants who will be eliminated under the decision to distribute mill cloth in the Malabar district exclusively through the agency of the Producers' cum-Consumers' Co-operative Societies should be given some time to enable them to adjust themselves to the changed conditions and as it will also take some time for the Producers' cum-Consumers' Co-operative Societies to make adequate arrangements for the distribution of mill cloth, the Government have decided to postpone the introduction of the revised arrangements to 1st June 1947. For the same reasons the Government have also directed that the decision to utilize

the existing co-operative societies (which may be organized hereafter) for the distribution of cloth and yarn in districts other than Malabar should be similarly deferred till the end of May 1947."

[February 6]

No more bonus or price increase

It has come to the notice of Government that producers are withholding the sales of surplus stocks of paddy and rice, and other foodgrains to the Government agents under the impression that by postponing sales to a later period in the year they will be getting increased prices or bonuses. Items of news are also appearing in the press that the Madras Government have pressed upon the Government of India for an increase in the price of paddy. The public are informed that the Government have no intention at present of giving any bonuses to the ryots during the course of the year for the sale of any foodgrains and that the Government of India are against any increase over existing prices. Producers who hold on to the stocks in the hope of an increase in price therefore stand to be disappointed. They are advised to sell the surplus stocks immediately to Government procuring agents and not to incur the loss involved by storage in the hope that there will be any increase in prices.

As the position in deficit districts still continues to be very unsatisfactory, the Government wish to impress upon all producers having surpluses that they will have to strictly enforce the procurement rules for obtaining the surpluses available with the ryots, to prevent breakdown of rationing in the deficit districts if this note does not produce the desired effect.

[February 7]

Quarry workers' strike

The contract labour working in the quarries of the Coimbatore Cement Works, Madukkarai, struck work on 9th December 1946, demanding various concessions including higher rates of pay, payment of dearness allowance and bonus, short working hours, provision of accommodation and other facilities and of gun powder and fuse at the rates at which the Company sold them. Various efforts have been made to effect an amicable settlement but all these have failed. It has now been represented to Government that, as the adjudicator found recently in favour of the abolition of contract labour, the workers would go back to work if the Government made it clear

to them that they proposed to implement the award. The Government wish to make it clear that acceptance of the award by them was tantamount to an assurance that findings of the award would be duly implemented. They have accordingly asked the Company to take steps to abolish contract labour. They also wish to assure the workers that arrangements will be made for the supply to them of gun powder and fuse at the company rates. They hope that in view of these assurances, the workers will go back to the quarries without delay.

[February 7]

Export of jaggery

In their Press Note, dated 24th January 1947, the Government have announced that the exports of jaggery from this province to other deficit provinces and states who were allotted quotas by the Gur Controller for India will be arranged on Government to Government basis on tender system. The Government have since reconsidered the matter and owing to practical difficulties encountered in working the tender system have decided to revive the old policy of allowing exports by the merchants of this province on permit system as was done last year.

The Government have also decided to allow exports to the following Administrations from the districts noted against each during the current year.

Administration.	District from which exports will be made.
Bengal (cane jaggery).	Vizagapatam.
Orissa and States (cane jaggery).	Do.
Central Provinces and Berar (cane jaggery).	Vizagapatam and Chittoor.
Hyderabad (cane jaggery).	Chittoor and Bellary.
Cochin (cane jaggery).	Coimbatore, Salem and North Arcot.
Coorg (cane jaggery).	Coimbatore.
Bangalore (cane jaggery).	Chittoor.
Travancore (palmyra jaggery).	Tinnevely.

A surcharge of Re. 0-2-0 per imperial maund will be collected on all exports of Gur to areas outside the province during the current year. Permits will be issued by the Collectors of the districts concerned to their merchants in accordance with the despatching instructions issued

by the Importing Administrations. The merchants and stockists may, therefore, apply to the Collectors in the matter.

[February 8]

Madras drugs Rules

The Madras Drugs Rules, 1945, were published in an extra-ordinary issue of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 22nd December 1945. Under sub-rule (3) of rule 1 of the rules, they shall come into force on such date as the Provincial Government may, by notification in the official gazette, appoint. The Government have decided to bring into force the rules and Chapter IV of the Drugs Act, 1940, in this Province with effect from 1st April 1947. The necessary notifications will be published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*.

[February 13]

Coimbatore textile strike

The mill-owners at Coimbatore announced the grant of a three months bonus to the workers in the textile mills in September last year. Representations were made to the Minister for Industries and Labour by the Coimbatore textile mill workers urging the raising of their basic wages and for an increase in the quantum of bonus. The Minister for Labour met the representatives of the mill-owners and the Coimbatore District Textile Workers' Union in the last week of October 1946 and discussed the issues raised, but no settlement could be effected, as neither of the parties was willing to come to an agreement.

As the public are aware, the Government of Madras appointed a Court of Enquiry in July 1946, to examine the conditions of service of labour in the textile industry of this province with a view to better the lot of the workers and its work is now nearing completion. However, in view of the fact that the workers demanded an interim award with respect to wages, and an immediate decision on the question of bonus, the Court of Enquiry appointed an adjudicator and asked to adjudicate on the questions.

The Adjudicator's award gave the workers at Coimbatore, substantial increases in the basic wages, which in 75 per cent of the cases were over 80 per cent of the existing wage, some getting 100 per cent or more. The Adjudicator also considered that the bonus already declared, viz., three months basic wages was adequate. At the same time, he announced that the substantial increase in the basic wages would take effect from

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1st October 1946 and that the retrospective effect thus given to the enhanced rates of wages would result in the workers getting another three months wages. These findings were accepted by the Government and the mill-owners have also agreed to give effect to the decisions of the Adjudicator.

The District Textile Workers' Union, however, persisted in their original demand for payment of six months wages as bonus instead of three months agreed to by the mill-owners, and issued a notice of strike from 13th January 1947.

It must be remembered that once the award is given by the adjudicator and approved by Government, it is final and binding on parties. After the present Government took charge, awards of adjudicators have been respected in all cases. The Hon'ble the Prime Minister who was in Delhi about the time this dispute arose flew to Madras and then proceeded to Coimbatore. He met the representatives of both the parties on 12th January 1947 and tried his best to intervene and effect a settlement of the dispute, apart from the award of the Adjudicator which cannot be questioned by any one under the law. At the Prime Minister's request, action was postponed pending further discussions at Madras. The parties met the Prime Minister in Madras on 17th January 1947, 18th January 1947, 1st February 1947 and 7th February 1947 and voluntarily agreed to discuss the matter further amongst themselves, the discussion covering not only the question of bonus but other matters affecting future peace in the industry.

The Prime Minister was glad of this decision and he desired the parties to come to a voluntary agreement. It was understood after the discussion on 7th February 1947 that the strike would be postponed to a date after the 12th February (to 13th or 14th) but the strike has however been declared on the 12th February. This statement is issued in order that the public may be aware of the circumstances that have led to the strike.

[February 13]

Restrictions on parties

Of late the Government have been receiving numerous applications for exemption from the order restricting feeding at parties other than marriage parties to thirty. Requests have also been received from charitable institutions, temples, and persons connected with temples requesting

that they may be allowed to feed more than 30 persons on religious occasions and that they may be permitted to appropriate the necessary food grains from the produce of the lands belonging to individuals or institutions for the purpose. As a relaxation from the severe austerity measures that were so long enforced by the Government and cheerfully borne by the people, the Government have been allowing the requests in these cases during the last two months. Applications however still continue to come in.

While the rice position has no doubt slightly improved this year, all the existing and prospective resources have to be conserved to the end of raising the ration from its present low level of 10 oz. to at least 12 oz. per adult per day. Though the Government have raised the rice part of the ration to 10 oz. in many districts, they have been unable to give effect to the increase in three districts owing to want of sufficient stocks of rice. After enough stocks are built up, the rice ration in these districts will have to be raised to 10 oz. and later on the question of increasing the ration to 12 oz. in all districts will have to be considered.

Hitherto, it was possible to allow the use of wheat or other cereals except rice in the preparations to be served at parties given to more than 30 persons. But the wheat position is getting more difficult owing to the scarcity that has developed in North India and the anticipated delay in imports from overseas. A situation has arisen now in which the issue of wheat to cardholders except those who are habitual wheat eaters has to be restricted if not absolutely prohibited and in that case maize has to replace wheat. No further quotas of wheat or maize are expected during the next two months.

In this situation, the Government will not be in a position to entertain any further applications for exemption from the 30 persons order. The public are therefore requested to appreciate the position and co-operate with the Government by desisting from sending applications for exemption which in the circumstances explained above, will have to be rejected.

In this connexion Government would remind the public that there is no objection to serving drinks, fruits, nuts and cakes and biscuits made out of non-cereals for more than 30 persons and no application for exemption is necessary in such cases. The public are advised to restrict the menu to these items alone when they have to give a party to more than 30 persons.

[February 13]

✓ Work of the Aboriginal Tribes Welfare Committee

The Aboriginal Tribes Welfare Enquiry Committee which was formed by the Madras Government with Mr. Raghaviah as chairman toured all the Andhra districts, Malabar and South Kanara till now. It may begin its Tamil Nad tour about the middle of this month. The Committee has been permitted by the Government to tour His Exalted Highness the Nizam's Dominions for studying the uplift measures that have been taken by that Government so far, as well as the Central Provinces where ameliorative measures have been taken to improve the conditions of the aboriginal tribes of that province.

The Committee in the course of its tours has been able to study at first hand the conditions of the several tribes in their native surroundings and has collected valuable evidence about their methods of living, their folk-lore and their means of living. They have examined several witnesses who could give them valuable information about the tribal civilization and who could suggest means of putting an end to exploitation which is

rampant among the innocent tribal people. The Committee has also investigated into the possibility of having additional occupations by way of cottage industries to be started in the tribal localities. It has examined the Wynaad and the Araku Colonization schemes, the latter of which is devoted entirely for the betterment of the aboriginal people and on which the Madras Government has spent a good deal of money for reclaiming several thousands of acres for cultivation. It is brought to the notice of the Committee that malaria has been the greatest impediment in the way of improving the tribal population, particularly in the Agency tracts where the incidence of malaria has been very large despite the effective measures taken by the Government so far. That want of communications in the tribal zones has also been another great factor contributing to the backwardness of these tribes has been brought home to the Committee by the several workers who have spent their lives in the service of the aboriginals.

Equitable distribution of coconut oil

As serious shortage of coconut oil has been reported from the various consuming centres, the Government have decided to make the following arrangements for its procurement and proper distribution :—

The Collectors of importing districts will nominate the required number of co-operative societies who will be the consignees and who will import the requirements of the districts from Malabar. The Collector of Malabar will issue permits only to those applicants who are willing to consign oil to the co-operative societies nominated by the Collectors of the importing districts. The co-operative societies should satisfy themselves regarding the quality, weight and containers by sending their representatives to Malabar to inspect the oil before despatch. The imported oil should be distributed by the co-operative societies as widely and equitably as possible under the orders of the Collectors.

[February 14]

Elections to local bodies

In a Press Communiqué, dated 13th December 1946, the Government have specified the President of the Andhra Provincial Congress Committee as the authority which should issue certificates to official Congress candidates at elections to Municipal Councils and the District Board in the Bellary district. The Government have decided, in partial modification of the instructions in the above communiqué that the official Congress candidates in respect of Alur, Adoni and Rayadrug taluks of the Bellary district alone should produce as their credentials the certificates issued by the President, Andhra Provincial Congress Committee, while such candidate in respect of the six taluks of the Bellary district specified below should produce as their credentials individual certificates from the President of the Bellary Karnataka District Congress Committee instead of from the President, Andhra Provincial Congress Committee :

- | | | |
|-------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 1. Bellary. | 3. Siruguppa. | 5. Hadagalli. |
| 2. Hospet. | 4. Harpana-halli. | 6. Kudligi. |

[February 12]

Beginning of new Phase of World Monetary Co-operation

The following statement by the International Monetary Fund concerning initial par values has been released for simultaneous publication in all Member countries :—

"The International Monetary Fund will begin exchange transactions on March 1, 1947. The transactions of the Fund will be at the initial par values which have been determined in the manner laid down in the Fund Agreement. The par value of each currency is stated in the schedule below. Eight of the 29 Members of the Fund—Brazil, China, the Dominican Republic, Greece, Poland, Yugoslavia, France in respect of French Indo-China, and the Netherlands in respect of the Netherlands Indies—have requested, in accordance with Article XX, Section 4 of the Agreement, more time for the determination of their initial par values, and the Fund has agreed. Pending the completion of certain legislative proceedings in Uruguay, the initial par value of its currency has not yet been definitely established.

"This is the first time that a large number of nations have submitted their exchange rates to consideration by an International Organization, and thus a new phase of International Monetary Co-operation has begun. The major significance of the present step is not in the particular rates of exchange which are announced, but in the fact that the participating nations have now fully established a regime wherein they are pledged to promote exchange stability, to make no changes in the par values of their currencies except in accordance with the Fund Agreement, and to assist each other in attaining the general objectives of the Fund.

Initial par values

"The initial par values are, in all cases, those which have been proposed by Members, and they are based on existing rates of exchange. The acceptance of these rates is not, however, to be interpreted as a guarantee by the Fund that all the rates will remain unchanged. As the Executive Directors of the Fund stated in their first annual report, issued in September, 'We recognize that in some cases the initial par values that are established may later be found incompatible with the maintenance of a balanced international payments position at a high level of domestic economic activity. When this occurs, the Fund will be faced with new circumstances

under which the initial par values were determined. It is just at such times that the Fund can be most useful in seeing that necessary exchange adjustments are made in an orderly manner and competitive exchange depreciation is avoided.'

"The Fund realizes that at the present exchange rates there are substantial disparities in price and wage levels among a number of countries. In present circumstances, however, such disparities do not have the same significance as in normal times.

"For practically all countries, exports are being limited mainly by difficulties of production or transport, and the wide gaps which exist in some countries between the cost of needed imports and proceeds of exports would not be appreciably narrowed by changes in their currency parities. In addition, many countries have just begun to recover from the disruption of war and efforts to restore the productivity of their economies may be expected gradually to bring their cost structures into line with those of other countries. Further more for many countries now concerned with combating inflation there is a danger that a change in the exchange rate would aggravate the internal currencies toward inflation.

"In view of all these considerations, the Fund has reached the conclusion that the proper course of action is to accept as initial par values the existing rates of exchange."

Schedule of par values exchange

Illustrative figures from the schedule of par values in currency units per United States dollar are—

United States dollar	..	4 shillings 11-553 pence.
Canadian dollar	..	1-00000.
Indian rupee	..	3-30852.
Egyptian pound	..	0-241955.
French franc	..	119-107.
Belgian franc	..	43-8265.
Netherlands guilder	..	2-65285.

For French possession in India parity for the local rupee has been established at 26 French francs.

Every Official is a Servant of the People

Governor's Advice to Police Force

[In the course of his speech at the Police Medal parade, His Excellency Sir Archibald Nye observed that if good citizens regard the police force as oppressors there must be something wrong with the police. The following are a few extracts from His Excellency's speech.]

"As you know, the grant of certain honours has been discontinued at the request of the major political parties in India. At the same time, these parties have agreed that the grant of Police

people should regard the policeman as their friend and their protector, a man to whom they can go in their troubles and their difficulties, from whom they will be sure of receiving not only help but the invariable courtesy. If good citizens regard the police force as oppressors, you may be quite sure there is something wrong with the police.

"Every man irrespective of his race, his creed or his politics, has a right to demand protection for himself, his family and his property, and it is the first duty of the Government to afford that protection to its people. All Governments the world over ultimately rest upon force, and it is through the police force that the Government exercises this responsibility to the people. It is,

(Continued on page 23)

On 7th February H.E. Lieutenant-General Sir Archibald Nye, G.C.I.E., K.C.B., K.B.E., M.C., Governor of Madras, presented Sanads and Medals to Police and Fire Service personnel

Medals should continue. I think, therefore, that you may reasonably assume that the chief political parties in India fully recognize the importance of the work which the Police Force is doing and the need for giving it suitable recognition.

"The policeman is faced with a very difficult task. He frequently finds himself in situations of great complexity and runs a grave risk, whatever he may do, of severe criticism. I would like to suggest to you that your task may become less difficult if you bear in mind a few important factors. The first is this. Every official, from the Governor down to the most junior constable in this Province, is the servant of the people. No official should regard himself as a man divorced from the people of the Province, as a man puffed up with pride merely because in certain circumstances he is able to wield some authority; he should not think of himself as an agent of some exterior organization imposed upon the people from without, he should not order people about in a rude and impious manner, nor in any way take advantage of his position. A policeman is basically, first and foremost, a citizen. He differs from a citizen only in that to carry out his duties he must belong to a disciplined force and may be armed with lethal weapons. It follows, therefore, that if the police force is a good one, all good



Photo taken on the occasion of the presentation of Sanads and Medals to the police and Fire Service personnel

PROHIBITION NEWS

Chittoor.—During the fortnight two ballad singers conducted three Kathakalakshepams at Renigunta, Narasingapuram and Punganur Bhajana parties were also conducted by the ballad singers in four villages.

The Assistant Development Officer was able to collect Rs. 5,500 from the villagers towards National Savings Certificates.

In the villages of Velkur, Dighuvamagham, Keenatipalle, Painagham and Aragondu villagers have done excellent work themselves in repairing streets, sweeping them clean, removing manure pits away from residential quarters, preventing drains from entering village streets, laying out roads to connect the villages from the main roads, etc. The Special Development Officer visited three of the above five villages.

Anantapur.—His Excellency Sir Archibald Nye, Governor of Madras, visited this district during this month. The first village visited by His Excellency was Chilamathur where counter attractions like rural games and bhajanas have been introduced. His Excellency witnessed the display of the following items:—

(1) Chodugudu, (2) Badminton, (3) Sugali Dance (folk dance), (4) Kho-kho, (5) Kolatam and (6) Pandari Bhajana.

Salem.—During the second fortnight of January 1947, the Hosur Taluk Rural Uplift Conference

was conducted at Kolamangalam and Sri Linga Raju, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Land Revenue, presided over the occasion. Sri S. Nagaraja Maniagar, M.A., M.L.A. opened the conference.

Two co-operative stores societies, were inaugurated at Mallur and Tholasampatti.

A conference of representatives of Weavers' Co-operative Societies was held at Taramangalam presided over by the Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Salem. The question of increasing the number of looms and formation of more weavers' societies was discussed. The Special Development Officer, Salem, spoke about admission of tappers knowing weaving in Weavers' Co-operative Societies, installation of radios and organization of volley ball and other games.

The Kamalapuram Harijan Uplift Sangam was inaugurated on 26th January 1947.

Employment of ex-tappers.—Thirty-one Tappers' Co-operative Societies have been revived and tapping licences were given for manufacture of palmyra jaggery. During the fortnight 9 new Tappers' Co-operative Societies have been formed of which four have been started on their work. The Assistant Development Officer issued 1,259 licences to members of 35 Tappers' Co-operative Societies.

RE-SETTLEMENT NEWS

Chingleput

The District Employment office is functioning in this district with effect from 1st January 1947. The Assistant Manager in charge of the District Employment office has interviewed 324 ex-servicemen and registered them for employment. The total number registered up to the end of the fortnight is 2,906 and the number placed in civil employment is 433.

The Meyyur-Gudupakkam Ex-servicemen Co-operative Agricultural Colonization Society, Ltd.—Eleven members of the colony are residing in the houses constructed for them. At present there are 21 members in this colony. An extent of 62 acres which has been allotted to them in the dry block has been cultivated with blackgram, horsegram, ragi and varagu. Due to heavy rains in December 1946 all the crops except varagu did not come up to expectations. The horsegram crop sown just before the rains was

damaged and only scattered portions have survived here and there. The blackgram and horsegram crops in the high level areas are in fair condition.

Tinnevely

The number of men placed up to the end of the fortnight is 1,752.

The third trial bore at Gangaikondan has been completed. The Director of Resettlement has been addressed to obtain the sanction of the Government for going ahead with the scheme. Sixty-three applications have so far been received and registered.

Bellary

Two ex-servicemen were appointed as clerks and one ex-serviceman was appointed as male nursing orderly during the fortnight under report.

The two Land Colonization Schemes, i.e., one at Bellary and the other at Tungabhadra, are still

in initial stage. The estimates, etc., in respect of the Land Colonization Scheme at Bellary are pending technical scrutiny by the Superintending Engineer, Anantapur Circle, while those relating to the Land Colonization Scheme at Tungabhadra are pending with the Revenue Divisional Officer, Adoni.

Guntur

One hundred and ninety-six ex-servicemen were registered during the fortnight ending 31st January 1947 and 10 persons were employed.

The number of ex-servicemen registered and employed up to the end of the fortnight is 3,453 and 816 respectively.

A Motor Transport Co-operative Society for ex-servicemen has been sanctioned for establishment at Guntur.

Nellore

The two Colonization Schemes at Chintaldevi and Veliganilla villages of Kavali are pending approval by Government.

Motor Transport Co-operative Society for Ex-servicemen.—Intensive propaganda has been made for popularising the scheme and 40 drivers, 54 cleaners, 1 foreman mechanic, 4 fitter mechanics, 3 watchmen and peons, 1 clerk, 2 managers and 1 store-keeper have contributed an amount of Rs. 17,461-4-0 towards initial deposit and entrance fees.

Madras

The number of ex-servicemen registered from 16th to 31st January 1947 is 933. During this period demand for these men numbering 281 was received from various offices in the city for appointment and in most cases they have been complied with. The practice of appointing outsiders without preferring ex-servicemen has not been completely given up by the appointing authorities.

A society called "The Madras Tailors' Co-operative Society for Ex-servicemen" has been registered and it is expected that the society will start work from 3rd February 1947. Necessary sewing machines and other articles have also been secured.

The work connected with the formation of the Motor Transport Co-operative Society has been started and so far 40 applications have been received. An initial share capital amounting to Rs. 9,145-8-0 has also been collected from them. It is expected the work will progress soon. Selection of sites has also been made, though not finally approved.

South Kanara

Out of nearly 6,000 persons recruited from the South Kanara district, 2,008 persons have registered their names for civil employment after having returned home on demobilization.

Five hundred and eight persons out of these, have been placed in employment, 109 have started their own business or are not in need of assistance; 74 have left the district seeking employment elsewhere and 1,317 remain to be employed.

Cuddapah

Sixty-six ex-servicemen have been registered during the fortnight bringing up the total number registered to 1,489. The number of ex-servicemen placed in employment during the fortnight is 24 and the total number appointed up to the fortnight is 379. The placements so far made in Government posts are temporary.

The Land Colony at Pullampet is being got ready. Trial borings have been made ready for six wells. Two irrigation wells and one drinking water well are under execution. The matter is under correspondence with the Civil Liaison Officer, Vizagapatam, with regard to the clearance of the jungle growth with army help on land set apart for the Colony. Thirty applications for membership in the Land Colonization Co-operative Society have been received.

Coal Control

The Government of India have transferred the responsibility of coal distribution, on account of tobacco-curing concerns, to the Provincial Coal Controller (Director of Industries and Commerce) with effect from September 1946.

A conference of the coal dealers and a representative of Messrs. Indian Leaf Tobacco Development Company, Limited, was held on the 22nd June 1946, in the office of the Director of Industries and Commerce, Madras, under the chairmanship of the Provincial Coal Controller, Madras. Several questions regarding the source of supplies, the method of distribution, arrangements for procuring coal, payment, etc., were discussed in the conference.

To have a check over the distribution it has been decided to appoint Inspectors at Pezwada, Guntur, Chirala and Ongole. These Inspectors will have the assistance of an advisory body consisting of five members taken from among the tobacco-curing ryots, the tobacco growers' associations, marketing committees, etc.

Government Departments at Work

I Revenue

The Government have decided to extend Prohibition to the districts of Tanjore, Trichinopoly, Madura, the Nilgiris, Guntur and Nellore from 1st October 1947.

A sum of Rs. 21,000 was sanctioned on 6th February 1947 out of the Indian People's Famine Trust Fund for the purchase of saris to be distributed to persons eligible for gratuitous relief in the districts of Bellary and Anantapur.

A sum of Rs. 3,000 was sanctioned on 6th February 1947 for the grant of relief to persons whose houses were damaged during the recent floods in Rajampet and Siddhout taluks in Cuddapah district.

A Bill to prevent speculation in land in the Tungabhadra area was published in the *Fort St. George Gazette Extraordinary*, dated 24th January 1947. In a Press Note the Government announced that speculative purchases of lands in the Project area would be prohibited by legislation. The Bill will be introduced in the current session of the Legislature.

A resolution was placed before the Legislative Assembly recommending the enhancement of the rates of tax on motor spirits. The resolution was passed by the Assembly on 30th January 1947. The following enhanced rates have come into force from 1st February 1947:—

Rate of tax on petrol—From As. 1-6 to 4 annas.

Rate of tax on motor spirits other than petrol—From 6 pias to As. 1-6.

The following resolution was moved by the Hon'ble Revenue Minister in the Madras Legislative Council on 31st January 1947:—

"This Council accepts the principle of the abolition of the zamindari system in this Province and recommends to Government that legislation for it, providing for payment of equitable compensation to zamindars and other intermediaries whose rights are to be acquired be brought forward at an early date."

The resolution was passed by the Legislative Council without division.

II Labour

In their Order Ms. No. 244, Development, dated 21st January 1946, the Government of Madras have referred the dispute between the workers and the management of the Beehive

Foundry, Madras, regarding adequacy of the dearness allowance, increase of basic wages, leave facilities, etc., to Sri Rao Bahadur M. Venkataramayya for adjudication under the Defence of India Rules. The workers who were on strike from 16th December 1946 resumed work on 24th January 1947.

About 1,400 workers of the Chrome Leather Company, Chromepet, who struck work on 31st December 1946 demanding three months' wages as bonus, house-rent allowance, etc., are still on strike, refusing to resume work in batches as notified by the management. The management have cancelled their previous notification. The factory remains closed. It is understood that workers are finding casual employment in agriculture operations, etc.

The workers of Messrs. Hoe & Co., Madras, under the influence of the Madras Press Labour Union, struck work on 13th January 1947, demanding bonus, increased wages, dearness allowance of 4 annas for point of rise in the cost of living index figure, etc. As the management have, at the instance of the Commissioner of Labour, granted increased wages, dearness allowance at 3 annas a point above 100 in the cost of living index figure, provident fund, etc., the Commissioner of Labour advised the workers to resume work. The workers belonging to the Hoe & Co. Employees Association resumed work on 16th January 1947. The workers of the other union resorted to violent picketing without success. The number of workers now working in the press is about 250. Of these 167 are old workers and 83 new workers.

In their Order Ms. No. 245, Development, dated 21st January 1947, the Government of Madras have referred the dispute between the workers and the management of the Binny's Beach Engineering Works, Madras, regarding payment of bonus, dearness allowance, house-rent allowance, etc., to Sri Rao Bahadur M. Venkataramayya for adjudication under the Defence of India Rules. The workers numbering about 1,000 who struck work on 9th January 1947 resumed work on 24th January 1947.

The General Secretary of the Automobile Workers' Union, Madras, has served a notice of strike on 22nd January 1947 on the managements of Messrs. Simpson & Co., Addison & Co., Ltd., George Oakes, Limited, and Sri Rama Vilas, Limited, intimating that the workers will go on strike after the expiry of 14 days of their demands.

increased wages and dearness allowance, 3 months wages as bonus, etc., are not conceded by the management. The Labour Officer, Madras, is looking into the matter. The Commissioner of Labour has recommended to Government the appointment of a Court of Enquiry to examine the conditions of labour in transport bus and lorry services, workshops, engineering firms and type foundries in the Province.

In their Order No. 3677, Education and Public Health, dated 20th December 1946, the Government of Madras have ordered that there should be no victimization of the scavengers and conservancy menials who took part in the recent strike and that the cases pending in the Court should be withdrawn.

Sri Palamalai Ranganadhar Mills, Ltd., Periyannayanpalayam, which was closed from 20th November 1946 was re-opened on 13th January 1947.

The Asher Textiles and the Dhanalakshmi Mills, Tiruppur, which remained closed from 10th December 1946 and 11th December 1946 respectively were reopened on 13th January 1947.

The quarry contract workers of the Coimbatore Cement Works, Madukkarai, are still on strike. The Labour Officer, Coimbatore, advised them to resume work; but they refused to do so unless all their demands were conceded by the quarry contractors. The factory was closed on 5th January 1947 for want of stones. The workers are demanding the reopening of the factory and payment of compensation for the period of involuntary unemployment.

About 175 workers of the Kumaran Mills, Coimbatore, staged a stay-in-strike for 40 minutes on 23rd January 1947 as a protest against the suspension of a spinning piecer. The suspended worker was admitted to work on his tendering an apology to the management.

The Labour Officer, Coimbatore, has reported that the District Textiles Workers Union, Singanailur, has issued a notice of general strike, dated 24th January 1947, with the same demands as those given in its original notice, dated 27th December 1946. According to this revised notice the general strike was to take place on 12th February 1947. The Hon'ble Premier and the Hon'ble Minister for Industries and Labour met the parties on 1st February 1947.

The power-house and clerical staff of the Kamala Mills, who struck work as a protest against the misbehaviour of the workers towards them, have agreed to resume work on 29th January 1947.

The Secretary, Andhra Paper Mills Workers Union, Rajahmundry, has served a notice of strike on the Andhra Paper Mills Company, Limited, Rajahmundry, on 2nd January 1947 intimating that the workers would go on strike from 24th January 1947 if their demands for recognition of the Union, payment of increased wages and dearness allowance, leave facilities, etc., are not conceded by the management. The Commissioner of Labour has recommended to Government that the dispute may be referred to the District Judge, East Godavari, for adjudication under the Defence of India Rules. The Union has postponed the strike to 8th February 1947.

The Secretary of the Divisional Factory Workers Union, Gudivada, has reported that the workers of Sri Krishna Rice Mills, Arigoppula, struck work on 4th January 1947 as the management had refused to meet the demands of the workers for increase of wages and dearness allowance. The Labour Officer, Bezwada, and the District Magistrate, Kistna, have been asked to bring about a settlement of the dispute and to advise the workers to resume work pending the result of the Court of Enquiry recommended for Rice and Oil Mills in the Province. The orders of Government on the proposal of the Commissioner of Labour to appoint a Court of Enquiry for rice and oil mills in the Province are awaited.

The Secretary, Municipal Workers Union, Masulipatam, has issued a notice of strike intimating that the municipal employees would go on strike if their demands for increased wages, one month's salary as bonus, etc., are not conceded before 20th January 1947. The District Magistrate, Kistna, is looking into the matter.

The General Secretary, Mahalakshmi Mills Labour Union, Pasumalai, issued a notice of strike to the Manager, Mahalakshmi Textile Mills, Ltd., on 14th January 1947 intimating that the workers would go on strike from 28th January 1947 if the management did not concede the demands made in the union memorandum, dated 30th November 1946, and to grant interim relief to textile workers sanctioned in G.O. Ms. No. 4637, Development, dated 18th December 1946. The workers struck work on 28th January 1947.

The workers of the Shoranur Metal Industries have struck work. The management and the President of the Shoranur Metal Workers Union have been asked to meet the Commissioner of Labour on or before 3rd February 1947 at Madras.

The President of the Standard Furniture Company Labour Union, Chalapuram, has issued a notice of strike on 17th January 1947 to the

Managing Director of the Company intimating that the workers will go on strike on 10th February 1947 if their demands for increased wages, reinstatement of workers, etc., are not conceded. The Commissioner of Labour visited Calicut on 28th January 1947 and discussed the demands with the management and representatives of the union and suggested certain terms for settlement. The Labour Officer, Calicut, has been asked to take further action in the matter.

The Standard Tile and Clay Workers Union and the workers of the Calicut Tile Works have served notices of strike on the managements of tile factories demanding recognition of the unions, increase in the basic wages and dearness allowance, etc. The workers struck work on 27th January 1947 in spite of the advice of the Commissioner of Labour to await his arrival on 28th January 1947. The Commissioner visited Calicut on 28th January 1947 and settled the dispute. The workers resumed work on 29th January 1947.

The President of the West Coast Electric Workers Union, Calicut, has issued a notice of strike to Messrs. Chandria & Co., Madras, intimating that the workers will go on strike on 5th February 1947 if their demands for increase in the staff, leave facilities, increments, dearness allowance, etc., are not conceded by the management. The Commissioner of Labour will meet the management and the President of the Union at Madras on 3rd February 1947 and try to bring about a settlement.

The Nellore Ceramic Labour Congress, Nellore, has issued a notice of strike to the Managing Director, the Indian Ceramics, Ltd., Nellore, intimating the decision of the workers to go on strike from 27th January 1947 if their demands for recognition of the union, payment of full salary for the period during which the factory was closed from 14th December 1946 to 2nd January 1947, fixation of minimum wages, etc., are not conceded by that management. The Congress has postponed the strike on the advice of the Andhra Provincial Congress Committee, the Labour Officer, Bezwada, and the Parliamentary Secretary to the Hon'ble Premier. The further report of the Labour Officer is awaited.

The Secretary, Textile Labour Union, Gudiyattam, has served a notice of strike on the Managing Director, Thirumagal Mills, Ltd., Gudiyattam, intimating that the workers would go on strike any day after 25th January 1947 if their demands for bonus of 6 months wages, reinstatement of victimized workers and leave facilities are not conceded by the management. The

workers have been advised not to resort to strike pending the result of the Court Enquiry.

Sri P. R. K. Sarma, B.A., M.L.C., President of the Parry's Employees Union, Ranipet, has issued a notice of strike to the General Manager, Messrs. Parry & Co., Ltd., Ranipet, intimating that the employees of the company will go on strike from 1st February 1947 if their demands for recognition of the union, increased wages and dearness allowance, bonus, holidays, etc., are not conceded by the management. The Commissioner of Labour discussed the demands of the union with the management and representative of the union and suggested certain terms of settlement. They will meet the Commissioner again on 1st February 1947.

The Secretary, Mangalore Tile Workers' Union, has issued a notice of strike to the managements of tile factories in Mangalore intimating that the workers will go on strike after 3rd February 1947 if their demands for recognition of the union, increase of wages, three months wages as bonus, etc., are not conceded. The Labour Officer, Calicut, has been instructed to proceed to Mangalore and to settle the dispute on the lines of the settlement effected by the Commissioner in Calicut on 28th January 1947.

Four thousand and five hundred workers of the Madura Mills Company, Ltd., Tuticorin, continue to be on strike from 26th December 1946. On 17th January 1947 a hartal was observed in Tuticorin in sympathy with the strikers. The Government asked the District Magistrate to instruct the workers to resume work as the dispute has been referred to a Court of Enquiry with the District and Sessions Judge, Tinnevely, as its sole member. The factory has been reopened on 30th January 1947.

The tannery workers at the Sembattu Tannery belonging to the D. & S., Ltd., Palakarai, Trichinopoly, struck work on 22nd January 1947 all on a sudden demanding work instead of leave for the 10 days leave period. On the intervention of the Inspector of Factories, Trichinopoly, the dispute was settled and work was resumed.

The President, Vizagapatam Sugars and Refinery Workers Union, Tummupala, Anakapalle, has served a notice of strike on the management of the Vizagapatam Sugars and Refinery, Ltd., Anakapalle, intimating that the workers would go on strike on 20th January 1947 if their demand for basic pay of Rs. 30 per mensem to each worker, and 2 months pay as bonus, etc., are not conceded by the management. The Commissioner of

(Continued on page 23)

Public Safety Ordinance

Premier Defends Policy

In reply to the debate on the Public Safety Ordinance, the Premier said on 10th February 1947 in the Assembly that what the communists sought was to let loose a reign of terror in the country, and a reign of terror had no place in this country. Extracts of the speech are given below :

"This is one of the few debates which may be characterized as a full-dress debate. The Opposition on this occasion consisted of the opposition of the Leader of the Opposition and others of his party mainly. One has to consider very carefully this matter : what induced the Hon. Leader of the Opposition to second this proposition and to speak in support of it and why should his colleagues in his party have also followed it up ? It was a matter for thought at any rate so far as I am concerned. I did not wish to obstruct the Leader of the Opposition when he threw himself on the other side, on any technical ground—on the ground that what he was talking and what he was referring to as the sufferings of the Muslim population of this Province had no bearing upon this resolution. I did not wish to object, although he and I knew many more things perhaps than what he had referred to and many more things than what I am going to refer to just now.

"I am anxious, Sir, that what has been maintained in this Province of ours during all the troublesome months that have preceded should be maintained hereafter also. It is a miracle that made us escape certain consequences in regard to this matter; the miracle did not come from heaven; the miracle came from out of the people themselves. Members of both the communities, or to put it more correctly, members of the Muslim community and members of other communities put together, had realized the danger of losing their way and going off the track. I say, Sir, deliberately, with full responsibility and consciousness, that it is the people concerned mainly, and the leadership next, that managed to keep things within proper limits.

"Everywhere it was a matter of wonder and surprise and appreciation that Madras had been so quiet during these troublesome days. More than once I believed with the Leader of the Opposition that Madras might be giving the lead not only in one direction but in several directions even with regard to this communal tension that had been prevailing in other parts of the Presidency.

"But, Sir, everything is in the mind. It is the mind that creates; it is the mind that destroys. According to certain scientists and according to certain doctrines it is the mind that creates the

world and it is the mind that destroys this world also. My hon. Friend, the Leader of the Opposition, although he looks like a layman seeming to know nothing of this world, is a man who is up-to-date with regard to the latest developments in science also. He knows it, and I happened to know it only recently during my incarceration for three years. I came to know the truth about all these religions and religious differences and the contentions of the various parties. Either in religious matters or in political matters one thing that every one of us should remember is this : this world with which we are concerned is not the only thing in this universe. What is called earth here is one of seven worlds even according to the latest scientists.

"Now, Sir, what is it that man has got to do peculiarly in this world ? Man has got to carry out certain duties which he laid down and enjoined upon himself for the purpose of regulating society. For all men of all religions, of all nationalities, there is only one God, one religion and one duty, and that is, to serve mankind first and himself afterwards and then leave this world. This has been the doctrine in almost all the religions, but now that is said to be in conflict. As a matter of fact, Sir, there is no conflict and there should be no conflict, strictly speaking.

"Now, Sir, changes have crept in from generation to generation, from yugam to yugam, from century to century and all the old principles have been abandoned. We have now been reduced to this position of each man for himself, each country for itself, each group for itself, never mind all the rest, let each one take care of himself. It is a very unfortunate position. It is this position that we are now obliged to tackle in this province and also in other parts of the country.

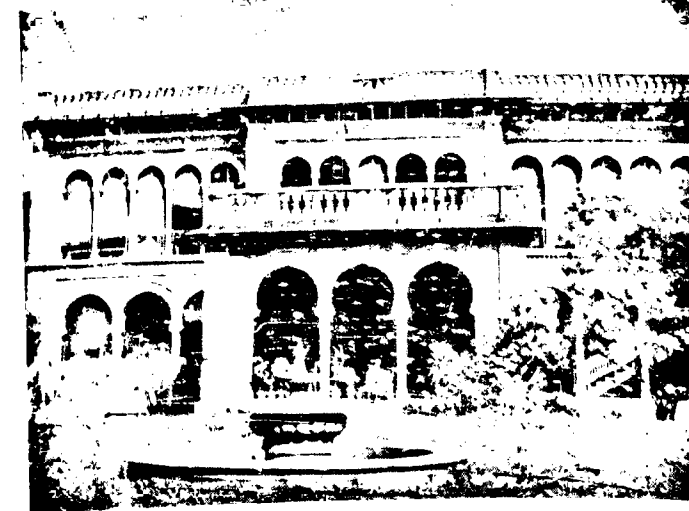
"Karl Marx, the author of the communist doctrine, lived for thirty years as an exile in England, because he was not allowed to live in his own country and even in his place of adoption. During those thirty years, he evolved certain doctrines. The rules he laid down are rules which will last for ever so long as the world lasts. Karl Marx's communism has been dealt with by the

MADRAS IN PICTURES—V

Egmore Area



Egmore Railway Station



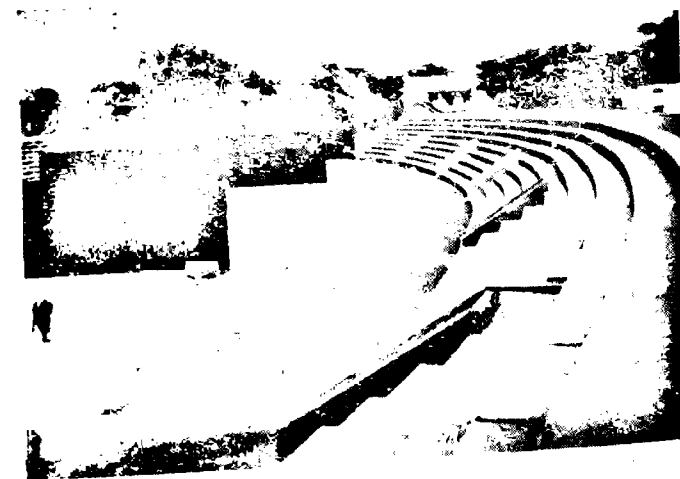
Record Office, Egmore



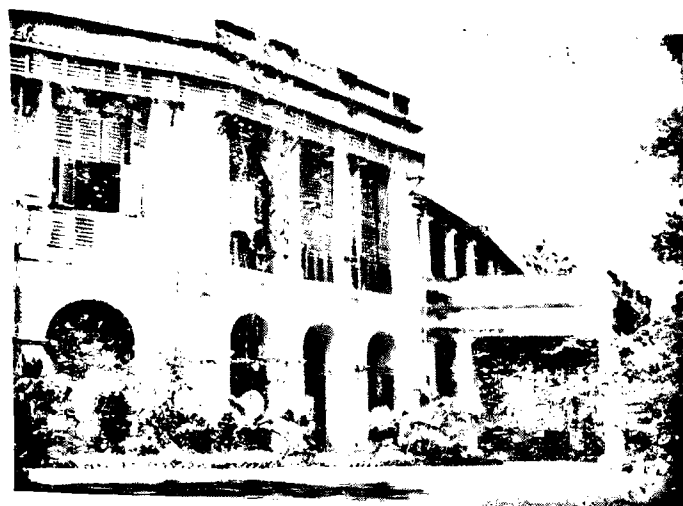
Office of the Director of Public Instruction



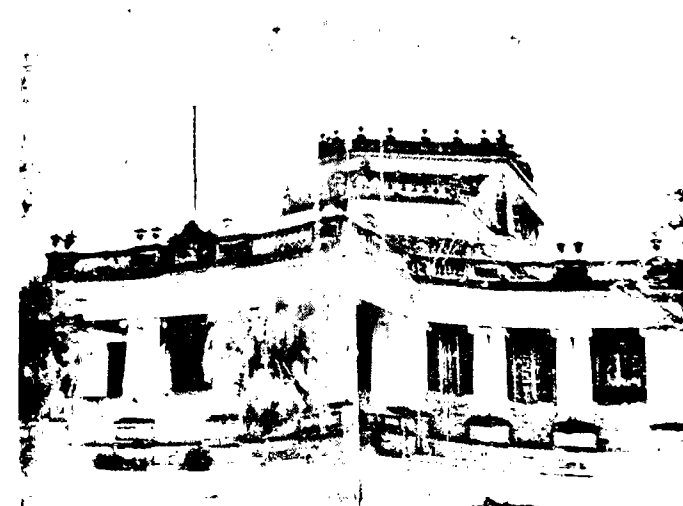
Maternity Hospital, Egmore



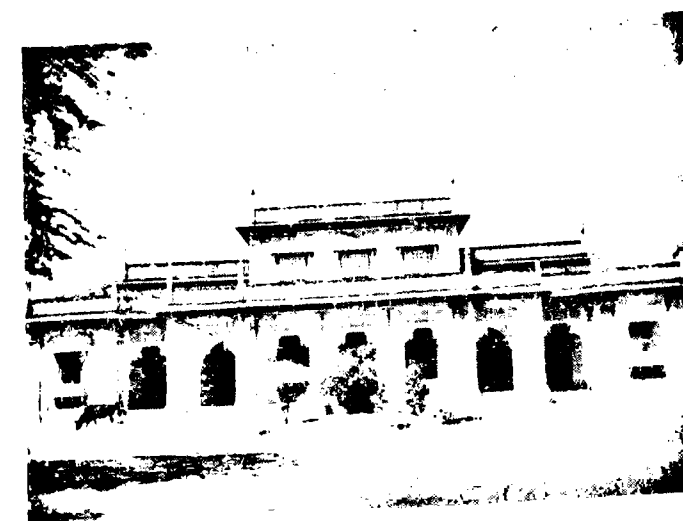
Corporation Tennis Stadium, Egmore



Police Commissioner's Office



Office of the Director of Public Health, Egmore



Literary Society's Library

FEBRUARY 22, 1947]

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MADRAS INFORMATION

24/



T. B. Hospital



Office of the Public Services Commission



Connemara Hotel, Mount Road



Muslim College, Mount Road

best of professors in this world. They have commented upon it; they have written treatises upon it; they have dealt with all the doctrines in all possible manners. Karl Marx's doctrines have not however been adopted in the country for which they were evolved, and they were proscribed and could not be adopted in other countries which wanted to adopt them. We have now come upon communism in this country of ours. We know the origin and the growth and the present position of communism in this country. There have been evolving communists within the Congress in this country from time to time. The present communism in India and in our Province cannot be said to be the communism recognized by Karl Marx or by any of the other countries in the world. What has happened to communism now? There is no rule, no regulation, no toleration, and nothing is to be recognized in this world, although the Secretary of this association in Bombay has denied recently a statement to this effect that had been published. What is that statement? He is the one gentleman who had been giving instructions to all his followers in the country to carry on this programme of his. Up to a point he was all right. Then he changed his attitude and went over the country and taught them, 'well, the methods you have been adopting will not be sufficient; without violence we will not succeed in these matters; you must take to violence.' That was his preaching. From that date it was that his violence of a brutal nature came into being and has been carried on.

"Our opponents have been charging us: 'You ought to have taken care already. You must have applied the criminal laws, the Criminal Procedure Code, the Civil Procedure Code and the Criminal Law Amendment Act. You have got so many laws; you ought to have exhausted all of them before coming to this ordinance.' My friends who are arguing like this, are detaching themselves from actual facts. Theories could be argued by non-lawyers as well as lawyers. Theories have got their own place. But this is past the stage of theory. What is it that we have omitted to do during the last ten months of our existence here? When we saw signs of deterioration in communism, we tried our best to dissuade the communists and also to persuade and convince them of the futility of their propaganda and of their actions. We failed; we applied section 144 wherever it was necessary. I may tell you, Sir, that in this Province of ours, the police officers have been serving not this Congress or during the two years and four months some ten years back when congress was in office, but other Governments as well that had been in

existence: they were serving several other Governments also according to the policy laid down by those Governments, according to directions given by them. In that way, I may tell you, Sir, the Police department has become expert in these matters. When anything is suggested by some members of Government, say, a man like myself, a layman, they know what to do. They know every section of every Act, every Code; and files will show how they were pointing out that you cannot lay your hands upon a man unless you are provided with this power and that. All these things, they knew so well, and therefore they wanted in every way to give effect to the law as it stood and to the law as usually applied. It was not until the very end that the Police department itself came to realize that it was no good adopting absolutely constitutional methods. Constitutional methods I knew as a lawyer, as a pleader when I was practising in this High Court and in all the courts of this Presidency. I know about all laws. I knew all about the method also. But those things are different from the administration of a country. The Police department has been trained in such a manner that it would consider well whether the law should be applied as in the statute or we should go beyond it, and that department also would suggest whenever amendments have to be made. Therefore no method open to any Government in the world was left unapplied in this Province of ours. It is unfair to say, 'Where were you, what were you doing, why did you do this or that, why did you not put them in a Court, why did you not give them a trial?' It is all very easy to say that and the reply has been given by all those members who have come from the districts, who have actually witnessed what is going on there. Cases are pending to-day; I have not placed the number of cases that are actually pending to-day before you. In the Golden Rock discussion, I referred to various matters which I now do not want to repeat in detail. Cases have been pending from then until now. What is it that we have not tried to do? What is it that we have omitted to do in the matter of doing things properly? Nothing has been left undone, you may take it from me. When the hour of trial comes for us, there will be evidence on record here to show that all that was humanly possible has been tried, that all existing laws have been applied and that all that was legal has been tried. You will find many documents showing how in the various Provinces, mischief had been done by a section of the press by writing all kinds of things. Except in Madras, I do not think in any Province the mischief done by writings in the Press has been tolerated as it has been tolerated in this Presidency of ours.

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What is it that has been done? We had provisions to apply against these writings of the Press. But even those writings were tolerated. We thought, 'Let them write; perhaps after writing, they will find out very soon that they are wrong and they will change.'

"Unfortunately that was not the case. One Malayalam paper, one Tamil paper in the City of Madras and one Telugu paper in Bezwada, all the three linked together, all the organizations roped in,—what has been going on, you have no idea. Descriptions have been given. You have heard how people entered houses openly, how they stabbed people to death. Do you think, Sir, all these things could have happened if there had been anything like a Government going on here? I take the charge when you say 'You ought to have applied this Ordinance long ago.' I say we did not wish to apply the Ordinance earlier. We waited because we have gone through the whole of this mill ourselves for the past 26 years, we have suffered in the past, we have suffered in silence; we tolerated all this. But here, it is not toleration; it is trying all other methods in the hope that nothing untoward may happen in this Province. It was only when all methods were tried and all of them failed that we had recourse to this.

"I was feeling very very anxious, Sir, when certain points were referred to by the hon. Leader of the Opposition. Now, if I take chapter and verse in reply to him, what would we find? We would find that writings in the Press were largely responsible for the situation in this Province. Allow me to tell you, Sir, no one can claim at this hour to have known more about the Hindu-Muslim riots in India than myself. From the first Multan riots in the South Punjab, 22 or 23 riots I have known of and witnessed. I knew everything immediately after the occurrences. What would have happened in other parts of the world if such things had been going on? The Press is responsible for the whole thing, I may tell you, as I have recorded in those days in a paper which I was then in charge of and which I was editing in those days. I had gone and witnessed everything in the first Multan riot, in the second Meerut riot, in the third Shahjehanpur riot and so on. How all these things came up, I know,—on account of the writings in the Press. After all, about what? Not about the full freedom of this country. I can really understand riots happening and people ranging themselves on this side or that for securing full freedom for this country. But these happened for the sake of jobs and jobs alone and nothing else. Look into

the objects! Those files are there still, if not in our library, in other places. Inadequacy of jobs, for this community or that community! Where is the freedom of the land? And what have we been doing? We are all educated men, as we call ourselves. All these 26 years, this thing has been going on in this country and for the sake of a few seats, a few places, a few Executive Councillorships or some other jobs. That is the whole secret of the history of this Hindu-Muslim trouble in this country as in other countries. Even to-day, take this Province, or any other Province and find out how much time we are wasting over these questions, how vindictive we are becoming towards each other. In the whole of India, there are parties and parties. We have had, in one Province, four groups, five groups, and six groups being formed when all of them have been returned to one Legislative Assembly to carry on business on behalf of the people who have sent them there. We have forgotten the important point. We have been taken away from our moorings and we have been drifting on. That is why all this misery and all this trouble have come about. These Communists came, became a party; they wanted to take the whole of the country from the hands of the Congress; they started their work; they applied themselves at psychological moments to certain methods; they have developed their position and it has become an uphill work now for the Congress people after they came out of jail to control these Communist organizations and Communist activities.

"Up to a point, they were also within the limits, i.e., so long as they contended that they were Communists and they wanted to go ahead with the Congress programme saying, 'we want to get freedom for the people much earlier and we are part of the Congress.' I still remember Communist leaders getting upon the Congress platforms, stating their case and fighting their cause from the Congress platform itself, all under the creed of truth and non-violence. Then they broke off at a particular point. After having broken off, they tried to see whether they would be able to carry these things easily, without having recourse to violence; but they found it difficult to dislodge the Congress organization which has spread all over the country, amongst all people. Failing in that, they are now having recourse to these violent methods.

"Now, Sir, the General Secretary of the Communist Organization in Bombay was reported to have stated in the instructions given by him to his followers in the country,—I am giving only the substance and not the actual words—'Those

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who reap the harvest of this year, those who can succeed in reaping the harvest of this year, will be the real victors in the political struggle.' What does it mean? I do not want to persist in repeating the statement, which he has considered necessary to issue either yesterday or day before yesterday. Such statements we have heard on the floor of this House also,—statements to the effect that the Prime Minister's hands would be cut off, his head would be cut off, his legs would be cut off and he would be thrown to the winds and so on. Is this the kind of literature that should be spread in this country and is this the kind of teaching that should be given to the masses in this land of ours? No it is not. Therefore I am pointing out to you how this Communist menace has come upon this country and how we of all men in this world have been forced to take up this question irrespective of consequences.

"What are the points urged by some of my hon. friends, good friends sitting on the other side, friends like hon. Mr. Hameed Khan and others? In their eloquence they said, 'you have forfeited the confidence of the country; you have forfeited the confidence of certain sections of your own party. You have dissatisfied those people against whom you have passed orders; you have dissatisfied those people against whose interests you have introduced co-operative societies; you have dissatisfied so many other people; all around you have made enemies; and how are you going to survive in this land, how are you going to hold office?' I ask, is this office worth holding for five minutes if we are going to sell ourselves for the sake of purchasing some votes and for purchasing the support of a few people. I cannot reconcile myself to this. I have lived so long in this country. I feel absolutely strong enough to-day (Hear hear) to accept any challenge and to prove that you are wrong and not myself, and the truth is like that. If I am wrong, I do not hesitate for a moment to withdraw and apologise, because I have been doing my business clearly so that nobody can say that I am doing things unreasonably and unnecessarily. It has been said in this House, you have dissatisfied everybody, you have done this and done that. I am not afraid of that. We will not hold this office for one day longer if it is proved that we have been doing anything wrong in this country or in this Province of ours. I can be fighting the Leader of the European group on many matters: I can still believe that his heart is in its proper place and that he is sound and his judgment is sound. Similarly, I can be fighting the Leader of the Opposition and his party, but

I am absolutely certain that the fighting will be only up to a point; I know their heart and they cannot do anything wrong by themselves when questions of principle and service to the country are concerned. It is only with that hope that we have been working on this side. We are not in the least deflected by what has been said wrongly by some of my own misguided friends. I have to look at everything. I attribute everything to ignorance which is a human weakness. In this country of ours, the Communists say, 'you are wrong, you have trampled under foot the elementary human rights when you have promulgated this Ordinance and rounded up all these men.' If you establish that we have failed, we shall walk out and you will take this place and we have no objection to it. On the other hand, we have established—and we have been establishing—that whatever step was taken by us in this direction was perfectly justified and only justifiable things have been done by us.

"Sir, so far as this proposition is concerned, Mr. Vedaratnam Pillai of Tanjore spoke at great length and those who could understand the language will have realised the situation in Tanjore. From Coimbatore Mr. K. Subramaniam and from Salem Mr. Kandaswami Pillai spoke about what happened in their respective districts. What did Mr. Kandaswami Pillai say? He said, there was some trouble between Hindus and Muslims; but they made up the quarrel and even money compensation was paid, not by consulting the Prime Minister or the Government, but they made up the whole thing themselves. Big matters of non-compoundable cases came up before the Court and although the law says that certain cases cannot be compounded—they were laws enacted by the British Government after they established their rule here—what did they do? The parties who quarrelled among themselves, who tried to destroy one another's property, even without going to courts and asking for compensation, realising exactly who suffered the loss, arranged for the payment of compensation to the party concerned; and thus they settled among themselves. Nothing is of greater significance to me and to all those who are associated with this Government to see that matters like this are settled in that manner.

"Sir, a description of what happened in Madura was given and in regard to what happened in Ramnad, the position has been explained clearly. I was clearly following what the hon. Muslim member representing Ramnad was feeling with regard to the matter. I am a man, Sir, who is not confined merely to the papers placed on my

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table here in the Secretariat but I am one of those who are trying to understand beyond that. Within this short period there is no place which I have not covered. Although I have not undertaken tours in the districts where I was anxious to go and see the people and where the people also were anxious to meet me, yet, I have been visiting the troublesome places and acquainting myself with the happenings. I am one of those who are trying to understand, not merely from the papers or the literature that we get here but from actual facts also. I have always got the hope that when we come face to face with the people against whom we are fighting, everything will be solved. Take for instance the case of Vaniyambadi. Nobody can feel more than myself after witnessing what had happened there. Although damage to property had been made, Sir, deaths did not occur. It is unimaginable, unthinkable that people could restrain themselves to that extent and keep peace ('hear, hear' from the Muslim group). And the moment the trouble started, they formed peace committees themselves—ten Hindus and ten Muslims formed themselves into a peace committee from the very beginning of the outbreak, as it were, and they tried to go round to all places and maintain peace. It is in the place and not the Ministry in Madras or even the Police which they have got or even the military which they could command. That is why I argued among friends and told them, 'how long can the Police protect you and your homes; how long can even the military be protecting you?' The so-called freedom, the provincial autonomy, or Indian independence is sought for. For what purpose? It is to enable people to stand on their own legs, to manage their own homes properly, maintain discipline in their own homes and to protection not only to families but also to the neighbourhood. It has been the duty cast upon us by the ancestors from whom we have inherited it. Because we had taken to something frivolous and useless and lost ourselves, we have not been able to apply ourselves to it. What happened in Vaniyambadi? We have to go through law; we have to go through so many formalities before compensation could be given. What compensation could be given, I am asking, in a place like Bihar, where thousands and thousands have been massacred? What law can provide for all these things? It is the duty of the people to maintain law and order, and not merely the duty of the police, nor of the Ministers who can be taken on hand and tossed up like a toy with all kinds of

attacks. Therefore with regard to Vaniyambadi we have not been sitting idle. The matter is pending before the Court and I do not like to say anything more at the moment.

"I was in Salem where I was cross-examined by some of the public. There was shooting by the Police—I am supposed to be a policeman also because I am in charge of the subject. In one of the papers, a description was given of me as one with a string of skulls round my neck; though anything could have been done with regard to the papers which published it, we kept quiet. Never mind; they will soon understand what the truth is about all these things.

"Therefore, I am submitting to you, Sir, let there be no miscalculation, no wrong understanding or wrong impression created in people's minds. Excitement is caused when matters of religion are concerned and it will lead to various troubles. But I do congratulate the people of the Province as a whole, particularly the Muslim population ('hear, hear' from the Muslim group) and the population of the other communities for the way in which they have been co-operating with this Government and for the way in which they have been trying to maintain law and order. The communists alone said, 'go to hell all of you put together; you have no land here.' If it is the Government land, you have got rules and regulations; revenue laws provide for the assessment of those who encroach upon the land. The communists challenged the Government and occupied land extending to 600 or 700 acres and said, we have got possession of the land and we are the masters. It is a challenge to the existence of the Government itself. That is so far as Government land is concerned. With regard to private lands they challenged the people saying, we are the people who have come with so much force and who on earth can prevent us; can your police prevent us or your military prevent us; we occupy it; we take away all the crops and so on. That is the sort of thing that is going on. The other day in Delhi one responsible member said to me that the things I described as going on in my province, were going on in his province as well. There was a meeting of Prime Ministers on one occasion where we had to compare notes with regard to each province with a view to find out what we were doing and what we should be doing hereafter. It is easy for people to say, well, did you consult or take advice; you have done everything yourself. I have learnt much during the last 14 or 15 months, more than what I have

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learnt during all my lifetime. Mistakes I may be making, but I do not make mistakes in the manner in which some of my wise friends imagine that I would be making. I might not have consulted or taken the help or advice of others, but we are going on with our business with the full knowledge of facts.

"Therefore, I am submitting to you, Sir, and to the members of this House, that this is a measure on which I wanted to avoid a discussion. I wanted to have a full discussion on the Bill that we would be introducing shortly. The Bill is getting ready and we have been anxious also to take note of all the criticisms that have been made by my hon. colleagues in the Congress Legislature Party and also on the floor of this House, and we have been trying to produce a measure which may give, and I hope, will give, satisfaction to all. This measure, let me assure you, will not hold the field and not be law for one day more than the required period. No undue severity will be shown to any of those gentlemen who have been dealt with under this Ordinance.

"Sir, this is a measure which has received such a great discussion on the part of the whole House and I should have been very glad if the communists had recognized that what we say is true, though they might differ from us in regard to details. The main things are not creations; the main things are there. What are the main things? They are looting, burning even with regard to foodstuffs that are essential for the people's living. What is this Communism? I do not really understand it. You destroy everything that man produces for his purpose and for the benefit of other people. They ought to admit at least to this extent: 'we have gone wrong, we are sorry for it, we cancel that from our programme; hereafter, we shall not be doing that.' Every effort has been made to get something out of them so far as I am concerned, but such a disillusionment never came upon me as has done in this case. Therefore, we were obliged to take up the matter; it was a challenge thrown by the communists on a Government duly constituted and to the people who live in peace and to all others. A reign of error can have no place in this country of ours. They say they have thousands of dumb people who can march with them and do everything. It is a challenge that we did accept and we will see that this state of affairs does not continue in this Province. This state of affairs ought not to continue in any province if there should be any Government at all.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AT WORK

(Continued from page 17)

Labour recommended to Government that the dispute may be referred for adjudication. The Government have in their Order Ms. No. 322, Development Department, dated 27th January 1947, referred the dispute to the District and Sessions Judge, Vizagapatam, for adjudication under the Defence of India Rules.

III Food

In partial modification of the orders issued in Board's Reference No. 631-K4/46, dated 4th July 1946, all Rationing Officers and Collectors have been instructed that the extra ration to school children for midday meals should be issued in future in the shape of rice or wheat and wheat products or both according to the request of the authorities conducting the midday meal centres.

Iron and Steel Control

Early in November 1946, the Government of India issued a Press Note outlining a new scheme for the distribution of iron and steel. Madras Province has been allotted a quota of 7 750 tons each for periods I and II in 1947. This allotment will be made available through the registered stockholders in the Province and is intended to meet the requirements of the general public, including small manufacturers of consumer goods.

The Director of Industries and Commerce, Madras, has been nominated the Provincial authority for the distribution of this quota. Consumers of iron and steel among the general public should, therefore, apply to him for their requirements.

GOVERNOR'S ADVICE TO POLICE FORCE

(Continued from page 12)

therefore, vital that the police force should, at all times; and in all circumstances, give their complete loyalty to the Government duly selected by the people, irrespective of any other consideration. I would warn you all never to listen to any man or to any organization which seeks to cause unrest or agitation within the police, or which seeks to seduce you from your loyalty to the Government which you serve. If such disloyalty creeps in, it would mean the end of all orderly Government, and chaos would ensue."

In conclusion His Excellency assured the police force that in the proper execution of their duties they might expect and would receive the full support of the Government.

Hope and Relief to our Unfortunate Brethren

Lady Nye Inaugurates Provincial Welfare Fund

The following are extracts from the speech delivered by Her Excellency Lady Nye at the inaugural meeting of the Madras Provincial Welfare Fund



Her Excellency Lady Nye

Preventible Misery

It is now about nine months since my husband became Governor of Madras and during those nine months I have visited with him most of the 25 districts in this Province, and while I have been in the City I have also taken every possible opportunity to see the conditions in the slums, the hospitals and other welfare centres. So that you should understand something of the reasons why we are going to launch this Fund. I feel that I must tell you some of my personal experiences during the last few months. If I stress the personal aspect, it is only because I want you to realize that I am making this appeal because of what I have seen myself of the needs of this Province rather than from what others have told me. Frankly I have been horrified at the hardship, ill-health and misery which exist all around us. In our hospitals I have seen patients lying under beds, as well as between them, for lack of space. I have seen a man dying in

front of me because there was no X-Ray within 120 miles of the hospital where he lay, and it was not possible to move him. I have seen an open drain crawling with beetles and other imaginable filth running through a shed acting as the tubercular ward of a hospital. I have seen in the corner of dark slum dwelling a man and a baby too weak to stand because the mother had died and the man had no relations with whom to leave the child while he went out to work and earn money for them both. These are just a few of my experiences. But if these instances come to one's own personal knowledge in such a short time, I shudder to think of all the misery which I myself do not see. And those of you, who have so much more experience than I, must know even better how widespread is the preventible hardship in our Province. You will notice that I have used the word 'preventible,' and I have done so deliberately, because I feel so much can be done to prevent this terrible suffering. I don't believe that there is one man or woman who does not wish with all his heart to do what he or she can, to alleviate these appalling conditions. It is because I am so sure of this that I have had the courage and the faith to bring together so many citizens of this Province in order that an appeal of this magnitude may be launched.

Indian Tradition for Charity

India has a tremendous tradition for charity. Probably there is no other country in the world whose citizens give so readily to help lessen the sufferings of their fellowmen. Deep-rooted in the hearts of the people and in the religions of this country is the obligation to hold out a helping hand to another in distress. Throughout the country, there are innumerable evidences of the charity of wealthy men to be seen by even the most casual observer. In asking people to give to this Fund, therefore, we are not asking them to do something with which they are unfamiliar; we are not asking them to do something which is strange or new; we are not asking them to depart from their habits or customs. What we hope to be able to do is to produce a machinery,

Plea for the abolition of the Zamindari System

Mr. Karanth's speech in the Council

The following is the speech made by the Hon'ble Sri K. R. Karanth, Minister for Revenue, in the Council, on 31st January 1947 urging the acceptance, in principle, of the abolition of the Zamindari system.

Moving the resolution,

"That this Council accepts the principle of the abolition of the Zamindari system in this Province and recommends to Government legislation for it providing for payment of equitable compensation to Zamindars and other intermediaries whose rights are to be acquired be brought forward at an early date."

The Hon'ble Sri K. R. Karanth observed:—
"This House is aware of the position of the Zamindari system. The House was good enough to approve of a measure in its last sitting in regard

to the stay of eviction of tenants and also the preservation of forests in Zamindari areas. In that connexion certain aspects of this system were gone into. I will briefly state a few matters which will be relevant for the purpose of this resolution. So far as the previous history of this is concerned, I shall try to be very brief.

After the British Conquest

When the British came into this Province and conquered, if I may use the word, portion after portion at an unsettled time they thought it best to entrust the collection of revenue to certain important persons—chieftains and rulers in certain places—and they entered into agreements with them. In 1802 they passed the patta and other regulations concerning this agreement. You are aware how this obtains in about one-fifth of the Province. Later experience showed to them, as

an organization, which will capitalise the good will and generosity of the people; which will spend the money collected wisely and well and for the greatest benefit of the greatest number, and which will continue as an organization irrespective of any of the individuals composing it.

Objects of Welfare Fund

First of all as to our objects, we hope to be able to help any welfare project or any social service, and it will be for the Central Committee to decide from time to time what projects can properly be regarded as worthy of support. Hospitals and hospital equipment, maternity and child-welfare centres and creches would clearly come within the terms of our objects.

We shall have a Central Committee which will consist of leading citizens with knowledge and experience of public affairs and conditions in the Province. They will have a strong Executive Committee with a number of sub-committees whose responsibilities will broadly be that of raising funds on the one hand, and of approving proposals for expenditure on the other.

But the basis of the whole organization must be that of the District Committees. On them will rest the responsibility of raising money in their own districts, and this will perhaps be the most important, and certainly the most difficult task ahead of us. They will, I am sure, realize that

the success of the subscription list will depend not so much on the generosity of a few rich men, but on the gifts however small, of a large number of people, whose individual contributions may be apparently insignificant but the cumulative effect of which will be enormous. The District Committees will explain to all concerned that whilst money may be given to the Central Committee for expenditure as they think fit, it will be open to any man, or any group of men, or any village, to subscribe money for any particular object approved by the Central Committee.

The District Committees will be responsible for recommending concrete projects for approval and for making proposals for expenditure to the Central Committee whose business it will be to sanction such proposals as come within the objects of the Fund.

Will Help All

I have almost done. I would like to tell you that this Fund is intended to help all, irrespective of caste or creed or politics. Whatever differences we may have between us all we have this in common. We are human beings, we are fathers and mothers, sons and daughters, we know what suffering is and we know what pity is. Some of us have been blessed with the good things of life, and surely it should be our duty as well as our pleasure to do all we can to pass on our own happiness to those less fortunate.

to many other Provincial Governments in India, that the system was not a good one. Therefore, we have what is called the "ryotwari system," but in these areas with which we are now concerned we shall follow up things briefly as we proceed from that time onwards. The peshkush was fixed according to the net revenues of the zamindars. In most cases I find they were about two-thirds of the then revenue though here and there it might vary. That peshkush was fixed with the clear understanding that the revenue to be collected from the ryots was to remain constant and not to be raised from time to time. This peshkush, you would be aware, is somewhere about Rs. 47 lakhs. Now if we take that as roughly two-thirds of the revenue, it would be somewhere about one and a half times this figure. Events have proved otherwise. In spite of the clear understanding the zamindars went on increasing the rents from time to time. This was tried to be stopped by what is known as the "Rent Recovery Act of 1865." Even that proved futile. In 1871, there was a decision of the Madras High Court by the Judges who were imbued with ideas of the landlord and tenant system in England which went to the length of saying that the tenants could be evicted. This gave rise to a very grave situation and therefore the Board of Revenue then recommended to the Government that legislation should be brought in, in order to secure permanency of tenure to ryots. From 1871 to 1908, a period of more than thirty years, it passed Bills for this purpose and in 1908, we have what is called "The Madras Estates Land Act." Even that did not serve the purpose because it did not define what the proper rent was to be but allowed the existing rents, which were already high at that time, to continue. Only permanency was secured. From 1908 onwards till 1937, when Congress took office in this Province, it was again a tale of further woe and misery to the ryot population. Then, as this House is aware, a resolution was passed in both Houses appointing a Committee, of which the present Hon'ble the Premier was the Chairman, to go into the whole question of the Zamindari system and made recommendations for relief. This Committee went into the whole question thoroughly and submitted its report in 1938. It was adopted in both the Houses. Government were asked to bring in legislation on these lines. Later on in 1939, the Congress left office and you are all aware how things have happened since then. In 1940, there was in Bengal, where they have a similar though not the same system, what is known as "Floude Commission" which recommended the abolition of the Zamindari system. In 1945, there

was a Commission to report on famine. That also went into this question. In 1946, when the Congress went into the elections, it framed its manifesto under which it was made very clear to the whole country that the land revenue system of the whole of India where elections were held, would be altered and it went much farther than its manifesto in 1937 which was only for reducing rents and revenue.

Now, the position that was taken by it was to remove all intermediaries between the cultivator of the soil and the State. In furtherance of this principle, in September 1946, the Working Committee of the Indian National Congress called upon all Provincial Governments in which the Congress was in power, to frame their proposals in the first instance for the abolition of the Zamindari system on payment of an equitable compensation. In pursuance of this resolution, Sir, in several provinces, Bihar, United Provinces, Central Provinces and Berar, steps have been taken and some of the legislatures have approved on the lines similar to the resolution which I have placed before this House to-day for the abolition of the system and legislation is also being prepared for the acquisition of the zamindaries. Accordingly, Sir, this Government has also brought forward this resolution so that the approval of this House and of the other House may be given in order that Government may come forward with legislation and bring it at an early date. I may submit, Sir, that it is not the intention of the Government to take a long time, as is suggested outside, that this resolution is only a means of gaining time. That is not the case at all. I may mention to the credit of the previous Government, the Advisers' Government, that very many details of this had been worked out by them though on some points we may have to alter them. The question was brought up before the previous Government in connexion with the estates of the Tirupati Devasthanam. The authorities were not able to manage them and could hardly meet the expenses. Therefore they agreed to make over the estate to the Government and for that purpose even a draft Bill was prepared but when that Bill was sent to the Secretary of State he would not consent to it and matters were left there. Later on, it was suggested that the people's Ministry should take over this question and bring forward legislation. That is the purpose for which this resolution has been brought forward.

Unanimous Opinion

I may submit, Sir, that opinion is fairly unanimous that there should be an abolition of this system. The question is one of pace and of working

out details so far as compensation is concerned and the taking over of administration in a large number of zamindaries. I do not think there would be many who would argue that the system should be kept up.

Now as regards the evils of the system itself, I shall mention a few which will convince this House how the system should be ended as early as possible and legislation will not be a day too soon. I myself come from a district where there is no Zamindari system at all. During the past eight months I have toured in several districts. In the districts of Nellore, Chittoor and in the South, Ramnad and Salem, and in several other areas I have seen for myself what is happening. Everywhere there is a war going on between the zamindars on the one hand and the ryot populations on the other. The condition of the peasantry is most awful, so to say. The rents are exorbitant and unconscionable in most places. I have seen tanks breached in many areas. For the last 20 or 30 years many tank bunds have not been repaired. However, when a little water collects the tank bunds are breached up so that the beds may be given up in auction for some cultivation or for growing babul trees. I have seen such tanks myself. I have seen lands in one south zamindari where tenants have to pay rents of Rs. 22 and 24 per acre, whereas their neighbours in Ryotwari system would be paying only Rs. 9 or 10. This would be the case in spite of the fact that the tanks were in disrepair for a long time and there will not be sufficient water for cultivation. If chillies or plantain crops are grown, Rs. 90 and Rs. 100 per acre would be charged. The whole thing, I must submit, Sir, requires to be ended. Undoubtedly there may be a few exceptions here and there, but the system as a whole stands self-condemned.

Then, Sir, whereas in a ryotwari area if a crop in a year is bad, you can remit assessment in the case of zamindaries though the tanks are in disrepair for thirty or forty years, yet there is no remission because the Estates Land Act does not provide for it.

Improper Administration

Then there is absolutely no proper system of administration. There is no land survey at all in most of the zamindari areas. Without proper survey rents cannot be fixed and everyone, including the zamindar, is at the mercy of the village karnam. Then there is the endless litigation in Revenue or Civil Courts for the enhancement, commutation of rents and so on. In many cases on account of the excessive rents, the holdings

of the ryots have been sold and several ryots have been evicted from their holdings.

Then there is the question of forests. In the Chittoor district and in the South, many forests have been denuded and particularly in the last ten years after the report of the Committee because the zamindars thought that some legislation would come and hence wanted to make money while there was time for it. I made mention last time of the forests of Kangundi and Punganoor in the Chittoor district. I went inside the forests and have seen things for myself. Devastation has been going on and on such a scale that in the course of some years these areas would be reduced to the famine-stricken condition of Anantapur and Bellary. Just now for the last three months, in a certain district on account of good rains this year, there has been standing a good quantity of water in a certain tank of a certain zamindar. The ryots under the zamindar want to raise a second crop. They appealed to the Government. The zamindar insisted upon his right to breach the bund and send out the water so that he might auction the tank bed and add a few rupees to his coffers. We are helpless, unless we have recourse to section 144.

All sorts of communal lands have been given away, though under, sections 20 and 21 of the Estates Land Act, communal lands like tank beds, pathways, and such things ought not to be alienated. I know of such things done by the big zamindars in the recent past to the tune of several hundreds of acres. Grazing grounds have been assigned. That sort of thing has been going on and the whole thing has been reduced to a very chaotic condition.

An Anachronism

Therefore, I would submit that any such arrangement which has come to for the collection of revenue in 1802 by an alien Government, which found it expedient at that time to do so, cannot be agreed to by anybody in 1947 and that the fortunes of the millions of the ryots should still be entrusted to the few zamindars in these districts for their enrichment and happiness. The system cannot last any longer and therefore, any Government which calls itself progressive has to put an end to it. It is for that purpose this resolution is brought forward. I have no doubt whatever that this House will give its consent to it.

Question of Compensation

In the meanwhile, however, though the resolution might be passed still there are many questions which have to be settled. One is the question of

dealing with a large number of intermediaries. I may say that this Government and the Congress which has asked us to bring forward this legislation are committed to paying what is considered equitable compensation. It does not mean that things will be valued at a rate. If you were to reckon it at the market rate, perhaps there will be some who will say, there should be no compensation at all. There are bodies that have been pressing upon us from time to time "why do you talk of any compensation at all?" But out of consideration to an existing system, the Congress has accepted the principle of compensation, and I for one will not question it. If, however, arguments can be found to say "no compensation," it is quite easy. If you appoint an agent for the collection of revenue, and if it is found that the agent has taken lots of sums far in excess of what was understood, I would ask him to render accounts for the last 146 years. If he is prepared to do that, and if you add to that, the value of damage done to a large number of irrigation works in these decades,—I think, any agent is bound to account for all these misdeeds, which he has committed all these years. If all these things are to be taken into account, certainly he will get no compensation. Not only that; most of the zamindars may have to refund. Yet it is thought that some compensation should be paid. And what exactly is the nature of compensation, is the question. Some might say that where a certain set of people have been living a certain class of life you might give them as is done in some other countries a pension for the first generation, and something less for the second, and nil or nothing for the

third. That is one way of doing it. We are aware, Sir, that in some countries no compensation was paid even for the first generation and that they were not even allowed to remain in these countries at all. But this country does not wish to deal with them on that footing. Another way of dealing with the question is assessing the compensation on a varying multiple for principle. I understand that the Bihar Government are thinking of giving compensation somewhere between 5 to 12 times the net annual income or in the inverse ratio, that is, smaller ratio for bigger zamindaris and larger ratio for smaller zamindaris. All these things have to be settled in detail when the Bill comes before the House at the proper time. There is also the question as to what sort of administrative arrangements should be made in the interim period. In many zamindaris there is no proper management, and no proper accounting. A Dewan who collects the maximum rent or revenue is considered the best man. The whole machinery has to be overhauled in order to be taken over, and then last of all, the question of financial arrangements in order to pay off the compensation that may be decided upon. These are all matters which have to be worked out. I feel that the Government may be able to bring forward a Bill in a very short time, it may be about three months or so though one cannot be very definite in a matter of such importance. Already the work is proceeding, and we hope to bring the Bill soon if only this House approves the Resolution I have placed before it. Therefore, Sir, without taking more of the time of the House, I beg to ask for its acceptance.

Our Economic Policy

By J. C. KUMARAPPA.

With the advent of the so-called popular ministries people's minds are agitated over the policies that these ministries should follow. At the moment there is a considerable amount of loose thinking in regard to the expansion of the textile mills in Madras, which brings to the fore the question of centralization in industries.

It is not generally understood that imperialism is a child of centralized industries and now in its dotage centralized industries cannot exist without the support of imperialism.

When England took to centralized methods of production, Great Britain was not an Empire. Its economic life was based on decentralized methods of production. She was a highly cultured country

with a strong moral background. Even now when we think of her great contribution to the progress of man, we have to look back to the period before the Industrial Revolution. The best of her literature—Shakespeare, Milton and such like were Elizabethian; in art, men of the type of Sir Joshua Reynolds flourished prior to the nineteenth century. Sir Christopher Wren and his peers in architecture never saw a textile mill to afford them inspiration. Moral giants like Latimer who were British *satyagrahis*, who were prepared to lay down their lives for their convictions, never saw the power of the steam engine. We may say the Victorian Era was the darkest age in British History culturally, whatever its glamour may have been financially and materially. After the Industrial Revolution

Great Britain gained the whole world but lost its soul. Why was this?

When Great Britain took to centralized methods of production in the textile industry and was relying for her raw materials on commercial contracts with the southern States of America, she found her position was unstable, as during the American Civil War her industries were hard hit when the American cotton could not reach Manchester. She realized that if her industries were to survive, she ought to have the production of raw materials under her direct control. So she turned to India to ensure her cotton supply and keep her markets for finished goods also under her political control. This was the birth of British Imperialism.

This arrangement was found very satisfactory for the mill-owners as they were able also to saddle several items of their cost on Indian Revenue. The cost of research incidental to the production of long staple cotton, the discriminating freight rates, the shipping policy, etc., were controlled in favour of the British manufacturer. Thus their cost of production was kept low.

Violence and its cost

Apart from these, in centralized industries we have shown that the control of raw materials and markets becomes a condition precedent to the efficiency of the working of the centralized means of production. If this is granted, it means that to be able to control raw materials and markets we must obtain political power over the producers of raw materials and consumers. Today such political power can only be obtained by violent means. To enforce this power, it requires the maintenance of the army, navy and air force. Hence a strict method of accounting would demand that the costs of the maintenance of the army, navy and air force should also be charged to the centralized methods of production. Periodically wars have to be fought—the cost of wars have to form also a part of the cost of the centralized methods of production. Hence these should be charged to the cost of production. If these logical expenses were all properly charged to the beneficiaries, we can easily see that the production by mills will become prohibitive and cannot hope to compete with decentralized production in cheapness.

In our own lifetime, such has been the experience of industrialization in Japan also. She finds the need to control politically Manchuria and China. These are the irritant causes of global wars today. Do we want our country also to have a share in these nefarious activities? If not, we must steer clear of centralization in the production of consumption goods for private profit.

Dishonesty

Having decided to get the raw cotton from India and having made the Indian tax-payer pay for the researches for the Manchester mills, it became necessary to arrange for the transport of the cotton grown in India to Manchester. For this purpose, they pushed through the programme of laying out rail roads under the plea of developing the country and spent crores of rupees for this. Strictly speaking, the great need of India then was water-ways for transport of goods to our own internal markets. Instead of this, the foreign interests prevailed and we have had to spend crores of rupees for their benefit.

All these expenses—the amounts spent on cotton research and the amounts spent on developing the railways—should have been legitimately borne by the Manchester mill-owner. If this had been done, it would not have been possible for the Manchester cloth to undersell hand-spun and hand-woven cloth in India. This method of paying one's cost of production through governmental aid is a means of reducing costs of production which cannot be called "efficiency" but loot. We saw that the need to keep raw materials under the control of the mill-owner leads to imperialism and the need to keep down costs and paying part of the expenses through tax money leads to dishonesty. Thus centralized methods of production lead to imperialism and exploitation.

To illustrate this: When I was visiting Palladam *firka*, I found there an enterprising individual who had set up six looms run by a crude oil engine. He had spent about Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 25,000 on his equipment. He was able to run it for barely 18 days in the month on the yarn quota supplied from Coimbatore. He was representing his needs to me and said that if he could be supplied with half as much yarn again, he can run his unit the whole month round and reduce his expenses to such an extent as to cut down even on the mill costs of production. His raw material, viz., warps, came from Coimbatore and his finished goods were sold somewhere in the neighbourhood of Nellore. The logical course in time will be for this man to get control over his raw material producer, viz., the Coimbatore mill-owners. If he can get hold of an army of *goondas* who will, at the point of the bayonet, obtain yarn that he needs, he would be able to make his mill work more 'efficiently' than the large textile mills. Similarly, if he can get special low rates of transport for his goods to Nellore, he can again undersell the textile mills. This in miniature represents the position of all centralized industries. They have got to resort to imperialism and exploitation as a condition precedent to their existence.

Food v. Raw Material

Again to grow raw material for mills, they have had, time and again, not only to get the agricultural colleges to do their research at public cost but also they had encroached on food lands. The present day famines are in no small measure due to such encroachments. In Malabar, while I was visiting Payanoor *firka*, people informed me that in several villages the land under paddy had been reduced by about 20 per cent and in their place coconut groves have sprung up. The coconut groves were intended not for purposes of food but for supplying *copra* for the oil mills which, in their turn, were producing soap. Thus in effect it meant that rice lands were converted into producers of soap. Is it any wonder when such shifting of crops can take place that we should be subject to periodical famines?

In Malabar, I had also noticed children running about with brownish hair. When I inquired into the cause of this state of affairs, I was informed that formerly these children were bathed in coconut oil and had plenty of oil to rub on their scalps. But now the coconuts were selling practically at the same high prices as prevail in Madras, and, therefore, these children do not get the oil for their massage. In these ways centralized industries encroach on the primary requirements of our people, starve them and bring about ill health.

Money Economy

With the help of the money economy, these things are done without the victims being aware of it. Money is not a safe method of valuing articles, especially of primary necessities. For instance, at Avanashi *firka* a good deal of the milk produced was being sent to Coimbatore. The value of a pound of milk is in the nutrition it affords. The milk producer, if he gives it to his child, ensures sufficient calcium to build up the child's bones, fat and other nutritious materials to build up the body. The value of the milk from the natural point of view is the same whether it is consumed by the mill-owner or the producer's child. We may even say the value of milk is greater when given to a growing child than when given to an adult. Just because the rich mill-owner of Coimbatore is able to offer As. 8 for a pound of milk, the Avanashi producer deprives his child of this nutritious food and sends it away to Coimbatore. In so doing, he does not realize that he is in effect selling the future health of the child. Therefore, in all our considerations in regard to our rural development we have to bear in mind that neither centralized industries nor their efficiency, nor even their money values can be the sole arbiter to guide our decisions. We have

to think in terms of the well-being of the people irrespective of the commercial value of the product. In some cases it may even mean that we may have to get people to do things which, at the moment, may appear against their own interests.

Accumulation of Wealth

Centralized methods of production also tend to concentrate wealth. In a poverty-stricken country like India we do not want concentration of wealth but better distribution of wealth. Distribution of wealth is the special feature of the decentralized industries. India has tremendous amount of labour wealth. This is to be converted into actual wealth in material goods. A potter takes the clay that is available freely and converts it into consumption goods. The valueless clay should have to be converted into wealth by application of his skill and labour. This is the method that would be best suited to India.

Place of Centralized Industries

This does not mean that we should be against all centralized methods of production. Centralized methods of production under private enterprise will lead to consequences we have adumbrated above. But there are certain industries which by their nature are monopolies, such as railway transport and provision of power. These have to be done by the state on a service basis and not with a profit motive. Similarly water supply, exploitation of natural resources and other heavy industries may be undertaken by the State or under State control with centralized methods of production. But what we contend is that in consumption goods and under private ownership there should be no centralized methods of production.

The Madras Textile policy, therefore, is aimed at keeping India out of the whirlpool of imperialism. We found that within our lifetime even Japan was drawn into imperialism just because she too to the methods of centralized production.

The Lead

The contention that the other Provinces are pursuing a different policy need not deter us from doing that which appears to us to be the proper one. If centralized methods of production are calculated to harm the individual development of the citizen by creating in him a blood-lust and greed, no steps taken to prevent this could be objected to. If Madras is called upon to give the lead in this regard, it would seem a great privilege which Madras should be proud of.

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Development of Cottage Industries

Madras Government's Scheme Explained

The scheme for the development of cottage industries in the province which is an integral part of the Firka Development Scheme, as finalized and approved by the Government, is a comprehensive one. Fundamental features of the scheme are the opening of demonstration and training units, the re-organization of industrial and commercial museums and the provision of financial facilities to cottage industrialists. Out of a large number of cottage industries for the development of which as profitable propositions there is scope and opportunity in the province, the Government have selected 32 industries, the fundamental principle guiding the selection being their suitability for the particular area, the availability of the principal raw materials essential for the particular industry, and the facilities available for the training of those proposed to be employed in them.

The scheme is a self-contained one in that it begins with training of technical personnel and demonstrations and ends up with provision of funds for payment of subsidies, etc., for the starting of the cottage industries by those who have received the training. The initial expenditure on the setting up of demonstration and training units to be specially established for the Firka Development Scheme will be in the neighbourhood of Rs. 15 lakhs. For each *firka*, an allotment of Rs. 5,000 has been made for the payment of subsidies, loans, etc., for the development of cottage industries, and a further allotment of Rs. 5,000 for each of the *firkas* for the purchase of raw materials required by the cottage industrialists. Demonstration and training work for cottage industries will be supplemented and complemented by the re-organization of commercial and industrial museums, proposals for which are under the Government's consideration, and by subsidies to industrialists.

The cottage industries' intensive development scheme is at present confined to the 25 *firkas* selected for rural reconstruction work and the two additional *firkas* in the agency tracts recently brought within the scope thereof. But it is obviously not the intention to restrict it to these 27 *firkas* alone. For general development work on cottage industries in the district as a whole, a sum of Rs. 10,000 has been provided for each district. For the "follow up" work in this and other respects mentioned above, namely,

subsidies to trainees and scholarships to persons for further training, a total allotment of Rs. 5 lakhs per annum has been sanctioned. Thus the scheme will be a continuous one and its scope will gradually be extended so that the whole province will benefit therefrom in course of time.

The scheme is capable of proving an immense blessing to those who are prepared to engage themselves in rural reconstruction work, but who are unable to get themselves trained at their own expense or to find the requisite capital for starting those industries. When those who have received training in the industries establish themselves in the villages and begin serving the needs of the people there, both parties will be able to derive the advantage therefrom.

Expansion of co-operative movement

Inaugurating the Provincial Co-operative Conference held in Madras, the Hon'ble Sri V. V. Giri explained at considerable length the policy of the Government regarding the utilization of the co-operative movement in the execution of their plans for rural development and rehabilitation. As the keystone of that policy is the statement by the Minister that the present Government are pledged to the co-operative ideals and ideology and are prepared to support, encourage and promote co-operative endeavour in all possible spheres of socio-economic activity. The basic fact is that co-operation inheres potentialities for common endeavour, for eliminating superfluous and profit grabbing middlemen and for promoting a spirit of harmony and goodwill in the achievement of the common good, and the need is that these potentialities must be exploited in the fullest measure. The large number of schemes that the Government have now in hand, which are intended to revive and invigorate village life in different spheres, afford the requisite opportunity for the utilization of the co-operative movement and for trying out the benefits that it can confer. There is the scheme for the purchase and distribution of foodgrains and cloth, the scheme for the intensive development of Khadi and other village and cottage industries, the scheme for the evocation of the savings spirit among ex-drink addicts in the prohibition districts and so on—all of which are bound to benefit enormously by the application of the co-operative principle and by being worked co-operatively.

New schemes

(Two other directions in which the co-operative movement is proposed to be used hereafter on a large scale are the establishment of handloom weavers' co-operative societies on a province-wide scale and the establishment of producer-cum-consumers co-operative societies which are already working in Malabar and which are being established now in the Circars districts of East and West Godavari, Kistna and Guntur. It is recognized that co-operative theory and practice have all along insisted upon separate organizations for producers and consumers on the ground that their interests are not identical and are often conflicting. But, as Sri V. V. Giri pointed out in his address, the producer-cum-consumer society is an experiment in co-operative ideology in so far as it seeks, on a high co-operative and moral plane, reconciliation of the interests of the producer and the consumer. (The Government's scheme to set up this new type of society has of course been subjected to a certain amount of adverse criticism in co-operative circles as well as by others, who are naturally cautious in assessing and evaluating the usefulness of the experiment and who envisage a sort of inherent rivalry and conflict between the existing and new societies. But it is not justifiable to fight shy of innovations in an existing scheme of things especially when the objective actuating the innovation is the greater benefit of the general public and the elimination of the middle-man, which are the pivotal principles of the co-operative movement itself. Apprehensions based on the so-called absence of Government security for the successful working of the new societies are really unfounded, when the Government are prepared to do everything to ensure such safety and successful working, short of vouchsafing state security for the share capital, which really no Government can be expected to vouchsafe. When everything is said and done, confidence in any new scheme can be evoked only by the successful operation thereof and it rests on the shoulders of those interested in the progress of the co-operative movement to create such confidence in the present case. No Government guarantee can prevent mismanagement, if co-operators themselves do not work in the right co-operative spirit.

Handloom industry and co-operation

(The cloth shortage in the country in general and in Madras in particular, has rendered it indispensable that steps should be taken to increase handloom production not only to fill in the supply gap but also to bring down the prices of cloth. It is in this context necessary that the handloom weavers should be organized effectively and on

a co-operative basis in order that they may procure yarn from a central source and in order that their produce can be properly evaluated and estimated and fair wages and prices for cloth fixed.) Already, as Mr. Giri pointed out, there are about 350 Co-operative Weavers' Societies with 52,000 active looms under their control and they had produced about Rs. 350 lakhs of cloth last year. The scope for expansion is still considerable and must be utilized in the interests of the masses of the general public. The existing co-operative organizations, as the Minister assured, which are willing to undertake the distribution of mill cloth and yarn will also be fully utilized. If the co-operative organization of weavers rises equal to the occasion, it will have rendered a great service to the province.

Taking all things into account, the directions in which the co-operative movement can be canalized for the public good are many, even as the opportunities open to co-operators to perform public good are almost limitless. The Government have already announced a five-year plan for the development of co-operative marketing of agricultural produce and they have also a scheme under consideration for the formation and strengthening of co-operative milk supply organizations throughout the province. With the goodwill and co-operation of the co-operators and others concerned, these schemes can be successfully executed. It is, however, necessary that conditions must be created in the rural areas for the inculcation of the correct co-operative ideas of self-help, thrift and common good among the people as a whole. The extension of the co-operative movement into spheres hitherto untried will itself be a potent educative factor and the Government's efforts in this matter, therefore, deserve and call for all the support and assistance that can be accorded to them by all sections of the people.

(Continued from page 30)

In following the policy that has been laid before the people they will be setting an example of self-sufficiency based on self-respect, non-violence and honesty. This will be not only for India, but also for the whole world which is today lying devastated by the unrestricted use of centralized methods of production.

Democracy

Acharya Kripalani has pointed out in his presidential address at the Meerut Congress that pursuing centralized methods of production in the economic field ultimately leads to dictatorships and not to democracy. Training for democracy needs decentralization of production. All centralization leads to concentration of power which is inimical to democracy.

—Harijan.

Our Cultural Contributions

III

Angkor Thom and Angkor Vat : Cambodia

Culture is a torrent which sometimes floods a tract of land unexpectedly, and then retires leaving behind it the mark of temporary passage. New civilizations spring up by its contact and influence, flourish and prosper for some time, and then decay unaccountably.

The greater Khmer civilization that was responsible for the birth of the famed Angkor Thom and Angkor Vat of the 9th century A.D. to-day exists only in memory. These monuments themselves were lost to memory until they were discovered again by the famous French Naturalist, M. Mouhot, who devoted the last four years of his life (1858-1861) to the exploration of the valley of the Mekong river in Cambodia in French Indo-China.

Who these Khmers were, no one is able to guess and their origin is wrapped up in mystery. Scholars hold the view that these people must have migrated in the early centuries of the Christian era from Madras, journeyed by boat through the strait of Malacca to Java and from there moved onward to the valley of Mekong. These highly intellectual people obtained mastery of the natives by their superior wit; and grafted their culture and civilization upon them with the result that the mighty city of Angkor Thom, the finest and wealthiest capital in the Orient and the largest in the world in those times, sprang up like a radiant star. Strangely enough, it was afterwards abandoned by the very people who built it for reasons unknown. There the city lay completely enveloped by the lush vegetation of the jungle and inhabited by wild beasts, for several centuries forgotten and unknown until the French resurrected it two generations ago.

At the heyday of its life, it is believed that a million people lived within the walled precincts of the city of Angkor which was of the size of Carthage at the time of its fall. Scholars opine that it was as large as Rome at the beginning of the Christian era and had something of the intellectual status of Athens and the might of Babylon. London, as we know the city to-day, did not exist then, and France had not yet decided to be a nation, and Germany was still a camping ground for nomadic tribes.

A broad moat deeply dug in the ground and believed to have once been infested by savage crocodiles formed the first defence of the city.

Its walls which still rise intact out of the moat are from ten to twenty feet in height and are built of laterite and enclose the entire city in a vast square and its whole length is said to measure 7½ miles. Four gates placed at the cardinal points of the compass opened into the town in the middle of the walls and a fifth formed a triumphal entrance for kings. Two boulevards connected the principal gates and divided the city into quarters. Its streets were straight and crossed each other at right angles.

The founder of Angkor Thom was king Yasovarman, fourth in a line of great kings who shifted into this new capital about 900 A.D. He retired to a forest after reigning for about two decades, because he was afflicted with leprosy. He was the first great builder and the greatest of the great builders. The king called the city Yasodharapura after his name and later it became known as Angkor, mutilated from Nokor, a corruption of the Sanskrit Nagara in the Cambodian tongue. In the centre of the city, he erected the Yasodharagiri (the Bayon) temple of Siva, and on the west he dug a vast artificial lake called Yasodharatataka and a shrine and convent named Yasodharasrama.

He was physically a giant and according to inscriptions he could slay elephants and lions without weapons. Great in warfare, he also possessed the genius of an administrator. He called men of valour to his Court and whenever he defeated a rival he took into captivity the rival's heroes and scholars.

To the five ornamental gates of Angkor Thom, five sculptured causeways 300 feet long and 50 feet wide stepped across the moat. The balustrades were unlike anything the world has seen before or since. The rails were the multiheaded cobras and the upright supports were squatting giants resting on their knees and holding in their arms the body of a Naga. Many of these giants have now slipped off into the moat as if tired of their work, but still many more remain. There were originally 54, doing constant duty about the five gates of the city. Each giant in his crouching position is eight feet in height measured from the pavement to the top of the head. Thus, each giant would scale 12 feet in height if he stood erect. Anatomically, these figures are correct and well proportioned. Their faces are remarkably human and quite pleasant excepting the faces of those on the western side, which look hideous and threatening. Here they poised on their toes as if ready to leap forward at an enemy. It

is believed that from this quarter attack upon the city was expected by Yasovarman, and hence the change of demeanour of these giants. Archaeologists identify the giants and the Naga with the legend of the churning of the ocean of milk by the Devas and the Asuras.

A broad opening admits us into the city through the high walls and on either side of the entry a three headed elephant seems to hold on its back the entire weight of the stones above. Only its front legs and heads are shown: a bell hangs from its neck. Its feet trample lotus leaves and water plants and the trunks pluck at a bunch of aquatic flowers, an appropriate setting as water once flowed beneath. Mahouts, almost obliterated, appear seated on the pachyderms. And on top of all smiles an enormous four-headed titan. His long ears end in heavy jewels and his heads are covered by three tiaras which are surmounted by stone water-lilies. The vaulted gateways are twenty feet in height and markings in the masonry work show where the hinges of the gates were set. The gates themselves probably made of bronze or wood have disappeared long since.

Straight roads cut into the city from each of the five towers connecting the group of temples and royal buildings in the centre. The roads were nearly a mile long and ninety feet wide and centuries of disuse has not obliterated their outline or gradients. Fragments of household pottery, building tiles, and fountain conduits were brought to the surface by the axes which suggest the existence of gardens, in the middle of which perhaps stood the residences of the nobles.

A mile to the south of the city of Angkor Thom is situated the temple of Angkor Vat which means literally "the temple of the city." This building is an exact square and measures one mile each way. It is surrounded by a moat 216 yards wide which is crossed by a splendid causeway which leads to the gateway five storeys in height, and a second raised causeway 370 yards long leads to a platform in front of the temple.

The general plan of the temple consists of three enclosures one within another and each raised to a height of about 20 feet above the one outside thus giving the whole a pyramidal form. The outer enclosure measures 590 feet by 700 feet. The elevation of the temple is a pyramid and stands to a height of 180 feet at the summit of the central tower. A solid wall of the most beautiful masonry supports the inner terrace of the temple and is built of large stones amazingly fitted without mortar in between, and showing no trace of the joints between the stones. Two kinds of stones were used: laterite for surrounding walls and in

some cases for lesser edifices in poorer shrines' but especially as foundations which were later hidden under sandstone. All the finer work was done with blocks of sandstone with their surfaces carefully smoothed.

The most wonderful part of this temple where Vishnu resides is the sculptures that adorn its walls, whose aggregate length is at least 2,000 feet. They lie distributed in 8 compartments each measuring from 250 feet to 300 feet in length with a height of about 6½ feet. These compartments are seen one on each side of the four central groups of entrances. It is computed that the number of men and animals represented in these sculptures range between 18 to 20 thousand.

The Ramayana and the Mahabharata are illustrated here as no other epics on a scale which has no parallel, with a spirit which is all its own. The panels are executed with great feeling and delicacy and are remarkably accurate. The bending of Janaka's bow by Rama, the destruction of Kabanda and Maricha, the meeting of Sugriva, Hanuman's discovery of Sita and Lanka, Vibhishana's surrender, Sita's ordeal by fire and the triumphal entry into Ayodhya, are episodes which are narrated on stone with exceptional vigour and eloquence. And the merciless battle of Rama against Ravana is depicted in a confused mass though several details can be brought to light in this mass; and this theme supplies the largest illustration of the Ramayana in the northern wing of the western gallery of this temple.

In the southern wing of the western gallery, the famous battle of the Pandavas with the Kauravas is rendered and Lord Krishna driving the chariot for Arjuna can be clearly identified.

Vishnu reigns in the other bas-reliefs and the Tirupparkadal scene is very vividly portrayed. Lord Krishna as the incorrigible child tied to the mortar by Yasoda, the lifting of the mount Govardhana and the destruction of Bana and Narakasura are easily recognizable among these panels. The churning of the ocean of milk by the Devas and the Asuras for producing amrita seems to be a favourite theme and the panel depicting this scene is full of detail. Fish as well as ripples are shown in the sea and the fight between the Devas and the Asuras for the nectar is the subject matter of a magnificent decoration, and a great many duels take place between the gods and the demons.

Three small panels are carved for Siva and the first of these three is the story of Kama, the God of Love disturbing the penance of Lord Siva who in anger incinerates the intruder by the flames generated by his third eye. The second is the

anecdote of Ravana lifting the mount Kailas and Siva in order to humiliate the Rakshasa for his arrogance is seen stamping the mount down, and along with it the arms of the demon, too.

Another interesting portrayal in the southern gallery is to be found in the two vast bas-reliefs which depict scenes from Paradise and Hell. Men and women in palanquins or on horseback under the shadow of sunshades are depicted on roads leading to the gateways of Paradise, whereas those wretches that are destined to the Hell suffer terrible tortures at the hands of tall and fierce looking demons who club them and lead them towards wild animals which tear them to pieces. Yama is seen with eighteen hands seated on the buffalo and Chitrakuta the recorder of good and evil deeds directs with his mace the damned ones towards the purgatory. Small inscriptions are found here which explain that there are thirty-two hells and how each torture is reserved for some specific deed of the sinner.

Dancing girls, millions of them, are seen stepping lightly through the corridors of the temple and these images are quite decorous in all their poses and it is significant of the culture of these people that the pornographic note is entirely lacking in all their edifices and sculptures.

One great scholar holds the view that the construction of the pyramid of Egypt was a task of minor importance compared with the building of Angkor Vat. While for the construction of the former, stones were hauled across the valley of the Nile from the quarries beyond the present city of Cairo, the rocks used in Angkor Vat are believed to have come from places more than 40 miles distant partly by water and partly overland on rollers drawn by an army of slaves, perhaps under the sting of whip lashes.

The same scholar writes "Angkor Vat is the apotheosis of the Khmer people. If nothing else remained of all their works it would be enough to mark them as one of the greatest races that time has produced. It was fitting for them to disappear after its completion as life must have seemed something of an anti-climax when they stood back to survey their work. Probably man never contrived a monument to compare with it. Certainly it is without peer in the world's antiquities."

Angkor Vat is the architectural zenith reached by the Khmers; a loftier one does not exist.

—S. SWAMINATHAN.

(By kind courtesy of the All-India Radio, Madras.)

Book Reviews

TRANSPORT

By F. P. Antia.

Oxford University Press.

Price six annas.

One of the snags in the economic progress of this country is admittedly its un-co-ordinated and inadequate transport system. This fact has been clearly brought out with statistical details in the book under review. Transport system has to play a vital part in the production of national wealth and the latter will be affected if the former lacks co-ordination, adaptability, flexibility and efficiency. The chief forms of transport in this country are (1) Railways, (2) Roads, (3) Motor Transport and (4) Waterways. Taking Railways first, the total mileage in this country was 40,512 miles in March 1944 and though India has the fourth largest railway system in the world, it compares unfavourably in relation to the area of the country. Great Britain and Germany have roughly 20 miles of railway for every 100 square miles, France 12 miles and the U.S.A. 8 miles, while India has no more than 2½ miles. As regards roads, the total length is 296,438 miles representing 0.18 per square mile of the country

and 76 miles per 100,000 of population. In this respect India takes the last place in comparison with Britain, France, U.S.A. and Germany. Motor Transport is equally backward in relation to the population. The total number of vehicles of all forms represents only one vehicle for 2,017 inhabitants as against one vehicle per 4.5 inhabitants in the U.S.A. and one vehicle per 7.5, 15 and 78 respectively in Australia, Britain and Italy. Water Transport also remains largely unexploited. Overseas shipping and coastal shipping are negligible while inland water transport has considerable leeway to make. Civil aviation is a comparatively recent development not going beyond 1927.

Thus all these forms of transport have vast possibilities for further development. In the past the main drawback has been not so much the lack of development of these forms of transport as the lack of co-ordination between them. The various instruments of transport have to be regarded as component parts of a vital national service complementary to one another and not as independent and competing units. This fact was not adequately recognized in the past and the

result was lack of co-ordination and the consequential limitation on the possibilities of progress in respect of each form of transport. The author has drawn attention to the need for a planned programme in the field of transport, so that it may not operate as a handicap to the country's economic progress. The booklet affords valuable statistical information.

.....3....

INDUSTRIAL LOCATION

By Mr. Bimal C. Ghose.

Oxford Unive sity Press. Price six annas.

The book deals in a brief compass with matters connected with the selection of sites for location of industrial enterprises. There are five basic factors bearing on this subject, viz., raw materials, labour, services, access to markets and finance. These factors are neither exhaustive nor do they function in isolation. They are universally needed and India is no exception.

In this country industries are not evenly distributed. Bengal and Bombay for example, with 15 and 5 per cent of the population, respectively, contained 29 and 23 per cent of the total number of industrial workers in 1939. Even within these provinces industries are not evenly scattered. They are concentrated in particular areas. This concentration has resulted in gross evils, social, economic and strategic. The report of the Royal Commission on Indian Labour bears ample testimony to this fact. And if to-day there is a revulsion of feeling against machine industry it can be traced largely to the evils that have resulted from heavy concentrations of industries. The case is, therefore, obvious for a dispersal of these industries. In this country with its vast distances and unexploited resources there is enough room for such dispersal. It is also suggested that this dispersal should be done on a regional basis in order to enable special facilities of certain regions being taken advantage of for the promotion of particular industries. The author also stresses the need for a National policy in regard to industrial development. The constitution of a Central Authority to assist industrial development is also suggested.

The book is of considerable topical interest at this juncture when the industrial future of this country is in the melting pot. According to published statistics, India ranks only eighth in the list of industrial nations in the world though in population she is next only to China. Much leeway has therefore to be made, and for those who are planning to make up for the past deficiency, the book may furnish useful materials.

BRITAIN'S HOUSING SHORTAGE

By Miss Bowley.

Oxford University Press. Price six annas.

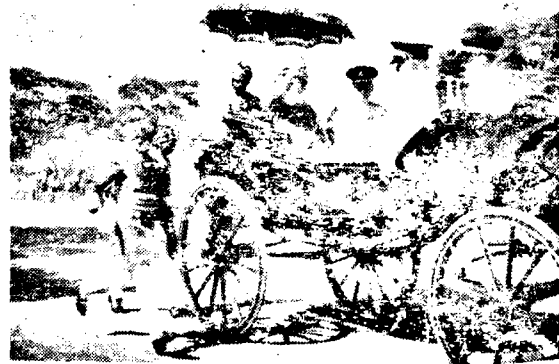
The housing problem is acute everywhere. In the West one of the main issues in this connection is the restoration of buildings damaged or destroyed during air raids in the recent war. In India though we have been spared the horrors of a totalitarian war, its repercussions have produced a host of problems of which shortage of housing accommodation is one. In big cities like Madras, Bombay, Calcutta, etc., the problem has assumed acute proportions. The increase in population, the rapid expansion of industries as a result of the war, the grave war time discomforts of rural life in this country,—these are considered to be a few among the main causes for a steady landslide towards cities and towns.

In such a context, a booklet dealing with housing shortage in Britain is valuable as containing useful information on a topical subject. The position in Britain in regard to housing accommodation is as serious as it is elsewhere. It has been estimated that not less than 150,000 houses were destroyed by air raids during the war. In addition to their replacement, provision has to be made for the population increased during war time. The net requirement has been worked out at a little less than half a million houses. The unsatisfactory position as evidenced by this figure was brought about by more than one cause. Firstly, there was no planned policy in regard to house building during the period between the two wars. Solving the house problem does not merely consist in having more houses. The type of families needing them, their size, the place where the tenants have to work, and what they can afford to pay as rent are points that ought to be taken into account. This was not done. Nor was there a planned rent policy. There was also a general lack of interest on the part of the public in housing matters. They did not consider it as a case of social service such as education, etc.

Nevertheless Britain hopes to recover her normal position by 1948 or thereabout. A long range housing policy needs to be adumbrated to achieve this end. Requisition of lands for house-sites, the classes for whom houses should be constructed, whether the occupiers are to be selected on the basis of their need for accommodation or their capacity to pay for it, an appropriate rent and subsidy policy, are matters on which decisions have to be taken in the preliminary stage. The author has rightly called attention to these points.

The booklet turns the searchlight on the several pitfalls in the way of solving the housing problem and it may prove a useful guidance to those concerned with the solution of the same problem in this country.

H.E. the Governor inaugurates



Services' Exhibition



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WE SEEK TO SERVE AND NOT TO COMPETE

March 15, 1947

Editorial Notes

PEOPLE'S BUDGET

Important features of the Madras Government Budget presented by the Honourable the Premier on 1st March, may be briefly mentioned. We have the continuance in an intensified form of rehabilitation schemes formulated last year, particularly in respect of Rural Reconstruction and Khadi, extension of the schemes in connexion with grow-more-food for which the Government of India have been giving some special grants, extension of prohibition to eight more districts, namely, Guntur, Nellore, Tanjore, Trichinopoly, Madura, Nilgiris, Malabar and South Kanara, expansion of the scheme of compulsory primary education to some more villages in each district, grants for water-supply schemes for Siruguppa, Arantangi and Tinnevely and for anti-malarial measures in Coimbatore, Malabar and Bellary districts, and enhancement of the scale of grants of local bodies for the maintenance of maternity and child welfare centres. Provision has, in addition, been made for improvement of the facilities for medical education by the conversion of the existing School of Indian Medicine into a college and for opening a research institute for Indian medicine in Madras, the reorganization and reconstruction of some medical institutions in the province, and for additional nursing staff in certain others. Out of the grant of Rs. 4 crores made in the current year for Rural Reconstruction and Harijan Uplift, Rs. 60 lakhs has so far been

spent and Rs. 340 lakhs is therefore available for expenditure next year.

Irrigation and Roads

The Honourable the Premier's Budget speech mentions that among the bigger irrigation projects, the Tungabhadra Project is now under execution and a sum of Rs. 143 lakhs will be spent on it in 1947-48. A sum of Rs. 15 lakhs has been set apart for expenditure on irrigation works which form an integral part of the drive to bring about an immediate increase in food production. Investigations on the Ramapadrasagar Project will continue and a new project, namely, the Lower Bhavani Project has been provided for, though detailed estimates about the cost involved in and the revenue anticipated from it have yet to be prepared. Development of the road system and maintenance of the existing roads which had deteriorated during the war period has been provided for by an appropriation of Rs. 150 lakhs during the year 1947-48. A separate Highways Department has been constituted to look after the national highways and budget provision has been made for maintenance of the highways passing through the Madras Province. The total provision in the Budget for direct expenditure by the Government on the roads of the province amounts to Rs. 385 lakhs while another Rs. 18 lakhs has

been set apart for grants to local bodies for new road works.

State Trading Schemes

The Government's efforts to keep the province as well and as fully provided as possible with food and to ward off scarcity in respect of essential articles have been commended in the past by a number of competent observers. The Budget speech strikes the hopeful note that owing to the favourable seasonal conditions in the current year, the food situation will improve considerably and that an appreciable reduction may be possible in the imports of foodgrains from outside the province. This hopeful note finds concrete expression in the reduction in the anticipated net outlay in 1947-48 on wheat and wheat-products by about Rs. 148 lakhs as compared with the revised estimate for 1946-47. State trading in essential commodities like food and firewood has become an inescapable necessity owing to the special conditions created by the war, the effect of which persists even now, as indeed the maintenance a strict control over the prices and distribution of foodgrains and firewood. The whole problem is under constant examination and the question of effecting economies in the expenditure in and on the administration of controls is being examined by the Reorganization Committee of the cabinet.

Two New Proposals

The Budget will be remembered for two new proposals incorporated in it by the Honourable the Premier. The establishment of an Industrial Finance Corporation with a capital of rupees one crore to provide medium and long-term loans to industries, is one of these. The Budget provides a sum of Rs. 51 lakhs for the Government's subscription towards the share capital of the institution, and the remaining Rs. 49 lakhs will be raised from banks, insurance companies, investment corporations and big co-operative institutions. The criticism that the controlling interest in the corporation ensured to Government will be utilized for party or other purposes invalidates itself in the face of the consideration that Government's interest will be exercised solely in the public interest and that while in the case of an institution like the Reserve Bank for example, public opinion has been active in favour of its being converted into a state-owned institution, the application of the same principle to the Industrial Finance Corporation cannot be inveighed against.

[MARCH 15, 1947]

Nationalization of certain basic industries, such as the cement and the soda ash industry, is the second new proposal on which the Budget sets its stamp of approval. How the scheme is to be implemented in its details is still under examination, but the principle has been accepted and a provision of Rs. 50 lakhs has been made in the Budget to afford an unmistakable index to the Government's intentions. Practical steps towards nationalization are, however, being taken immediately in respect of the motor bus transport, and the sanction accorded to the running of a Government Bus service in the city of Madras is an important and significant initial step in this direction.

Producers-cum-Consumers' Societies

The Budget inheres a clear-cut indication of the Government's purposive and progressive outlook. The various schemes included in it have as their sole objective the promotion of the public weal as against the promotion of the interests of certain sections of the public. While the development schemes provided for in the last Budget are assured of uninterrupted assistance, financial and otherwise, a number of new schemes have been included in it, the execution of which will serve to accentuate the moral and material well-being of the population. The producers-cum-consumers' co-operative societies scheme has come in for an unmeritedly large amount of criticism at the hands of various interests. The Honourable the Premier pointed out in his speech that the Government were fully aware of the criticisms, but they were equally aware of the fact that the criticisms proceed from an inadequate appreciation of the potentialities inherent in the new type of co-operative societies. Informed co-operative opinion, however, realizes that multi-purpose societies of the kind now being set up in parts of the province have a great future before them and will become a common feature of co-operative organization hereafter even if in the experimental or initial stages they may appear to impose hardships on certain classes of people like middlemen and traders engaged in the purchase and distribution of the commodities with which the societies are intended to deal. "The Government are convinced," said the Honourable the Premier, "that wealth arising out of the bare necessities of people's life should go back to the people rather than to a mere handful of persons. This is the cardinal principle of their policy which the Government want to be understood."

MARCH 15, 1947]

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Madras Government Press Notes

Private Production of Khadi

As announced in the statement circulated by the Government recently to the Members of the Provincial Legislature, private producers and dealers in khadi will be eliminated, to the extent necessary, in order to ensure the development of khadi on sound lines. This action will be taken first in the "intensive areas" selected under the Khadi Scheme, viz.—

- (1) The Vellakoil area, Dharapuram taluk, Coimbatore district;
- (2) The Avanashi area, Avanashi taluk, Coimbatore district;
- (3) Puliyankurichi Centre in Salem, Trichinopoly and South Arcot districts;
- (4) Erragondapalem Centre in Kurnool district;
- (5) Guruvareddipalem Centre in Guntur district;
- (6) Kota-Uratla Centre in East Godavari and Vizagapatam districts; and
- (7) Payyanur cum Nilesishwar Centre in Malabar and South Kanara districts.

Persons doing business of the kind referred to above are accordingly warned that, in their own interests, they should discontinue their business forthwith or continue to do so at their own risk. They should note also that it has been decided not to allow any export of khadi from this Province by private producers and merchants.

[February 24]

Special Tax on Motor Vehicles

The Government have received representations requesting them not to entertain any proposal to levy special taxes on motor vehicles using highway bridges. They wish to state that there is at present no proposal under consideration to levy any tax or toll on motor vehicles using highway bridges.

[February 24]

Permission for Rice Mills

It was mentioned to the Government that the greater the number of rice mills, the less would be the incentive to hand-pounding and the suggestion was made that the refusal of licences for fresh mills will aid the implementation of the announced policy of the Government to encourage hand-pounding. The Government accepted the

suggestion and directed on 8th January 1947 that no licences should be issued for the opening of new rice mills for converting paddy into rice.

It has since been brought to their notice that this prohibition will work hard on persons who had erected the necessary buildings and machinery and were only awaiting the grant of licences. The Government are therefore instructing all Collectors to issue licences if otherwise unobjectionable in all cases in which application for grant of licences were pending with them or their subordinate officers on 8th January 1947 and where the applicants had already completed the erection of the buildings and machinery and had obtained the requisite licences from the municipal and public health authorities.

[February 21]

Political Sufferers Reinstated

The Government have passed orders directing the restoration of 27 village officers and three village servants, who lost their office on account of their sympathy with, or participation in, the political movement of 1940-41 or the subsequent movement of 1942 and the activities that followed on it. In the case of a village servant who lost the post on the same account and who is old and physically unfit for the post, the Government have directed that his nearest qualified legal heir should be appointed to the post. A few more cases are still under consideration and orders are expected to be issued soon.

[February 17]

Control of Jaggery Relaxed

In November 1946 the Government fixed ceiling prices for cane jaggery, wholesale and retail, in all the districts in the Province. Many complaints have since been received that stocks of jaggery were going underground and that the commodity was not available for purchase by the public at controlled rates or indeed at any price. During the Pongal festival particularly, jaggery was scarce in the market in many important towns and the public were put to considerable inconvenience. To control distribution, this Government were forced to pass orders in January 1947 directing that no person holding stocks of jaggery shall sell his stocks to any person except to the Collector of the district or to any person authorized by him in this behalf. The position has slightly

improved in consequence and there have been several representations from the producers that new jaggery which is being manufactured is accumulating in their hands as a result of the restrictions. The Government have reviewed the position and have decided to allow free sales of jaggery in the markets. They have accordingly rescinded clause 6 of the Jaggery Control Order. Producers as well as stockists will in future be free to sell or buy in the markets. There will be no restriction on the movement of jaggery from one district to another in the Province. The Government trust that the relaxations now ordered will be appreciated and that jaggery will be freely sold to the consumers at the controlled rates already notified. If not, the Government will be compelled to reimpose such restrictions as they consider necessary.

[February 17]

Working of the Entertainments Tax Act

The following Press Note on the administration of the Madras Entertainments Tax Act, 1939, during 1945-46 is issued by the Director of Information and Publicity.

The last Administration Report of the Madras Entertainments Tax Act was for 1941-42, and the following changes have been introduced since then.

The Act which was being worked out in the Municipal areas by the Municipal Commissioners previously has been transferred to the Commercial Taxes Department from 1st July 1943 and this is the first report to be issued after the transfer. In the previous years the local bodies were paid fixed sums every year as compensation. From the year 1945-46 the Government have decided that the Commercial Taxes Department should take only 10 per cent of the gross proceeds towards the charges for working the Act and that the balance of the proceeds, i.e., 90 per cent of the collection, should be paid to the local bodies within whose jurisdiction the entertainments take place. The third change was that the rates of tax on payments for admission above 2 annas have been enhanced by 50 per cent with effect from 1st April 1945.

There were 259,859 entertainments in the 25 districts of the Province during 1945-46. For over 93 per cent of these entertainments the tax was paid on the basis of returns. This method was favoured most by the proprietors of entertainments, as they found it more convenient to pay the tax in arrears at regular intervals than to purchase stamps as required in advance for

affixing them to the tickets. Admission by mechanical contrivance was adopted only on the Guindy Race Course as in previous years.

The tax was compounded in respect of 45 entertainments during the year. These were generally very small entertainments.

The number of entertainments exempted from paying the tax under section 8 (1) of the Act is 1,251 and under section 8 (2), 204.

Collections Satisfactory

The total demand of tax under the Act during 1945-46 stands at Rs. 46,18,640. The revenue realized during the year under review is Rupees 43,95,147 in cash and cheque and Rs. 1,73,991 in the form of stamps. The balance at the end of the year was Rs. 49,502 of which a sum of Rs. 43,383 was subsequently collected. The collection of the tax was on the whole satisfactory. There were only two cases of non-payment of tax in the districts of Chingleput and Tanjore.

Offences

With regard to offences under the Act, 672 cases were compounded for a total sum of Rupees 11,407 of which a sum of Rs. 10,534 was collected. Thirty-six prosecutions were launched of which 16 ended in conviction and 5 in acquittal. Fifteen cases are *sub-judice*. The Commercial Tax Officers received 6 appeals during the year and 4 were pending at the beginning of the year. Out of these 64 appeals 55 were disposed of during the year. The Entertainment Tax Commissioner disposed of 16 revision petitions during the year.

The working of the Act was on the whole satisfactory, no administrative difficulty being expressed. The assistance of the Police Department was not generally sought for the administration of the Act. There was no case in which the tax was collected with the assistance of the Revenue Department. In many districts the village officers were generally helpful to the Commercial Tax Officers by reporting unauthorized entertainments. Though there was an increase in the rates of tax there was no noticeable diminution in the number of persons who attended the entertainments.

[February 17]

Prohibition at Work

The following report on the working of the Prohibition Act in the districts of Anantapur, Bellary, Kurnool, Cuddapah, Coimbatore, Salem,

Chittoor and North Arcot districts during December 1946 is published for information :—

Prohibition has been in force from 1st October 1946 in all the above districts. Its enforcement continued to be in charge of the Police in the districts of Coimbatore, Salem, North Arcot and Chittoor and the Excise Department, in the other four districts.

Enforcement Work

Cases.—The total number of cases detected during the month was 1,291 as against 1,320 detected during the previous month. There has thus been a slight fall in the number of cases detected due probably to inclement weather which prevailed in many districts interfering with communications and restricting the mobility and activity of the enforcement staff, particularly in respect of raids. The number of cases of illicit distillation of arrack increased from 423 to 446, the increase being mainly due to the greater efforts made by the enforcement staff in Kurnool and Anantapur districts. The number of such cases detected in Coimbatore district continued to be low being only 9.

The number of cases of illicit tapping of fermented toddy detected during the month was 14 which is one less than the previous month.

There was a decline in the number of cases relating to intoxicating drugs from 196 to 156. The most noticeable feature was the seizure of large quantities of Mysore ganja.

Denatured spirit.—The sale of denatured spirit in the districts rose from 1079 gallons to 1,484 gallons. The sale was very high in North Arcot district being over 500 gallons. The number of cases of attempts to render denatured spirit fit for human consumption increased from 3 to 5 and all occurred in North Arcot district. Steps are therefore being taken to prevent misuse of the spirit in this district.

Border problems.—Large number of persons continued to visit border shops for drink. Border patrols were active during the month. The number of cases of smuggling of liquor increased from 65 to 83. There is however, no sign as yet of large scale smuggling into prohibition areas from outside. In order to assist in the effective tackling of border problems, arrangements have been made for border meetings between Police, Excise (Prohibition) and ordinary Excise officers.

Assistance given by officials of other departments and non-officials.—There was excellent co-operation by the Police in the Excise Prohibition

districts, no fewer than 155 cases being detected by them in those districts.

Fourteen cases were detected by village officers and 60 were detected with their assistance. The assistance given by village officers was particularly good in North Arcot. Village officers gave little assistance in Bellary and Coimbatore districts.

One hundred and thirty-three cases were detected by or with the assistance of outsiders. In Salem, as many as 16 cases of illicit distillation were detected on information furnished by Village Vigilance Committee members. In North Arcot, 31 illicit distillation cases were detected on the information given by or at the instance of outsiders other than regular informants. In Chittoor district, where the total number of cases detected was low, more than half were detected by or with the assistance of outsiders. Co-operation received in this respect is generally more noticeable in the Police than in the Excise Prohibition districts. The number of cases detected by or with the assistance of Taluk or Village Prohibition Committee members was disappointingly low being only 6. Now that most of these Committees have been formed better results may be expected. The formation of Taluk Prohibition Committees was complete in Anantapur, Bellary, Kurnool, North Arcot and Salem. In Coimbatore district, Taluk Prohibition Committees are in the course of formation. Taluk Prohibition Committees have been formed in a portion of Cuddapah district. Village Prohibition Committees have been formed throughout Anantapur and Bellary districts and in most parts of Cuddapah district. In Salem and North Arcot, the Committees were being formed during the month, while in Coimbatore the Collector is proceeding with the formation of Taluk Prohibition Committees and will take up appointment of Village Committees later.

Ameliorative Work]

Employment of ex-tappers.—The number of toddy tappers who were thrown out of employment on account of Prohibition is given below :—

Coimbatore	..	..	15,000
			(approximate.)
Salem	..	..	2,069
North Arcot	..	..	1,085
Chittoor	..	..	398
Cuddapah	..	..	365
Kurnool	..	..	2,378
Bellary	..	..	1,400
Anantapur	..	..	625

Most of them have adjusted themselves to the new situation by leaving the prohibition districts

or by seeking employment on agriculture or other work. The recent rains have helped them with field labour.

The number of co-operative societies for the manufacture of jaggery, the most useful organization for giving employment to ex-toddy tappers, which had been registered or were awaiting registration were 73 in Coimbatore, 32 in Salem, 25 in North Arcot and one in Chittoor. In Erode Revenue Division (Coimbatore district) 30 societies had been organized, 2,086 tappers enrolled and Rs. 14,000 collected as share capital. In Salem arrangements were made with the President of the Central Co-operative Bank for loans to be given to the members of the co-operative jaggery societies for the purchase of buffaloes so that they might make ghee and dispose of it through the society. The ex-toddy tappers of Ayodhyapatnam, a strong centre for toddy tapping in pre-Prohibition years, collected Rs. 10,000 in order to start a co-operative society for the manufacture of woollen carpets. This venture is expected to provide employment for 80 ex-tappers.

Instructions have also been issued that extappers should be given preference for employment on road works under the charge of the Highways department, in prohibition districts, like ex-servicemen.

Promotion of thrift.—The campaign instituted by the Co-operative department for collecting savings from ex-addicts and the general public in Hundi Boxes distributed by the Co-operative societies is gathering strength. Rs. 15,927 were thus collected.

Recreation and counter-attractions

Refreshment stalls.—Many of the Government refreshment stalls were closed as it was the intention to run them only in the initial stages of prohibition. Private stalls have, however, sprung up in most prohibition districts.

Bhajanas, Harikathas, dramas, cinemas, folk dances and other entertainments were encouraged in all districts. Ex-toddy tappers of Thimmayanapalli in Madanapalle taluk staged variety entertainments and street dramas and ex-addicts of the Narasimharu Kottala in Proddatur taluk enacted 'Jayanti Jayapala.' Rupees 1,450 were realised from one of the four dramas enacted in Anantapur district. The amount has been set apart for organising rural games and tournaments and for installing a radio at Thimmacharla. The cinema proprietor at Pamidi entertained 20 ex-addicts every day at his cinema free of cost.

Ballad singers have been appointed in all Revenue divisions except in Salem and Bellary. They toured in the villages entertaining the villagers with songs and also organising community singing. They also taught community songs to the village guides undergoing training in Rural Uplift Schools and assisted bhajana parties. Three new Rural Uplift Schools were opened during the month.

There were 2,618 gramasangams at the end of December 1946. In addition to organising rural games and other entertainments, they also assisted in general rural uplift work like the formation or repair of roads, the sinking of wells, the provision of adult schools, reading rooms, etc. The Gramasangham at Kondlarandapalli (Cuddapah) gave a hut for the location of a school, and those at Palageta and Gundlakunta (Cuddapah) gave Rs. 300 each for two radio sets. The Gramasangham at Kalesapakkam (North Arcot) raised Rs. 275 by organising a musical entertainment in order to purchase a building for itself. The Gumadakkampalayam Sangham (Coimbatore) sent about 50 new students to the local school.

Women.—The good work done by the workers of an Indian Women's Civil Corps at Salem in the direction of better sanitation, cleaner clothing, indoor games, singing, etc., deserves special mention.

Progress in ameliorative work has been steady. Better results are expected after the Rural Recreation officers, now under training, join duty.

Reports received from all the Prohibition districts show that there is a definite improvement in the conditions of the ex-addicts and that there is domestic peace and happiness in the labour and Harijan quarters as the money which would be wasted on drink is now being utilised for their betterment.

[February 14]

Pay of Teachers

The Government have been receiving certain representations from teachers' guilds and associations about the revision of salaries made by Government recently. Many of them are based upon a misapprehension and without a proper appreciation of the facts and so, the Government have thought fit to issue a detailed communiqué with a list of detailed revision of salaries that a proper perspective of the whole scheme had.

The old grade for the higher elementary grade teacher was Rs. 20—1/2—30 in the majority of local boards where they are employed in such large numbers. This has been increased to those who know the craft to Rs. 30—45, i.e., Rs. 25—40 +5 for craft. This will be in addition to the dearness allowance of Rs. 16 which they are at present receiving. The Government expect every one of them to learn the craft immediately and be entitled to this additional remuneration of Rs. 5. The intention of the Government is that even in our elementary schools we should have at least secondary grade teachers. Recently orders have been passed giving scope to the higher elementary grade teachers to qualify themselves for the secondary grade and become eligible for the secondary grade scales. The old basic grades of secondary grade teachers were Rs. 25—45 in elementary schools and Rs. 30—50 in secondary schools. These have now been raised to Rs. 40—70 and Rs. 45—75. These will be in addition to the dearness allowance which they are at present receiving. The Government have felt that the secondary grade teachers would be given further prospects and so, they propose to reserve a large percentage of posts in the junior Deputy Inspectors cadre to the secondary grade assistants to be recruited from all services, viz., Government, local boards and aided, so that efficient secondary grade teachers in all services will have a further and a larger scope for rise. The pay of the junior Deputy Inspectors has been fixed at Rs. 60—120 as against Rs. 50—70 which was the old scale and so, it will be seen that not only have the Government given initial increments to higher elementary grade and secondary grade teachers on a generous scale but also have given scope for such of those persons among them who can distinguish themselves for efficient service.

Now we come to the L.Ts. L.Ts. in Government service have been given two grades, viz., Rs. 80—170 and Rs. 160—240 plus Rs. 5 for craft training admissible to both grades. The selection grade has been increased from one-fifth to one-third so that all reasonably efficient men will reach the top and over and above that, there are the gazetted posts to which they may aspire. In the local boards, the rates have been fixed at Rs. 75—145 which are eight increments above in the existing scale, namely, Rs. 65—100. This difference between the Government and the local board schools has been necessary because of the administrative and executive work which those in Government service have to perform and the large financial responsibility

they have to bear from the very beginning. Besides, a welcome feature in the new scheme is allowances to headmasters in all grades of schools. It is further the intention of Government that recruitment of District Educational Officers should not be confined only to those in Government cadre, but that efficient men in local board and aided services should also be given scope for being recruited as District Educational Officers. The Government are actively considering the matter of fixing their proportion.

And now, we came to the aided schools. In this matter, the Government would like to remind such of those people as are agitating for equal pay to aided school elementary teachers along with local board services, that the Government grants are only an aid which Government give and the rest of the amount is expected to be contributed by the management. It is not possible to treat the aided schools on a par with local board or Government schools for the simple reason that these are private schools receiving only aid from Government and are not subject to the same control. But as far as elementary schools are concerned, the grants besides having been liberalised, have, in the new scheme, a further advantage, that is, they have definitely been put on the time scale in addition to the full dearness allowance which the teachers are getting from Government. That is, higher grade teachers in aided schools, instead of getting Rs. 14 previously, will get Rs. 20—25 + 16. Now, secondary grade teachers, instead of Rs. 18 previously will get Rs. 25 + 16 to begin with and will get more under the time scale with their service, i.e., Rs. 25—35 + 16.

As far as aided secondary schools are concerned the Government have received many representations that the aided schools should be compelled to give the local board rates. The Government have advised them to pay the local board rates and to show the earnestness of Government in this matter and to help them to do this, the aided secondary school will be paid, in addition to the grants to which they will be eligible under the Grant-in-aid Code, a special grant equal to one half of the difference between the average of the scales of pay laid down for similar posts in the service of local bodies and the average of the scales of pay actually adopted by the managements, subject to the condition that this additional grant is used entirely for payment to the teachers. The Government hope that the aided schools will recognize their duty by their teachers and come forward to meet their portion of the responsibility. This will not preclude the aided

schools from paying even at Government rates, if they choose to do so.

For the collegiate teachers, a rate has been prescribed which is well above the present rates. The scales of pay of the Instructors, etc., in the Engineering Colleges have been raised high enough so that the teaching posts will be able to secure men with high academic qualifications fit to train up engineers in their turn. These are higher than those offered in the P.W.D. in the non-gazetted services.

In the matter of pandits, the Government have recognised the importance of raising their status and paying them on the same level as other teachers and professors in the high schools and colleges. Those with proper qualifications have been brought to the front rank. The grades of even those who do not possess the requisite qualifications, have been substantially raised. The pays of others also have been suitably raised and the details will be found in the appendix to this note.

In consideration of the importance of education, the Government propose to issue orders that, as far as teachers in the service of local bodies and in aided institutions are concerned, the revision of the scales of pay should be given effect to from 1st January 1947.

To enable the local bodies, district boards and municipalities to meet the additional expenditure involved in giving effect to the revised scales of pay to the teachers in their elementary schools, the Government will bear the additional costs in the form of grants to middle class for one year and advances to district boards for the same period, repayable to the extent that the local bodies are able to pay back. All possibilities of enhancing the receipts under the Elementary Educational Fund accounts of each local body will be explored in due course. As regards the revision of salaries of teachers in their secondary schools, the local bodies will in future be paid grants-in-aid in a particular year on the basis of half of the approved net cost in the preceding financial year, after taking into account the subsidies now being paid. The grants to elementary schools under aided management and panchayats at the revised rates or scales will be paid in full by the Government themselves.

The Government, consistent with their financial position, have gone to the greatest extent possible. The matter of raising the status of elementary school and other teachers in various other ways is also under the active consideration of Government. The total ultimate cost of the salaries revision is Rs. 267 lakhs. Out of this, the revision of the posts in Government Educational institutions alone costs about Rs. 10 lakhs while the

cost of the revision of pay of teachers in aided institutions and institutions under local bodies is estimated at Rs. 81 lakhs. These figures do not include the cost of revision of salaries of teachers in elementary schools under local bodies, viz., Rs. 80 lakhs ultimately. From this will be known the extent of the increase that has been given to those in the educational services. It may be that there is still more scope for improvement but it must be always remembered that the money has to be drawn from the people. With the loss of Rs. 16.80 crores of revenue by enforcement of prohibition, the Government have suffered a setback in their financial resources and in spite of these set-backs, the Government have thought fit to come forward with this large item of expenditure to relieve the present difficulties of their non-gazetted services. It is not that this cannot admit of improvements; but only it must await better times. Now that the Government have come forward to do their best, the Government expect that the teachers will do their part by increasing the quality and efficiency of their work. It cannot be gainsaid that in our elementary schools as well as our other schools and colleges, a great deal of improvement is necessary and possible. The emoluments of any service must depend upon the efficiency with which that service serves the country and if we are to raise further the status of the teachers and make demands upon the people of this country, that must and will depend to a large extent upon the quality of service which these services will render to the nation. In this note, they address themselves to the educational service and the Government expect that they will come forward to do their best by the nation. [February 14]

Kurnool Thermal Scheme

The Government have sanctioned an estimate for Rs. 4.95 lakhs initially, rising to 11.1 lakhs within five years, for the Kurnool Thermal Scheme. Under the scheme, the Kurnool Municipal Electrical undertaking, which has not been working satisfactorily, will be acquired by the Government as requested by the Municipal Council, Kurnool, and the Government will organize the repairs and rehabilitate the power house and distribution system. Additional generating set of about 150 K.W. capacity will be installed immediately and 2 more 200 K.W. sets will be installed within five years to meet the anticipated increase in load in and around Kurnool. Ultimately Kurnool will receive its supply from the Thungabhadra Hydro-Power Station which is expected to be ready by about 1952. [February 25]

Abolition of the Zamindari System

The Madras Legislative Council passed a resolution moved by the Hon'ble Sri K. R. Karanth, accepting the principle of the abolition of the zamindari system in the Province and recommending to the Government to bring in, at an early date, legislation for it and "providing for payment of equitable compensation to zamindars and other intermediaries whose rights are to be acquired." The resolution inheres a response to the persistent demand that is being put forward for the implementation of the proposal of abolition of the zamindari system, and provides an unmistakable index of the Government's intentions in this regard. The question is not one which has cropped up suddenly or has been sprung upon the public or the zamindar class without previous notice. It has been engaging the Government's attention for nearly a decade and more seriously subsequent to the publication of the report of the Prakasam Committee of 1938. The Advisors' Régime had its own scheme in this regard, which, while differing in the matter of details, provided for the elimination of the zamindari system under certain conditions.

The principle of abolition of zamindaris having been accepted by the Government and the Legislature, the main points that remain for consideration are the method and the manner of compensating the zamindars and the determination of what "equitable compensation" means or should mean. On this question, Mr. Karanth emphatically declared that "the Congress has accepted the principle of compensation and, I for one, will not question it." Indubitable different ways of dealing with this question may be proposed and in Bengal and Bihar, two or three formulae bearing on the method of compensating the zamindars have been under examination. Sections of opinion are there which maintain that compensation can neither be claimed nor is due to the zamindars,

but as the Revenue Minister maintained, "this country does not wish to deal with them on this basis." At the same time Government's viewpoint on the question was clearly explained by him when he said "that if any Government thinks still of using the word equitable, it will not be in the sense where we shall have to pay large sums to them, but something fair and just, regard being had to all the circumstances of the case. Certainly it will not be according to the Land Acquisition Act."

While the decision on the question of the abolition of zamindaris stands and while the Government are irrevocably committed to effecting the reform, a number of details involved in the matter have to be worked out and settled and are being worked out. To uproot a system which had been in existence for nearly a century and a half with all the ramifications it has developed around it, and to plant in its place another and a different system is a complicated business from a number of standpoints. But the system has become an outmoded one and many zamindars themselves, as the Revenue Minister pointed out in this speech, are ready to give up the system on the

Government Depar

I. Labour

The Government of Madras have accepted the findings of the Court of Inquiry appointed under the Trade Disputes Act, 1929, to settle the dispute between the workers and the management of the Madura Mills Company, Limited, Tuticorin, and have ordered the publication of the report of the Court in the Fort St. George Gazette.

The awards of the Adjudicators to whom the disputes in the following undertakings have been referred for adjudication under the Defence of India Rules are awaited :—

- (1) The Ganeshar Aluminium Factory, Madras.
- (2) Sayani Glass Works, Madras.
- (3) Messrs. Parry & Co., Ltd., Madras.
- (4) The Binny's Beach Engineering Works, Madras.
- (5) Messrs. Parry & Co., Ltd., Ranipet (Pottery Section).
- (6) The Chittivalasa Jute Mills Company, Limited, Chittivalasa.
- (7) The Nellimarla Jute Mills Company, Limited, Nellimarla.
- (8) The Andhra Paper Mills, Rajahmundry.
- (9) The Vizagapatam Sugars and Refinery, Limited, Thumapala, Anakapalle.

There has been a good deal of agitation for increased wages, dearness allowance, bonus, leave facilities, etc., from the employees of motor transport services both in the city and in the mufassal and there have also been representations and threats of strikes from workers employed in the workshops attached to transport services and their engineer work shops.

The mill-owners at Coimbatore announced the grant of a three months' bonus to the workers in the textile mills in September last year. Representations were made to the Minister for Industries and Labour by the Coimbatore Textile Mill workers urging the raising of their basic wages and for an increase in the quantum of bonus. The Minister for Labour met the representatives of the mill-owners and the Coimbatore District Textile Workers' Union in the last week of October 1946, and discussed the issues raised, but no settlement could be effected, as neither of the parties were willing to come to an agreement.

In July 1946, the Government of Madras had appointed a Court of Inquiry to examine the conditions of service of labour in the textile industry of this Province with a view to better the lot of the workers and its work is nearing completion.

However, in view of the fact that the workers demanded an interim award with respect to wages and an immediate decision on the question of bonus, these demands were referred for adjudication under rule 81-A of the Defence of India Rules.

This Adjudicator's award gave the workers at Coimbatore substantial increases in the basic wages, which in 75 per cent of the cases were over 80 per cent of the existing wages, some getting 100 per cent or more. The Adjudicator also considered that the bonus already declared, viz., three months' basic wages, was adequate. At the same time he announced that the substantial increase in the basic wages would take effect from 1st October 1946 and that the retrospective effect thus given to the enhanced rates of wages would result in the workers getting another three months' wages. These findings were accepted by Government.

The District Textile Workers' Union, however, persisted in their original demand for payment of six months' wages as bonus instead of three months declared by the mill-owners and issued a notice of strike from 13th January 1947.

Once the award is given by the Adjudicator and approved by Government it is final and binding on the parties.

After the present Government took charge awards of Adjudicators have been respected in all cases. The Prime Minister who was in Delhi about the time this dispute arose flew to Madras and proceeded to Coimbatore the same day along with the Commissioner of Labour. He met the representatives of both the parties on 12th January 1947 and tried his best to intervene and

effect a settlement of the dispute apart from the award of the Adjudicator which cannot be questioned under the law. At the Prime Minister's request, action was postponed pending further discussions at Madras. The parties met the Prime Minister at Madras on 17th January 1947, 18th January 1947 to 1st February 1947 and 7th February 1947 and voluntarily agreed to discuss the matter further amongst themselves, the discussion covering not only the question of bonus but other matters affecting future peace in the industry.

The Prime Minister was glad of this decision and he desired the parties to come to a voluntary agreement and it was understood after the discussion on 7th February 1947 that the strike would be postponed to a date after 12th February 1947 but the strike was declared on 12th February 1947.

Except the workers of Gnanambika Mills in Vellakinar about 5 miles from Coimbatore and two mills in Tiruppur (Dhanalakshmi Mills and Asher Textiles), the workers of the textile mills in Coimbatore went on strike. The strike was called off on 21st February 1947 on the intervention of the Premier.

The Commissioner of Labour has recommended to Government that the dispute between the workers and the management of the Standard Furniture Co., Ltd., Kallai, regarding increased wages, reinstatement of workers, etc., may be referred to the District and Sessions Judge, South Malabar, for adjudication under the Defence of India Rules. The workers of the factory who struck work on 10th February 1947 have been advised to resume work pending the orders of Government.

It is reported that the tile workers of South Kanara (Mangalore) have struck work from 7th February 1947. The Labour Officer, Calicut, has gone to Mangalore to settle the dispute. The District Magistrate, South Kanara, has been requested to assist the Labour Officer in settling the dispute on the lines of the settlement approved by the Commissioner of Labour at Calicut on 28th January 1947.

The Commissioner of Labour has recommended to Government that the dispute between the workers and the management of the India Ceramics, Limited, Nellore, may be referred to the District and Sessions Judge, Nellore, for adjudication under rule 81-A of the Defence of India Rules. Eighty-five out of 145 workers of the factory who struck work on 10th February 1947 have been advised to resume work pending the orders of Government.

The workers of the Mahalakshmi Textiles Limited, Pasumalai, struck work on 28th January 1947 as a protest against the refusal of the management to pay the interim relief to textile workers sanctioned by Government in their Order Ms. No. 4637, Development, dated 18th December 1946. The Commissioner of Labour, Madras, has recommended to Government that the management may be directed to give effect to the terms of the award.

The contract labour working in quarries of the Coimbatore Cement Works, Madukkarai, struck work on 9th December 1946, demanding higher rates of pay, the payment of dearness allowance and bonus, shorter working hours, the provision of accommodation and the other facilities and the supply of gunpowder and fuse at the rates at which the company sold them. Various efforts have been made to effect an amicable settlement but all these failed.

It was represented to the Government that as an Adjudicator found recently in favour of abolition of contract labour, the workers would go back to work, if the Government made it clear to them that they proposed to implement the award.

The Government have made it clear that the acceptance of award by them was tantamount to an assurance that the findings of the award would be implemented. They have assured the workers that management will be moved in the matter of supply of gunpowder and fuse at the Company's rates. The quarry workers resumed work on 12th February 1947.

The Government of Madras have informed the management of the Coimbatore Cement Company, Madukkarai, that the practice of obtaining labour through contractors is undesirable and should not be permitted.

The Secretary, Metal Workers' Union, Shoranur, has wired that the dispute between the workers and the management of the Shoranur Metal Industries, Limited, Shoranur, has been settled and that the workers who were on strike from 9th January 1947 have resumed work on 13th February 1947.

The dispute between the workers and the management of the New Era Manufacturing Company, Limited, Palghat, has been settled and the workers who were on strike from 23rd December 1946 called off the strike on 4th February 1947.

II. Education

Elementary Education.—The Government have ordered that with effect from 1st January 1947 grants to aided elementary schools should be paid

(Continued on page 17)

Insurance, A Sacred Social Trust

Hon'ble Mr. Kumaraswamy Raja's Address

[The following is the address delivered by the Hon'ble Mr. P. S. Kumaraswami Raja, Minister for Agriculture, at the South India Insurance Association on 3rd February 1947.]

Insurance is a term which literally means "making oneself safe against" something but it is specially used in connexion with making financial provision against certain risks in business or life. Technological advance has brought with it new and formerly unknown dangers to life and property.

The essence of insurance lies in the elimination of the uncertain risk of loss for the individual by means of foresight and co-operation with other members of the society. A large number of similarly exposed individuals combine together and each contributes to a common fund small sums sufficient to make good the loss caused to any one individual. The economic function of insurance is not the elimination of the risk, because some of them are beyond the control of man, but rather the substitution of a known small loss for an uncertain large loss.

The necessary pre-requisites of a sound system of insurance are a clear knowledge of the nature of the risk, its probable occurrence and the resulting loss. In the case of losses caused by fire or ship-wreck, accurate measurement of the loss is possible for the value of the building gutted or the cargo lost by the ship-wreck can be easily calculated. In the case of human life, although accurate estimate of the loss of earning power is difficult to arrive at, a fixed value, previously agreed upon, may be paid. Devices resembling insurance were not unknown in antiquity. In Imperial Rome there existed Collegia, associations of artisans, which paid the surviving dependents of their members a funeral sum in return for the payment of an initiation fee and monthly premiums. The mediæval guilds had also devised methods to protect their members from unforeseen accidents or death which might otherwise leave their dependents in utter destitution. The first glimmerings of marine insurance are found among the ancient Greeks. Money was advanced on a ship or cargo, to be repaid with large interest if the voyage prospered, but not repaid at all, if the ship be lost, the rate of interest being made high enough to pay not only for the use of the capital but for the risk of losing it.

Origins of the system

I have referred to the origins of insurance only to show that human mind has been always in

search of mitigating, if not eliminating, the risks which have necessarily to be met within the ordinary business of life. This search for methods of avoiding the losses due to risks has attained a high degree of success only in recent times. Since the middle of the last century, the practice of insurance extended with unprecedented rapidity, partly in novel forms. Fire and marine insurance has been in vogue from the middle ages. The period between the beginning of the eighteenth century and the middle of the nineteenth witnessed the establishment of insurance companies on the joint stock basis. In the latter half of the last century, social insurance was developed in Germany where Bismark introduced sickness insurance and accident insurance in 1884 and old age insurance in 1889.

In Advanced Countries

At present in all advanced countries, insurance occupies a prominent position. The success of industry in a country is both fostered and measured by the degree to which insurance has been developed. In the decade prior to the war in the U.S.A., the aggregate insurance premiums of all classes of carriers for all types of risk was nearly 6,000 million dollars annually. The advantages of insurance are too well known to need elaboration. Society as a whole benefits through the accumulation of capital reserves which will make good the loss resulting from the destruction of valuable assets. In 1945 the total premium income from non-life business in India amounted to Rs. 9.20 crores, and that from life business was of the order of Rs. 28 crores. The assets of the Indian insurers exceeded Rs. 137.8 crores on 31st December 1945. These figures will indicate how small dribblets of premium payments make a mighty reservoir of investable funds. In life insurance, reserves assume the greatest importance and they may be utilized for the industrial development of this country. The insurance companies are the greatest institutional investors and as such they do a great service to the country.

The second advantage of insurance is that in so far as risks associated with business are eliminated or completely covered, the credit of the

business firm is strengthened and the business costs are lowered. Thus unit costs are reduced and the consumers as a class are benefited by the availability of goods at cheaper prices. The third and the chief advantage of insurance is that it enables the individual to obviate poverty and destitution for himself and his dependents through mutual action.

In India

Insurance in India has grown and expanded remarkably in the inter-war period. Especially in the decade prior to the war, the total business remaining in force rose from Rs. 82 crores at the end of 1929 to Rs. 219 crores in 1938, registering an average annual increase of Rs. 13.7 crores. After a slight set back in the first two years of war due to the unsettled conditions, there has been a substantial improvement. But there is no reason for self-complacency. In this connexion, I would like to point out certain lacunae in the insurance business in our country, which need early rectification. The non-Indian insurance companies, especially in non-life business, have a disproportionately large share. Of the total premium income of Rs. 9.20 crores in 1946, Rs. 4.26 crores or about 46 per cent goes to the non-Indian concerns. About 101 insurers out of 340 operating in India in 1946 were constituted outside India. It is interesting to note that 86 out of 101 non-Indian companies are engaged only in business other than life while 152 out of 239 Indian concerns do only life business. Although the dominance of foreign concerns has been reduced since the first decade of the present century, much leeway has to be made by Indian insurance.

The second defect in the Indian insurance structure is the almost complete neglect of the agricultural sector of our national economy. As a Minister in charge of Agriculture, I strongly feel that the greatest risks to which the ryot is exposed should be covered by a system of insurance. The sudden death of his cattle and the failure of crops due to one or other of the various reasons are the twin-evils which must be remedied by a scientific development of insurance. It is common knowledge that the principle of mutuality is the corner stone of the insurance system. The more numerous the individuals of each class who share the risk, the more exactly can it be estimated and the more cheaply can it be covered, and protection administered. With regard to cattle and crop insurance a vast unexplored field remains open. If private enterprise and initiative do not come forward to do good to the ryots and harvest decent profits for

themselves, the Government will have to undertake it sooner rather than later.

The third major deficiency in the Indian insurance system is the tardy growth of social insurance. Ever since the publication of the monumental report on Social Insurance and Allied Services by Sir William (now Lord) Beveridge, the problem has assailed the minds of the greatest social reformers and Governments in all countries especially the U.S.A. and Canada.

Social Insurance

Social insurance is an omnibus term which includes an adequate cover against all the well-known contingencies from which workers or people might probably suffer and which deprive them of the opportunity to earn. The chief constituent of a comprehensive social insurance system are (1) sickness insurance, (2) maternity insurance, (3) industrial accident insurance, relating to accidents met with in the course of doing one's allotted work, (4) non-industrial accident insurance, (5) invalidity insurance, (6) unemployment insurance, (7) old age insurance and (8) survivorship insurance. India is admittedly one of the most backward countries in regard to social insurance. The need for such insurance had been stressed ever since the Royal Commission on Labour submitted their report. The Workmen's Compensation Act of 1923 provides for industrial accidents, but in the practical administration it suffers, as the Maternity Benefits Acts do, from numerous defects. No country, deemed civilised, can tolerate the working classes to live under perpetual fear of unemployment, sickness and accident. The wage earners are very poorly paid; yet a system of compulsory insurance requiring a low rate of payment from the workers and a heavier rate from the employers, supported by the Government, is an urgent need. I may add that social insurance is not so much a new principle as the combination of various elements which may be found separately in individual insurance, whether private or mutual; three prominent characteristics of social insurance are compulsion, partial support by the treasury funds and the levy upon employers for premium payments.

The rectification of these defects will enable Indian insurance to expand in an unprecedented degree in the next decade or two. Hence none can deny that a great future lies ahead of insurance workers in this country. Rapid industrialization, which is held as the objective by the Governments as well as public will create further opportunities

(Continued on page 19)

Reconstituted Milk Factory Opened

The Government of Madras have opened a Reconstituted Milk Factory at Saidapet. The opening ceremony took place on the 16th of January, with Mr. W. Scott Brown, then Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras in the chair.



Factory view

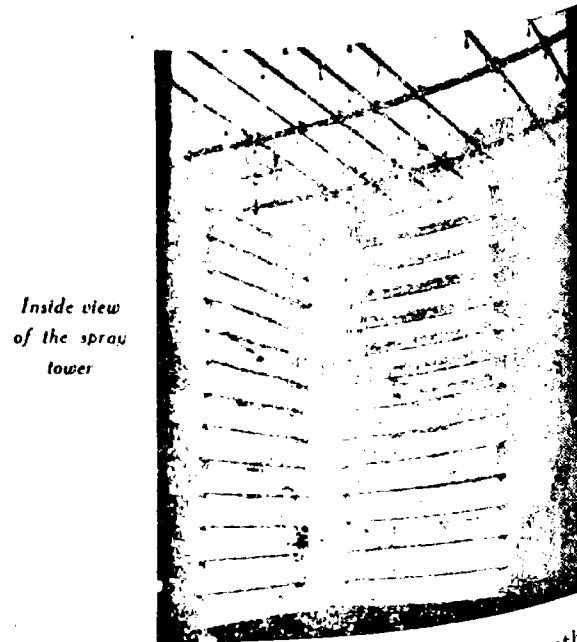
Mr. C. H. Masterman, Commissioner of Civil Supplies, said the need for more milk has been felt in Madras for a very long time. He thanked Messrs. Binny & Co., for this venture, which they had undertaken on behalf of the Government.



Spray tower and overhead tank

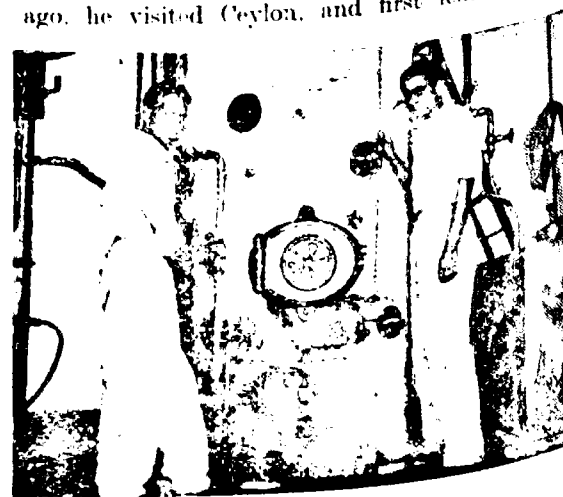
Mr. Scott Brown, said the people of Madras had been suffering for want of pure milk. It was gratifying that Mr. R. W. Theobald, Director of

Messrs. Binny & Co., had taken up the scheme after visiting several countries and acquainting himself with the methods of production of reconstituted milk. He hoped that his venture would ease the milk situation in Madras.



Inside view of the spray tower

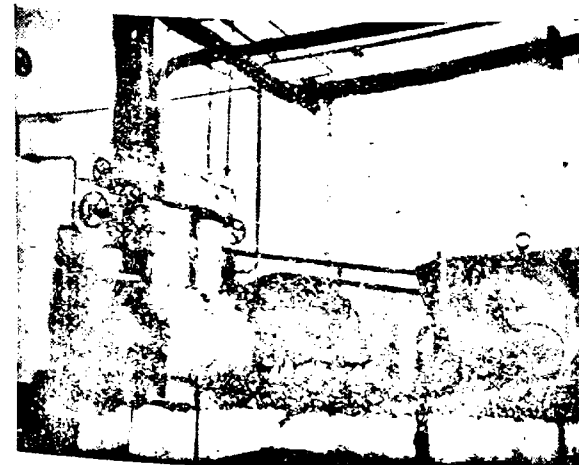
Mr. R. W. Theobald said about 18 months ago, he visited Ceylon, and first learnt of the



Boiler

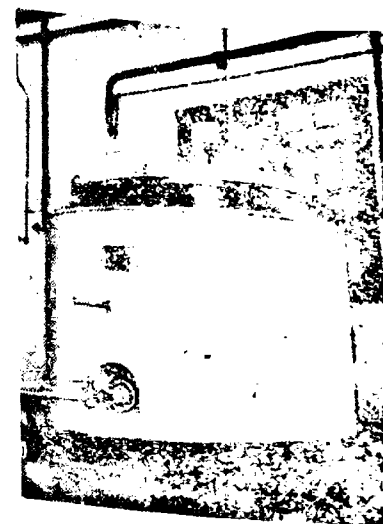
great possibilities of reconstituting powdered-milk into a delicious beverage. He visited a factory

run by the Colombo Cold Store Company, and was asked if he would like to taste a glass of reconstituted milk. He asked what was in it and was told water, milk-powder, deodorised coconut oil, and vitamin content. To him it did not sound



Refrigeration room showing the compressor, motor and Brine tank

very attractive, but he was persuaded to try a glass, and it was so nice that he immediately asked for another.

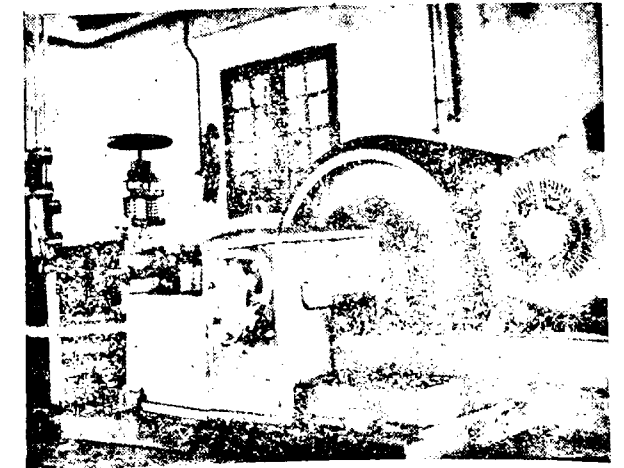


Steam vat (pasteuriser) in this vat, separated milk-powder, vegetable fat and Vitamin A with the proportionate quantity of water are heated up to 145 to 150 degrees for half an hour

He was then told that the labourers working in the factory were given a bottle of milk every day, and there had been a remarkable improvement in their physical condition. Hundreds of gallons of this milk were sold daily to the people of Ceylon.

The milk for the well-to-do people had the fat-content returned by the additions of butter imported from Australia, but there was nothing to choose between the two grades. He thought that here was an opportunity provided it could be worked in Madras.

Mr. Theobald hoped that many more factories of this type would be in operation soon. It had



Homogeniser.—This ensures complete emulcification of the mixture coming out of the steam vat under a pressure of 1,400 lb.

been proved beyond doubt that the milk supplied brought health and renewed life and vigour to those who drank it and there was no need for the Government to incur any loss. The schemes would pay for themselves.



Milk cooler.—This serves to cool the milk pumped out of the homogeniser to 40 degrees F. and the milk so cooled is collected in sterilised cans and pint bottles

The plant was capable of producing 75 gallons of milk every hour. The additional plant which

(Continued on page 17.)

[MARCH 15, 1947]

Intensive Procurement

Need for it

The Madras Province was deficit in foodgrains even during the pre-war years which was made up by imports chiefly from Burma and other Eastern countries. The average net import of rice per year during the five years ending 1939-40 was 451,000 tons and of millets 9,600 tons. With the stoppage of imports on the outbreak of war with Japan, the Province had to face a serious problem in regard to the supply of rice and millets. Ceylon, Travancore, Cochin, Mysore and parts of Bombay which depended for their imports on Burma and Eastern countries to a great extent for their requirements, began to draw their supplies from this Province, thus creating a serious situation in the Province by 1942. To tide over this serious situation the Government started a drive to grow more food by bringing new areas under food-crops, increasing double-crop cultivation, diverting areas under non-foodcrops to foodcrops, executing irrigation projects to bring more areas under cultivation and granting loans to cultivators. The Government have assumed the responsibility for the proper distribution of foodgrains grown in, and imported into, the Province.

The entire province is now under food rationing. Rationing is of two kinds—Statutory and informal. The latter is otherwise known as rural rationing. The general features of the forms of rationing are practically the same, the main difference being that rural rationing dispenses with a number of forms, reports and rules. It also enables changes in rationing temporarily with reference to the supply position without the necessity to observe any formality. The object of rationing in either case is to make an equitable distribution of the supplies available.

As the State has taken up the task of rationing, the duty is cast on it to have sufficient stocks of foodgrains for distribution to the public through ration shops. This policy adopted by the Government is in accordance with the recommendation of the Famine Enquiry Commission which emphasised that the problem of food supply and nutrition are fundamental and must at all times be the primary concern of the Government. It also suggested that in times of emergency the surplus of foodgrains grown by the producer should, after his needs have been met, be regarded as the property of the community. It further observed that monopoly procurement by the State under which the surplus of every producer is at the

disposal of the Government is the only satisfactory system of procurement.

Two different schemes of procurement were introduced, one in rice surplus districts and the other in the deficit districts. In the surplus districts purchases were made for supplies to the deficit districts. In the deficit districts the system of monopoly purchase and distribution was in force. Owing to the general failure of the monsoon in the province in 1946 and owing to the damage caused to crops by the cyclone in October 1946 in the circles, the need to procure the entire surplus in the rice surplus districts arose. Side by side with procurement, district-wide rationing was also introduced throughout the Province.

The main features of the procurement scheme are these—

Every producer and every person who receives produce as rent or interest or repayment of loan in kind is required to sell the surplus of such foodgrains as determined by the Collector or any officer authorised by him for the purpose to an agent appointed and notified by the Collector. The surplus with each producer is worked out by village karnams by means of special registers known as A, B and C registers. In determining the surplus allowance is made for (i) consumption by the producer and his household at 1 lb. per day per adult, (ii) payment of rent or interest in kind, (iii) payment to his tenant by way of advance for agricultural expenses, (iv) wages in kind, and (v) seeds for cultivation.

The scale for the allowance for agricultural expenses and seeds is fixed by the Collector with reference to the conditions prevailing in his district. After working out the surplus a notice is served on the producer to deliver it to the agent appointed by the Collector at the price notified by him.

Procurement was originally entrusted to private merchants who worked under the supervision of the district Revenue and Civil Supplies staff. In most of the districts the Wholesale Co-operative Stores are now the agencies for procurement. In G.O. No. 450, Food Department, dated 11th June 1946, the Government directed that with a view to render the food administration popular and effective non-officials should be associated with the work. Village, Taluk and District Committees were formed in every district with a view to exercise an effective check over the equitable

ARCH 15, 1947]

distribution of foodgrains. The Government also directed that procurement work should be entrusted as far as possible to co-operative institutions with a view to foster the co-operative spirit among the villagers. Wherever a co-operative organisation is unable to cope with the procurement work, private wholesalers are functioning.

With a view to eliminate middlemen and reduce the overhead charges, Producers-cum-consumers' Societies were first formed in Malabar district in June 1946 for the purpose of procuring the surplus foodgrains and for their distribution also of imported foodgrains. The societies have been completely organized and they have started work. With the experience gained in Malabar, the Government introduced a scheme in the delta districts of West Godavari, East Godavari, Krishna and Guntur in November 1946. A Special Officer of the grade of a Deputy Commissioner with the assistance of the district officials and District Food Reorganization Officers has been engaged in forming the societies. With the complete formation of these societies it is expected that all the surplus in these delta areas will be procured by the societies which will distribute them locally and also export the surplus. The profits will go to the societies' funds.

The present policy of the Government is to eliminate middlemen in other areas also by entrusting the work to co-operative organizations and it is expected that gradually the co-operative organizations will take up the entire work. It is not possible to form societies in each and every village immediately as the Co-operative department cannot find the staff to control them. Until such time as the societies are formed private merchants will have to be employed on the work. The members of the village, taluk and district committees have been empowered to inspect the stocks in depots and ration shops to see whether they are adequate.

The surplus of each village is to be determined by the village committee and is to be passed by the taluk committee. The taluk committee has the power to enhance the surplus determined by the village committee if it finds the figure is low. If any producer is not satisfied with the decision of the village committee he may appeal to the taluk committee. The taluk committee will send the summaries of the village surplus to the district committee from time to time. The district committee will scrutinize the assessments settled in the taluk and finalize the position in the district. The Collector will revise the list in consultation with the district committee if he finds that the estimates made by the taluk committees are low. The

functions of the village, taluk and district committees are more or less advisory and they are expected to render assistance to the district staff employed on procurement work.

Reconstituted milk factory opened

(Continued from page 15.)

had been ordered, and should be in Madras about April this year, would increase the output to 225 gallons per hour.

Cold store room.—Shows the cans and bottles kept inside it ready for issue. This room is always kept below 40 degrees



A complete bottle-washer sterilizer and filler had been ordered and should be working in the next few months.

If the day came when there would be plenty of milk the same factory could be used and milk kept good in the coldrooms.

Future schemes could be housed in buildings specially built for the purpose. There should be one pattern for the whole Presidency. That would enable prices to be cut to the minimum. Future schemes could be worked out for approximately 20 per cent less than the present.

Mr. Scott Brown then turned the handles of two electric pipes through which the reconstituted milk poured out. Mr. Brown humorously remarked: "This cow does not kick, but gives pure milk."

(Continued from page 11)

monthly instead of quarterly. The grant for January and February 1947 will be paid in April 1947 and monthly payments will be made in succeeding months.

The first meeting of the Provincial Advisory Board of Education was held on 18th January 1947 in Madras. The Hon'ble the Prime Minister opened the Conference.

Madras City Firewood Rationing Scheme

As a result of the war there was a very great demand for Casuarina wood, junglewood poles, etc., and consequently most of the Casuarina topes and junglewood plantations in the Chingleput, South Arcot and Nellore districts were felled and the stock sold for very high prices. This wholesale exploitation naturally affected adversely the supplies of firewood to Madras City and in November 1943 the City experienced a fuel famine and the poor people found it impossible to obtain fuel for their domestic requirements. The rapid increase in the City's population and consequently the increase in the City's requirements was also a contributory factor, leading to a fuel crisis. The Government therefore decided to introduce a scheme of statutory rationing of firewood and the scheme was brought into force from 5th February 1944.

By introducing statutory rationing the Government have assumed the responsibility for the procurement, reception, storage and issues of firewood to the civil population and establishments in the City. The scale of rations allowed to the civilian cardholders is as follows:—

	Quantity allowed per mensem. GUNDUS.
Group I (monthly income of Rs. 30 and below)—	
Category I (1—49 units of food ration)	2
Category II (50—126 units of food ration)	3
Category III (above 126 units of food ration)	3
Group II (monthly income of Rs. 31—50)—	
Category I	3
" II	3
" III	3
Group III (monthly income of Rs. 51—100)—	
Category I	3
" II	4
" III	5
Group IV (monthly income of Rs. 101—200)—	
Category I	5
" II	6
" III	7

	Quantity allowed per mensem. GUNDUS.
Group V (monthly income of Rs. 201—500)—	
Category I	7
" II	8
" III	9
Group VI (monthly income of Rs. 501—1,000)—	
Category I (1—126 units)	10
" II (above 126 units)	12
Group VII (monthly income of Rs. 1,000)—	
Category I (1—126 units)	12
" II (above 126 units)	15

For establishments a total quantity of 3,000 tons⁸ per mensem is set apart and the City Firewood Rationing Officer passes indents in respect of each establishment within the total quantity allotted.

The total quantity of firewood required by the Madras City for issues is estimated at 24,000 tons per mensem as indicated below:—

	TONS.
For issues to civil population	20,000
For issues to establishments	3,000
Provision for dryage in stocks at 4 per cent	920
	23,920
	or
	24,000

The above quantity of firewood is mostly obtained from private forests, Government forests and Panchayat forests in the adjacent districts of Chingleput, South Arcot, Tanjore, Trichinopoly, North Arcot, Chittoor, Cuddapah and Nellore. The quantity proposed to be drawn in 1947-48 is about 14,500 tons from private forests, 9,000 tons from Government forests and about 2,500 tons from Panchayat forests. As the full quota of supplies cannot be expected from all sources, in view of various difficulties—transport, seasonal weather conditions, fall of water level in the Buckingham canal, non-supply of wagons by the Railway, dearth of labour, etc.—it is often found necessary to draw special bulk supplies from

distant sources like Malabar and Cochin, to build up reserve stocks.

Under the scheme of statutory rationing the Government are bound to issue firewood to all cardholders in accordance with the prescribed scale. In case there is a breakdown in supplies owing to dislocation of Railway communication, it will not be possible to maintain the rationing arrangement unless there is a reserve buffer stock. The Government, as a matter of policy, are maintaining a reserve stock up to 30,000 tons, which stock is rotated periodically so that the loss on account of dryage may be kept at the minimum possible.

The following statement shows the total receipts and issues of firewood in the calendar year 1946:—

1946—	Receipts. TONS.	Issues. TONS.
January	21,279	21,433
February	10,773	19,335
March	13,008	20,081
April	13,548	18,802
May	17,967	18,140
June	26,571	17,133
July	23,650	19,461
August	25,012	19,955
September	25,995	19,356
October	25,983	22,054
November	18,130	21,673
December	8,365	22,843

The firewood received by Rail is issued mostly to retail dealers at the Railway yard and the surplus quantity is diverted to the Government depots at Basin Bridge, Perambur and Egmore for storage. The firewood received by canal is stored at the respective depots, viz., Basin Bridge Depot and the Adyar Depot. The Government's overhead charges in maintaining the Government Firewood Depots, and the officers of the Rationing and issue branch, the patrol staff and the Firewood Movement Officers in the interim districts, are estimated at Rs. 5-12-0 per ton. The Government are bearing themselves this expenditure without passing it on to the consumer. The Government are also bearing the charges on the transport of firewood in Civil Supplies lorries to the retailers' shops and a portion of the retailer's overhead charges. The total subsidy on this account is estimated at Rs. 5-4-0 per ton. All this is being done by Government with a view to keep the price of firewood, an essential commodity, as low as possible, so that the poorer section of the

population may not suffer. The present retail selling price of firewood in the City is as follows:—

	Per gundu.	RS.	A.	P.
Inferior wood	0	11	0	
Jungle wood	0	11	6	
Casuarina wood	0	12	6	

The total subsidy borne by Government on account of the rationing of firewood in Madras City in 1943-44 was 1.22 lakhs, in 1944-45, 13.58 lakhs, in 1945-46, 24.5 lakhs. The subsidy estimated in 1946-47 is 24.30 lakhs.

The Government have now sanctioned the continuance of the scheme of rationing in Madras City for a further period of six months from 1st April 1947.

INSURANCE, A SACRED SOCIAL TRUST

(Continued from page 13)

for the development of insurance. When the prospect is so attractive, it is necessary to maintain a rigid discipline among the insurance workers lest the whole field should be infested with adventurers and selfish profit-seekers. Insurance is strictly speaking a quasi-public utility. It must be organised and worked as a sacred trust. The expense ratio and commission must be kept down as low as possible. The good of the community must be held as the paramount objective. You have before you a great and glorious opportunity to serve the community. By your unstinting work, you help to save thousands of families from destitution and misery. Your work is noble and elevating.

I am very anxious that the Province of Madras should forge ahead of other provinces in regard to Insurance of all types. We are lagging in many directions particularly in business other than life. Our Province can take its rightful place in this field only by your sustained efforts. An Association of this type, I am confident, will help you immensely in all your endeavours. I pray for a long, vigorous and prosperous life for the Association.

RE-SETTLEMENT NEWS

Chingleput

The District Employment office is functioning in this district with effect from 1st January 1947. The Assistant Manager in charge of the District Employment office has interviewed 343 ex-service men during the fortnight and registered them for employment. The total number registered up to the end of the fortnight is 3,249 and the number placed in civil employment is 464.

Trichinopoly

So far 94 ex-servicemen have remitted the initial share capital amount of Rs. 26,393-12-0 and registered their names for selection as members of the Trichinopoly Motor Transport Co-operative Society. By-laws have been received from the Regional Director, Madras, and a preliminary meeting to explain them and to get their signatures on the applications have been posted to 24th February 1947. It is hoped that this society will be functioning very soon.

Madras

The number of ex-servicemen registered from 1st to 14th February 1947 is 680. During this period, demands for these men numbering 115 were received from various offices in the city for appointment and in most cases they have been complied with.

A co-operative society for tailors' (ex-servicemen) has been formed and it has started working. A sum of Rs. 31,000 has been collected for the proposed Motor Transport Co-operative Society.

South Kanara

Out of nearly 6,000 persons recruited from the district of South Kanara, 2,082 persons have registered their names for civil employment after having returned home on demobilization.

Five hundred and eighteen persons out of these, have been placed in employment, 111 have started their own business or are not in need of assistance, 75 have left the district seeking employment elsewhere and 1,378 remain to be employed.

Cuddapah

Fifty five ex-servicemen have been registered during the fortnight bringing the total number registered to 1,544. The number of ex-servicemen placed in employment during the fortnight is 31, and the total number appointed up to the fortnight is 410. The placements so far made in Governments are temporary. On 8th February,

the Special Assistant and the District Superintendent of Police jointly selected 9 candidates for constables' posts.

The Special Assistant, Ex-servicemen Resettlement, toured in Proddatur and Rayachoti taluks, contacted the ex-servicemen and discharged war workers and gave them suitable advice and instructions. Propaganda is being done to popularise the proposed Motor Transport Co-operative Societies for ex-servicemen.

The land colony at Pullampet is being got ready. Trial borings have been made ready for six wells. Two irrigation wells and one drinking water well are under execution. The matter is under correspondence with the Brigadier, Headquarters, Vizagapatam sub-area, with regard to the availability of Army bull dozers for reclaiming the scrub growth in colonization area. Thirty applications for membership in the Land Colonization Co-operative Society have been received.

Nellore

Nineteen ex-servicemen have been submitted for employment during the fortnight. Four ex-servicemen have been placed in employment and three have found work.

Tanjore

The Government have started the Kumbakonam Co-operative Metal Works for providing employment for discharged ex-services personnel. The institution has been registered under the Co-operative Societies Act. Membership is open to all discharged ex-services personnel who have had at least six months service in units and who had undergone training in any metal trade under the Government of India Technical Training Scheme. The ultimate total number of members of the society is 200 with a share capital of Rupees 40,000. There are now eighty members.

The Government have sanctioned the settlement of about 285 ex-servicemen in agricultural employment in a land colony at Thirumangalakottai east and west villages of Pattukkottai taluk in this district.

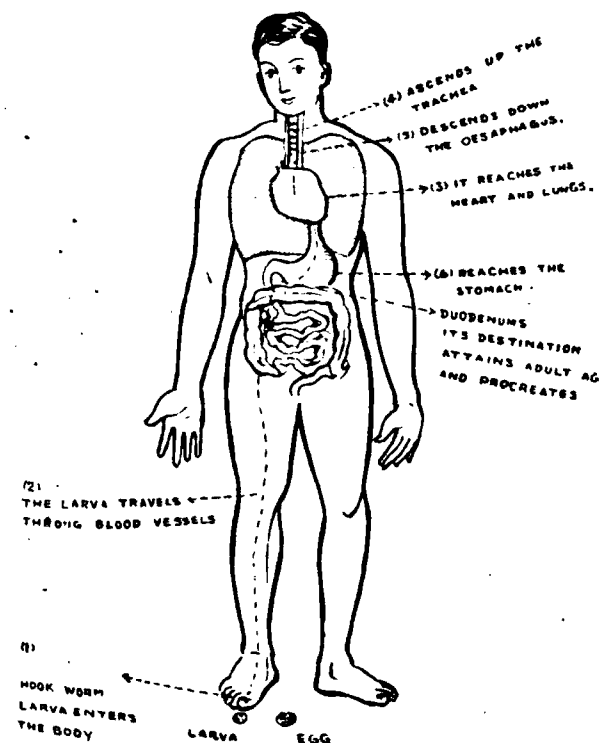
Salem

For the fortnight under report, 283 ex-servicemen have registered themselves in the District Employment office at Salem. During the fortnight, 13 men have been placed in different jobs.

(Continued on page 28)

Hook-worm infection and its prevention

By DR. V. KRISHNAMURTHI RAO, D.M. & S., L.P.H.
(Municipal Health Officer, Dindigul.)

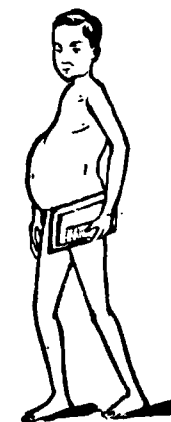


lasts only for a few days). A papule at the site of the entrance of the worm, if infected with other pus-producing germs, may develop into a sore. The larvae thus gaining access into the lymphatics and blood stream enter into the heart and then into the lungs and ascend up the wind-pipe (trachea), being caught in small capillaries, and descend down the gullet (pharynx) and oesophagus (food-tube) and are swallowed back into the stomach where they undergo certain changes and reach the upper parts of the intestines called duodenum and jejunum. There they attain maturity and develop into adult male and female hook-worms and procreate.

The adult hook-worm will be $\frac{1}{2}$ " long and looks like a stitching thread. The anterior part of the hook-worm at the head is bent like a hook from which it derives its name "Hook-worm." The female is bigger than the male and ash grey or black in colour owing to sucking of blood. In the small intestine of man these adult worms bite the inner layer (mucosa) and cling to the intestinal wall. They break capillaries and set up neurosis and oozing of blood in different parts. The worms live on human blood causing bloodlessness (anaemia) which later on leads to general debility. Due to oozing of blood in the intestine the stools are coloured dark (melaena).

Symptoms of infection.—The earliest symptoms are indigestion and dyspepsia with occasional dull pain in the abdomen.

Anaemia later develops as the parasites live on the blood of the host. Due to anaemia there is extreme weakness and the patient complains of laziness from the start. In advanced cases severe anaemia, dropsy, palpitation and difficult breathing are noticed. The patient has a tendency to eat articles like ash, mud, etc., which is not eaten normally.



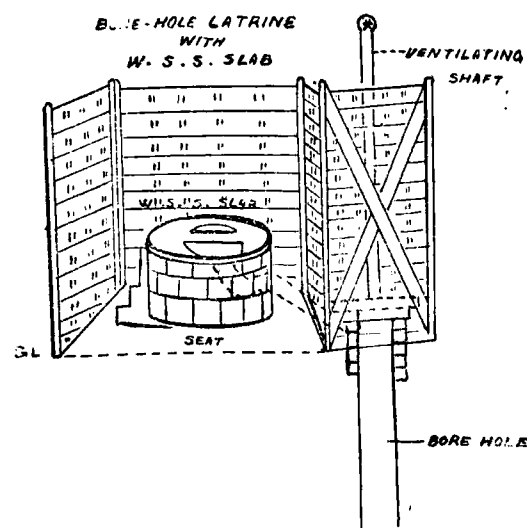
A HOOK WORM PATIENT.

Hook-worm disease is widely prevalent in tropical and sub-tropical countries and it is considered that in India a majority of the population is infected with hook-worm. The disease is due to careless filthy habits and can be cured and prevented easily.

Life cycle of worm.—The rural and even urban folk of India do not hesitate to commit nuisance around dwelling houses, river banks, tank bunds, road margins, open fields and almost anywhere, and some of them being infected with hook-worm the eggs are deposited on the ground in large numbers along with faeces. These eggs hatch into infective worm like larvae and begin to move about. The peculiarity of this larvae is that it can move vertically up the blades of the grass, leaves, etc. These larvae bore through the delicate skin between the toes of the feet of persons who walk bare footed and thus produce ground itch (an itching sore on the foot which

Prevention.—Sanitary education of the public contributes a great share in the prevention of diseases and especially hook-worm infection. Indiscriminate defaecation should be put an end to by extensive propaganda. Construction of proper latrines in every dwelling house should be insisted upon. In rural areas where the services of a scavenger could not be secured bore-hole latrines connected with a water seal should be constructed as shown in the figure.

Bore-hole latrines.—This latrine could be constructed easily at a very little cost. A long deep hole (12 to 20 feet long) with a diameter of 14" is



dug with the aid of a special borer in earth and its upper portion is elevated to prevent entry of rain water into the bore-hole. The bore-hole is connected with the hole in the W.S.S. (water seal squatting) slab in the elevated platform by a chute. The top of the bore-hole is covered with a lid and

fitted with a ventilator. (See Fig. 3). To secure privacy a zinc sheet or bamboo thatty or mud wall enclosure is erected. This latrine should be at least 50 feet away from drinking water sources. As soon as the bore-hole gets filled up to about 3 feet below the ground level it should be covered with earth and a similar bore-hole made near it. After six months the closed bore-hole contents when dug out by the same borer yields valuable manure to the farmer. The latrine can be shifted from one place to another similarly at any time and the manure saved. The advantages of this bore-hole latrines are—

it is (1) Hygienic, (2) clean, (3) cheap, (4) can be accommodated in very little space, (5) yields manure to the fields, and (6) there is no need of the services of the scavenger.

(2) **Foot wear.**—Wearing of slippers or stockings and shoes is not in vogue in rural parts. Even though it is not a very effective preventive method this may be encouraged. The larvae of hook-worm are said to enter through the stitch holes of shoes.

(3) **Treatment.**—The adult worm should be destroyed by extensive treatment of infected persons. Periodic microscopic examination of stools of these infected persons should be continued after treatment. Routine examination of stools of inmates of boarding houses and servants in mills, factories, hospitals, etc., are to be done and treatment given. Calcium lactose and glucose mixture is given before treatment to strengthen the liver. The next day a mixture of oleum chenopodium and carbon tetrachloride is given in 3 or 2 ounce of concentrated mogsulph solution. This paralyses the adult hook-worms in the intestines and they lose their hold from the intestinal mucosa and are driven out by the purgative. On reaching the ground they die owing to the tropical heat of the sun.

Balanced Diet

What do we mean by a balanced diet? We mean one that contains all the essentials for the promotion of growth and the maintenance of health. We are beginning to realize more fully the necessity for this as we see the life span being prolonged by improved methods of medicine, surgery and nutrition. Because we are finding that many more people reach old age only to find themselves beset with physical and mental

conditions which are due to improper diets during their youthful years.

People have tried to approach the planning of balanced diets in several ways. One of the newer methods is to judge your own diet by "the Basic Seven". This means that essential foods have been divided under seven groups and each day's diet must include some food from each

of the seven groups. The "Basic Seven" are as follows:—

Group I.
Green and yellow vegetables; some raw, some cooked. These supply vitamin A as carotene and green leaves supply vitamin C some B vitamins especially B2 and minerals especially calcium and iron; roughage and attractiveness.

Group II.
Oranges, tomatoes, all citrus fruits, amla, guava, sprouted gram. Vitamin C; but other minerals and vitamins too.

Group III.
Potatoes, yams and other vegetables and fruits raw, dried or cooked. More vitamins, minerals, calories, carbohydrates and variety.

Group IV.
Milk and milk products fluid, evaporated dried milk or cheese. Proteins of high value, calcium and riboflavin or vitamin B2 in larger amounts than any other source; some vitamin A, phosphorus and thiamin in small amounts.

Group V.
Meat, poultry, fish or eggs or dried beans, peas, dhals, grams, soya bean, nuts. Protein—the animal protein being considered somewhat better than the vegetable but all making an important contribution. You get B vitamins. Also iron from liver and kidney. Iodine from salt water fish. Calories.

Group VI.
Cereals, bread, flour, natural whole grain cereals or enriched cereals. B vitamins, some minerals, roughage and calories.

Group VII.
Butter, ghee, or fats to which vitamin A has been added. Vitamin A, essential fatty acids and calories.

If you have some food from each group each day then in addition you can eat any other food you like to satisfy your appetite.

The two groups of people who are most apt to have badly balanced diets are the low economic groups and the highest groups. The lowest groups because they cannot get enough food and the highest groups are often misled because of fads, bad habits formed as children and bad social customs. The people in the lowest level often save themselves by their use of green leafy vegetables while the higher groups eat too many carbohydrates and fats.

The great difficulty with a balanced diet is that it is expensive. At the present prices you cannot have an ideal diet much under Rs. 30 per month per person. A diet can be theoretically balanced using mostly vegetable proteins at approximately Rs. 13 per month. Below this you can get quality but there will not be enough. This means that we have to find ways and means of improving diets at low cost without raising the price so that they will be of the best quality possible at that level.

Where cereals are the main part of the diet, it is very important that several cereals are used as one cereal tends to supplement another, especially in protein. Diets should never contain more than 50 per cent rice and if cereals are used above that they should be ragi, wheat, maize or cholam. Greens or "kerai" can generally play an important part as there is such a variety of edible greens growing in almost any compound and they are very easily grown in any small plot of ground. If you cannot afford oranges or guavas you can sprout green gram and Bengal gram for vitamin C. Using parboiled or home pounded rice and some whole cereal you get phosphorus and part of your B vitamins. There should be some dhal or gram in the diet daily. If possible liver, other meat, fish or eggs should be had at least three times a week. If only small quantities of milk or curds are available and not enough for a whole family they should be reserved for the mother and the growing children. Very often the mother is the worst-fed person as she sees the father and children get their food first and it is the mother that needs the food if she is to produce strong healthy children.

Theoretically a diet can be balanced with raw foods but when the foods are cooked the value may be lost. Do you throw away congee water and the water vegetables are cooked in? If so, you are throwing away vitamins and minerals that have dissolved in the water. Have you overcooked your vegetables or prepared them half an hour before the meal? Is so, your vitamin C

(Continued on page 32.)

India and World Food Plan

By SIR S. V. RAMAMURTHY

The Food and Agricultural Organization—the F.A.O. as it is called—has fifty-four nations as its members. It met in Conference at Copenhagen in August last and appointed a Commission of eighteen nations to prepare a World Food Plan. The United States of America, the United Kingdom and India took the leading part. Among other nations represented were France, Holland, Denmark, Canada, Australia, China, Egypt and Brazil. Russia has not joined the Conference. Argentine sent an observer. Mr. (now Viscount) Bruce was the Chairman and did his duty admirably. It was an education to see how he guided the Conference with the lightest of reins. The leader of the Indian delegation was Dr. Katju. He was keen, intelligent and selfless. As alternate leader, I found it good to work with him.

When he went to Washington, we found that a change had come over the United States of America and United Kingdom in their attitude towards the proposal of Sir John-Boyd Orr, the Director-General of the F.A.O., to establish a World Food Board. Since the Copenhagen conference on food, there was a conference on International Trade in London of the same nations. The desire of the leading Western nations to form a world organization for food had been replaced by the desire to negotiate trade agreements between individual nations. On the first day of our Conference at Washington, everybody was taken aback at the change in view of United States of America and United Kingdom. The smaller nations found it difficult to stand against the lead of the United States of America backed by United Kingdom. India was the only nation which stood firm for the formation of a World Food Board. For two months we stood almost alone. The smaller nations however began to take courage and we found a steady change of sentiment towards our view. When the matter came up for a final decision, United States of America, after watching a whole day's discussion, joined us. United Kingdom followed.

India stepped in to save

It was India that saved the proposal of Sir John Orr that food needed a world organization. We did not support a World Food Council for any benefit we might specially derive from it. We said that India was big enough, strong enough, had enough of resources, to live sufficient unto

herself, even if the rest of the world were not. We stood for a world food council because of our faith in the one world. For thousands of years, it was the basis of our faith that the world was One. Other nations have been seeking the one world of late. But their faith still wavers. They were moving towards the hypothesis of the one world or receding from it as the mood changed. We stood at the centre, firm in our faith, while other nations moved to and fro at the circumference. The formation of a world food council was a translation of Indian faith into world practice.

Having agreed to the formation of a world council for food we got the Conference to agree next to its exercising the same functions in respect of food as the proposed International Trade Organization through its commodity commission could exercise in regard to commodities in general. Food, we argued, is hardly a commodity. It is a vital necessity of life. The Earth is the heritage of all men and no nation has a right to withhold food which it can produce when others starve. It is open to nations to bargain with each other in trade and give or not give their goods in return for others. But in respect of food, it was the welfare of the whole world and not the profit of any nation that was relevant. The spirit of the Food and Agricultural Organization is thus different from the spirit of an International Trade Organization. We insisted that the basic foods, namely, rice, wheat, other cereals and sugar should be under the supervision of the World Food Council and not a trade commission. The final decision that the World Food Council which can deal with basic foods will deal with them will have to be taken at the next conference of the F.A.O. when the Washington Report will be discussed.

Need for World Board

The need for a world food organization arises in our point of view from the need to feed the hungry and to avoid famines. Member nations therefore are to maintain famine reserves which will be used internationally under the direction of the World Food Council. From the point of view of producing nations, the World Food Council has to so arrange the disposal of food stocks in the world as to prevent a slump when supply exceeds demand, as it will in a couple of years, when

Europe rehabilitates herself. The production potential of the world has been raised during the War years and since. It is no longer permitted by the world conscience to burn excess production or use it for feeding animals or manufacture alcohol when there are hungry men in need of food. Production therefore must be maintained. But slumps must be avoided. We therefore arranged for national buffer stocks which will act in international federation under the direction of the World Food Council.

Buffer stocks, however, correct only seasonal variations in production. It seems likely that there will be continual surpluses of food which cannot be disposed of in normal markets. At the same time there are countries with inadequate nutrition which can consume food, if it is sold to them at prices they can pay. We therefore evolved the method of special prices for sales of such surpluses. A Committee of leading producer nations stated that if they reduced production of food, the cost of production would rise and not fall. It is not therefore to the interest of the normally consuming countries to reduce production. The surplus production can not be consumed by them because their need is not elastic. For instance, the United Kingdom will not eat more wheat if its price is less. They consume all they can at either price—no more and no less. Surplus sales, however, should not be spasmodic, for then no nutritional programme for the under-nourished can be drawn up by countries like India and China. The producing countries therefore agreed to produce a surplus for, say, 3 or 4 or 5 years and sell an agreed quantity at an agreed price lower than the normal price to countries in need of more food. This arrangement at the same time was subject to safeguards by which the normally consuming countries would not have to pay a higher price than they might otherwise.

Our Special Contribution

The device of special prices was one for which the Indian delegation was specially responsible. Here, too, we had to stand alone for two months before the United States of America veered round in its support. It introduces a new principle in production and distribution. It is a human rather than a national arrangement.

When these two provisions were about to be agreed to, Viscount Bruce told Dr. Katju that the Conference was coming round to the Indian view.

Dr. Katju said it was the wisdom of the East. Viscount Bruce called it the wisdom of the ages.

I have a feeling that the wisdom of the East is indeed the wisdom of the ages.

Besides these two provisions, we also pressed for the transfer of rice administration to South-East Asia where 80 per cent of the production and consumption of rice takes place. Indeed, 95 per cent of such production and consumption takes place in Asia and only 5 per cent outside Asia. Rice is the domestic cereal of Asia. Its original home was South-East India and southern China. We claimed that Washington and London were not competent to control rice as they have been doing, due to the exigencies of War. I went last year to Washington to beg for food when India was threatened by a famine, mainly of rice. I was then asked why I came to Washington for rice when it was produced next door to India. I pointed out that tickets for Burmese and Siamese rice could be obtained only at Washington. This time I was determined to end that procedure. I am glad that we got the Conference at Washington to agree to this. A preparatory Committee will meet in India by May to prepare an agenda for an International Rice Conference in South-East Asia, probably in India itself, by July. This transfer of control of rice to Asia is one of the first fruits of the economic autonomy of Asia.

Contact with South America

Before leaving North America, I paid a short visit to South America. Till last year, South America was not relevant for us. But last year Argentine supplied us with maize, and Brazil with rice. At Washington, too, we talked of the One World. South America is a big chunk of the One World. I wished to see its conditions and potentialities. When I visited Argentine and Brazil, I felt as if I had discovered a new Continent. South America in its agricultural condition is an image of India. There is hardly a tree or crop in Madras that does not grow in Brazil. Argentine resembles North India. South America can gain from India greatly improved varieties of its crops and trees. It is worth while for Madras to send one or two Forest officers to bring to us new trees yielding oil seeds and timber of considerable economic value to us. I trust that there will be increased contacts between India and South America to our mutual advantage. It is not Europe but Asia and particularly India that can help to develop South America and thereby increase the world food supply.

Kerala's Contribution to India's Glorious Heritage

By K. V. KRISHNA AYYAR, M.A., L.T.
(Zamorin's College, Calicut.)

Confluence of Many Races

Walled off from the rest of India by the Western Ghats, Kerala, covering an area of 14,826 square miles and comprising British Malabar and the native states of Cochin and Travancore, has been a geographical and cultural unit from very ancient times. Peopled from days when man made his first appearance on this sub-continent, she has within her boundaries representatives of every race and cult in India. Mentioned in the *Ramayana* and the *Mahabharata*, she had trade relations with Harappa in Sind and Ur in Sumeria from as early as the beginning of *Kali Yuga* (B.C. 3102), spices, teak, and coir being her staple exports. Till the eighteenth century Europe depended on her spices for salting winter food, and on her teak and coir for ship-building and rigging.

On account of her geographical conditions, especially the slope of the land, the flow of peoples had, till the construction of the railway, been only in one direction. Hither came the Aryan colonists under the leadership of the mythical Parasurama. Asoka sent his missionaries to the land of *Keralaputra*, and established hospitals for man and beast. St. Thomas, the Apostle, came by sea and erected the first Christian Church in India at Palayur in British Malabar. The capture of Jerusalem by the Romans in A.D. 68 drove some of the Jews to take refuge in Kerala, and the first synagogue on Indian soil was constructed near the imperial capital of the *Cheras* at Cranganur in the Cochin State. The first converts to Islam in India were also her sons, and the modest mosque at Tiruvanjikkulam, a suburb of Cranganur, was one of the twelve original mosques built by Malik Bin Dinar and his missionary band.

But Kerala did not remain in a mere museum of races and religions. Thanks to the climate, the people became adaptive and eclectic. Their genius was not only receptive but responsive, not only conservative but constructive. Preserving and assimilating whatever came to them they had their own contribution to make to the glorious heritage of India.

Matriarchy

Alone among the civilized peoples of the modern world they retain their ancient matriarchy. Succession to the *gadi* and inheritance to property are still traced through the female. Freedom of women and free love have neither broken up their homes nor made them licentious. Under the stress of the new ideals of the west, polyandry, a sign and symbol of woman's superiority as polygamy is of man's, has indeed retreated to remote and inaccessible nooks and corners, but woman still remains the centre of the household. Matriarchy has been in fact the most decisive factor in Kerala history.

Chavar and Chekavar

Freed from all parental responsibilities and worries, men devoted themselves to a life of war and fighting. The Nayar knew no fear; he sported with death. No foreigner has come to Kerala but has paid his tribute of admiration to the Nayar's bravery and skill in fighting, suppleness of body, agility of limbs, deftness of hand, quickness of eye, and deadliness of the stroke. What the *Kirpan* is to the Sikh, the sword and shield were to the Nayar. The *Chavars* and the *Chekavars* were two of their characteristic institutions. The former were soldiers who were bound by the tenure of their lands to die for their lords; the latter were professional champions who helped the people to decide their disputes by wager of battle. *Chavars* like the sixteen-year old Chandunni, who hurled himself to certain death on the pikes of the serried ranks of the Zamorin's soldiers at Tirunavayi, and *Chekavars* like Odenan, the Robin Hood of Malabar, must be a source of pride and inspiration even to the most warlike nations of the world.

Kalaris

Their military gymnasiums were called *Kalaris*. The *Kalaris* of each *nad* or district—Kerala was divided into eighteen *nads*—specialized in one particular branch of fencing, and some of the passes and thrusts were kept a jealously guarded secret. By a simple touch of the forefinger

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they claim to have caused death or permanent disablement, so correct and exhaustive was their knowledge of the *marmas* or vital spots of the human body. At the same time they maintained a high standard of honour in fighting. They never fought after sunset. They never stabbed in the dark or from behind. Ambushes and surprises were unknown to them before the coming of the Portuguese and other Europeans. They even used to inform the enemy in advance of their intended attack.

Religion and Philosophy

In Kerala can be found every variety of belief and worship from the most primitive animism and sympathetic magic to the highly advanced meditation of the *Yogi* and the *Vedantin* without temple, image, or ritual. *Vedas* and *Vedic* rites were brought by the Namputiri Brahmins. They first came to Kerala as priests or *Nampis*. They came at a very early date when the custom of performing the annual ceremonies of the departed forefathers according to the asterism, or the constellation in the ascendant at the time of the death, was in vogue, and had not been superseded by the practice of reckoning according to the *Tuhi* or lunar phase. It is still incumbent on the eldest son to maintain the sacrificial fire as of old. Isolated and protected against all outside influences by the Western Ghats, the Namputiris still chant the *Vedas* with the same intonation and accent as their ancestors had done when they entered Kerala.

Kumarila Bhatta brought his *Mimamsa* to Kerala. Prabhakara modified it by rejecting *Abhava* or non-existence as a source of knowledge, and founded a school of his own. And Prabhakara was a Namputiri of Kuttulli Illom at Sukapuram in British Malabar. The great Sankaracharya, who established the supremacy of the *Vedanta*, was born at Kalati near Alwaye in the Travancore State. His contemporary, the Chera emperor, popularly known as Cheraman Perumal, was one of the sixty-three *Nayanmars* or saints of South Indian *Saivism*, and his songs are sung during divine service in all Siva temples. At Tiruvanjikkulam, where he died, the day of his ascension is celebrated with great pomp and eclat. He possessed the miraculous gift of reading the thoughts of man, bird, and beast, for which reason he was known as *Kazharittarirar Nayanar* or the saint who knew the language of every creature that could make any sound. Another Chera emperor, Kulasekhara, who had lived before Cheraman Perumal, enjoys an honoured place in South Indian *Vaishnavism* as one of its

twelve *Alvars* or apostles. Songs from his *Nalayiraprabandham*, or collection of four thousand stanzas, are recited in all Vishnu temples even now. The contribution of Kerala to Buddhism and Buddhist philosophy has yet to be recovered by future research. In many a hill in this land of hills and valleys are found caves excavated by Buddhist and Jaina monks. There cannot be any doubt that Kerala's services to the religion of Sakya Muni must have been as great as to orthodox Hinduism; for at the beginning of the Christian era it was to Cranganur that Manimekhalai, the daughter of Kovalan, is said to have come to be enrolled in the Buddhist order. The genius of the people has transformed even Christian practice and Muhammadan law to suit their peculiar conditions.

Sanskrit Literature

Kerala's achievements in Sanskrit literature were on a par with her attainments in religion and philosophy. Nowhere else in India was Sanskrit studied with so much avidity both by man and woman. Kerala has the unique distinction of being the first to extend a knowledge of the language of the gods to those who did not belong to the sacerdotal caste. Its study was not also confined to the Hindus. The annual *Pattattanam*s at Calicut, originally intended to encourage the *Mimamsa* of Kumarila Bhatta and subsequently extended to *Prabhakara*, *Vyakarana*, *Vedanta*, and even *Ayurveda*, attracted learned men from far and wide, as did the assemblies of Janaka of Videha. Prizes, in the form of purses, were awarded only to original works. Even the famous devotee and poet, Meppattur Narayana Bhattatiri, who anticipated Bhattoji Dikshita's *Siddhanta Kaumudi*, had to wait for seven years before he was recognised as a *Vidvan* and admitted into the *Vidvadsadas* of Calicut.

Science

The great names in medicine, Charaka, Susruta, and Dhanvantari, belong to North India. But Kerala had her eighteen (now reduced to eight) families of hereditary physicians known as *Ashtavaidyans*. Some of their cures were miraculous. Though they generally followed the principles and traditions of the North Indian masters, they have also struck out new paths of their own, new methods which are not yet fully known in India beyond the Western Ghats. *Dhara*, *Pizhichal*, and *Uzhichal* for debility, blood pressure and rheumatism, are practised only in Kerala. Further, living in a land infested by snakes, the people had to build up a system for

the cure of snake-bite. In ancient days both incantation and medicine were employed. It is even said that the *Vishahari* could, by his magic power, bring the snake and make it suck up its own venom from the body of its human victim. At any rate the Namputiris of Pampumekkat seem even now to wield considerable influence over these denizens of the underworld, who freely move about the house like members of the family doing no harm even to strangers.

Exorcism

Malabar is famous for its *Mantrikans* or exorcists. The Malabar *Mantrikan* is very much in demand in Tamilnad. The families of Kallur and Kattumatam are believed to possess some control over the imps and devils that torment and harass us. Mental delusions and obsessions are generally attributed to them, and the Ezhuthachans of Chembra near Kuttipuram are famous for their skill in the cure of insanity.

Astrology

Physician, exorcist, and astrologer form an inseparable triad in Kerala. Through the stars are divined the nature of the affliction, the particular deities to be propitiated or the particular devils to be cast out, and even the particular persons who alone are capable of doing it. In fact the people of Kerala never did anything before discovering the will of God through the oracle of the village deity or, what is more easy, through the astrologer. The most famous of Kerala astrologers was the Pazhur Kanishans, whose predictions from his seat in his *Patippura*, or gate-house, had never been known to fail. The peculiar contribution of Kerala to astrology is the method of recording events and their dates in a single word or phrase through the *Ka-ta-pa-ya-di* system, in which each of the consonants stands for a certain number between one and nine.

Bharatanatyam

Lastly, in *Bharatanatyam* also Kerala has made its distinctive mark. The great Malayalam poet, Vallathol, has laid the whole of India under a deep debt of gratitude to him by reviving this ancient art and revealing it to the western world. The *mudras* and poses must have had their origin in the temple worship and ritual. The necessity for protecting the mystic *mantra* from being overheard made them a peculiar feature of temple worship in Kerala. One of the Zamorins of Calicut, who was both a devotee and a poet,

introduced them in his *Krishnattam*, and a Rajah of Kottarakkara in his *Ramanattam*. Finally, the Rajah of Kottayam amplified Bharata's scheme and produced the inimitable *Kathakali*.

RESETTLEMENT NEWS

(Continued from page 20.)

The Municipality has been selected to house the Ex-servicemens' centre at Salem. Proceedings under the Land Acquisition Act have already been taken for acquiring the building for Salem Ex-servicemens' Centre.

The formation of the Motor Transport Co-operative Society at Salem, is in good progress. So far, 219 men have consented to become the members of the Society. Out of these, 112 members have already paid their share capital amounting to Rs. 25,422-12-0. This Society, to be formed soon, has got a bright future in the district.

North Arcot

Co-operative Land Colonisation Scheme.—Ten more persons have been admitted as members of the Society, the total admissions, so far, up to this date being 20.

Co-operative Workshops for Ex-servicemen, Metal and Timber Works, Katpadi.—The construction of one M and B shed is over and that of another is also almost complete. The first meeting of the Board of Directors was convened on 5th February, 1947, and the President was elected.

Motor Transport Co-operative Society for Ex-servicemen.—So far 64 persons have applied for membership in the Society. Out of them one has paid Rs. 500, 11 have paid Rs. 250 each, and the rest Rs. 50 each towards the share capital to become eligible for appointment as drivers. A site for the location of the transport stand has also been selected.

Anantapur

Two hundred and sixty-nine Ex-servicemen were allotted to several departments in the district of whom 30 have been placed in the Provincial departments. Result about placement of others is awaited from other heads of offices.

One thousand nine hundred and seventy-one men have so far been found employment in Thannevely district. In South Arcot, the number of men placed during the last fortnight is 30.

The Philosophy of Basic Education

By R. VINAYAKAM, B.A., B.L.

(Assistant Development Commissioner, South)

'Nai Talim' is the new scheme of Basic National Education evolved by Mahatma Gandhi and approved of by the Indian National Congress as the future educational system for the country. The Sargent Scheme of the Government of India is also based on this, though with some modifications.

The Congress Governments in the provinces have now taken it up and adopted it in greater or lesser measure. Bihar, United Provinces and Bombay started work even during the time of the previous Congress Ministries in 1937, and have now many scores of Basic Schools in working order. Kashmir, a Native State, also adopted it in large measure from the beginning. Madras has just started with a training centre for Basic School teachers in Coimbatore district and another in Guntur district. Basic Education work by private institutions is also going on in our province. The Andhra Kasturba Fund are conducting a training centre for women teachers in Sitanagaram and the Tamil Nad Basic Education Society, a recognized branch of the Hindustani Talimi Sangh, has at present under its supervision about eight Basic Schools.

What is this Nai Talim or Basic Education? It owes its origin to Mahatma Gandhi who has been exercising his mind, from the beginning of his public life and in the midst of his many and arduous responsibilities, on the search for a truly national educational scheme, suited in its method and objective to the character and conditions of our people. In a rough and ready manner he had tried the essentials of the Basic Scheme even while he was doing teaching work in his Tolstoy Farm, South African Colony, in the early years of the present century. When, as a result of the Non-Co-operation Movement in 1920, he had to start his educational institutions in many parts of the country, these latter took on a definitely or less in educational method. It was only in 1937 that he formulated the essentials of Nai Talim before a conference of national leaders and upon constituted a Committee to study and report on the details of a scheme based on his ideas, which report has now come to be called the Zakir Hussain Committee Report. Basic Education work that is now going on in many parts of the

country is based on the recommendations of this Committee.

Before considering the broad features of Nai Talim which came as a welcome substitute for the existing educational grind through which the youth of the country is passing, we should say a few words about the latter. All our top ranking leaders and our most distinguished educationalists are unanimous in condemning the present educational system as wooden and outmoded, backward and unsuited to the needs and spirit of the times. It arose out of a narrow administrative need of the British Government established in India, to man their clerical and administrative services. Its educational content is wrong; its method is mediaeval; it robs the youths of all self-reliance, initiative and sense of responsibility.

But the main body of our educationists, while they seem to agree with all these charges, are content to tinker with the problem here and there. This has gone on too long and we have reached a stage when, unless there is a radical reshaping of the educational system, the very vitals of our nation will be affected.

Nai Talim has come therefore none too soon. Its first canon, that all education, from the lowest to the highest, should be imparted through the mother tongue, has gained acceptance at all hands, and, to a large extent, is in practice. It is only in Higher Education, in Colleges and Universities, that the logical step of vernacularizing the medium of instruction has not been taken everywhere. It is too late in the day to urge on the indispensability of imparting instruction in the mother tongue at all stages. It is the thing to be done, and if only our college professors and Vice Chancellors, in the wake of the Zamia Millia Islamia, the Osmania University and the Nagpur University, took courage in their hands and started it, they would be only doing what is done in all other countries in the world.

The second canon of Nai Talim is that education should be imparted through the physical and mental activity of the pupil in the form of craft work. This too has found favour in the eyes of progressive educationists all over the world. Teaching, that is rousing the physical and mental potentialities of the child, through the medium of a book, defeats the purpose. Such a method

forces a child to a passive state, most unnatural and most harmful for the development of body and mind. The senses are the fine tendrils of the human body and the mind is the flowering out of the senses. Should not education therefore start from physical activity, go on to exercising the senses and then enrich the mind? How could printed matter do this job? Is not a craft through all the manifold processes which the pupil joyfully passes, the ideal medium for development of body and mind? The Hon'ble Mr. C. Rajagopalachariar said recently that education must be founded on the joy of the child. Is not putting the child on a craft work suited to its age and growth, the ideal method?

Education through craft should again be distinguished from book education plus instruction in a craft, such as is done in the old schools. In Nai Talim, the craft takes the place of the book and all instruction in the subjects, sciences, language, social studies, etc., is correlated to the daily craft work.

But Nai Talim is not merely the activity method. The activity medium is confined here to one craft chosen with due regard to its educative possibilities. The child going through all its processes one after another gets a training in integration and organization such as miscellaneous items of activity can never impart. Through a single craft, the child is also put through a drill of physical and mental work which is very necessary for its development.

The craft chosen should also, if widely practised, be of use to the community. It should therefore be one which caters to the essential needs of human beings such as spinning and weaving, gardening and agriculture, carpentry and house-building, etc. The social and economic effects of this condition in craft selection should be realised. It ensures in increasing measure the voluntary and automatic liquidation of all unnecessary barriers in the community like rich and poor, high and low, skilled and unskilled, which are the root of all social exploitation and individual misery.

The third canon of Nai Talim is that the products of the pupils at school should be assessed at commodity value and an honest attempt be made to see that the income from this source is enough to pay the salary of the teacher. This principle has been and continues to be the target on which all critics of Nai Talim turn their wrath. On this score it has been castigated as child slavery, and exploitation of the teacher, etc. We must first remove one or two misapprehensions that have crept into the consideration of this subject. It is not said that salaries of the teacher

should tally, willy nilly, with the sale value of the school products. We have only to attempt to make education self-supporting on this basis. If after honest and strenuous efforts this is not found possible, Mahatma Gandhi and the Hindustani Talimi Sangh would be ready to modify or reject it. But a refusal to accept even a trial shows an unscientific and frightened attitude which is not conducive to progress. Nor is it the intention of the exponents of Nai Talim that the teachers of basic schools should be left for their living to the vagaries and uncertainties involved in the sale of school products. Their salaries would be as secure and payment as prompt as for any others. They only insist that in assessing the work of the pupils and his progress as well as the efficiency of the school, the produce income should be an important consideration.

And why should it not be? The school is indeed not a workshop where maximum production is the objective. It is a training ground for developing human faculties where the training is to be through a craft: what better method can there be to assess the progress of the training? If a pupil is to work at a craft and his products not to be valued, how could he get any training? Even where training, and not production, is the objective education through craft work becomes way-ward and frivolous; it can never properly exercise the body, or train the senses or develop the mind. Even to-day, in spite of pronounced disabilities, the village artisan is, on the whole, much smarter, physically and mentally, than the University graduate. Why should it be?

Besides, critics fail to see that though the present system is condemned on all hands, no workable, practical alternative, capable of universal adoption in the near future, has yet been offered. Then why not give a trial to these principles?

Apart from these principles, the chief merit of Nai Talim is that it is education for life; it is not a mere passport to a job and a wasting of your faculties in the process. The present educational system has reduced our educated youth to the position of automatons. Nai Talim brings us fresh hope. It not only trains our faculties but equips us to a life of responsibility, independence and self respect. Joy and activity are ensured to the pupil, and proper citizenship in a free and equal community ensured after education. It is with this objective that the curriculum, method and school organization in a basic school are evolved. An organic link between the school and the community, such as could never be dreamed of in the older schools, is evolved by the very method and objective of Nai Talim.

Prime Minister's Tour in Telugu Districts

Government's Ameliorative Schemes Explained

(From our Special Correspondent)

In a tour extending over nearly 800 miles, the Hon'ble the Premier of Madras covered between 20th and 25th February 1947, six districts, viz., Nellore, Guntur, Kistna, West Godavari, East Godavari and Vizagapatam and addressed nearly 50 big public meetings besides innumerable smaller wayside gatherings. Some of the biggest public gatherings of recent years, according to local people, were held at Nellore, Bezwada, Guntur, Rajahmundry, Gocanada, Anakapalle, Vizagapatam and Vizianagram. At almost everyone of these meetings the Premier explained the important ameliorative and nation-building schemes of the Madras Government. Particular emphasis was laid on the Khadi Development

scheme and the establishment of a separate Khadi department to work out that scheme. The Khadi policy of the Government, he pointed out, was formulated in accordance with the advice tendered by Gandhiji while Mr. Kripalani, the Congress President, has accorded his full support to it in the course of a letter to the Hon'ble the Premier. Referring to the controversy about the cancellation of spindles allotted to Madras, the Hon'ble the Premier said that the Government were fortified in their view that they could surrender the spindles and stop expansion of the mills by the legal opinion of the Advocate-General, which was sought at the instance of Gandhiji himself.



Government Schemes Explained

Among other points mentioned by the Hon'ble the Premier, one pertained to the producers-consumers' co-operative societies scheme, the implications of which were explained. Throughout the world, he pointed out, co-operation was regarded as the one method by which great good was derived by the common people. The scheme sponsored by the Madras Government aimed at eliminating profiteering middle-man in the purchase and distribution of essential commodities and to benefit the common man. The popularity acquired by the scheme during the short period it has been tried in the four Andhra districts, is evidenced from the fact that 170 societies of the new type have been registered so far and a share-capital of 130 lakhs has been subscribed. The Hon'ble the Premier assured the public that it was not the Government's intention to ruin the merchants or the moneyed people. It was fully realized by them that they had the responsibility for safeguarding the interests of every section of the people and when the Government's schemes were fully developed ample opportunities would be available to the rich and the moneyed people for beneficial investment of their savings which would contribute to the prosperity of the country.

Estates Land Act Bill

Explaining the implications of the Estates Land Act Amendment Bill, the Hon'ble the Premier pointed out that the Bill should have been passed even during the previous Congress regime but as circumstances conspired against it, it could not be done and the Ministry went out of office leaving the matter undecided. Relief for the ryots in the Zamindari areas was, however, essential and could not be denied or delayed any further and the Bill now proposed to be introduced in the Legislature would afford them such relief pending implementation of the policy of the Zamindari abolition. The relief to the ryots would come in the shape of an immediate reduction of rents and such reduction would also be advantageous to the extent that it would facilitate a corresponding reduction in the amount of compensation that will have to be paid to the Zamindars when Zamindaris are actually abolished.

Referring to Prohibition the Hon'ble the Premier explained that even at the risk of losing a considerable amount of revenue, which would come up nearly to 10 crores of rupees, the Government had decided to extend prohibition to eight more districts in addition to the eight districts

in which it was introduced last year. When this is done nearly 2/3 of the province will go dry and the people of these districts will be in a position to benefit from the stoppage of the drink evil.

Anti-corruption Measures

At the public meeting at Nellore, a question was asked about the prevalence of corruption and black-marketing and what the Government were doing about it. The Hon'ble the Premier, in reply, pointed out that corruption was such a long-standing and deep-rooted evil in this country that it would take time to eradicate it completely. The Government have appointed a special staff to investigate into cases of complaint about corruption on the part of officials and when the results of these investigations are published, the public would realize what has been done and what is being done in the matter of suppressing corruption.

The tour was on the whole a great success and the people heard directly from the Hon'ble the Premier what the Government have been doing for them and the various schemes and the potentialities for good inherent in the various schemes adumbrated by them. The Hon'ble the Prime Minister also referred to the one crore of rupees set apart for Harijan uplift work and stated that schemes for spending that money on the amelioration of the Harijan community are being worked out.

BALANCED DIET

(Continued from page 23).

will be destroyed and other values also. Do you cook meat and eggs at too high a temperature? If so, you may be coagulating the proteins so that they won't digest easily. Do you allow a scum to form on top of your milk? If so, don't throw it away as it contains protein and calcium that you need badly. Do you cook your cereals and grams long enough? If so, you are improving their nutritional value as they are more completely and easily digested. Do you buy only fresh vegetables and fruits? If so, you are getting the best value. Withered and dried up vegetables and fruits result in a heavy loss of vitamins.

Remember that proper cooking is as important as choice of foods in the choosing of a balanced diet.

—DOROTHY M. PEARSON.

Premier Prakasam's Tour in Andhradesa



At a way side gathering



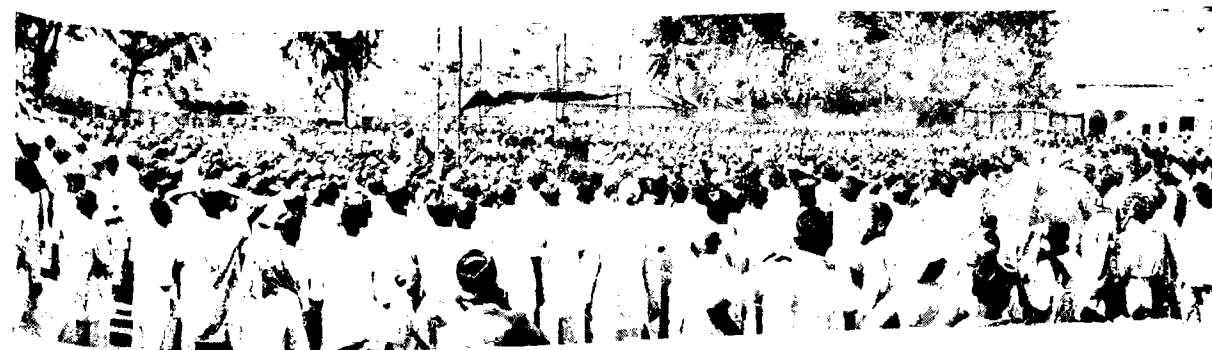
At Vuyyur



At Vuyyur



At Kavali



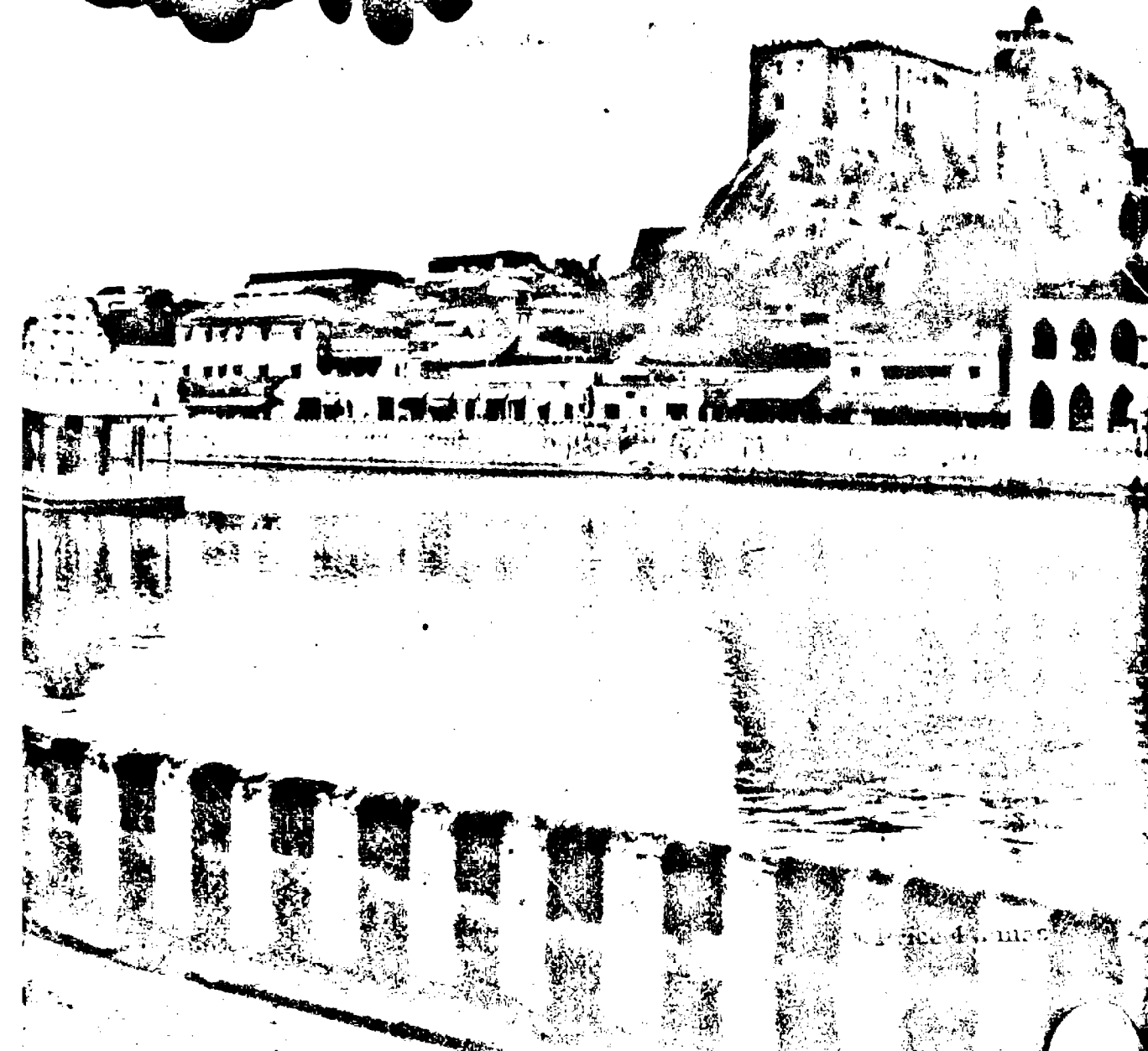
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WE SEEK TO SERVE AND NOT TO COMPETE

March 29, 1947

Editorial Notes

Government and Public Transport

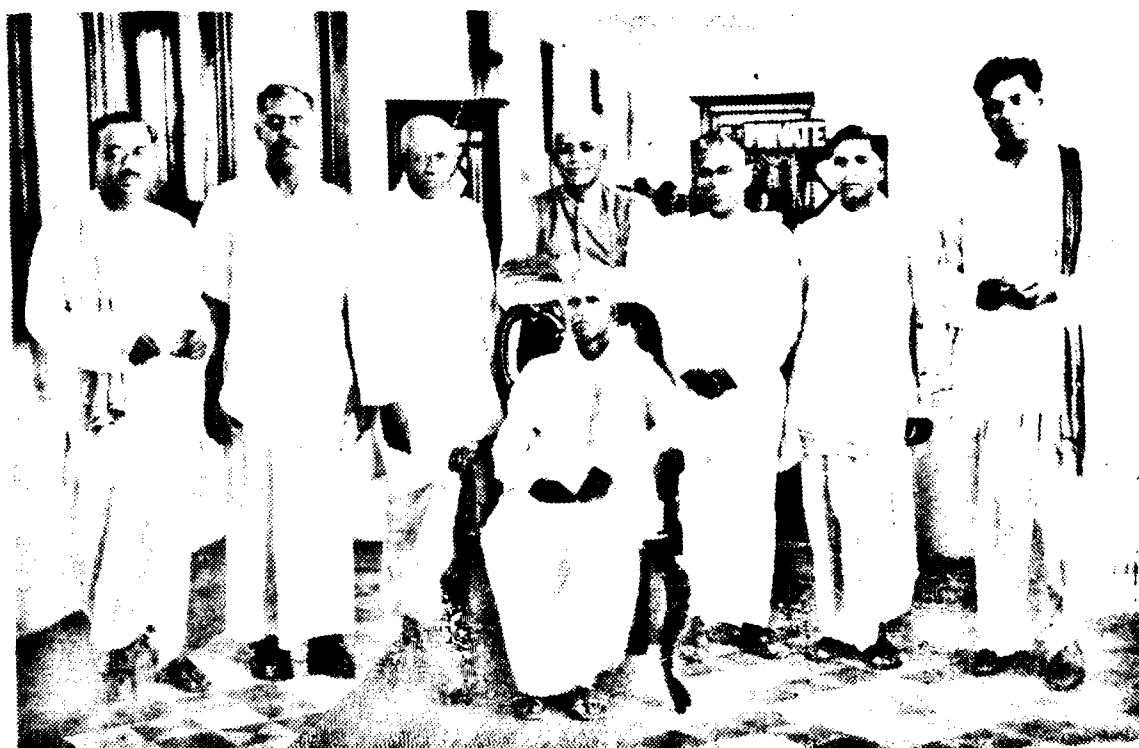
The Government of Madras having accepted the recommendation of the General Committee of the Post-War Reconstruction Committee that public transport should be State-owned and State-managed, they are now engaged in the preliminary steps essential to implement that recommendation. In pursuance thereof they have sanctioned as a first step a scheme involving the running of a limited number of buses in the city of Madras and have constituted a Cabinet Sub-Committee to formulate proposals for bringing under State control the public transport services in this province. The method proposed to be followed by the Government in effecting this reform is to render the transfer of these services from private to public control as smooth as possible and as convenient as practicable from the standpoint of the transport operators themselves. The whole process is likely, as explained in the Press Note issued on this subject, to take some time to be finalised, while it may probably take some more time before it is brought into working order. The Government have tried in the Press Note to assuage the apprehensions entertained by the existing operators with regard to the termination of their services and have also explained the rationale of their decision to abolish the fleet system and to introduce the system of temporary permit of four months' duration. They have made it perfectly clear that the Government will take into account all legitimate claims for compensation for current permits as well as for

vehicles which are in a satisfactory condition. They have also assured those concerned that the interests of persons actually engaged in transport business at present will not be prejudiced as it should be possible and practicable to employ a maximum number of trained personnel when the transport business is taken over by the Government. The Press Note provides conspicuous testimony of the Government's awareness of the need to move cautiously and carefully in putting into effect the scheme of nationalisation. It also makes perfectly clear the Government's realization of the fact that actual maintenance of the transport services in an efficient condition is a difficult and intricate job requiring a vast army of trained personnel.

Temporary permits to new entrants

In view of the fact that it will take some time for the nationalisation scheme to work itself out to a finish, the Government have decided, firstly that temporary permits of four months' duration only would be issued and secondly that new entrants to the transport business should also be encouraged. At the back of the decision to issue temporary permits is the consideration that it cannot at present be definitely stated as to which of the transport services would be taken over by the Government first and which subsequently, while it is the Government's intention to grant later permanent permits for such routes as those which are not likely to be taken over by them

NEW MINISTERS



From left to right (standing): Messrs. Sita Rama Reddy, Madhava Menon, Rajan, Subbarayan, Bhakthavatsalam, Chandramouli, Gopal Reddy. Sitting in the centre is the Hon'ble the Premier. (For allocation of port folios see page 32.)

during the ensuing three years. With regard to permits to new entrants, it has been definitely and unequivocally stated that the permits are temporary and that the services run by the permit-holders are liable to be taken over according to the plan to be decided upon by the Government. At the same time the Government's view is that taking into account the complaints that individual operators continue to manage the services as badly or as inefficiently as they had been used to in the past, there was no justification for shutting out new entrants from getting the advantage, temporary though it may be, of the permit system.

Nationalisation Principle

There can be no possible objection to the principle of nationalisation of road transport services itself in view of the fact that it is overwhelmingly recognized that all public utility services are best managed by the State and that the interests of the community as a whole will be best served by the State taking over these services. In accordance with the recommendation of the Post-War Reconstruction Committee and of the Transport Advisory Council, a number of Provincial Governments

have already decided upon nationalisation of road transport. Nationalisation involving State-ownership of these services is not only justified in principle but is also called for in response to the urgent need for road-rail co-ordination and the elimination of wasteful competition between the railways and bus transport. The Government's policy implementing nationalisation, with the taking over of passenger services in the first instance, is obviously in conformity with the ideal. There may be criticisms that public ownership of road transport services may not in practice be more efficient than private ownership and management thereof and that abuses will persist even under a scheme of State-ownership and control. Such criticisms do not however take account of the vital consideration that continuance of private ownership over road transport services has led to various abuses, inconveniences and troubles to the travelling public which are bound to be mitigated and brought under check when the State is in control thereof. The element of progressiveness in assuming ownership which the Government have decided to adopt should afford scope for cautious experimentation in a field not fully explored so far.

Madras Government Press Notes

FOOD AND CLOTHING

New Well-Subsidy Scheme

In order to encourage food production, the Government have, since 1944, sanctioned three well-subsidy schemes. One of the schemes has practically ended and the other two will end shortly. About 30,000 new wells have been completed and about 16,000 old wells have been repaired under all these schemes. Though there has been a fairly satisfactory increase in the number of wells, there is still scope for quicker and more substantial progress. As there has been widespread demand from the ryots for the continuance of Government assistance and the need to stimulate food production is still urgent, the Government consider that further endeavours to extend well-irrigation should be made and sustained until the very maximum number of wells are sunk. They have accordingly sanctioned a new well-subsidy scheme, in supersession of the three earlier schemes.

The new scheme applies to all the districts in the Province except the Nilgiris and Madras. In the districts of South Kanara and Malabar not only

wells but also tanks used for irrigation purposes will be eligible for subsidies. In one respect the new scheme differs from the existing accelerated scheme as it is proposed to grant no assistance under it to repairs to existing sources. South Kanara and Malabar will, however, be exceptions to this rule also, and subsidies will be available for repairs to tanks as well.

The scheme offers a subsidy of half the cost, subject to the maxima mentioned below :—

South Kanara and Rs. 300 for new wells,
Malabar. and Rs. 500 for tanks,
new or old.

Ceded Districts .. Rs. 500 for new wells.
Other districts .. Rs. 300 for new wells.

In the case of tanks (new and old) in South Kanara and Malabar, however, if the cost exceeds Rs. 1,000, the Collector will have discretion to sanction an amount equal to half the cost, up to a limit of Rs. 1,000, and the Board of Revenue will have similar powers up to a limit of Rs. 2,000. The maximum subsidy will be only Rs. 2,000 in any case.

It is also proposed to raise the maximum subsidy for wells to Rs. 500 in areas where condition similar to those in the Ceded Districts exist.

The amount of subsidy will not, as before, be given as a free grant in the first instance. It will be advanced as a takkavi loan at first and will be treated as subsidy only if the work is satisfactorily completed by 30th June 1948. Under no circumstances will this time for completion be extended. The disbursement of subsidies will stop on 31st March 1948.

Prior approval of the site of the well or tank is necessary. The proposed well or tank should have an ayacut of at least one acre. The usual condition regarding the growing of food crops for three years will be imposed. Food crops will include vegetables and such other crops as may be approved by the Collectors.

The loan, if it is not subsequently treated as subsidy, will be repayable in five equal annual instalments. It will, however, be free of interest for the first year and repayment will start only after three years.

Well-works for which subsidies have been granted under the Accelerated Scheme and the Ceded Districts Scheme will also be allowed the time prescribed in the new scheme, i.e., up to 30th June 1948, for completion, provided that some part of the work, not necessarily a substantial part, has already been done.

The Government trust that this scheme will give a greater stimulus to the extension of well-irrigation and that ryots will readily avail themselves of the liberal assistance offered and construct the maximum number of wells.

[March 3]

Surcharge Levies

The Government are at present collecting surcharge calculated at $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent on the value of the tendered quantity calculated at rates accepted for naked groundnut kernel or groundnut oil and at 2 annas per Imperial maund of jaggery on all exports outside the province against the quotas for 1946-47 before granting export permits. The accepted suppliers as well as others who pay surcharge are informed that the surcharge once paid into the Government treasury whether of their own accord or at the instance of the Commissioner of Civil Supplies or an officer authorized by him will not be refunded at a later stage.

[March 4]

Revised Cloth Control Order

The Government of Madras have promulgated the Madras Cloth (Dealers) Control Order, 1947, in supersession of the Madras Cloth (Dealers) Control Order, 1946, and the revised Order has come into force from the date of its promulgation, viz., 15th March 1947. Suitable provisions have been included in the new Order to protect all action taken under the old Order and to ensure the continued validity of the licences issued thereunder.

The object of the new Order is the same as that of the previous one, viz., the enforcement of a suitable licensing system for the effective control of all persons carrying on business in cloth, whether they are dealers, hawkers or commission agents.

The important points in which the revised Order differs from the old Order are given below :—

(1) The revised Order does not apply to handloom cloth and khadi. Separate control orders in respect of handloom cloth and khadi will be promulgated shortly. (Under the new "Madras Handloom Cloth (Control) Order, 1947," proposed to be promulgated, licence fees will be levied from the dealers who deal exclusively in handloom cloth.)

(2) The revised Order applies only to cotton cloth manufactured on powerlooms, rayon fabrics and to every type of cloth which has been notified as an essential article under the Madras Essential Articles Control and Requisitioning (Temporary Powers) Act, 1946.

(3) The licensing authority under the new Order is the Collector and includes any officer authorized by him in this behalf.

(4) In order to secure a proper distribution of cloth, powers have been given to the Collectors and the Provincial Textile Controller to issue directions to any dealer to sell a specified quantity of cloth to any person and not to sell it to any one else.

The existing licences of the dealers in cloth will be renewed under the revised control Order now promulgated after collecting the prescribed licence fees. The grant of these new licences will be subject to the overhauling of the system of distribution in each district which is now under the consideration of the Collectors. The licences of those dealers who are eliminated as a result of such overhauling will be cancelled. There will be no refund of the licence fees on any account.

[March 5]

Cases under Food Control Regulations

There were about 342 prosecutions launched in the various magisterial courts of the province in respect of offences against the Foodgrains Control Orders and Rationing Regulations during the week ending February 15, 1947. About 216 cases have resulted in convictions and sentences.

Other cases of infringement of the Foodgrains Control Orders and Rationing Regulations are *sub judice* and the results are awaited.

[March 6]

No Wheat Flour for Hotels

In view of the low stock of maida and of the necessity to conserve the existing stocks for bakeries manufacturing bread up to the end of June 1947, the Board directs that wheat flour (maida) should not be used by any catering establishment or other establishments like boarding houses, private messes, etc.

These orders apply to both rural and statutorily rationed areas.

[March 6]

Skimmed Milk Powder for Sale

The Government have some imported skimmed milk powder available for sale to the following classes of institutions on payment of cost price:—

- Mission hospitals and other private hospitals all over the province which have in-patients.
- Boarding schools, hostels and orphanages which feed their lodgers at their own premises.

The concession to class (b) institutions was hitherto limited to certain deficit districts. It has now been extended to all districts.

Other particulars can be had from the office of the Commissioner of Civil Supplies.

[March 8]

Yarn Distribution through Co-operatives

In a Press Note, dated 6th February 1947, the Government announced that the decision to utilize the existing co-operative organizations and the Producers-cum-Consumers Co-operative Societies (which may be organized hereafter) for the

[MARCH 29, 1947]

distribution of cloth and yarn in districts other than Malabar should be deferred till the end of May 1947. On further consideration, the Government have decided that the scheme to entrust the distribution of yarn to co-operative organizations may be proceeded with if suitable co-operative societies come forward to undertake the work.

[March 11]

Restriction on Parties

In the Press Note, dated 13th February 1947, the Government announced that in view of the present food situation they will not be in a position to entertain any future applications for exemption from the Order restricting feeding at parties other than marriage parties to thirty. They therefore appealed to the public to desist from sending applications for exemption in future. In spite of this appeal, applications for exemption are still pouring in. The public are hereby informed that the Government have decided to reject such applications summarily with effect from 15th March 1947.

[March 13]

Revised Cotton Cloth and Yarn Control Order

Consequent on the reorganization of the Textile Control Department, by which the Collectors have been made fully responsible for all items of textile control work, which can be done on a district basis, the Government of Madras have promulgated the Madras Cotton Cloth and Yarn (Brokers) Control Order, 1947, in supersession of the Madras Cotton Cloth and Yarn (Brokers) Control Order, 1946.

The object of the new Order is the same as that of the previous one, viz., the enforcement of a suitable licensing system for the effective control of all persons conducting business as brokers in cotton cloth or yarn or both. The Collector or any officer authorized by the Collector, has been made the licensing authority under this Order.

Suitable provisions have been included in the new Order to protect all action taken under the old Order and to ensure the continued validity of licences issued thereunder.

[March 14]

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5

Co-operative Societies and Private Dealers' Employees

Representations have been received from the employees of dealers in cloth and yarn that they will be thrown out of employment as a result of the policy of the Government to utilize the Producers-cum-Consumers Co-operative Societies and other co-operative organizations for the distribution of cloth and yarn. The knowledge and experience of these employees will undoubtedly be very useful to the societies in their new task of distribution of cloth and yarn, which will require considerable additional staff. The Government have, therefore, issued instructions that these employees should be absorbed in the staff of the newly formed co-operative organizations to the fullest extent practicable.

[March 15]

Artificial Silk Yarn Control Order

The Government have promulgated the Madras Artificial Silk Yarn (Control) Order, 1947, in supersession of the Madras Artificial Silk Yarn (Dealers) Control Order, 1946, which has continued to be in force after 30th September 1946 by virtue of section 9 of the Madras Essential Articles Control and Requisitioning (Temporary Powers) Act, 1946. The revised Order comes into force on the date of its publication in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, that is, on 18th March 1947.

2. The revised Order follows generally the lines of the old Order, the only important changes being those specified below.

3. Like the old Order, the revised Order provides for the licensing of importers of, and wholesale and retail dealers in, artificial silk yarn. As the withdrawal of price control has increased the prices of artificial silk yarn, enabling the dealers and importers to make larger profits, the Government have decided to enhance the licence fees from Rs. 50 to Rs. 100 in the case of importers, from Rs. 20 to Rs. 25 in the case of wholesalers and from Rs. 5 to Rs. 10 in the case of retailers. As the existing licences have been granted up to 31st March 1947, and as the new licences will be for the calendar year, the licence fees for 1947 have been reduced proportionately by one-fourth of the old licence fees, that is, the fees for 1947 will be Rs. 87-8-0 for an importer's licence, Rs. 20 for a wholesaler's licence and Rs. 8-12-0 for a retail dealer's licence.

Sales tax will be leviable on sales of artificial silk yarn in this province, as before.

4. Existing licensees should apply for licences under the new Order within twenty-one days from the date of its commencement; continuance of the business after the said period of twenty-one days, without such application, will be a contravention of the revised Order and will be punishable accordingly.

5. As there is no production of artificial silk yarn in this province, the Government have decided to adopt a liberal licensing policy so as to attract adequate imports of this article. All private merchants who carried on business at any time prior to 1st January 1944 will be eligible for licences under the revised Order. The claims of persons, who have not done business in the past as importers, will also be considered for the grant of importers' licences if they can adduce evidence to the satisfaction of the Provincial Textile Commissioner to show that they have now been successful in placing orders for the import of artificial silk yarn. Even these restrictions will be relaxed completely in the case of suitable co-operative organizations which are willing to undertake business in artificial silk yarn.

6. In accordance with the principle adopted in the scheme of reorganization of the Textile Control Department, which the Government have recently announced, the licensing of importers and other kinds of control over them will be in the hands of the Provincial Textile Commissioner, while the Collectors will exercise similar functions in respect of wholesalers and retailers.

7. As the provisions of the Central Government's Consumer Goods (Control of Distribution) Order, 1944, are no longer valid in respect of artificial silk yarn, the revised Order includes a provision for controlling the distribution of this article within the Province on the lines of clause 18-B of the Cotton Cloth and Yarn (Control) Order, 1945.

8. As the revised Order has been promulgated under the Madras Essential Articles Control and Requisitioning (Temporary Powers) Act, 1946, the penal provisions of that Act, namely, sections 12 to 16, will apply to contraventions of the Order.

9. Price control Over artificial silk yarn has been withdrawn all over India in the hope that, with the increase in the volume of imports, the trade will not succumb to the temptation of earning unreasonable profits. For the same reason no provision for price control has been included in the new Order. But if at any time it is found that the trade is not playing the game properly, the Government will not hesitate to amend the Order suitably and make provision for an adequate

MADRAS INFORMATION

scheme of price control. The Government are most anxious to avoid all unnecessary interference with the normal activities of traders and they trust that there will be no occasion to restrict those activities any further.

[March 17]

Bread Shortage

The Government have received representations from bread manufacturing interests complaining that restrictions on the manufacture of bread out of wheat products like Maida have adversely affected their business and requesting the Government to relax the rule permitting the issue of bread tickets only to habitual consumers of bread. The position in respect of the stocks of wheat and wheat products in this province continues to be unsatisfactory. No allotments of wheat and wheat products have been made to Madras from January, nor are allotments likely to be

[MARCH 29, 1947]

made before the end of June 1947. The province's total stock at present of wheat products is about 3,000 tons and this has to be made to last till the end of June. It has therefore become necessary to severely reduce the consumption of wheat products and bread. When it is realized that the pre-war normal consumption of wheat products per month was 3,500 tons the need for drastic cuts will be appreciated. Bakeries and biscuit-makers will have to be content with token allotments and may even have to close down temporarily; but this cannot be helped. The Government are making efforts to secure an allotment of wheat products to Madras as soon as possible; but until a fresh allotment is received, it will be impossible to relax the existing restrictions: they may have to be tightened up still further. The public and bread and biscuit makers are requested to put up with the unavoidable inconvenience.

[March 20]

DEVELOPMENT

Term "Harijans" adopted

At present the term "Non-converts" is being used to denote the Hindu members of all the communities who are eligible for help by the Labour Department, and the term "converts" to denote all persons who belonged to those communities but who had been converted to religions other than Hinduism. The Government have now decided that in future the term "non-converts" should not be used to denote Hindu members of the eligible communities and that the word "Harijans" should be used to denote all persons belonging to the "Scheduled Castes," who continue to profess the Hindu religion. The expression "other eligible communities" will be used to denote all non-Harijans Hindu members of the communities eligible for help by the Labour Department. The term "converts" will however be retained in respect of persons who once belonged to the eligible communities but had subsequently become converts to religions other than Hinduism.

[March 8]

Newsprint Control relaxed

The Government of India have decided that the existing control on the use of newsprint should be relaxed with effect from 1st April 1947. The

new scheme of relaxation has been explained in the Press Note, dated 14th February 1947, issued by the Government of India, Department of Industries and Supplies, published in the "Indian Express," dated 14th February 1947. One of the chief features of the relaxation on the use of the newsprint is that permission from the Government of India will not be necessary from 1st April 1947, for the printing or publication of any new newspaper or journal on newsprint. There will, therefore, be no prohibition on the starting of new newspapers and journals on newsprint with effect from 1st April 1947. As a consequence of this relaxation and in view of the difficult supply position of ordinary varieties of paper, the Government of India do not propose to grant permission for the publication of any new newspaper, bulletin, magazine, or periodical on paper other than newsprint. The Government desire to bring it to the notice of all who are interested in the starting of new newspapers and journals, that they will be free to start their journals on newsprint from 1st April 1947, and that applications for permission to print periodicals on printing paper will not henceforth be considered except to the extent that newsprint is unsuitable for the purpose. All pending applications both for newsprint quota and for permission to use other types of paper will be treated as lapsed.

[March 8]

MARCH 29, 1947]

B. & C. Mills Dispute

A trade dispute has arisen between the workers and the management of the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills, Limited, Madras, regarding the emoluments of the workers and certain conditions of labour. The Government have appointed Sri Rao Bahadur M. Venkataramayya, retired District and Sessions Judge, as a Court of Enquiry to investigate into and report on the trade dispute.

[March 10]

Nellikuppam Sugar Factory Affairs

The Government have received several representations that the Nellikuppam Sugar Factory has not been accepting the unregistered cane in the factory area and that the factory should be persuaded to accept this cane if the poorer ryots are not to be put to loss. The question was discussed at a conference held on the 25th February 1947, with the representatives of the factory authorities and of the cane growers of the area and the following agreed settlement has been arrived at:—

(1) That the factory authorities in the area in question should continue to make available all possible facilities for converting cane into jaggery in the local sections amounting to about 300 acres of unregistered cane, as this is the most economical course from the point of view of both the ryots and the factory, while the crushing of cane into jaggery at the proper time will result in more sweetening material being available to the people of the province as a whole.

(2) That in the event of any of the unregistered cane in the local sections not being converted into jaggery before the end of the crushing season, the factory would accept such cane for crushing under their usual conditions but at the price of Rs. 25 per ton delivered ex-factory. No unregistered cane would be crushed by the factory until after the end of the season. If any un-registered cane is passed off as registered cane with the object of obtaining the higher price, the factory would not accept the cane even at Rs. 25 per ton.

(3) that the factory will not under any circumstances accept unregistered cane next season.

[March 11]

B. & C. Mills Strike Illegal

Government have seen certain tendentious statements in the Press relating to the strike in the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills, Madras.

The first intimation of the impending strike they had was from the Commissioner of Labour, who was informed of it by the management of the Mills. A copy of the strike notice was subsequently received by the Hon'ble Minister for Industries and Labour and by the Commissioner. The Commissioner was immediately asked to intervene and attempt an amicable settlement. Accordingly, he met both parties on 27th February 1947. He pointed out to the workers that most of the demands were covered by the Court of Enquiry already sitting and that the other important issues would also be referred to the Court. He therefore asked the labour leaders not to precipitate a strike. These leaders agreed to place the Commissioner of Labour's suggestions before the Executive Committee of the Union and send a reply by 3rd March 1947. This reply was to the effect that the strike notice could not be withdrawn.

The Government explained the position in their Press Note issued on 4th March 1947. Subsequently, as it was felt that an early decision as regards these issues was necessary, the Government ordered the constitution of a separate Court of Enquiry and announced this decision in their Press Communiqué, dated 10th March 1947. Notwithstanding all these steps, the strike began on 11th March 1947. On the morning of 13th March 1947, the workers marched in procession to the residence of the Hon'ble Minister for Industries and Labour. He asked them to depute their representatives to meet him on the same day at 2 p.m. These representatives did not meet him.

The Government wish to make it clear that as the strike began and continues after the appointment of a Court of Enquiry, it is illegal.

[March 15]

Government Control over Industries

The Government of Madras have had under consideration the question of formulating a planned economy in regard to industries. They have divided industries into three classes, viz., Defence Industries, Key Industries and Public Utilities.

In regard to the Defence Industries the Government have decided that they should be State-owned and controlled by the State. Some key industries requiring large capital like iron and steel, tractors and fertilizers will be State-owned. In other cases there would be only State-control. Public utilities will be owned by some organ of the State.

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Where State-control is to be exercised, the Government may take a major part of the shares or impose, before granting any assistance, such as mining leases, and assistance under the State Aid to Industries Act, all, or any of the following conditions, which will bind the heirs, assignees and transferees of the concern:

(1) The promoter of the company must agree to hand over the industry to the Government either at the book value or at the replacement value at the time of transfer to the State, whichever is less. No separate value or compensation will be allowed for goodwill.

(2) No compensation shall be payable to the managing agents or management of the industry for the termination of their services. An undertaking to this effect will have to be provided in the agreement of the company with

Aero-scrap Utensils

Cooking utensils made out of scrap metal from aeroplane parts have found a ready market in this country. They especially commend to the poor folk for their attractiveness, durability and low price. The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, however, has issued a warning against their use inasmuch as food cooked in aero-scrap utensils has been found injurious to health.

[March 5]

Madras Government's Public Health Policy

Among the subjects discussed at the Central Provincial Health Conference that was held at New Delhi in the second week of October 1946 were the recommendations of the Bhore Committee that the Medical Relief and Public Health Organizations in the Provinces should be amalgamated under a single head to be known as the Director of Health Services, that in the districts and in the smaller units the same doctor should combine curative and preventive functions and that the training of the future doctor should be modified so as to enable him to carry out these composite duties. The resolution that was passed at the Conference runs as follows:—

"The Conference accepts the principle of amalgamation of Medical and Public Health Departments and considers that the amalgamation should take place when a suitable opportunity occurs.

PUBLIC HEALTH

"The Hon'ble Ministers from Madras and Bombay dissented from this view. The Hon'ble Minister from Madras considered that co-ordination between the two departments was preferable to amalgamation."

The Government of Madras desire to set out in full the reasons for the stand taken by their representative, as some criticisms have appeared about it in the Press. The following are the reasons:—

(i) Progress in public health activities in this province has been marked only after the separation, which was effected some years ago, of the Public Health Department which is concerned with preventive functions, from the Medical Department which is in charge of curative work. This each of these departments working separately under a separate administrative head. This Government is of opinion that it will affect the efficiency of the departments concerned if they are amalgamated again, and that such a step will be retrograde.

(ii) The need for combining curative and preventive aspects of public health work in the primary centre is admitted in the plans approved by this Government, but they do not consider it necessary or expedient to make each doctor a 'dual-purpose' man. In this view it will be a waste to train officers for both types of work when only some of them will be required to do either at a time. Such a system of training is likely also to retard the pace of production of personnel.

(iii) As far as this Government are aware, it does not appear that the system in other advanced

the managing agents or other servants of the company

(3) The company shall undertake to supply any of its products, if so required, for consumption on works belonging to or subsidized by Government, at the market prices or the cost of production plus a profit of 5 per cent on the capital utilized for production, whichever is lower.

(4) The Government will have the right to nominate one or more directors, if they consider it necessary.

(5) The working conditions of labour should conform to the standards recognized or to be laid down by the Government.

(6) The company shall train, free of cost, apprentices nominated by the Government.

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countries, e.g., England, provides for each medical man to engage in both preventive and curative activities or for a common cadre from which officers are posted now to the preventive side and now to the curative side.

(iv) A common cadre as indicated would mean transfer of officers from the curative side to the preventive side and vice versa for administrative reasons (seniority and the like) and would affect the efficiency of the personnel and of the departments.

(v) The essential idea of the Bhore Committee recommendations is that preventive and curative services should be delivered together to the public and that the directing organization should be common. This will be provided for by

(a) the arrangements relating to the primary centres and

(b) the fact that co-ordination is at present being achieved in a sufficient measure at the provincial headquarters

(1) by an arrangement under which the Surgeon-General is recognized as the Government's chief adviser in all major matters affecting public health and as such is authorized to scrutinize the proposals emanating from the Director of Public Health,

(2) by the appointment of a separate Joint Secretary to deal with questions concerning both preventive and curative aspects of public health, and

(3) by one Minister for Public Health dealing with the subjects in question.

[March 10]

Medical Relief in Villages

In connexion with the reorganization of Medical Relief in villages, the Government have sanctioned a scheme to accord recognition to practitioners of Indigenous Systems of Medicine, to improve their status and qualifications and to make their services available to the rural population on a regular basis. Under the scheme, District Collectors will select the most suitable private practitioners in villages with a population of 10,000 or more for the purpose of recognition as village Vaidyas or Hakims. Each village will have one such practitioner registered by the Central Board of Indian Medicine. Those who have not already been registered will, if selected by the

Collector, have an opportunity to get themselves registered on payment of the prescribed fee. If funds permit, the panchayat or the district board concerned can pay an honorarium to the recognized practitioner, the payment of which will be subject to satisfactory service to the villagers. The recognition will be withdrawn and the honorarium withheld if his services are found to be unsatisfactory or the fees charged by him are exorbitant. A scheme will be prepared for the training of village Vaidyas and Hakims and for granting them a certificate after they pass an examination at the end of the training.

[March 11]

State Bus Service

The principle of nationalization of bus transport having been accepted by the Madras Government, the first step in implementing that policy has been taken with the inauguration of the State Transport Service on March 24. The inauguration was performed by Mr R. Raghava Menon, lately Minister for Motor Transport and Food, and the Hon'ble Dr. T. S. S. Rajan, Minister for Food and Motor Transport, was present. Dr. Rajan stated in his speech that nationalization of bus transport is a matter which had come to stay and the principles involved in it cannot be cavilled at. He paid a tribute to the interest evinced by Mr. T. Prakasam, lately Premier, and Mr. Raghava Menon to finalise the scheme. He specially commended to the bus conductors the need for courtesy to the passengers and suggested that complaint books should be kept in the buses in which the members of the public can note their complaints, if any, against the service.

It is proposed to extend the scheme in the near future and more state buses will be running on the Madras roads. The congestion in the City buses and trams being what it is, the public of Madras will welcome the State Bus Service with its potentialities for reducing the rush and rendering the transport less inconvenient and irksome than what it is to the city folk. If the experiment succeeds it will establish the principle of nationalization of transport on a firm footing and facilitate its furtherance.

TRANSPORT

Unused Motor Cars : Control Removed

The Government have been continuing control of unused motor cars after 1st October 1946. So far over a thousand cars have been sold under the permit system to essential users. Due to the inherent defects in the system followed previously and due to the unwillingness of the permit holders to purchase the car specified in the permits as provided by the present rules, about 110 cars became unfrozen and were sold to non-permit holders.

There are over 3,000 applications pending with the Provincial Motor Transport Controller. It has been a most difficult and embarrassing task for the Provincial Motor Transport Controller to fix the priority of each applicant especially when the necessity for a car and the non-availability of any other alternative conveyance are the main criteria. The complaints from a large number of applicants who could not get permits as early as they desire will always be there which sometimes find expression in unhealthy criticism.

The Government feel that a stage has been reached when control regarding sale under permits can be removed, continuing only the control over prices. The Civil Motor Car Control Order, 1945, is superseded and a new control Order issued under section 9 (2) of Act XIV of 1946. However, it is pointed out that permits already issued up to date will remain valid against the cars noted in them.

The Government will however watch the effect of the removal of the permit system and if need be will not hesitate to re-introduce it.

At the conference convened by the Government of the motor car dealers and representatives in September 1946 they had agreed to reserve up to 20 per cent of the cars received by them for the use of the Government. The Government will, however, reserve the power only to have 10 per cent of the cars imported by the dealers.

[March 4]

Nationalization of Road Transport

In some of the Government Orders recently issued reference was made to the Government's intention to nationalize public motor transport in this province. It might be noted here that the General Committee of the Post-War Reconstruction Committee resolved as early as December 1944 to recommend to the Government that public transport should be State-owned and State-managed. The Ninth meeting of the Transport Advisory Council held at New Delhi on 29th

December 1946 unanimously accepted the urgent need for Road-rail co-ordination and for elimination of wasteful competition. At this All-India Conference, some of the Provinces including this province were in favour of schemes of provincialisation of Road Transport under Government control and ownership. In this connexion, the majority of the provinces also agreed that railways should be allowed to participate financially in such schemes.

This Government have been actively considering for some time the question of nationalizing Road Motor Transport Services. The following steps have so far been taken :—

(1) Sanction of a scheme involving the running of a limited number of buses in the City of Madras, and

(2) Formation of a Cabinet Sub-Committee to formulate proposals for bringing under State control the public transport services in this province.

The Government are aware that transport concerns during the war years have worked under considerable difficulty and have been of the greatest service to the public as well as to the administration. After very careful consideration, however, the Government have decided that in the interests of public administration it would be advisable for the State to take over the passenger services in the first instance. The process of transferring services will, of course, take some time and probably a few years will elapse before it is complete. Transition will be made as convenient as possible for the transport operators themselves and a regular plan will be drawn up specifying the services to be taken and how far gradually. The Sub-Committee will bear in mind the apprehensions and grievances of the existing operators with regard to the termination of their services and consequent loss. The Government will naturally take into account legitimate claims for compensation for current permits as well as vehicles which are in satisfactory condition. Furthermore, in their desire not to prejudice the persons actually engaged in transport business the Government would consider as far as practicable the employment of the maximum number of efficient personnel from the existing companies.

It is understood that the transport operators were surprised at having been informed that temporary permits of four months' duration only would be issued in future instead of three years'

permit under section 58 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939. The reason for this is, that until all details for running of State transport services and the order in which they are to be taken over have been settled, it cannot be said which permit holder will be left undisturbed for a period of three years. It may be possible later to grant permanent permits over such routes as those which are not likely to be taken over by the Government during the ensuing three years.

The Government have noticed some misgivings on the part of existing operators with regard to the recent Government Order abolishing the fleet system so far prevailing in this province. The short experience of transport management by operators owning twenty or more vehicles has shown that this system has not been conducive to better transport organization or to afford greater convenience and facility to the public. The privilege of monopoly granted to some operators has in fact led to gross abuse resulting in great hardship to the travelling public. It has also been noticed that in many cases the so called amalgamated companies were unified only on paper. In the majority of cases the former individual operators continued to manage their services just as badly or just as efficiently as they were doing previously. At the time of fleet formation a number of individual operators were thrown out of their employment and forced to combine with companies or sell their vehicles to operators often on unfavourable terms. In view of these considerations, the Government decided to rescind the two Government Orders on this

subject and permit individuals or fresh entrants to operate provided they do so efficiently and are able to put three vehicles on the road. The minimum of three vehicles was fixed so as to ensure one spare bus for two regular buses which may be considered as a fair minimum from the efficiency point of view. Some operators may doubt the necessity for introduction of new comers in view of Government's decision to nationalize transport services. Here, it may be pointed out that any scheme for nationalization will require careful study, taking into account the legitimate claims of various interests and will naturally take some time. The Government realize that actual maintenance of transport service is a difficult and intricate job requiring a vast army of trained personnel. The scheme will have therefore to be introduced gradually and cautiously. Meanwhile, there seems to be no justification for continuing a system which was found to be to the detriment of the public; and the Government have therefore after careful consideration ordered the Regional Transport Authorities to issue permits to new entrants also. Such applicants must realize that their permits are only temporary and that the services run by them may be taken over according to plan to be decided upon by the Government. The Government further desire to make it clear that in granting new permits the Transport Authorities will bear in mind the actual traffic demand and every care will be taken to avoid unhealthy and ruinous competition.

[March 13]

PROHIBITION

Working of Prohibition Act

The following is a report on the working of the Prohibition Act in the districts of Anantapur, Bellary, Kurnool, Cuddapah, Coimbatore, Salem, Chittoor and North Arcot districts during January 1947.

Preliminary remarks.—Prohibition has been in force from 1st October 1946 in all the above districts. Its enforcement continued to be in charge of the Police Department in the district of Coimbatore, Salem, North Arcot and Chittoor and the Excise Department in the other four districts.

Enforcement work—Cases.—The total number of cases detected during the month was 1,763 as against 1,291 detected during the previous month. There has been an appreciable increase in the number of cases detected in January. The

number of illicit distillation cases increased from 446 to 675. The increase was most marked in North Arcot and Cuddapah districts. Only five cases of illicit distillation were detected in Coimbatore district against nine cases detected in December 1946.

The number of illicit tapping cases continued to be low.

The number of cases relating to intoxicating drugs rose from 156 to 223. As in December 1946 there were large seizures of Mysore ganja.

Denatured spirit.—The total sale of denatured spirit in all Prohibition districts (except Kurnool) rose from 1,406 to 1,570 gallons during the month. The sale in North Arcot continued to be very high. The number of cases of attempts to render denatured spirit fit for human consumption however decreased from 5 to 2.

Border problems.—Border patrols continued to be active during the month. Though the number of cases of smuggling of liquor increased from 83 to 106, there were no indications of large scale smuggling into prohibition areas from outside.

Assistance given by officials of other departments and non-officials.—There was excellent co-operation by the Police in the Excise Prohibition districts. As many as 176 cases were detected by the Police in these districts.

Seventeen cases were detected by village officers and 57 cases were detected with their assistance. The assistance given by village officers was good in North Arcot district where they detected four cases and rendered assistance in the detection of 34 cases. In Cuddapah district the village officers did not do any work for the detection of cases. In Coimbatore only one case was detected at the instance of a village officer.

In all 13 cases were detected by or with the assistance of other officers.

Two hundred and eighty-eight cases were detected by or with the assistance of outsiders other than regular informants, all the cases being in the Police Prohibition districts. In the North Arcot district the assistance rendered by outsiders was particularly good.

Twenty-seven cases were detected by or at the instance of Taluk and Village Prohibition Committee members. No cases were detected by or with the assistance of Taluk and Village Prohibition Committee members in the districts of Anantapur, Bellary, Cuddapah, Coimbatore and Chittoor. The formation of Taluk Prohibition Committee was complete in Anantapur, Bellary, Kurnool, North Arcot, Salem and Coimbatore. In Chittoor district, Taluk Prohibition Committees have been formed except in Madanapalle division.

Village Prohibition Committees have been formed throughout Anantapur and Bellary and in parts of Kurnool, Salem and Chittoor districts. In North Arcot and Coimbatore, these committees were in the course of formation.

General.—On the whole the preventive work during the month was very satisfactory. The Excise staff in the Ceded districts evinced much zeal and enthusiasm and particularly in Cuddapah the staff continued to do outstanding work. The enforcement staff in North Arcot and Salem also did very good work.

Ameliorative work—Employment of ex-tappers.—Some of the ex-toddy tappers have emigrated to non-prohibition districts. Some have found employment locally in agriculture or in

other occupation. As there were facilities for the manufacture of palmyra jaggery only in four districts the organization of co-operative jaggery manufacturing societies was undertaken only in those districts. The position regarding the organization of these societies was as follows :—

Name of district.	Number of co-operative societies.	Number of licences issued.
Coimbatore ..	100	4,100
Salem ..	46	4,858
North Arcot ..	25	503
Chittoor ..	1	60

In the North Arcot district a co-operative society for mat-weaving has been organized at Katpadi. A society called the Katpadi Co-operative Township Society has been registered for building up a new town on a co-operative basis with an outlay of Rs. 2 crores. This scheme is expected to provide employment to many ex-toddy tappers. In North Arcot district the Land Colonization Society at Vellore has been requested to admit 10 more ex-toddy tappers as members.

Promotion of thrift. The campaign for collecting savings from ex-addicts and the general public in hundi boxes distributed by co-operative societies showed progress.

Recreation and counter-attractions—Refreshment stalls.—Refreshment stalls which were opened in the prohibition districts with the help of Government subsidy have all been either closed down or taken over by private agencies. Private tea and coffee shops have increased in large numbers.

Bhajanas, Harikathas, dramas, cinemas, folk dances and other entertainments were encouraged in all the districts. In the Salem district Adi-Dravida women put up a street drama at Mathigiri and in Kalarpathi some of the ex-toddy tappers joined in enacting a drama. In the Coimbatore district the Pollachi and Gobichettipalayam divisions organized dramas in several places. Bommalattams (Pantomime shows) were given in the districts of Kurnool and Cuddapah. In the North Arcot district the Madras Secretariat Dramatic Party gave a performance with tickets and another without tickets. The collections on tickets amounted to Rs. 12,544. The amount left after meeting the expenditure of the troupe is intended for helping the ameliorative activities connected with prohibition. A dramatic troupe from Nizam's State provided entertainments in the Hospet division. The cinema at Pamidi in Anantapur district and 16 cinema companies in the Salem district provided free entertainment to about 20 ex-addicts every night. An ex-toddy renter has

established a touring cinema in the locality of an old toddy shop in Sirvel taluk in the Kurnool district.

Arrangements were made with certain panchayat boards and the Hindupur Municipality for the opening of public parks.

Ballad singers did useful work in every district singing songs at public gatherings and organizing community singing wherever possible. All the ballad singers assisted local bhajana parties of which there were hundreds in every district and also built up new bhajana parties. There were 3,411 grama sanghams at the end of January 1947. Rural games and other entertainments were organized by these grama sanghams in their respective villages as often as possible. They also undertook rural uplift work like cleaning of streets, the lighting of villages, the construction of drains, the sinking of wells, etc. Special mention may be made of the fact that the grama sangham at Chilamathur in the Hindupur taluk

put up a variety entertainment on the occasion of His Excellency the Governor's visit to the village. His Excellency was particularly pleased with the Pandari Bhajana and congratulated the leader of the Bhajana Party on the performance.

Two new rural uplift schools were opened during the month. The students were given instructions in rural games as well as in rural uplift work.

Women and Prohibition.—The assistance of women in the cause of prohibition was secured in the districts of Salem and Bellary where the Indian Women Civil Corps are doing useful work. In Bellary town, a creche has been opened where 35 children below the age of 3 are looked after with the help of public subscriptions.

General.—On the whole the ameliorative work done in the prohibition districts was satisfactory except in Bellary where there was no Special Development Officer during the month.

[March 10]

REVENUE

The working of the Estates Land Act

Volume of litigation.—The total number of suits and applications instituted under the Madras Estates Land Act, 1908, during fasli 1355 was 120,532 (33,842 suits and 86,690 applications) as against 143,175 (59,621 suits and 83,554 applications) in fasli 1351. The following figures show the general trend of litigation under the Act :—

Fasli.	Total number of proceedings in thousands.	Fasli.	Total number of proceedings in thousands.
1342	.. 184	1348	.. 110
1343	.. 190	1349	.. 126
1344	.. 165	1350	.. 138
1345	.. 129	1351	.. 143
1346	.. 133	1355	.. 121
3147	.. 105		

There was an appreciable decrease in the number of suits as well as applications filed in the fasli under review, when compared with those received in fasli 1351. The decrease is due to the prevailing high prices of agricultural produce

and the consequent improvement in the financial conditions of the ryots and also to adjustment between the ryots and the landholders out of court. There was however a large number of suits and applications in the Ramnad and Vizagapatam districts. This may be attributed to the anxiety of the numerous and large estates in these districts to avail themselves fully of the existence of Special Deputy Collectors' Courts stationed there in order to realize as much as possible of their heavy arrears while prices of agricultural produce were still high and before legislation affecting zamindaris adversely was introduced. About 86 per cent of the number of proceedings taken during fasli 1355 (i.e., 104,044) related to recovery of rent as against 88 and 90 in faslis 1351 and 1350 respectively. Of these, 11,368 or 9.4 per cent were for recovery by distraint and sale of movables and holdings. The remaining 90.6 per cent were either regular suits for recovery of rent or applications for execution of decrees in such suits. In faslis 1350 and 1351 the corresponding percentages of suits and execution applications together were 62 and 76, respectively. The increase in the number of applications for execution of decrees is due to the continuance of the Special Deputy Collectors' Courts solely for Estates Land Act work.

2. *Disposal of suits and applications.*—The total number of proceedings pending at the beginning of fasli 1355 was 41,364. Together with 120,532 received during the fasli, the total for disposal was 161,896. Out of this number 117,518 were disposed of, leaving a balance of 44,378 at the end of the fasli. The pendency of suits at the end of fasli 1355 (12,641) compares favourably with that at the end of fasli 1351 (18,320). There has however been a deterioration in the pendency of applications.

3. *Sales of ryots' holdings.*—In fasli 1355 an extent of 7,893 acres of ryots' holdings was brought to sale for arrears amounting to Rs. 3,03,898 and a sum of Rs. 1,50,870 was realized. The corresponding figures for fasli 1351 were 18,133, 385,001 and 342,102, respectively. The amount realized was 49.6 per cent of the arrears as against 89 per cent in fasli 1351.

The value realized per acre in this fasli was less than the estimated value by Rs. 30.13.0 per acre as against Rs. 12.3.0 per acre in fasli 1351. The disparity between the estimated value of lands sold and the actual amount realized by sale continues to be wide. It is due to want of competition at the sales which resulted in the landholders themselves purchasing the lands for nominal amounts which were just equal to the arrears and the under-estimation of the property. A distinction has been made between 'true' and 'forced' sales. The estimated value of land in true sales works out to Rs. 42 per acre and the value realized in such sales to Rs. 35 per acre. The corresponding figures in respect of forced sales are 52 per acre and 15 per acre. Thus the disparity exists in a marked degree in respect of forced sales.

4. *Treatment of porambores.*—There were only a few cases of unlawful interference by the proprietors with porambores set apart for the common use of the villagers during the fasli under review.

5. *General.*—It is reported that the landholders as usual feel that the processes for the recovery of rents have been made costly by the Madras Estates Land (Amendment) Act of 1934 and that the Act is beneficial neither to the landholders nor to the ryots. The provision for remission of rent by application under section 39-A of the Act has not been availed of during the fasli under review.

There were generally no disputes about occupancy rights between major inamdars and their tenants.

The relationship between the landholders and the ryots was generally cordial except in the Venkatagiri estate of the Nellore district, the Ramnad and Sivaganga estates in the Ramnad district, the Udayarpalayam and Ariyalur Zamindars in the Trichinopoly district and in some villages in the districts of Chingleput and East Godavari. The main complaints of the ryots against the landholders have been that irrigation works are neglected, that they are more heavily taxed than the ryots in the ryotwari areas, with no corresponding advantages or facilities or improvements to their irrigation sources and that 'kancha' fees are collected for grazing on communal lands. There is considerable feeling among the public that the zamindaris should be liquidated and the estate lands converted into ryotwari. There is a widespread move on the part of the ryots of the Ramnad and Sivaganga estates for commutation of grain rents into cash rents so as to avail themselves of the high prices of paddy. It is generally felt by the zamin ryots that more powers should be taken by the Government under Act XVIII of 1943 for repairing and improving irrigation works so that the decision of the Government as to the nature of repairs required might be final, without leaving it to the landholder to dispute it in a civil court alleging that improvements are sought to be effected under colour of repairs. In the Chingleput district the proprietors have neglected to maintain and improve the irrigation works so much that action had to be taken under Act XVIII of 1943 compulsorily in very many cases.

Of late, innumerable petitions have been presented to the Hon'ble Ministers from zamindari ryots touching one or other of the points mentioned above, but administrative action is found possible only to a limited extent, as the relationship between the landholder and the ryot is governed by the elaborate provisions of the Estates Land Act, 1908, and no quick remedy can be found for grievances which are by no means new or even of recent origin.

The Government have decided to repeal the Madras Estates Land Act in so far as it applies to permanently settled estates, unsettled palayams and jagirs. They propose to introduce shortly the Madras Estates Land Revenue Bill, 1947, which has been published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 21st January 1947.

[March 4]

Government Departments at Work

Revenue

Sanction is accorded to the expenditure of a sum of Rs. 1,760 (rupees one thousand seven hundred and sixty only) for the relief of distress caused by fire which broke out in Etikoppaka village of Sarvasiddhi taluk, Vizagapatam district.

The Government have sanctioned the free grant of 351 palmyra trees to the villagers of Tirupapuliyur in South Arcot who were affected by the floods of December 1946. They have been permitted to cut and remove the palmyra trees from T.S. No. 55 (tope poramboke) in the village.

The Government have also sanctioned an additional amount of Rs. 805 for immediate relief of distress caused by the floods in the South Arcot district.

Remission of assessment has been granted on sand-cast lands in Ponamalai and other villages of Villupuram taluk even though the lands measure less than one acre. In the Ponamalai village the remission of assessment on the sand-cast lands has been granted up to 30th June 1946, after which date the lands will be treated as mamul waste and the ryots asked to pay the assessment or relinquish the lands.

Full remission of the assessment or water-rate for fasli 1356 has been granted in respect of the lands in Bapatla, Tenali, Repalle and Guntur taluks of the Guntur district where the estimated outturn of the crops is 2 annas and below as a result of the damage caused by the recent floods.

The new well-subsidy scheme was introduced from 1st March 1947. Details of the scheme were announced in the Press Note, dated 3rd March 1947.

The Government accepted the recommendation of the Board of Revenue and direct that all triune officers be classified as headmen and paid dearness allowance at Rs. 5 (five only) per mensem each, with effect from the date of this order.

Development

At the instance of the Reserve Bank of India, the Government of Madras appointed an Economist in 1944 to conduct enquiries to find out the extent of the decrease in agricultural indebtedness as a result of the rise in prices on account of the war, and the remaining agricultural indebtedness.

The Economist for Enquiry into Rural Indebtedness has since submitted his report. The report is under the consideration of Government.

Madras Agriculturists' Relief Act was passed in 1938 with the object of relieving the indebtedness of agriculturists. Practical experience in the working of the Act has revealed many defects in the interpretation of the Act. Several representations have been made to amend the Act. The question of amending the Act is under the consideration of the Government.

Weights and Measures

In 1945, the Board of Revenue submitted to the Government a draft Bill for the consideration of the Government, regarding the standardization of weights and measures in the Province. It has been considered that before undertaking legislation a small conference of traders may be convened and that before the conference is convened the views of the various Chambers of Commerce in this province should be invited. The Chambers of Commerce have accordingly been addressed in the matter.

Education

The Government have issued orders that the G.O. No. 1495, Education, dated 31st July 1946, under which separate grants are to be paid to the managements of aided elementary schools for the upkeep of building, equipment, etc., should be given effect to from 1st January 1947, only and not from 1st September 1946, as originally ordered.

The Government have had under consideration the question of providing improved facilities for teaching in Indian Systems of Medicine and also for carrying out research in those systems. For these purposes they sanction, in the first instance, the opening of a College of Indian Medicine at Madras and also a Research Department of Indian Medicine at Madras. Fresh admissions to the existing School of Indian Medicine will be discontinued from July 1947. Arrangements will, however, be made for the continuance of the studies of the students who have already been admitted into the school. After these students complete their courses the school will be abolished.

The Government have recently issued a questionnaire on Educational Reorganization covering the entire field of education, for eliciting public

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opinion. The replies received have been collated and are under examination.

The Government recently sanctioned revised scales of pay for teachers in schools under local bodies and aided agencies as well as in Government institutions. The new scales of pay are distinct improvements on the present ones.

A scheme for the further education of demobilized personnel has been approved and a Board has been constituted to scrutinize applications, to settle the institutions, to fix the maintenance allowance, etc.

Labour Situation in the Province

Report for the Second Fortnight of February 1947

In their Order, dated 20th February, 1947, the Government of Madras have referred the dispute between the workers and the management of the Standard Furniture Company, Limited, Kallai, to the District and Sessions Judge, South Malabar, for adjudication under the Defence of India Rules.

In their Order, dated 21st February 1947, the Government of Madras have referred the dispute between the workers and the management of the Nellore Ceramics, Limited, to District and Sessions Judge, Nellore, for adjudication under the Defence of India Rules. The workers who were on the rolls on 8th February 1947 were allowed to resume work on 24th February 1947.

In their Order, dated 22nd February 1947, the Government of Madras have appointed a Court of Inquiry under the Trade Disputes Act, 1920, and have referred to it the dispute regarding increased wages, dearness allowance, bonus, leave facilities, etc., now existing between the workers and the management of motor transport services, motor transport workshops, engineering firms and type foundries for inquiry and report. Sri Rao Bahadur M. Venkataramayya will be the sole member of the Court and Mr. E. A. Watson and Sri M. Sitaramudu have been nominated as assessors on behalf of employers and workers respectively.

The Madras Automobile Workers Union withdrew on 27th February 1947 the notice of strike served on the managements of Messrs. Simpson & Co., Ltd., Addison & Co., Ltd., George Oakes, Limited, and the S.R.V.S. (Lorry Workshops Section). Pending the findings of the

The Government have approved a list of scientific and technical terms in the languages of the Provinces for adoption in the text-books. The approved terms will be used in actual practice in schools from the next school year, i.e., 1947-48, and the text-books from 1948-49. Only text-books which are using these terms should be recognized by the Text-Books Committee from that year.

The Government have also undertaken to arrange for the publication of text-books on Basic Education in Tamil and Telugu and propose to constitute a committee for the purpose.

Court of Inquiry appointed by the Government to examine conditions of employment in the motor transport companies, motor workshops, etc., the union has agreed to the new schedule of wages and dearness allowance of 2½ annas per point of rise above 100 in cost of living index figure prepared by the management. The union has given an assurance that the workers would put forth their wholehearted effort to step up production.

The Madras Labour Union served a notice of strike on the management of the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills on 17th February 1947 making 21 demands. The Commissioner of Labour met both the parties on 27th February 1947 and discussed the demands. The President of the Union has agreed to inform the decision of the Commissioner on the suggestions of the Commissioner of Labour 3rd March 1947. The Commissioner of Labour has sent his report to Government.

The Madras Provincial Type Foundry Workers Union served a notice of strike on 1st February 1947, on the managements of 12 type foundries in Madras. The Union has been advised by the Labour Officer, Madras, to put forward their demands before the Court of Inquiry appointed by Government to examine conditions of employment in the motor transport services, type foundries, etc.

The Honorary Secretary, Nellore District Motor Labour Union, Nellore, has reported that he has withdrawn the notice of strike fixed for 25th February 1947, consequent on the appointment of a Court of Inquiry for the transport services in the province.

MARCH 29, 1947]

Sri M. Sitarama Nayudu, General Secretary, Madras Drivers' Association, who issued the notice of general strike on 25th January 1947 has published printed leaflets withdrawing the notice of strike in view of the appointment by Government of a Court of Enquiry for Transport Works, etc.

The Kumbakonam Electric Supply Corporation, Limited, Employees' Association, Kumbakonam, has informed the Managing Director of the Kumbakonam Electric Supply Corporation, Limited, Madras, that the workers would go on strike any day after 1st March 1947 if their demands for increase of wages, provident fund, allowances, leave facilities, etc., are not conceded by the management. The Labour Officer, Vellore, and the District Magistrate, Tanjore, have been asked to bring about a settlement of the dispute. The management have reported that they are trying to come to a settlement with the union by direct negotiation.

The Secretary, Deccan Sugar and Abkari Company Workers' Union, Pugalur, has issued a notice of strike to the management of the Deccan Sugar and Abkari Company, Limited, Pugalur, intimating that the workers would go on strike from 20th March 1947, if their demands for increase of wages for casual labourers and payment of dearness allowance of Rs. 30 per mensem to all workers are not conceded by the management. The Labour Officer, Vellore, has been asked to bring about an amicable settlement of the dispute.

The General Secretary, Jute Workers' Union, Ellore, has issued a notice of strike, dated 17th February 1947, to the management of the East India Commercial Company, Limited, Nellore, intimating that the jute workers will go on strike on 3rd March 1947, if their demands for increase in wages and dearness allowance, victory bonus, provident fund, leave facilities, production bonus, etc., are not conceded by the management. The Labour Officer, Bezwada, and the Inspector of Factories, Bezwada, have been asked to bring about a settlement of the dispute.

The workers of Chrome Leather Company, who struck work on 31st December 1946, without notice, are still on strike. The workers did not resume work in spite of the Commissioner's advice to them to return to work on the dates notified by the company. The management have been advised to re-open the factory giving a week's notice.

The workers of Messrs. Hoe and Company, Madras, belonging to the Madras Press Labour Union, who struck work on 13th January, 1947,

and obstructed the workers of the Hoe and Company Employees' Association from entering the factory, are now anxious to return to work. The proprietor of the company, who met the Commissioner of Labour, has stated that, as he has already taken a large number of new workers, he would take back as many of the strikers as possible.

The Managing Director of the Demellow's Foundry closed his factory without notice on 27th January 1947. The Factory department is taking necessary action against the Managing Director as wages, notice pay, leave pay, etc., have not been paid to the workers.

The workers of the Abraham Bus Transport, Poonamallee, numbering about 70, struck work without notice on 14th February 1947, demanding regular payment of wages and receipts for security deposits, etc. A settlement has been brought about by the Commissioner of Labour, and the workers resumed work on the morning of 21st February 1947.

The workers of the Madras Pencil Factory struck work for half a day without notice on 23rd January 1947, as a protest against the arrest of the Communist leaders and resumed work on 24th January, 1947. They again struck work without notice in the afternoon of 1st February 1947, to protest against the action of the management in declaring all Saturdays as full working days instead of half-holidays as hitherto, though the limit of 48 hours of work allowed in the Factories Act has not been exceeded. They again struck work without notice on 6th February 1947, as a protest against the promulgation of the Madras Public Safety Ordinance and resumed work on 7th February 1947 without assigning any reason. Thereupon, the management put up a notice dispensing with their services and declaring a lock-out from 8th February 1947. The Labour Officer is looking into the matter.

On the understanding arrived at on 20th February 1947 that they would abide by the award of the Hon'ble Premier regarding bonus, the Coimbatore District Textile Workers' Union called off the strike on 24th February 1947 and all the textile mills in Coimbatore district have been re-opened.

The contract labourers of Shree Bhajrang Jute Mills, Limited, Guntur, continue to be on strike since 20th January 1947. The management have wired on 27th February 1947 stating that the dispute has been compromised.

The workers of the Tin Can Manufacturing Company, Limited, Guntur, struck work on

12th February 1947 demanding 40 per cent increase in basic wages and better conditions of service. The Labour Officer, Bezwada, is looking into the matter.

The workers of the Shoranur Metal Industries, Limited, Shoranur, who were on strike from 9th January 1947, resumed work on 13th February 1947, after coming to an agreement with the management by conciliation effected by the Labour department and direct negotiation.

The Commissioner of Labour has recommended to Government that the dispute between the workers who struck work on 15th February 1947 and the management of the West Coast Electric Supply Corporation, Limited, Madras, regarding increased staff, increased wages and allowances, etc., may be referred to the District and Sessions Judge, South Malabar, for adjudication under the Defence of India Rules. The workers have been advised to resume work immediately.

All the beedi factories in Tellicherry except the Kuyil Beedi Factory which has been permanently closed down have been re-opened.

The workers of the Pullicear Mills, Tiruchengode, struck work on 27th January 1947. The Commissioner of Labour has advised the union to call

off the strike and to press its demand for increased basic wages before the Court of Inquiry.

The workers of the Mettur Industries, Limited, Mettur Dam, struck work from the evening of 15th February 1947. They have decided to continue the strike till the publication of the Hon'ble Premier's pronouncement on the question of increase of bonus to the workers in the Coimbatore Mills and until their 13 other demands are conceded by the management.

The workers of the Trichinopoly branch of Messrs. Hoe and Company, Madras, struck work on 15th January 1947 in spite of the assurance given by the Commissioner of Labour that the terms arrived at Madras would also apply to the Trichinopoly branch of the company. The management have terminated the services of the workers for having gone on strike without any justification. The management have been advised to take back the workers.

The workers of the Loyal Textile Mills, Limited, Koilpatti, and the Lakshmi Mills, Limited, Koilpatti, struck work on 18th February 1947 in sympathy with the textile workers' general strike in Coimbatore. The workers of the Lakshmi Mills, Limited, resumed work on 19th February 1947, and the workers of the Loyal Mills on 20th February 1947.

fat, fish and meat was seen to be far below requirements. The calories are mostly made up by cereals. The shortage of rice is made up by other foodgrains and millets like cholam, cumbu, ragi, etc. Although wheat and maize are also being regularly consumed by the people in other parts according to their availability, it is significant that very little of these grains are consumed by the families surveyed. The labouring class families obtain cereals both through ration shop and as wages from their employers, making up to a total often in excess of their ration. There was no evidence of starvation reported from any of the areas surveyed, though signs of sub-nutrition are common, especially among children.

Among the children specially examined in the villages visited for the surveys no unusual prevalence of any specific diet deficiency conditions have been reported. The more common deficiencies are those of Vitamin 'A' and 'B₂' in all the areas visited.

Special relief measures.

Free midday meals to school children.—The scheme for supply of free midday meals to deserving elementary school children, as part of the scheme of compulsory education, has been functioning in selected centres in all the districts in the province. Wheat and sambhar now form the usual menu in most places. The calorific value of one meal averaged to about 500, though it varies slightly from place to place, depending on the menu, and the accessory food stuffs available.

During the period about 7,500 school children in the city of Madras were regularly supplied with free midday meals on all the working days under the auspices of the Corporation. Till the end of April 1946, each pupil was given a pound of cooked rice with sambar which has since been changed to $\frac{3}{4}$ pound cooked wheat and sambhar. About 450 lb. of dhol and 1,000 lb. of vegetables a day are used on an average in the preparation of the sambhar for those 7,500 children.

Children in all the labour schools under Government are also being provided with free midday meals. These schools especially serve the eligible communities of the province. These children are also given wheat in some form or other, with sambhar prepared with dhol and vegetables. Wheat uppuma, dhosai and puri are the dishes largely in use, though in certain districts wheat is prepared in the form of 'kanji' and served with cooked greengram and butter milk. The children in these schools have now largely got accustomed to wheat as an alternative to their long accustomed rice.

Small schemes for the supply of free midday meals to selected school children are also functioning in certain municipalities.

Free milk supply to priority consumers.

Government are subsidising different schemes of free distribution of milk to priority consumers, such as infants, toddlers, expectant and nursing mothers and school children. In the City of Madras about 2,000 measures of milk are daily supplied free by Government for distribution to priority consumers through the child-welfare centres. Selected children suffering from mal-nutrition or showing signs of any pronounced vitamin deficiency are in addition given shark liver oil and calcium lactate.

Government have also a scheme of free distribution of milk reconstituted from imported milk powder to school children. According to the report received from the Director of Public Instruction it serves all children, attending

standards I to V in elementary schools and primary departments of secondary schools, excepting those who are already receiving free midday meals, in the districts of Anantapur, Bellary, Salem, Chittoor and North Arcot at the rate of one ollock (8 oz.) per pupil per day on all working days. This scheme originally sanctioned up to December 1946 has now been extended up to 28th February 1947. Five more districts, viz., Ramnad, Vizagapatam, Malabar, Tinnevely and Coimbatore have also been brought under the scheme.

Free milk distribution to priority consumers was undertaken on a small scale in certain municipalities, viz. (Vellore, Cannanore, Chittoor, Hindupur, Tuticorin, Tiruvannamalai, Tiruvarur, Tinnevely, Gudivada and Ongole. The distribution is effected generally through the maternity and child welfare centres.

Distribution of groundnut toffees as supplementary food.

A scheme for the supply of toffees made of groundnuts and jaggery was introduced in the month of July 1946. Toffees were distributed to all districts on a monthly programme. The scheme is reported to be not working satisfactorily owing to the quick deterioration of the toffee.

Industrial canteens.—There are now 227 canteens attached to industrial establishments as against 210 reported in the previous quarter.

Education on "Food and Nutrition."

A Nutrition Exhibition was organized in Madras City in August 1946. Exhibition of illustrative and educative charts, posters, models, etc., demonstration of palatable recipes with unfamiliar foodstuffs with special reference to protective foods and the food values of the common South Indian foodstuffs, formed the basis of the planning of this largely attended exhibition. Another exhibition on a smaller scale was also arranged during the annual general exhibition at the Hindu High School, Triplicane, during September 1946.

The All-India Radio has been regularly broadcasting simple recipes with a view to popularising alternative foodstuffs. Broadcast talks and lectures on food topics organized by the All-India Radio in different languages have been another important educative measure on the subject of food and nutrition.

Compost manure from Town wastes.

Forty municipal towns and thirty panchayats are now preparing compost manure from night soil

Nutritional Activities in the Province

Report for Quarter ending 30th September 1946

Surveys of diet and deficiency diseases were undertaken during the period in selected areas in the deficit districts of Bellary and Kurnool and in a Muslim orphanage in Mazamalai village in Trichinopoly district. The data of the survey carried out in Kadiri Panchayat of Anantapur district during June 1946, which was not included in the last report is also incorporated in this report. Surveys were undertaken, as a rule, for a week in each area. The food ingredients used in the cooking of each meal were weighed and recorded. The families for the survey were chosen at random from among the lowest income groups of the population. During the survey the children in the respective centres were also examined for signs of obvious food deficiency. Wherever possible, the heights and weights of school children in the areas visited were also recorded for comparative studies.

A generally low intake of all protective foods is evident. The consumption of vegetables, especially green leafy vegetables, pulses, milk, fruits,

and town refuse by one or other methods. During the quarter, 0.78 million cubic feet of compost was prepared and 0.47 million cubic feet of matured compost was sold to the ryots. The sale of prepared compost was chiefly effected through the local co-operative sales societies. Madras Province continued to be one of the largest centres of compost production in India. According to the latest consolidated report received from the Department of Agriculture, Government of India, out of about 3.0 million cubic feet of compost produced during the first quarter of the year in the whole of India, about 1.1 million cubic feet have been utilized and therefore accumulation of stocks are still occurring in several places. Educative measures are being undertaken extensively to explain its preparation, to popularise its manurial value and to dispel the prejudice which still persists against its use among ryots. The compost scheme used to assist the "Grow More Food" campaign to a considerable extent in those days of scarcity of chemical manure besides introducing a method for sanitary disposal of town wastes to the best economic advantage.

A scheme has been recently sanctioned by the Government, under the auspices of the Agriculture Department, to study the relative nutritive value of different strains of foodcrops before releasing them for general cultivation from Research Stations. The agricultural chemists are analysing the strains of seeds of various food and fodder crops for estimating their proximate principles of proteins, fats, carbohydrates, ash and salts for the purpose of the scheme.

"Grow More Fish" campaign.

Various schemes of increasing the production of food fishes have been undertaken by the Department of Industries, as outlined below.

The Poondi waters stocked last year were harvested and 219 maunds of fish were harvested and distributed. A fish farming Demonstration, Exhibition and Sales were recently held in the City of Madras. A 'once a week' fresh fish sale has been opened and this is freely taken advantage of by the public.

Various experiments are also in progress at the Fisheries Technological Station to improve the existing methods of curing fish so as to retain their nutritive value to a maximum. Smoked, light cured, pickled and dessicated fish prepared hygienically are also made available for sale in small quantities.

The Department of Industries have also a programme to produce shark liver oil in large quantities and on the strength of this Government are

considering the distribution of shark liver oil among priority consumers through hospitals and maternity and child-welfare centres.

Laboratory studies on unaccustomed food stuffs.

In the Nutrition Laboratory, studies in recipes with unaccustomed foodstuffs of immediate significance were continued, besides examination of foodstuffs of various kinds received for advice from various sources.

The study of vital statistics has thus not revealed any abnormal feature which can be ascribed to food shortage. Periodical examination of destitutes and of vulnerable sections of population carried out in the districts have also not revealed any signs of starvation among them.

Biometric studies.

The heights and weights of 480 elementary school children between 6 and 13 years (boys and girls) in Bellary, 957 in Anantapur and 241 in Cuddapah districts were compared with those of children in the City of Madras—vide Biometric table appended to the 1945 report.

The heights and weights of these mufassal children are found uniformly low compared to the Madras City standard for 1938. The deficiencies are more pronounced in the higher age groups. In the ages 6 to 13 years, the heights of the mufassal children are thus found deficient by 1 inch to 3 inches and weights by 3 to 10 pounds. One cause of this disparity between these samples of children in the rural and urban areas may be that they are not strictly comparable groups in respect of economic status. These studies broadly indicate that the mufassal children do not compare favourably with those in the City.

Nutrition Sub-Committee.

The Regional Nutrition Sub-Committee met twice during the quarter. The meetings were also attended by representatives from the Nutrition branch of the Food Department, New Delhi, and other experts in the field.

The suggestion of the Committee to open a model restaurant in Madras City has produced fruitful results. The Y.M.C.A., Madras, has undertaken to open two nutrition canteens for the supply of balanced food at cheap rates. One such canteen has since been opened.

In response to the Committee's suggestions made during the previous meetings, special schemes have been introduced for intensifying the growth of vegetables in school compounds, etc.

(Continued on page 27)

Co-operative Workshops for Ex-servicemen

A majority of ex-servicemen recruited are tradesmen and the skill acquired by them whilst in the Defence Services is an acquisition which should not as far as possible be wasted by employing them as unskilled labourers. In the plan for the creation of employment for ex-servicemen, these facts have been taken into account and provision has accordingly been made for tradesmen with knowledge of Engineering trades in Co-operative Workshops, for tradesmen with knowledge of building trades, such as, masons and bricklayers in Construction Co-operatives, for motor mechanics in Motor Transport Co-operatives, for radio mechanics in Radio Co-operatives and for tailors and cutters in Tailors' Co-operatives. The Government have so far sanctioned the establishment of 17 factories estimated to cost about Rs 30 lakhs. These provide employment for metal workers, carpenters, bricklayers, masons and unskilled labourers. According to the programme of employment prepared by the Director of Resettlement and Employment the number of men who are expected to be employed under the above schemes for the three years 1946-47, 1947-48 and 1948-49 is as follows:—

1946-47	..	..	80,850
1947-48	..	..	80,700
1948-49	..	..	15,450
			177,000

Of the 17 co-operative workshops so far sanctioned 12 have been registered, of which five have actually begun work.

The Strathie Co-operative Engineering Workshops, Madras, the Metal Factories at Kumbakonam and Vizagapatam and the Timber Factories at Tiruvottiyur and Vizagapatam have already commenced manufacturing work. The members of the Metal and Timber Factories in Tinnevely district are now being given training in the respective trades under the Technical Training Scheme. The erection of M and B sheds for the Metal and Timber Factories at Katpadi (North Arcot district) has been completed and they will be started very early. They are expected to commence regular work in April and the training in Metal and Cabinet-making is also expected to commence from that date. The Kallai Storage Depot has been taken over from the Disposals Directorate for locating the Malabar Timber Factories. Preliminary arrangements such as

procurement of tools are being made. The Defence Department has agreed to dispose of the military building at Olavakkot required for the metal factory and the sale is under negotiation. Preliminary tests in regard to production of tiles have been completed in the Brick and Tile factory at Madura.

The proposal to start ten Regional Co-operatives for Radio Sales and Servicing in different places with a central society at Madras has already been approved. This scheme, it is hoped, will absorb about 850 ex-servicemen. Suitable tradesmen have been selected and preliminary steps in regard to selection of buildings are also being taken. The proposal to start 20 motor transport co-operative societies for goods and passenger traffic has also been approved in selected places. About 5,000 ex-servicemen are expected to be employed as drivers, mechanics, etc., under this scheme. Two of these societies have already been registered at Vizagapatam and Bezwada. The remaining 18 societies are expected to be registered during the next month. The Co-operatives for Cottage Industries offer the largest field for employment of ex-servicemen. The Rice Milling Co-operatives equipped with the Rama Hullers will provide employment for ex-servicemen in or near their villages at fair wages, and it has been introduced in selected firkas in this Presidency. The scheme is ultimately expected to provide employment for about 50,000 men. Statistics of ex-servicemen and paddy cultivation in firkas selected for intensive development have been collected, but the formation of the societies was being held up for want of steel. The Government of India have since allotted some steel for this purpose and the societies are expected to function very soon. The design of equipment capable of mass production methods for the other cottage and small scale industries necessary to make firkas self-sufficient, such as groundnut decorticating, cream jaggery manufacture, oil-seed crushing, and oil refining and cotton ginning are also under consideration.

Two societies for weavers have been organized, one in Coimbatore and the other in Cannanore (Malabar district).

More about building co-operatives

With a view to find employment for ex-servicemen, the Government have approved a scheme for organizing Labour Contract Societies on Co-operative basis for demobilized personnel for

undertaking public works and other forms of manual labour. To begin with, they have sanctioned the formation of ten Co-operative Labour Contract Societies of which, nine have already been formed, and these are to be converted into Building Co-operatives. The societies at Madras, Chingleput and the Mappilla Labour Force have been amalgamated into one Construction Co-operative Society and it has been entrusted with the execution of three big Government building works in Madras. The societies at Vizagapatam and Madura have also executed contract works.

Though it is proposed at the outset to give these societies some Government contracts to enable them to gain experience, the ultimate object is to make them self-supporting and capable of competing for ordinary contracts for non-Government works as well and thus afford the members of these societies an opportunity to acquire a permanent means of livelihood under reasonably

decent conditions and in an organized unit. The scheme contemplates the provision of state aid to the societies as follows:—

- (i) Providing work to keep the societies going.
- (ii) Provision of initial capital equipment free of cost to the societies.
- (iii) Guaranteeing the borrowings of the societies from the central banks to meet working charges.

Membership of contract societies has been made as attractive as possible. Each member will have to take at least one share of Rs. 50 and the Government have permitted the collection of the share capital in instalments. The idea, in brief, is to make the labourer an active shareholder with a real interest in the enterprise instead of only a hired workman.

Education—What Government are Doing

Since the present Ministry assumed office, the opening of two Basic Training schools for training teachers in the Basic System of Education has been sanctioned. The question of introducing Basic education in this province will be considered after the teachers admitted to these schools complete their training. About twelve officers have also been deputed to Wardha to attend the course of training conducted there by Hindustani Talimi Sangh. More Basic schools will be opened after these officers return from Wardha. A proposal to convert certain ordinary elementary schools into Basic schools is also under consideration. A Board to advise the Government on matters relating to Basic education has been set up.

One of the schemes in the Government Post-war Five-Year Plan is the introduction of compulsory elementary education in the province. As a preliminary to this, the Government sanctioned in 1945-46 the introduction in selected villages of a limited scheme of compulsion up to standards I to V. The scheme was extended to other selected villages in 1946-47. Funds have been provided in the Budget Estimate for 1947-48 for the further extension of the scheme to some more villages. About 1.70 lakhs of children will be ultimately brought to school in the areas selected for the introduction of compulsory elementary education during 1945-46, about a lakh of children in the

areas selected during 1946-47, and about 1.50 lakhs of children in the areas selected during 1947-48.

Last year, the Government sanctioned the opening of additional training classes for training the large number of teachers required in connexion with the introduction of compulsory elementary education. Additional training classes will be opened in 1947-48 also for the same purpose. The Government have also enhanced the rates of stipends for teachers undergoing training from Rs. 8 to 12 per elementary grade training and from Rs. 12 to 18 for secondary grade training.

The Government have ordered that the assessed grants paid on behalf of aided elementary school teachers should be paid to the teachers themselves, in full, and that separate grants equal to 15 per cent of the assessed grants should be paid to managements for the upkeep of school buildings, etc. They have also ordered that grants-in-aid for elementary school teachers should be paid monthly, instead of quarterly as at present.

The Government are also considering proposals for improving the status and prospects of elementary school teachers in all possible ways.

Secondary Education

With a view to encourage the study of Hindustani, the Government have directed that the teaching of Hindustani as an optional language in

Forms II to IV should be introduced in all secondary schools in which the language is not now taught.

The Government have also directed that the teaching of English in Standard IV of elementary schools and in Classes I to IV in the primary departments of secondary schools should be abolished with effect from the current school year and in Standard V and in Class V with effect from the next school year. The study of English language will commence in Standard VI of lower secondary schools and in Form I of secondary schools. The Government have also ordered that the medium of instruction should be the regional language. The question of making the regional languages the first language and English the second language in the scheme for the S.S.L.C. Examination is under consideration.

With a view to meet the great rush of students for admission in secondary schools, the Government ordered last year that the number of pupils to be admitted in each class might be increased by 5 provided the minimum space required for each pupil was kept up.

With a view to encourage the managements of all aided educational institutions (other than elementary schools) to pay dearness allowance to the members of the staff at the rates admissible to Government servants, the Government have undertaken to make grants not exceeding half the allowance admissible to the members of the staff at Government rates, irrespective of whether the managements pay in full or not out of their own funds their half of the allowance. The managements are expected to pay the allowance in the first instance and then claim the grant due towards that expenditure.

College and University Education

One of the Government's post-war schemes is the opening of two Engineering Colleges, one for the Andhra Desa and the other for the Ceded Districts. One of the Colleges, viz., that intended for the Andhra Desa, has been temporarily opened at Cocanada, to be ultimately shifted to Vizagapatam. As regards the other college, 50 students have been admitted to the Engineering College, Guindy, and 15 to the Arthur Hope College of Technology, Coimbatore, with a view to transferring them to the Engineering College for the Ceded Districts when it is opened at Anantapur or any other suitable place.

The Government have also appointed an Expert Committee to advise them on matters connected with the Engineering education, especially the

co-ordination of the courses of studies to be adopted in the different colleges and the location, etc., of the new colleges.

The Government Arts College, Coimbatore, has been raised to the first grade with effect from 1946-47. B.Sc. courses have been opened in the Government Muslim College (men), Madras, from this year. A new first-grade College for Muslim women has also been opened in Madras.

To meet the great rush of students for admission in colleges in the current academic year, the Government addressed the Universities and got the necessary sanction to admit three batches of students to Science classes and the maximum number to Arts courses.

They also approved the adoption of Tamil as the medium of instruction for the III group subjects in the Intermediate course in the Government Arts College, Coimbatore, and the Municipal College, Salem.

The Government have constituted a University Grants Committee consisting of seven members to examine new schemes proposed by the Universities and to advise Government in regard to the allocation of grants to them.

They have also constituted a Provincial Advisory Board of Education consisting of 29 members to advise them on all matters relating to any grade of education that may be referred to them.

Village Officers, only Part-time Men

There seems to be some misapprehension in the minds of village officers as to whether they can undertake any subsidiary occupation to supplement the salaries paid by the Government. Village officers are only part-time officers and the Government wish to take this opportunity of explaining that there is no objection to village officers taking up other part-time employment or occupation or engaging in trade or taking up contract works in their own villages provided their legitimate duties as village officers are not prejudiced thereby and provided they have obtained the previous permission in writing of the Revenue Divisional Officer concerned. If they wish to undertake contract works outside the village in their charge, they should apply for and obtain the sanction of the Government.

Importance of Handloom Industry in Provincial Economy

Weavers' Co-ops to Tackle Cloth Problem

One of the problems that has cropped up on account of the conditions created by war is the acute cloth scarcity in the country. Lack of imports of yarn and cloth from foreign countries, the steep fall in the production of cloth by the Indian mills for civilian consumption, the large requirements of cloth by the Military and the non-availability of adequate quantities of yarn to the weavers to engage their handlooms continuously, have contributed to the serious shortage of cloth in the market. Even the termination of the war did not ease the situation. Systematic and concentrated attempts are being made both by the Provincial and Central Governments to tackle this problem by making arrangements for augmenting production and for equitable distribution of the available quantities of cloth to the consuming public. The weavers' co-operative societies in this Province have been playing an important role in catering to the cloth requirements of the people and also in exercising a salutary influence on the handloom cloth trade.

The handloom industry in this province ranks in importance next to agriculture only. It has survived, in a substantial form, the several vicissitudes through which it has passed; and the prominent position it occupies in the economy of the province can be judged by the fact that there are about five lakhs of looms in the province and that the province produces the largest quantity of handloom cloth among all the provinces of India. (The attempts to organize the industry on a co-operative basis in order to ameliorate the economic condition of the poor weavers who have been labouring under many disabilities, to regulate production of handloom cloth and distribute it equitably among the consuming public, have attained remarkable success during the last five years.

Apart from the other factors, the prevalence of blackmarketing in yarn and cloth has also been responsible for shortage of cloth in the normal market. The weavers' co-operative organization as it is working now eliminates the possibilities of these malpractices and ensures the return of the entire yarn in the shape of cloth to be despatched to the consuming markets in due course. The weavers' co-operative society structure consists of primary weavers' co-operative and an apex institution, viz., the Madras Handloom Weavers' Provincial Co-operative Society to which

the primary weavers' societies are affiliated. The Provincial Weavers' Co-operative Society regulates and co-ordinates the activities of the primaries, purchases yarn and other raw materials required by them in bulk and arranges for their distribution to the primaries charging a small margin of profit just enough to meet its overhead charges. It also undertakes to market the cloth produced by the primaries through the network of its emporiums spread throughout the Province. It has so far opened 39 emporiums for the distribution of yarn to the primaries and for the marketing of their finished goods. The primary weavers' societies have been functioning as production societies, i.e., they distribute yarn to the members and take back the cloth produced out of the yarn. The weavers receive wages from the society for the production of cloth. By this process, the entire yarn distributed to weavers is accounted for in the form of cloth and the possibilities of blackmarketing of yarn are eliminated. The problem of marketing also is systematically tackled. In order to ensure a fair distribution of cloth to the public, the Provincial Weavers' Society purchases from 25 per cent to 50 per cent of the production of the primaries and sells it through its emporiums at reasonable rates to the public. As regards the remaining cloth, the primaries sell direct to the consumers or to the co-operative stores societies in the neighbourhood. As a last resort, sales to merchants are effected, generally with a view to avoid accumulation of stocks and prevent loss to the society.)

(During 1942-43, when the middle class and poor people were hit hard on account of scarcity of cloth, Government launched a scheme for the production of the cheap handloom cloth through the Provincial Weavers' Co-operative Society and the Provincial Textile Commissioner. The scheme was vigorously implemented by the Provincial Weavers' Co-operative Society and as a result of its sustained efforts 20,196 looms in 192 primary weavers' societies were harnessed for the purpose. Varieties of cloth, which the people of the province are accustomed to use, were selected and large scale production of these varieties was undertaken. Cheap handloom cloth to the extent of 59 lakhs of yards was produced under the scheme by the weavers' co-operative societies, and the entire cloth

except for a million yards, which were exported to Ceylon, was disposed of in this province. The following statement indicates the rapid strides, which the primary weavers' co-operative

societies and the Madras Handloom Weavers' Provincial Co-operative Society have made during the last five years and the extent to which they have served the public;—

Primary Weavers' Co-operative Societies.

	1941-42.	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.
1 Number of primary weavers' societies.	215	228	263	311	336
2 Number of members	19,676	31,431	42,438	51,131	65,286
3 Number of working looms	9,766	23,720	16,854	29,936	39,452
4 Paid up share capital	RS. IN LAKHS. 2.21	RS. IN LAKHS. 4.16	RS. IN LAKHS. 6.23	RS. IN LAKHS. 10.26	RS. IN LAKHS. 20.7
5 Value of cloth produced	20.31	91.12	85.88	169.54	347.69
6 Value of cloth sold	25.31	95.83	87.11	174.44	373.09

Madras Handloom Weavers' Provincial Co-operative Societies.

	1941-42.	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.
1 Number of members	379	462	550	618	1,258
2 Share capital	RS. IN LAKHS. 0.90	RS. IN LAKHS. 1.25	RS. IN LAKHS. 1.36	RS. IN LAKHS. 1.40	RS. IN LAKHS. 1.50
3 Value of goods sold through the emporiums.	2.85	9.23	35.19	41.64	83.75

The primary weavers' societies produced during the last year cloth worth Rs. 347 lakhs and sold cloth to the value of Rs. 373 lakhs. The sales through the emporiums of the provincial weavers' society amounted to Rs. 83.75 lakhs. At present there are about 350 weavers' societies commanding approximately 52,000 looms as against 5 lakhs of looms in the province. The monthly production of cloth of these societies amounts to Rs. 30 lakhs.

The weavers' co-operative societies take all possible measure to minimize the cost of production with a view to make cloth available at reasonable rates. They regulate the rates of wages to the weavers in order to keep the cost of production within reasonable limits and at the same time ensure a fair return to the weavers for their labour. Even before the handloom cloth price control was issued by Government, the provincial weavers' society and the primary weavers' societies introduced voluntary price control of their fabrics. They were selling handloom cloth charging a margin of 18½ per cent only over the cost of production, which is less than the total margin allowed in the existing handloom cloth price control order. The prices of cloth arrived at on this basis were stamped on the cloth and the cloth was sold to the public at the labelled prices. The provincial weavers' society was purchasing cloth from the primaries, allowing 6½ per cent to them over the cost of production, and selling it through its emporiums at the cost of production plus 18½ per cent. In respect of sales to the co-operative institution and recognized dealers it allowed a commission of 6½ per cent on the labelled prices

after taking an undertaking from them to sell the cloth at the labelled prices only.

(Under the existing handloom cloth price control order, the producers' price is fixed at the cost of production plus 15 per cent thereof, and a producer should not sell cloth to the wholesale dealer at a price which exceeds the producers' price to, a retailer at a price which exceeds the producers' price by more than 4 per cent and to a consumer at a price, which exceeds the producers' price by more than 14 per cent.) The provincial weavers' society has been purchasing the cloth from the primaries at the producers' price and selling it charging a margin of 10 per cent only as against 14 per cent provided for in the control order in order to make the cloth available to the public at lower rates. Some of the weavers societies also have been charging lesser margins of profits in respect of their sales to the public.

The handloom fabrics of the weavers' societies have become cheaper and more popular in the market. There is however no uniformity in the production costs of different societies which in some instances can probably be readjusted. The proposed formation of the taluk and provincial Wages Boards will speedily remedy this defect. The expansion of weavers' co-operative movement aiming at the speedy assimilation of all the working looms into the co-operative structure which the Government have decided upon will greatly benefit the consumers in making the handloom cloth available at reasonable rates and in meeting to an appreciable extent the acute cloth situation in the Province.

Co-operatives help to solve Food Problem

(CONTRIBUTED)

The War brought about adverse effects on the food position of the country in general and the Madras Province in particular. The entry of Japan into the war and her occupation of Indo-China, Siam and Burma and the consequent cutting off of supplies of rice from this source led to a marked deterioration of the food position of the Province which used to supplement its production by import from these countries. The position has been aggravated by almost total failure of crops in some districts owing to unfavourable seasonal conditions in recent years. Hoarding, high prices, profiteering and black marketing have often characterised the process of distribution and necessitated a number of Government measures to deal with them. Devising ways and means of procurement and rationing of foodgrains, control of prices of essential commodities, are some of the important measures taken by the Government and in all these matters co-operative societies have whole-heartedly assisted the Government.

Co-operation is based on the voluntary organization of people, run and managed by them on democratic lines eminently suited to undertake procurement and distribution. Therefore the people of this province have lost no time in forming co-operative associations—particularly co-operative stores—for the satisfaction of their common economic interests. Co-operative stores, or consumers' co-operative societies as they are often called, are organizations of buyers to purchase their requirements cheaply in bulk from production centres and distribute them among themselves according to their needs, eliminating a number of middlemen in the process. The profits made in the business which generally goes into the pocket of the shopkeeper are showed by the members as rebate on their purchases after selling apart a portion towards the reserve fund.

As a result of the increasing faith of the people in the essential social justice and democratic methods of business associated with the co-operative distributive system, a large number of co-operative stores or consumers' co-operative societies have sprung up throughout the province. Leading non-officials from all walks of life have come forward to manage the stores. The pace of progress in the field will be appreciated if it is realized that during the year 1945-46 more than 1,300 primary or retail co-operative stores

with about 1,000 branches or depots and 21 district co-operative central or wholesale stores distributed foodgrains and other essential commodities to the public to the value of about Rs. 25 crores, as against 85 stores with an annual sales turn-over of less than Rs. 25 lakhs on the eve of the world war. There are to-day nearly 4½ lakhs of members on the rolls of the 13 hundred odd primary or retail co-operative stores which have been federated into 21 district co-operative wholesale or central stores. The share capital of both the retail and central stores voluntarily contributed by the public amounted to nearly a crore of rupees on 30th June, 1946.

The policy of Government has been to encourage and utilise Co-operative institutions to the maximum extent possible in all schemes of procurement and rationing. It is an encouraging sign that managements of co-operative societies have never hesitated to avail themselves of the opportunities to serve the people. They have, in conjunction with the agencies set up for the enforcement of trade and economic controls, been helpful to check the rise in prices, put down profiteering and black marketing and ensure a fair distribution of commodities in short supply, subject, of course, to their limitations. To enable the public to get the benefit of co-operative distribution, Government have permitted co-operative stores to sell to non-members as a temporary measure.

The primary co-operative stores are participating in schemes of statutory rationing of foodgrains in all the 84 Municipal towns and in the district of Malabar. Out of 524 primary stores situated in urban and semi-urban areas, 242 stores have been allotted during the year 1945-46, 755 ration shops under the statutory rationing schemes. The number of ration cards registered with the stores on 30th June, 1946, was 3.48 lakhs as against 2.97 lakhs at the end of the previous co-operative year (1944-45). Roughly about a fifth of the ration shops in the municipal town are run by co-operative societies.

The role of the District co-operative wholesale stores in statutory rationing by way of wholesale stocking and distribution of rice to authorize retail dealers is no less important. Their services are freely utilized in the distribution of controlled commodities and the import and procurement of foodgrains. The wholesale co-operative stores at Anantapur, Bellary, Cuddapah, Kurnool,

Chingleput and Mangalore have been recognized as sole stockists of foodgrains under the rationing scheme. During the year 1945-46 they stocked foodgrains valued at Rs. 528.21 lakhs and sold stocks worth Rs. 529.98 lakhs under the scheme of rationing.

Considering that rationing by itself cannot meet the situation, Government have, with a view to tide over the food crisis, directed the intensification of procurement operations so as to secure all the available surplus foodgrains from producers. In this scheme, too, co-operative institutions are made wide use of. While ensuring the interests of consumers, co-operative societies look to the interests of producers also by using correct weights and measures and by refraining from unauthorised deductions and mamools that generally characterise private trade in foodgrains.

During the co-operative year ended 30th June 1946, fifty-seven primary stores were entrusted with procurement of paddy and rice, while 49 stores undertook procurement of millets. The value of foodgrains procured and sold by them during the year amounted to Rs. 28.02 lakhs and Rs. 20.15 lakhs, respectively. The number of stores engaged in procurement work and the value of foodgrains procured by them have enormously gone up during the current co-operative year.

Of the 21 district co-operative wholesale stores in the Province, 15 wholesale stores have been participating in procurement. The South Kanara Co-operative Wholesale Stores, Mangalore, enjoys the unique honour of being the first wholesale stores to be entrusted with monopoly procurement of foodgrains in the entire district of South Kanara, and it has been satisfactorily carrying the work for three successive seasons. Two other co-operative wholesale stores which have recently been entrusted with District-wide procurement are the Trichinopoly District Co-operative Wholesale Stores and the Vizianagram Central Co-operative Stores (in the Vizagapatam district). The value of foodgrains procured and sold by all these co-operative wholesale stores during the year amounted to Rs. 280.41 lakhs and Rs. 280.24 lakhs, respectively.

Early in June 1946, Government ordered the formations of village, taluk, and district committees with a view to render the food administration more effective and to associate non-officials with the work. While the village committees are entrusted with administrative functions connected with procurement operations such as scrutiny of demand lists, checking of strength of families, issue of ration cards, etc., co-operative institutions

wherever they exist and are willing to undertake it are expected to do the actual procurement work.

As the Government are very keen on speeding up and intensifying arrangements for procurement of all the available foodgrains, and as the need for co-operative agencies to undertake the work has been keenly felt, co-operative sale or marketing societies, co-operative agricultural improvement societies and select rural co-operative credit societies have also been allowed to take up procurement after suitably amending their by-laws.

In Malabar about 106 producers'-cum-consumers' co-operative societies consisting of both producers and consumers have been started for purposes of procurement and distribution of foodgrains and other controlled commodities such as cloth, sugar, kerosene, agricultural implements, etc. There is enthusiasm for these societies and they have within a very short period collected more than Rs. 40 lakhs as share capital. Similar societies are now being formed in the four northern circars districts of East Godavari, West Godavari, Kistna and Guntur. These schemes are being worked out through District Food Rationing Officers with the assistance of special staff sanctioned for the purpose.

It will thus be evident that the consumers' co-operative movement has been playing a very notable and varied role in the food economy of the Province and rendered great social service to the community during very difficult times. The results so far achieved would not have been possible but for the popular support for co-operative stores on one hand and the encouragement the movement has received from the Government on the other. It is also clear that the Co-operative technique of distribution of the necessities of life has permeated almost every section of the community. It will indeed be a national gain if the creative impulses and capacities of people called into play by the difficult conditions created by the war are fully exploited, conserved and harnessed for their permanent good in the years to come.

(Continued from page 20.)

A sub-committee was constituted from among the members of the Nutrition Sub-Committee to draw standards of quality for foodgrains from the nutrition and health point of view. The Sub-Committee has since drawn up those standards.

The Sub-Committee considered that some effective check must be exercised over the food products that are put on the market and that standards of purity in respect of foodstuffs intended for consumption should be fixed.

From Paddy Field to Ration Shop

Supply System Explained

Probably few, if any, ration card-holders who draw their weekly rations of rice in the cities and towns of the Province pause to consider the elaborate organization that exists to ensure the supplies in the ration shops. During the year 1946, no less than 672,730 tons of rice were transferred from the surplus districts of the Province for consumption in the deficit districts and as much as 345,000 tons were imported from overseas countries like Burma, Brazil and Siam and other places in India like Orissa, Central Provinces, Punjab and the Eastern States. Almost all this rice was sold over the counter in the 25,000 odd ration shops scattered over the length and breadth of this Province.

Purchase.

Let us first have a look at the purchase system by which the paddy is brought from the producers (in the surplus districts), is milled and despatched from the railway stations. The District Supply Officer of the surplus district is given by the Board of Revenue (Civil Supplies) a certain quota of rice to export every month to the deficit districts. He then enters into contracts with the authorized procurement agents in his district, co-operative societies or millers, to supply him with the requisite quantities of rice and paddy. The procurement agents have to see that adequate quantities of paddy are procured from the producers. The contract between the District Supply Officer and the supplier is usually for rice, though occasionally paddy also is exported. The price fixed is for delivery at the nearest railway station. This price takes into consideration the transport charges from the village to the mill and from the mill to the station, whether it is by means of carts or lorries or canal-barges. The work of the procuring agents is controlled and supervised at every stage by Government officers. The prices they pay to the ryots are now fixed and they have to limit their profits and other charges to the official scale. These accounts are subject to constant check and they have at frequent intervals to furnish statements of their purchases and stocks to the local officers.

Quality.

It is unfortunately true that the quality of the rice in the ration shop is not always up to pre-war standards. During 1946, especially there have

been many complaints; complaints of bad smelling rice, of under-polished rice, of rice containing paddy-grains, of red rice and so on. There were many reasons for this. In 1946, the provincial rice position was so bad that the Government had to take rice from anywhere they could get it and very often pay through the nose for it when it came from outside the Province. Quantity, rather than quality, was the criterion, if much-dreaded starvation was to be avoided and so inferior quality rice from overseas and from other Provinces and States in India had to be accepted under protest usually and distributed in the deficit districts when it was sold by means of a Government subsidy at local rates. Even provincial rice was often not up to its usual standard, because it had to be procured sometimes still wet from the thrashing-floor, hastily milled and despatched by rail, if rationing arrangements in some distant deficit district were not to break down. Under these circumstances, it was not always possible for the exporting staff to test the quality of all the consignments or prevent the malpractices of certain suppliers with the usual vigilance. Speedy movement was the prime object, if the ration shops were to get their supplies.

Ever since control came into being, the Government have insisted on certain well-defined standards of quality in the supply of rice and paddy. District Supply Officers have been instructed to reject rice altogether, if it is moist, smells bad, or if it is a mixture of boiled and raw rice. In addition, suppliers are fined, if the rice supplied by them contains more than specified percentages of brokens, red-grains, dirt and foreign matter.

The previous specification of passable rice laid down that rice should receive an adequate but not excessive polish. Two gentle polishes to render the rice fit for human consumption were allowed. In August 1946, however, the Government found it necessary to restrict milling to de-husking of paddy only and banned all polishing of rice. The reason for this order was that it ensured a higher outturn of rice from the paddy which was very necessary when stocks of rice were so low throughout the Province. It is estimated that as a result of the application of this order, the outturn of rice has risen by 3 per cent in the Province. The order is also beneficial from nutritional point of view since polishing of rice removes the cuticle covering the grain which

is rich in vitamin B-1. The Civil Supplies specifications have therefore been altered in this important respect and millers are no longer permitted to supply polished rice in the despatching areas nor are consumers in the importing centres allowed to have this rice polished in mills. The Government have issued most stringent instructions to their subordinate officers to see that rice mills are regularly inspected and that unhealthy practices such as the use of stale water for boiling paddy are stopped. The rice produced in conformity with this order has not the attractive appearance that milled rice has, but consumers can feel satisfaction if they realize that the rice resources of the province are being saved and that the nutritional content of their ration is being increased.

Movement.

The extension of the World War II to the Far East in 1941 and the growing importance of India as a base of military operations resulted in great congestion on the railways in this country. All essential goods had to be moved on a priority system and rice for civilian consumption was occasionally subjected to awkward delays in movement, and at times rice had to be moved by sea in country crafts or steamers. On an average 60,000 tons of rice are moved each month from the surplus to the deficit districts. This means 3,000 Broad-gauge or 6,000 Metre-gauge waggon-loads. One of the most important duties of the District Supply Officer is to arrange with the local railway authorities to have waggons

placed at the stations where he has accumulated rice for export. Often his demands for waggons far exceed the supply and a dangerous bottleneck results which can only be remedied by the railway turning on special trains or by down-grading the priority of other goods in favour of rice movements. For instance, when during December 1946, practically all the railway lines were breached by floods, for a time no other commodities except rice were transported on the line between Bezwada and Madras. Of course, the closest contact is maintained between the Government and the railway officials over the movement of rice and the railways have co-operated magnificently ever since 1942 in seeing that the rice was moved, however pressing the other demands upon them were. In fact, movements of rice continued almost on the same scale as before during the strike on the South Indian Railway in August and September, 1946 even though the staff was more than halved at that time.

These are only three aspects of the supply system. Much could be said about the price fixation, the subsidies that Government bear and the elaborate machinery and staff that exists for distribution of rice in the importing districts. But, the particulars already given may give an idea of how many links there are in the chain of supply between the paddy field and the ration shop. Producer, purchaser, miller, Government official, railwayman or sailor—all play their part in seeing that the rice is sold to the public at fixed prices throughout the Province.

Popular Governments and public relations

By C.V.H. RAO.

(Director of Information and Publicity, Government of Madras)

It is an important characteristic of the present times that Governments have begun to consider the necessity for maintaining contacts with the public and organs of public opinion and inform the public about what they are doing. A democratic system of Government presupposes and predicates popular consent to the acts of the administration. You cannot have democracy without popular co-operation and popular support. A dictatorial or bureaucratic Government may afford to function in the dark and may not feel the need to enlist such support or co-operation in the ordinary sense of those terms. Its acts and decisions may have no reference to popular approval, though by themselves they may not in

all cases be opposed to the public interest as the dictator or the bureaucrat conceives it. But there is no obligation on a bureaucracy to consult the wishes of the people except to the extent that it alone considers necessary. It is concerned more with regimentation of public opinion and less with enlistment for the public good. A democracy with enlisting it for the public good. A democracy however cannot function that way; for the moment a popular Government begins to act in a manner antithetical to popular will, it stands in danger of the public will ousting it. Being elected by the people its responsibility to the public is unabsolvable and conditions everyone of the policies it wants to promote and initiate.

The Functions of the Legislature.

The Legislature in a democracy usually acts as a bridge between public opinion and Government. It interprets the former to the latter and ensures the responsiveness of the latter to the former. But a Legislature is not a continuous or permanent body, because in the first place it can meet only periodically and in the second it is liable to dissolution and prorogation. The Executive Government is on the other hand a permanent, continuous institution, the central point of which is represented by the now well known saying, "The King is dead, long live the King," using the term "King" here to be co-terminous with Government. The Legislature at the same time is concerned solely with law-making and legislating for the public welfare while the actual day-to-day execution of the law is the function of the Executive Government, whether removable or irremovable, responsible or non-responsible.

Depending as it does on public support, a democratic popular Government cannot afford to neglect the need for cultivating that support by maintaining continuous and close contacts with the public and by explaining itself to them and by ensuring for itself public approbation and support. The education of the political sovereign is, therefore, an imperative and inescapable function of a popular Government. It is necessary not only because the policies of any Government are likely to touch the life of the community at a number of points and in all spheres, but also because a responsible Government of the parliamentary type should have an eye on the next election. The electorate cannot be left guessing or neglected, much less can it be trifled with. When either of these is not possible or desirable, it is much better and more preferable to educate and enlighten it. "We must educate our masters" is not a dictum applicable merely to the imparting of elementary education to the people at large; it is applicable much more to political education—to education which has for its purpose the engenderment of intelligent appreciation for what the Government does.

Educating the Public.

It is from this point of view that the maintenance of public relations assumes the aspect of an important and vital part of the work of a popular Government. This problem acquires special significance during war-time when the need for public support for the war effort and the preservation of public morale are of paramount importance. What had been found to be of so important and so essential a function during the war is not less so

during the succeeding peace, when Governments everywhere are engaged in the more complicated and difficult business of reconstruction of the shattered national economies of their respective countries and when every nerve is being strained or ought to be strained to ensure permanent and stable peace. There is nothing which can contribute so largely to this consummation than an enlightened and awakened public opinion which can make itself felt.

Public relations in the sense of Government explaining themselves to the people and the people being conversant with Governmental activities is therefore a vital part of the technique of democratic, popular Government. It is at the same time a difficult and rather complicated work also. Granting that the people must be told what the Government is doing and proposes to do, the question arises as to how much they should be told and in what manner. It is the common complaint of the people, as represented by the press, the Legislature and so on that they are not told enough while it is the common plea of those in authority that the over-riding consideration of public interest prevents everything being told. Much depends on what is regarded as public interest at a particular time. On the assumption, however, that democratic Government presupposes public discussion and frank and full exposition of issues it would appear that such frank and full public discussion will not be possible unless the people know all the facts of a case, possess all the information essential and are in a position to bring an informed mind to bear on the points at issue. Safety as much as desirability, lies therefore, in imparting and not withholding information, in frankness rather than in secretiveness. When all the actions and policies of a popular Government are pre-eminently conceived in the general interest of the people as a whole, there can in fact be no secretiveness about them.

Instruments of Publicity.

The media for imparting and communicating information are well-known and modern scientific advance has placed at the disposal of the Governments such powerful instruments of publicity as the newspapers, the radio, the film and the printing press. It is the function of a Public Relations staff to utilize these different publicity media for putting across to the public whatever the popular Government has been doing, to educate, enlighten and inform them about it. At the same time the idea should be not so much to regiment public opinion into one set mould of thought which is the bane of totalitarian regimes, but to promote

enlightened discussion, to induce correct understanding and to inculcate a proper appreciation of the Government's work, which is the way of a democratic regime. What is done in these respects will be justified by results in the shape of public confidence, in the form of improved public morale and public support and public co-operation. The draw-back is inherent in the work of the public relations staff that publicity for the activities of a Government may deteriorate into propaganda for a party, for the purpose of promoting party interests and consolidating the party position. That danger has to be guarded against by drawing a demarcating line between blatant and barefaced propaganda and plain, unvarnished information. It may be difficult to draw that line and the prospects of overlapping are considerable. But it is not impossible to do so when the Public Relations Departments of a Government comprehend their business and are allowed a certain initiative.

Intelligent Censorship.

Of course, occasions do arise when even democratic Governments have to consider the necessity for keeping away from the public, facts and information. Such an occasion is a period of war or a period of intensive public excitement and convulsion. During such a period as the experiences of the last war have shown, Governments are sometimes liable to errors of decision and errors of discretion in dealing with public opinion and important organs of public opinion like the press. There may be occasions when these errors led during the last war to curious and difficult, if not, serious situations, when the public felt confused and uncertain, when the

need for public morale was sacrificed for what was regarded as the demands of military secrecy and when restrictions had to be imposed on the newspapers with regard to the publication of certain items of news for which there appeared to be no justification in the light of subsequent events. Censorship acted like an ass or a blind-folded person without aim or objective. Such occasions are, however, rare, and very soon democratic countries engaged in war realized that it was far better and more advantageous to tell the truth and the whole truth about military events than to leave the public to speculate and conjecture. The war showed also that telling the facts paid dividend in the shape of restoration of public morale while the totalitarian methods or regimenting opinion or exaggerating things defeated itself in the end.

With these experiences before us only one conclusion is possible and it is that it is the essence of a democratic system of Government that it should keep themselves abreast of public opinion and should enlighten and educate it at every stage. Nothing is more important and more beneficial than this enlightenment, and popular Governments which do not realise the need for discharging this function are probably not playing fair to the electorates or probably even to themselves. At the same time, this work is that of an expert and not of a layman, of those who can feel and understand the public mind and who know their job. It requires initiative, resourcefulness and a trained journalistic eye as to the needs of a particular time or occasion. And within the four corners of Government's policy on any matter, freedom of interpretation and exposition of that policy should be permitted.

Village-well Thrown open to Harijans

Governor's appreciation of gesture

On the 17th February, in the course of his tour in the Madura district, His Excellency the Governor visited Karadikal, a predominantly Kallar village on his return from Thirumangalam to Madura. The Harijans of the village approached His Excellency with a request for a site for a well, whereupon he suggested to the Kallars that the Harijans should be allowed to take water from the caste people's well. The Kallars said that they would convene a meeting to discuss the question. Subsequently the Collector of Madura presided over the meeting where two aged Harijans ceremonially lifted water from the village well. In appreciation of the gesture of the caste people

of Karadikal, His Excellency the Governor sent them a message in Tamil of which the following is the English rendering :—

"When I visited your village on February 17, I requested you to permit the Harijans of your village to use the village-well. I learn that you have agreed to this and the Harijans are now taking water from the well. I think that in doing so you have shown a spirit of generosity and tolerance and set an example which I hope all villages in the province will follow."

It is reported that the village-well has been thrown open permanently to the Harijans of Karadikal.

MINISTERIAL CHANGES

PRAKASAM MINISTRY RESIGNS

Accepting the resignation of Prakasam Ministry His Excellency the Governor has issued the following orders:—

I, Archibald Edward Nye, hereby accept with effect from the afternoon of 23rd March, 1947, the resignation tendered by the following members of my Council of Ministers, namely:—

1. Hon'ble Sri T. Prakasam, M.L.A.
2. Hon'ble Mrs. Lakshmipathi, M.L.A.
3. Hon'ble Sri V. V. Giri, M.L.A.
4. Hon'ble Sri K. Bhashyam, M.L.A.
5. Hon'ble Sri K. Koti Reddi, M.L.A.
6. Hon'ble Sri K. R. Karanth, M.L.A.
7. Hon'ble Sri R. Raghava Menon, M.L.A.
8. Hon'ble Sri B. Venkatratnam, M.L.A.

NEW MINISTRY SWORN IN

His Excellency the Governor has appointed the following gentlemen to be Members of the Council of Ministers:—

1. Hon'ble Sri O. P. Ramaswamy Reddiar—Public (excluding Law and Order, Elections, Excluded Areas and Partially Excluded Areas),

Hindu Religious Endowments, Khadi and Firka Development.

2. Hon'ble Dr. P. Subbaroyan—Home, Public (Law and Order), Legal, Legislation and High Court.

3. Hon'ble Dr. T. S. S. Rajan—Food, Labour and Motor Transport.

4. Hon'ble Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam—Public Works and Planning.

5. Hon'ble Sri B. Gopala Reddi—Finance, Commercial Taxes, Public (Elections and Excluded Areas and Excluded Partially Areas).

6. Hon'ble Mr. Daniel Thomas—Prohibition, Excise, Housing and Registration.

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10. Hon'ble Sri K. Madhava Menon—Agriculture, Forests, Veterinary and Prisons.

11. Hon'ble Sri Kala Venkata Rao—Land Revenue.

12. Hon'ble Sri A. B. Shetty—Public Health and Medicine.

13. Hon'ble Sri V. Kurmayya—Harijan Uplift, Fisheries, Cinchona and Rural Development.

Book Reviews

BOOKS AND AUTHORS.

(B.B.C. Pamphlets.)

Oxford University Press. Price, 12 annas.

This book offers a collection of six literary talks, broadcast by the B.B.C. E. M. Forster, the noted English novelist, gives a critical appreciation of Shakespeare's 'Julius Caesar', and draws attention to the poetical flashes of magic and beauty which pierce through the clouds of tragedy.

"No one but Milton could have written Milton." In this characteristically cryptic comment, George Sampson, an eminent literary critic, sums up the uniqueness of Milton's poetic genius. The critic deals with the shorter poems of Milton in this particular talk.

The more modern writers like Thomas Hardy, William Hazlitt and Shaw have also been included in the book under review. Sketches as these short talks must essentially be, they do succeed in giving a lucid, though brief, glimpse of some of the masterminds of British literature; for as an eminent man of letters remarked; "Shakespeare

and Shaw, between themselves, cover the entire world of the mind."

LANDMARKS IN AMERICAN LITERATURE

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This is a companion volume to the one on British literature. In this collection, American men of letters like Nathaniel Hawthorne, Edgar Allan Poe, Herman Melville, Mark Twain and Jack London, are presented to the layman by eminent literary critics. The talk on Mark Twain, the king among literary men, as he was called, is particularly interesting, containing some spicy quotations and witty sayings of this great jester. "Training is everything; the peach was once a bitter almond" and "cauliflower is nothing but cabbage with college education", are some typical examples of the telling witticisms of Mark Twain. These sayings which combine robust realism with a sense of the grotesque, have earned for Twain the name of an analyst of humanity.

Harijan Fund Exhibition Pictures



A flat wooden chakki used for husking paddy. Turns out unpolished rice. Can husk 4 maunds a day of 8 hours. Is worked by one woman. Cost Rs. 12-8-0.



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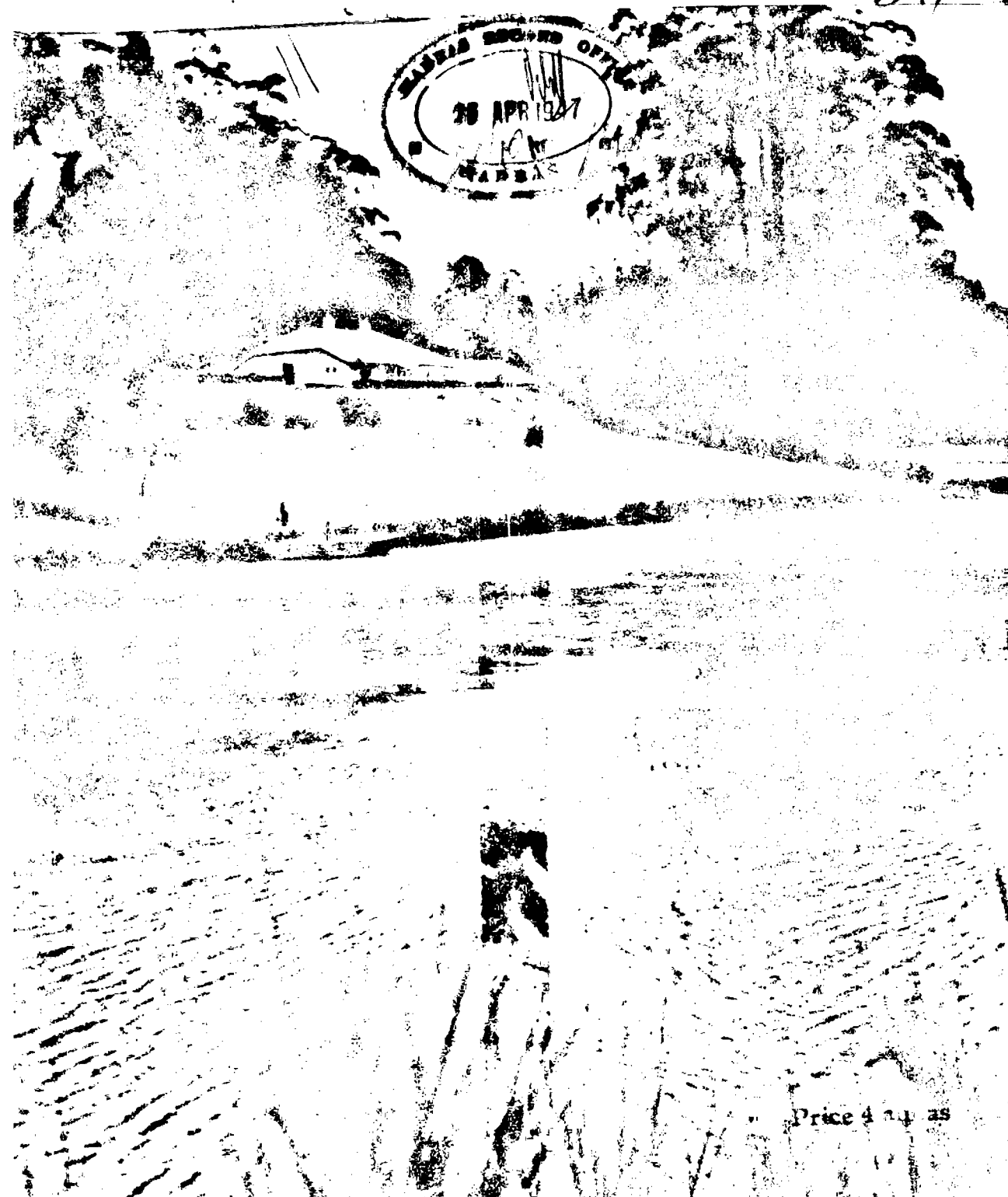
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WE SEEK TO SERVE AND NOT TO COMPETE

April 19, 1947

Editorial Notes

Land Reform

The Hon'ble Mr. K. Venkata Rao, Revenue Minister, in a statement to the Press, has invited the opinions of prominent public men and other concerned sections of the public about his proposal to introduce legislation for the abolition of Zamindari, for fixing the land-tax in the ryotwari areas and for determining the relationship between tenant and owner. The need for tackling these problems earnestly and immediately cannot be gainsaid, and the Revenue Minister points out that the constitutional difficulty anticipated

sometime back in the way of securing His Majesty's assent for introducing legislation affecting the Zamindars' proprietary rights, is not likely to be insuperable in view of His Majesty's Government's recent declaration drawing a definite dateline for the transfer of power to Indians. In the meantime, consultations are proceeding with the various concerned interests and everyone else interested in the problem of land reform has been asked to communicate his views to the Government.

Settlement of Labour Disputes

The policy of the Government with regard to the settlement of industrial disputes, now that a comprehensive measure of legislation has been passed by the Central Legislature, has been explained in a Government Press Note. The Industrial Disputes Act brings into existence two agencies which are intended to play a notable part in the prevention of trade disputes and prescribes a definite, clear-cut procedure in regard to the settlement of disputes once they arise. They are—

(i) the establishment of Works Committees consisting of representatives of employers and workmen constituted in such a way that the number of representatives of workmen shall not be less than the number of representatives of employers, and (ii) Industrial Tribunals, consisting of one or more members possessing qualifications

ordinarily required for appointment as Judges of a High Court.

There is a provision in the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, investing the Provincial Governments with power to see that Works Committees are set up in every establishment employing more than 100 workers, the advantage being that these committees will begin to function or can be called into action immediately there is an indication of an industrial dispute and may play an important part in preventing employer-employee differences from culminating in a strike. The Industrial Tribunal, as the Press Note explains, "will be called in when either party to an industrial dispute applies for reference of a dispute to the Tribunal and also where the Government consider it expedient so to do." The award given by the Tribunal will be binding on the parties for a period exceeding one year.

Conciliation Machinery

Another important change effected by the Act is the re-orientation of the Conciliation machinery. While empowering the Provincial Governments to set up Courts of Enquiry for enquiring into any matter appearing to be connected with or relevant to any trade dispute, it draws a distinction between public utility concerns and other industrial establishments and makes conciliation compulsory in respect of the former and optional in the case of the latter. This is a distinct point of advance, involving a realization of the need to reduce public inconvenience inherent in a strike in a public utility concern, by requiring compulsory reference of the issues to conciliation. The time-limits prescribed for Conciliation Officers, Boards of Conciliation and Courts of Enquiry to report on the issues referred to them are a further safeguard for expeditious settlement in accordance with the importance and urgency of the matter in dispute. A settlement arrived at as a result of the conciliation proceedings will be binding for such period as may be agreed upon by the parties. The Act provides for the prohibition of strikes and lock-outs during the pendency of adjudication and conciliation proceedings and for awards of Industrial Tribunals being declared binding on the parties. If a strike or lock-out is in progress on the date of reference of a dispute to conciliation or adjudication, the Provincial Government can prohibit its continuance. By the incorporation of this provision, an important *lacuna* in the existing trade disputes legislation has been filled up. Under the powers given to the Provincial Governments to declare Transport,

Coal, Cotton, Textiles, Foodstuffs, Iron and Steel as public utility concerns within the meaning of the Act, in regard to which conciliation is compulsory in case of a dispute, the Government of Madras have declared Motor Transport Services and Cotton Textiles as 'Public Utility Services.'

The problem of settlement of industrial disputes is an extremely knotty and complex problem calling for tact, patience and skill and a perfect understanding of human nature and the psychological factors involved in the relationships between two large agglomerations of human beings actuated by apparently conflicting motives and objectives. The reconciliation and harmonization of the interests of these two groups of human beings—workers and employers—involves a continuous study of human nature plus practical understanding of the requirements of each given case. It is necessary, however, to realize that in an industrial age, when so much depends on the successful management of industries and the maintenance in perfect and undisturbed order of the work of production so essential for human happiness in different spheres, a dispute in any large industry culminating in a strike or lock-out is not the concern solely of the workers or the industrialists but that the interests of the general community are intertwined with it. It is, therefore, essential that as perfect and effective a machinery as is possible should be brought into existence to ward off industrial disputes or to settle them satisfactorily and speedily when they arise. To that end the new Industrial Disputes Act and the machinery constituted under it should largely contribute.

Two Measures of Social Reform

Two important measures of social reform intended to purge the Hindu society in the Madras Presidency of two long-standing evils were placed on the Statute Book as a result of the adoption by the Madras Legislature of the Temple Entry Authorization Bill and the Bill to amend the Civil Disabilities Removal Act. The first of these was introduced and sponsored by the Hon'ble Dr. T. S. S. Rajan and the second by the Hon'ble Mr. V. Kurmayya. The Temple Entry Authorization Bill is in particular a measure of far-reaching importance and significance and is intended to facilitate the entry of the members of the Harijan community into temples as a matter of inalienable civic right and to penalise attempts by any one to prevent the exercise of the right of such entry. The Temple Entry Authorization and

Indemnity Act of 1939, is already there on the Statute Book and provides for the throwing open of temples, with Government's approval, by the trustees or other authorities, to the excluded classes of the Hindu community, whenever they are satisfied that the general Hindu public is not opposed to that step. Under this provision, in recent months a number of temples in South India, some of them very famous, have been thrown open to the Harijan community amidst general enthusiasm and rejoicing. But the provision has been found inadequate to meet the requirements of the rapidly changing times and it was not open to the Government to take the initiative in that respect as the move had to emanate from the trustees. On the other hand under the present enactment entry of Harijans

and other excluded classes into temples will be permissible irrespective of the consent of the temple authorities on the approval of the Government. It will be an inherent right exercisable by the hitherto excluded classes with the full weight of legal sanction behind them.

That the measure redeems an age-old wrong continuously inflicted on an important section of the Hindu community and ensures them justice long denied, there can be no doubt. It is for public opinion, especially orthodox public opinion, now to realize its responsibility in this matter which it had not been able to realize in the requisite measure so long. It can, by an enthusiastic self-sponsored move, remove the irrational disabilities in the matter of worshipping at shrines dedicated to the Gods, imposed so far on an unhappy section of their co-religionists, and thus reduce the penal provisions of the legislation to a dead letter. The temple entry movement has already progressed far. What is wanted now is a mobilization of public opinion to enable it to get a further fillip. At the same time once it is realized by the Harijans that they are able to exercise the privilege of worshipping in the *sanctum sanctorum* of a temple as any other Hindu it will automatically provide a stimulus to them to practise clean and healthy habits. Much may be made of the consideration that a far-reaching reform like the one under reference cannot be a complete success unless there is an active, dynamic public opinion in its support; but it is an equally important consideration that the pace of social reform can be quickened by the legal sanction behind it. The Madras Government have thus taken an important step, by introducing this legislation, to vitalize and strengthen the Hindu community by establishing on a legal

basis the principle of social equality of all members of that community. It is a happy augury that the legislation was supported by all sections in the Legislature—Caste Hindus, Muslims, Indian Christians and, of course, Harijans.

Removal of Civil Disabilities

The second measure which was adopted by the Madras Legislature is in the form of an amendment to the Civil Disabilities Removal Act, 1938, which makes the original legislation more comprehensive and effective by imposing penalties on those who attempt to prevent the entry of members of the Harijan community into public places like hotels, theatres, eating houses, etc. To prevent one section of humanity from making use of a public restaurant or a public theatre simply because they belong to a particular community is a social injustice which cannot be tolerated by the awakened social conscience of the present day. The Bill removes, as the Minister in charge pointed out, the vagueness prevailing in respect of the rights of certain classes of people and penalizes any attempt at harassment of the members of the Harijan community in the exercise of those rights. Any attempt at such harassment or to prevent Harijans from entering into public places will be punishable with a fine of Rs. 50 in the case of the first offence and in the case of subsequent offences with imprisonment to the extent of six months or fine to the extent of Rs. 1,000 or both. All the offences under the Act having been made cognizable it should ensure the successful operation of the measure. It is worth mentioning that in connexion with this Bill also there was unanimous support from all sections of the Legislature for its passage.

Paddy Prices Increased

In spite of the fact that they have more than once affirmed their intention not to increase the prices of foodgrains, the Madras Government have now revised their intention so far as prices of paddy are concerned, and have decided, in view of the representations made on behalf of the producers, to increase the village site prices of paddy at a uniform rate of 4 annas per maund or 8 annas per bag. It is important to note in this connexion firstly, that the increase is in response to an insistent demand from producers in the five surplus Circar districts that the prices fixed already were uneconomic, and secondly, that it is in respect of all sorts of paddy, in addition to the increase in the prices of paddy

will get the benefit of the cart hire paid by them if the produce is to be delivered at any other place than the village site. This will be specially advantageous to producers in Nellore district where the produce is procured by the millers and not by the producers-cum-consumers co-operative societies such as those established in the other Circars districts and Malabar.

Some important considerations involved in this matter, to which a brief reference was made in the Press Note issued in this connexion, require a little further explanation. In the first place, it cannot be too often stated that Madras is a deficit area so far as rice, which is the staple foodgrain of its population, is concerned and that

to stave off the anticipated shortage in our stocks of that commodity, we are under an inexorable obligation to the Government of India. In the fixation of prices of foodgrains like paddy and wheat, the Government of Madras or any other Provincial Government are not free agents who can decide on the price to be paid solely with an eye to local needs and requirements. They are under a compelling necessity to conform to the prices fixed by the Government, after examining the position from an all-India standpoint, and must fix local prices at a level and in such a way as would not over-ride the all-India price schedules decided upon by the Centre. Local producers may grouse that their interests do not enter directly or adequately into the determination of foodgrain prices; but they must take into account the limitations under which the Provincial Government have to function in this matter and the various imperative considerations that enter into the determination of prices. Further they cannot possibly ignore the interests of the overwhelming body of non-producing consumers to whom any increase in rice prices, without a corresponding increase in incomes, would mean a great hardship. The Government of India and the Provincial Government have to safeguard the interests of the consumers in the same way as they have to safeguard the interests of the producers.

Another point to which the Government Press Note refers require to be drawn attention to.

Village Officers Reinstated

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 2 of the Madras Restoration of Village Officers (Validation) Act, 1939 (Madras Act XVIII of 1939), His Excellency the Governor of Madras hereby directs that the following persons shall be appointed to the Village office specified against each, in the place of the existing incumbent of that office, who shall be removed therefrom:—

Name.	(1)	Village office.	(2)
1. R. Gopalakrishnayya		Karnam, Ravirela village, Nandigama taluk, Kistna district.	
2. K. Ramakrishnayya		Karnam, Katuru village, Gannavaram taluk, Kistna district.	
3. M. V. Mallikarjuna Rao		Headman, Bokinala village, Gannavaram taluk, Kistna district.	
4. N. V. Raghavalu		Headman, Kanumolu village, Gannavaram taluk, Kistna district.	
5. K. Vasudeva Nainar		Deputy Headman, Melpudupettai village, Cuddalore taluk, South Arcot district.	
6. K. Govindaswamy Vendayar (if the Collector considers him fit).		Headman, Vinayakanteru village, Kumbakonam taluk, Tanjore district.	
7. G. Venkatasubbiah		Karnam, Kirtipadu village, Ongole taluk, Guntur district.	
8. M. Komu Menon (if the Collector considers him fit).		Headman, Erimayur amsam, Palghat taluk, Malabar district.	

"In the northern surplus districts" it says, "where producers-cum-consumers co-operative societies have been organized, the Government are informed that the producers prefer to get a higher price immediately rather than wait for the disbursement of dividends and distribution of profits in the usual course." The decision to increase the village site prices is in response to this desire of the producer shareholders of societies, so that they may be enabled to secure an advantage, however small it may be, within the framework of the price structure set up by the Central Government and without accentuating the burden on the consumer.

The responsiveness of the Government to the demand made by the producers should now be reflected in the responsiveness of the producers to the imperative demands of the food requirements in the Province. That is to say, there must be an immediate and substantial stimulus to procurement operations by way of release of surplus stocks by all the producers. The food position in some of the districts in the Province is obviously unsatisfactory and can be improved only by timely procurement of the grain in the surplus districts and the replenishment of stocks in the deficit districts. Nor is there any virtue or advantage in their not selling their stocks without delay, when the Government have unequivocally and repeatedly made known that there is no prospect of any increase in prices or of payment of bonus in future.

Madras Government Press Notes

Food and Clothing

Informal Rationing of Pulses

Owing to poor allotments and poorer imports of pulses and gram, acute scarcity of pulses particularly of blackgram and redgram is keenly felt in the city for some time and prices are high.

In order to distribute equitably the available quantities of pulses the Government have decided to introduce informal rationing of redgram, blackgram and greengram in the Madras City on the same lines as in respect of bengalgram. The scales of ration of pulses and gram are given in the statement below. A maximum of one-fourth of the total ration of pulses and gram may be taken in the shape of redgram or in the shape of blackgram, i.e., a family can buy up to a fourth of the total ration as redgram and up to another fourth of the total ration as blackgram. No distinction will be made in regard to gram and dholl in the cases of redgram, blackgram and greengram. In the case of bengalgram if dholl is taken, the card holders will be given three-fourths of the maximum gram ration and if flour is taken a quantity equal in volume to the maximum gram rations will be allowed. The ration of pulses will be distributed through the sugar ration shops and on sugar ration cards.

STATEMENT.

Income per month.	Number of adults.	Scale of supply of all pulses together (blackgram, redgram, greengram and bengalgram in Madras measure) per month.
(1)	(2)	(3)
Rs. 30 and less	1—3 adults ..	2
	4—6 adults ..	3
	Above 6 adults ..	4
Exceeding Rs. 30 but not exceeding Rs. 100.	1—3 adults ..	3
	4—6 adults ..	4
	Above 6 adults ..	5
Exceeding Rs. 100.	1—3 adults ..	4
	4—6 adults ..	5
	Above 6 adults ..	6

Two children above three are treated as equal to one adult.

It is realized that the rations are inadequate but in view of the present supply position it is not possible to give more. All that this scheme aims at is to give every family a basic share of what is available.

[18th April]

Sale of Firewood

At present the Government are incurring heavy expenditure on the subsidized sale of firewood in the City of Madras. As the retail price of firewood in the city is lower than the price in most of the mufassal stations, the Government have decided that it is not justifiable to subsidize the sale of firewood on the present scale and that the retail price should be increased and the subsidy reduced to the extent possible. It was not however considered desirable to raise the retail price of firewood uniformly in the case of both the lower and the higher income groups. The Government have accordingly decided that the price should be increased by Re. 0-2-0, i.e., to Re. 0-13-0 per gundu in respect of inferior wood and by Re. 0-2-6 per gundu, i.e., to Re. 0-14-0 and Re. 0-15-0 respectively in respect of jungle wood and casuarina, for the first three income groups. For the other four income groups the increase in price will be Re. 0-4-0 per gundu for inferior wood and Re. 0-4-6 per gundu for jungle wood and casuarina. The revised retail prices will be Re. 0-15-0, Re. 1 and Re. 1-1-0 per gundu of inferior wood, jungle wood and casuarina respectively. The issue price to establishments has been increased from Rs. 35 to Rs. 45 per ton.

As there will be administrative difficulties in enforcing two sets of retail prices in the same shop, the Government have directed that card-holders in income groups 4 to 7 should be attached to separate shops by re-allocation of card-holders amongst the existing shops or by opening new retail shops if necessary. Under this arrangement it is possible that card-holders in income groups 4 to 7 may have to go to shops at a greater distance from their houses than at present. To minimize this inconvenience the Government have directed that card-holders in these income groups may draw their rations for a fortnight at a time and not for a week.

[26th March]

Prices for foodgrains

The Government have already issued two press notes, dated 3rd December 1946 and 7th February 1947, regarding the procurement prices for paddy, rice, and millets to be paid to the producers during the current crop year. They have explained in the

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press notes that the Government of Madras cannot follow an independent policy with regard to the price fixation, that they must abide by the advice of the Government of India, that the Government of India are against any increase in existing prices as that would inevitably result in an increase in prices of other commodities also, and that in the circumstances the Madras Government had no intention of increasing the prices either now or during the course of the year, or granting any bonuses for the delivery of grains as was done during 1946. In spite of these press notes the Government are informed that producers are still under the impression that there will be some increase in prices during the course of the year or that the Government will grant bonuses and that if they only hold on to the stocks they can secure better prices. The Government want to disabuse producers of any such impression. The Government hereby wish to reiterate that they do not intend to increase the procurement prices already fixed and that they have absolutely no intention of offering bonuses during the course of the year for delivery of foodgrains. The Government wish to impress once again upon all producers that the food situation in the Province still continues to be critical and in view of the fact that the help which the Government of India could offer this year will be extremely limited as compared with last year, it is imperatively necessary that procurement should be cent per cent effective this year if rationing is not to break down and if everywhere the quantity of rice ration is to be increased to and maintained at 12 oz. per adult per day throughout the year. The Government therefore request producers to co-operate with them and surrender all available surplus with them voluntarily and immediately at the prices now fixed by the Government.

If this appeal does not produce an adequate response, the Government will be compelled to resort to coercive measures and reduce the prices for stocks not delivered voluntarily within the dates fixed in the notices issued by the procurement staff.

[27th March]

Higher Prices for Paddy

The Government have, on more than one occasion, declared that there will be no increase in the price of rice during 1946-47 and that they have no intention of granting any bonus either. They however learn that the producers still entertain a hope that the Government may revise their decision and are consequently slow in parting

with their stocks. The Government of India have decided that there should be no increase in the prices during the year and the Madras Government are bound by that decision particularly because Madras is a deficit province dependent on outside help. The Madras Government hereby declare firmly and finally that the prices of rice to the consumers cannot and will not be increased.

They have however considered whether within the framework of the f.o.r. prices for rice it is possible for the cultivators to get more for their produce. In the northern surplus districts where Producers-cum-Consumers Co-operative Societies have been organized, the Government are informed that the producers prefer to get a higher price immediately rather than wait for the disbursement of the dividends and distribution of profits in the usual course. After a careful examination, the Government are satisfied that the societies can pay a few annas per bag of 2 maunds of paddy more than the present village site prices. The Government therefore direct with immediate effect that the following village site prices shall be paid to the producers for unbagged paddy delivered in the villages :—

	Present village site price per bag of 2 maunds of paddy.			Revised price per bag of 2 maunds of paddy.		
	RS.	A.	P.	RS.	A.	P.
Superior	12	0	0	12	8	0
First sort	10	14	0	11	6	0
Second sort	10	0	0	10	8	0
Third sort	9	4	0	9	12	0

These prices will apply to all transactions in the five surplus districts of East Godavari, West Godavari, Kistna, Guntur and Nellore. In Nellore district societies have not been formed and purchases are usually made at the mill; the price for delivery at the mill will be Rs. 13-8-0 a bag for delivery at the mill (special sort). In regard to the southern surplus districts and the other deficit districts the Commissioner of Civil Supplies and the Collectors are being instructed to revise the village site and mill delivery prices on the above lines. The producers shall be given cart hire or such transport charges as prevail in the area if the paddy or rice is to be delivered at places other than the village site.

It has been represented that some producers would prefer to deliver rice instead of paddy so that they may get the bran for their cattle and save some portion of the incidentals allowed to the millers. The Government have decided to permit the ryots to do so subject to the limit that

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a producer who elects to exercise this option delivers not less than 1 ton of rice or roughly 13 bags of 2 maunds each. A producer who so delivers the rice at the railway stations will be paid the following rates for a bag of 2 maunds of rice; in the five northern districts referred to above.

	RS.	A.	P.
Superior	19	4	0
First sort	17	12	0
Second sort	16	8	0
Third sort	15	6	6

The Government wish to impress upon the producers that the stocks are very low in the most heavily deficit districts and need urgent replenishment before the monsoon sets in. Last year, when there was a general failure of crops, the province was able to survive largely through the co-operation of the producers. The Government are confident that the producers will not allow the consumers to suffer this year considering the fact that the season is better. Madras will forfeit the good name it has earned and the sympathy of the world if procurement is not better this year than last year. The Government therefore appeal to the producers to realize the situation and give their full co-operation in future as they have given in the past.

[10th April]

Special Permit for Mill Cloth

The Government have decided that all special permits for the purchase of mill-made cloth in excess of the prescribed rations for any purpose whatever should be issued with their approval and have constituted a Committee for the purpose of examining and making recommendations to them on applications for such permits. The following procedure will be followed in regard to the receipt and disposal of these applications :—

(1) The applications should be made to the Collector of the district in which the applicant resides or the institution for which the cloth is required is located; no application should be sent direct to the office of the Provincial Textile Commissioner.

(2) The application should contain the name and full address of the applicant, and full particulars of the quantity and description of cloth required, the purpose for which required and the mill-cloth ration the applicant is entitled to (family ration in the case of individuals).

(3) The Collectors will forward the applications recommended by them, so as to reach the Provincial Textile Commissioner on every Monday. The Provincial Textile Commissioner will, after scrutiny of the applications by the Committee, obtain the orders of the Government and communicate them to the Collectors.

(4) The Collectors will issue special permits in accordance with orders of the Government and send them to the applicants direct. In view of the meagre quota of mill-cloth available special permits will not be granted except for very special reasons.

Cost of living index

The cost of living index number for working classes in Madras City for March 1947 was 267.

The index number for the food group rose by four points to 209 due mainly to a rise in the prices of ragi, milk and gingelly oil.

The index for the clothing group advanced by 13 points to 276 due to the inclusion of prices for handloom cloth also in the index.

The index for house-rent increased by 54 points to 154 due to the adoption of the prevailing rent.

The adoption of current expenditure on education, dhobi and soap (washing) and medicine and medical charges had the effect of raising the index for the miscellaneous group by 24 points to 245.

The index for the fuel and lighting group remained unchanged at 205.

Food Control Prosecutions

The Director of Information and Publicity has issued the following Press Release :—

There were about 106 prosecutions launched in the various magisterial courts of the province during the fortnight ending March 15, 1947 in respect of offences under the Foodgrains Control Order and Rationing Regulations.

About 69 cases have resulted in convictions and sentences, which have generally been deterrent. The other cases are *sub-judice* and the results are awaited.

Handloom Cloth Control

Important provisions of the Madras Handloom Cloth (Export) Control Order, passed recently, are as follows :—

It extends to the whole of the Province of Madras.

It shall come into force at once.

No cloth shall be exported except by or through the agency of an exporter.

The Commissioner may, by notification in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, specify—

- (a) the varieties of cloth that may be exported,
- (b) the maximum export price at which an exporter shall sell to an importer in Ceylon, and every exporter shall comply with the directions contained in such notification.

The maximum prices specified above shall not be exceeded on any account whatsoever, whether on account of transport charges or on any other ground.

Provided that, if the seller of any cloth is liable to pay sales tax under the Madras General Sales Tax Act, 1939, he may charge in addition the actual amount of such tax payable in respect of the cloth sold.

The markings to be made on cloth intended for export, the time and manner of making them, the person by whom they shall be made, and the stamping fee payable shall be as prescribed.

Every exporter shall apply to the Commissioner in the form prescribed by him, for the grant of a certificate that the varieties of cloth sought to be exported and the export prices charged are in accordance with the Commissioner's notification under clause 6.

On receipt of the application from the exporter, the Commissioner may, if he considers that the provisions of the above clauses have been satisfied, issue a certificate in the form set forth in the schedule to this order.

No exporter shall be allowed to export any cloth, unless he has obtained a certificate from the Commissioner.

Any Inspecting Officer may, with a view to securing compliance with this order—

(a) require any person to give any information in his possession with respect to any business carried on by that or any other person ;

(b) inspect any books or other documents belonging to or under the control of any person ;

(c) enter upon and search any house, building or other premises, and seize any cloth in respect of which he has reason to believe that a contravention of this order has been, is being, or is about to be committed.

The Commissioner may, by special order, exempt any cloth specified therein, from all or any of the provisions of this order.

Development

Madras Trade Disputes Bill

Before the war, trade disputes were sought to be settled by conciliation or arbitration under the Trade Disputes Act, 1929. The awards of conciliators or arbitrators were not, however, binding on the parties to the disputes; and as it was essential during the war that all trade disputes should be settled expeditiously, a rule, viz., rule 81-A, was inserted in the Defence of India Rules, so as to provide for the reference of trade disputes to adjudicators whose awards would be binding on the parties. Experience of the working of adjudication under rule 81-A was very satisfactory, and in August last, in view of the impending expiry of the Defence of India Rules on the 1st October, 1946, this Government considered it necessary to introduce interim legislation for the settlement of trade disputes, pending further investigation and final legislation in regard to the

matter. The Madras Trade Disputes Adjudication (Temporary Provisions) Bill, 1946, was accordingly introduced in the Legislative Assembly and passed by it on the 9th September 1946 and by the Legislative Council on the 12th September 1946.

As the Bill regulated subjects in the concurrent Legislative List in a manner which was repugnant to the provisions of the existing law on those subjects, His Excellency the Governor-General, Bill for the consideration of the Governor-General, with reference to section 107 (2) of the Government of India Act, 1935.

Shortly afterwards, on the 25th September 1946, the Emergency Provisions (Continuance) Ordinance 1946 (Ordinance XX of 1946) was passed by the Governor-General, continuing Rule 81-A and certain other of the Defence of India Rules.

His Excellency the Governor-General has intimated his decision, arrived at after the fullest

Madura Mills Dispute

The Madura Mills Company has three mills, one at Madura, the second at Tuticorin and the third at Vikramasingapuram in Tinnevely district. There were labour unions both at Madura and Vikramasingapuram which has been recognised by the management. Some of the labourers of the mills at both the places formed new unions and carried on activities on behalf of the rival unions. As these activities were against a standing order framed by the management, these labourers were dismissed. The new unions contended that these dismissals were unjust and against the principles of trade unionism. A dispute thus arose between the workers and management and as they were unable to arrive at an amicable settlement, the Government referred the matter to the District and Sessions Judge, Ramnad, for adjudication.

After enquiry the adjudicator reported that the standing order goes against the fundamental right of freedom of association which every worker has and that it permits the workers to join a rival union and at the same time prohibits them from working actively on behalf of it. He therefore found that the standing order should not be allowed to remain on grounds of principle or on the advantage of practice. Consequently the adjudicator recommended that the standing order should be modified, permitting the existence of only one union at a time, which should represent the majority of the workers. The Government ordered the enforcement of the recommendations of the adjudicator.

A ballot was taken under the personal supervision of the Commissioner of Labour to decide which of the labour unions have the confidence of the majority of the workers. The workers have by a majority chosen the Madura Textile Workers' Union at Madura and the Vikramasingapuram Textile Workers' union at Vikramasingapuram. The District Magistrate of Madura has reported that the management of the mills has recognised the successful labour unions.

[3rd April]

The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947

The main defect of the Trade Disputes Act, 1929, which has been repealed from 1st April 1947 was that it contained no provision for the settlement of knotty trade disputes by the binding decision of a statutory body. This defect was keenly felt during the War, when there was much industrial unrest throughout the country. Rule 81-A of the

consideration, to withhold his assent to the Bill for the reasons set out below.

In the first place, His Excellency considers that in view of the division of functions made not only in the Trade Disputes Act, 1929, but also in Rule 81-A of the Defence of India Rules as continued in force by the Ordinance, the Bill is open to objection as encroaching on the Central field. His Excellency has also pointed out that since Rule 81-A of the Defence of India Rules has been continued in force by the Ordinance, the immediate reasons which led to the promotion of the Bill have ceased to apply.

It may be added that in view of the continuance of Rule 81-A of the Defence of India Rules, the Government of Madras did not press for assent being accorded to the Bill.

[19th March]

Police Firing in Guntur

The following official account of the shooting in Chilakaluripet, Guntur district, has been released to the Press :—

In a telegram, dated 24th March, the Collector of Guntur has reported that a clash between striker and non-striker coolies took place in front of the National Indian Tobacco Company, Chilakaluripet, at 11 o'clock that morning. The Police opened fire as a result of which two were seriously injured and two got minor injuries. The situation is now under control and a fuller report is awaited.

Clash among Mill Workers

The following report about the clash between members of the Congress and Communist labour unions of the Radhakrishna Mills at Coimbatore, which took place on 8th April 1947, has been received from the District Superintendent of Police :—

On the evening of 8th, following a dispute over the employment of a communist woman employee, members of the Congress and Communist Labour Unions in the Radhakrishna Mills came to a clash. Twenty-four Congress workers including fifteen women and sixteen communist workers, all men, and one independent worker were injured. Of these, four communists, one congress and one independent worker sustained serious injuries. Some damage was also caused to the mill premises but not to the machinery. Necessary bundobust arrangements are made and no further trouble has been reported.

Defence of India Rules had therefore to be framed. This rule was of great assistance in maintaining peace in industry. The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, which replaced the Trade Disputes Act, 1929, from 1st April 1947, embodies the essential principles of Rule 81-A of the Defence of India Rules while retaining in tact the salutary provisions of the Trade Disputes Act, 1929.

2. Two new types of machinery can be set up under this Act for the prevention and settlement of industrial disputes. These are works committees consisting of representatives of employers and workmen constituted in such a way that the number of representatives of workmen shall not be less than the number of representatives of the employer, and Industrial Tribunals consisting of one or more members possessing qualifications ordinarily required for appointment as judges of a High Court. The Provincial Government are given the option to require works committees to be constituted in every industrial establishment employing 100 or more workmen. The Industrial Tribunal will be called in when either party to any industrial dispute applies for reference of a dispute to the Tribunal and also where the Provincial Government consider it expedient so to do. The award shall be binding on the parties for a period not exceeding one year. But if the Provincial Government consider that there has been a material change in the circumstances on which the award was based, it may refer the award to a Tribunal for a decision whether or not the award should by reason of such a change, cease to be in operation before the expiry of the period so fixed and the period of operation of the award should be determined by the decision of the Tribunal on such reference.

3. The Act re-orientates the administration of the conciliation machinery provided in the Trade Disputes Act. Provision is made for the appointment of conciliation officers and Boards of Conciliation. Courts of Enquiry may also be constituted with one or more independent persons by the Provincial Government for enquiring into any matter appearing to be connected with or relevant to any industrial dispute. Conciliation will be compulsory in all disputes relating to public utility services and optional in the case of other industrial establishments. With a view to expedite conciliation proceedings, time-limits have been prescribed for conclusion thereof. The Conciliation Officer is required to submit his report within 14 days of the commencement of the conciliation proceedings or within such shorter period as the Provincial Government should fix. A Board of Conciliation is required to submit its report within 2 months from

the date of notice of strike. A Court of Enquiry will be required to enquire into any matters referred to it and report thereon within a period of six months from the commencement of its enquiry. A settlement arrived at in the course of conciliation proceedings will be binding for such period as may be agreed upon by the parties and where no period has been agreed upon for a period of six months and will continue to be binding until revoked by a two months' notice by either party to the dispute.

4. Another important feature of the Act is the prohibition of strikes and lock-outs during the pendency of conciliation and adjudication proceedings and of settlements reached in the course of conciliation proceedings and of awards of Industrial Tribunals declared binding on the parties to the dispute by the Government. Where, on the date of reference to conciliation or adjudication, a strike or lock-out is already in existence, power is given to the Provincial Government to prohibit its continuance.

5. The Act also empowers the Provincial Government to declare, if public interest or emergency so require, any of the following industries to be public utility services, by a notification in the official gazette, in addition to those already declared as public utility services in the Act itself.

(1) Transport (other than railways) for the carriage of passengers or goods, by land, water or air.

(2) Coal.

(3) Cotton textiles.

(4) Foodstuffs.

(5) Iron and steel.

It is proposed to declare Motor Transport Services and Cotton Textiles as 'Public Utility Services'.

[3rd April]

Harijan Uplift Scheme

It is well known that a sum of rupees one crore has been allotted in the Budget for uplift of Harijans. The scheme for the utilization of the amount which has been drawn up and approved by the Hon'ble the Prime Minister is issued to the press :—

In paragraph 9 of my budget speech for 1946-47 I stated as follows :—

"A further sum of rupees one crore has been included for measures aiming at the uplift of Harijans, and the removal of their disabilities."

In paragraph 17 of my last Budget Speech, I indicated the lines on which the schemes for

Harijan uplift should be implemented, which are as follows :—

"Coming now to Harijan uplift, the scheme which the Government have under active consideration is to start colonies in selected places in each district where Harijans, caste Hindus, Muslims and others will be encouraged to live side by side and maintain the same standards of living. Schools, hospitals, and other amenities will be provided for the benefit of the colonists. The Government intend that these colonies should serve as models for the reconstruction of villages on the basis of self-sufficiency and provision of common facilities for all communities without any distinction and with no disabilities for Harijans. The details of the Scheme have not yet been completely worked out and finally settled. I hope that good progress will be made on it in the course of the budget year."

Our schemes for Harijan uplift should therefore be drawn up in conformity with our undertakings to the Legislature. On these bases, the following detailed allocations would afford a satisfactory arrangement for the expenditure of the One Crore Fund.

Our first aim should be to provide illustrative centres of model villages, where the members of all communities would live together without any distinction of caste or creed. In a Province like ours, where there are so many castes, religions and sects, it is essential to drive home to the people the oneness of the Indians by first getting them to live together amicably, understand one another's points of view and to assist them to live in a spirit of live and let live. Model villages aiming at the grouping of all communities together will not only achieve this end, but will also enable people hitherto accustomed to very low standards of living to lift themselves up from their low standards of living and acquire habits and modes of living of the higher classes. Our Firka Development Schemes offer excellent foundations for the development of new colonies of this type. I, therefore, propose that wherever land is available for assignment in these Firkas, colonies should be set up with at least one colony in each firka and about one hundred houses in each colony in which the members of different communities can be housed close to one another. This would mean that in the 34 firkas selected for development, 3,400 houses will have to be put up. Taking 15 houses per acre, i.e., about 5 cents for each house and the rest for communal purposes, like roads, we would require about 230 acres. Assuming that half of the requisite land will be available for free assignment, that is from communal lands,

for the remaining half the expenditure will be about Rs. 1,15,000, at the rate of about Rs. 1,000 per acre. In these Firkas, there are 858 other villages and 17 towns. In these 858 villages, about ten houses in each village may be put up in or adjoining the village sites occupied by non-Harijans on model lines for Harijans alone. This will require another 285 acres and at Rs. 1,500 an acre, a provision of Rs. 4,27,500 has to be made, assuming again, that half of the total land required will be available for free assignment. These two schemes will provide 11,980 houses. At an expenditure of Rs. 500 on each house, the total cost will, therefore, be about Rs. 70,00,000 including compensation for lands and about Rs. 4,50,000 for amenities such as roads and wells. In these Firkas there are 17 towns, and provision should be made to encourage the local bodies to put up houses for Harijans for which this Government may contribute Rs. 500 each and claim an equal amount from the Government of India. At the rate of about 50 houses in each town, the expenditure from the Fund on this Scheme would be Rs. 4,25,000.

This would leave about Rs. 25,00,000 for expenditure on other schemes. It is essential in attempting Harijan uplift to ensure that the inferiority complex which an average Harijan acquires through years of serfdom is liquidated. As the young men of to-day will have to be the leaders of to-morrow, these young men have to be educated to acquire an outlook of which no one need be ashamed. For this purpose, I suggest that Harijans should invariably be induced to live in hostels attached to educational institutions along with members of other communities and that if the boarding grants given to them are insufficient to meet the cost of living in such hostels, the difference should be contributed from the Fund. The expenditure on this item may amount to about Rs. 3 lakhs a year. In order to enable Harijan boys and girls to acquire the same standards and compete with others on an equal footing, I also suggest that a coaching institution should be started in Madras in the first instance and if successful, be extended to two more places, one in the South and the other in the North, at an early date. For the present, the expenditure on the Madras institute to train 100 boys for a six-months' course for a year will be about Rs. 1,00,000.

Harijan youths are now not adequately provided with opportunities for technical and industrial education. Institutions meant for meeting this demand should therefore be encouraged by Government both by boarding grants and of

building and other grants without regard to the limits laid down in the rules applicable for grants under the Education and Industries and Commerce Departments. An amount of Rs. 5,00,000 may be set apart from the Fund for this purpose.

The balance of about eight lakhs may be held in reserve.

In all the housing and colonization schemes, not more than 25 per cent non-Harijans should be admitted. They should be provided with house-sites and allowed building grants if they are too poor to pay for them. In other cases, loans may be advanced where necessary for the acquisition of sites and the construction of houses subject to the maximum admissible to Harijans and recovered in reasonable instalments. All the housing and colonization schemes may be organized on co-operative lines, preference being given to persons willing to contribute their labour or building the houses with the housing grant of Rs. 500 according to type-designs supplied to them. The Harijans should not be allowed to alienate the sites or buildings except to the Co-operative Society.

Johannapalem in Dendulur firka of West Godavari district has made a significant contribution to the solution of the problem of untouchability. The villagers of all communities are willing to live together. They have already acquired a village-site for the purpose. The Development Commissioner should submit proposals within a week for a model colony on the lines laid down by me in this note. He should submit proposals also for the land colonization and housing schemes in the selected firkas within three months. The work in the selected firkas should be completed within a period of three years at the latest, while the work in the Khadi firkas should be completed during the next financial year.

Working of the Prohibition Act

The following report on the working of the Prohibition Act in the districts of Anantapur, Bellary, Kurnool, Cuddapah, Salem, Coimbatore, Chittoor and North Arcot during February 1947 is published for information:—

Preliminary remarks.—Prohibition has been in force from 1st October 1946 in all the above districts. Its enforcement continued to be in

In regard to the extension of house building outside the selected firkas, Government should provide lands free of cost to Harijans wherever such land is at Government's disposal. Where that is not possible and house-sites in private ownership are available, Collectors and local authorities should attempt wherever possible to arrange to give the owners of suitable sites lands of equal value available with Government so that the house-sites available may be exploited fully for the occupation by Harijans. This would also keep the expenditure on provision of house-sites low. Where these alternatives are not possible, the present rules for acquisition of land under the Com-Labour Department should apply. The Commissioner of Labour should take steps to get a survey of Harijan housing made within three months and submit a five-year plan for the consideration of Government.

Under the existing rules, grants for drinking water-supply are not made for villages with less than 500 people. This undoubtedly causes hardship to small villages of Harijans. In such cases, arrangements should be made to supply to Harijans the materials required for well construction such as cement and steel and boring equipment where necessary, provided labour is supplied by them free of cost. The expenditure on the materials will be met from the Funds available for rural water-supply. The Labour Commissioner must take the initiative in arranging water-supply in these areas and get funds transferred to his budget from the provision for rural water-supply, if the provision in his budget is insufficient. If a survey of rural water-supply has not already been made by the Labour Commissioner, he should take steps immediately to get this done and provide all Harijan villages with drinking water in a period of five years. He should submit a five-year plan within three months. [22nd March]

Prohibition

charge of the Police Department in the districts of Coimbatore, Salem, North Arcot and Chittoor and the Excise Department in the other four districts.

Enforcement work—Cases.—The total number of cases detected during the month was 1,541 as against 1,763 during the previous month. There has thus been a fall in the number of cases detected in February 1947. The total number of illicit distillation cases decreased from 675 to 466. The

decrease was marked in Cuddapah, North Arcot, Chittoor and Kurnool. The fall in the number of illicit distillation cases in Cuddapah and North Arcot was apparently due to the rounding up of several gangs of illicit distillers in the previous months. Only six cases of illicit distillation were detected in Coimbatore district against 5 cases detected in January 1947.

The number of illicit tapping cases continued to be low.

The number of cases relating to intoxicating drugs decreased from 223 to 215. There were no large seizures of Mysore ganja during the month. This was presumably due to the stern measures taken by the Mysore Government to prevent smuggling in response to the requests of this Government.

Denatured spirit.—There was no appreciable increase in the sale of denatured spirit. The sale in North Arcot continued to be very high. The number of cases of attempts to render denatured spirit fit for human consumption increased from 2 to 10, all the cases having occurred in North Arcot district.

Border problems.—Border patrols continued to be active during the month. There were however no indications of large scale smuggling into prohibition areas.

Assistance given by officials of other departments and non-officials.—As in the previous months, the Police in the Ceded districts offered their co-operation in a very large measure in the detection of crime. As many as 157 cases were detected by the Police in these districts and 28 cases were detected with their assistance.

Seventeen cases were detected by village officers and 20 cases were detected with their assistance. The assistance given by the village officers in North Arcot district was very satisfactory where they detected 4 cases and rendered assistance in the detection of 11 more. In Bellary district the village officers did not contribute to the detection of cases. The work done by village officers in Cuddapah and Coimbatore was poor, as only one case in each of these districts was detected by them.

In all 7 cases were detected by or with the assistance of other officers.

Two hundred and twenty-eight cases were detected by or with the assistance of outsiders other than regular informants, nearly half of them being in the Salem district.

Only 6 cases were detected by or at the instance of members of taluk and Village Prohibition Committees. No case was detected by

members of Taluk and Village Prohibition Committees in the districts of Kurnool, Cuddapah, Coimbatore, Salem and Chittoor.

General.—On the whole, the preventive work during the month was satisfactory. The Excise staff in the Ceded Districts generally evinced zeal and enthusiasm in the enforcement of Prohibition. The enforcement staff in Salem and North Arcot districts also did very good work.

Ameliorative work—Employment of ex-tappers.—The following statement shows the progress made in the formation of co-operative jaggery manufacturing societies in the four districts where their registration has been permitted:—

Name of district.	Number of co-operative societies.	Number of licences issued.
Coimbatore ..	90	4,100
Salem ..	55	8,000
North Arcot ..	25	600
Chittoor ..	1	64

In the Pollachi and Gobichettipalaiyam divisions of the Coimbatore district these societies produced 26,000 maunds of palmyrah jaggery worth Rs. 1,56,000.

In the North Arcot district a basket makers' co-operative society and two co-operative stores for the distribution of food stuffs were organized. In Coimbatore the organization of a milk-supply society was undertaken in one of the scavenger's colonies and a chuckler's co-operative society was organized in Cuddapah district.

Promotion of thrift.—The thrift campaign which was launched in collaboration with the Registrar of Co-operative Societies is progressing slowly. The total amount saved in hundi boxes in February 1947 was Rs. 19,450 as against Rs. 23,774 saved up to the end of January 1947.

Recreation and counter-attractions—Refreshment stalls.—In all the Prohibition districts, except Cuddapah and Chittoor tea and coffee shops opened by private agencies increased in numbers and popularity. Many ex-addicts are frequenting these shops.

Bhajanams were conducted regularly in many villages in the prohibition districts. Katha prasangams and kalashepams were conducted only in some villages. From North Arcot report has been received of an increase in the popularity of bhajanams among Harijans in many villages. In Salem district 20 cinemas provided free entertainment to about 20 ex-addicts every evening. Dramatic performance by local actors increased in numbers during the month in all the prohibition districts.

[APRIL 19, 1947]

The Ballad singers did useful work singing songs on thrift, prohibition, rural uplift, etc. Many of them assisted in the conduct of Bhajanas and Kalashepams. They also trained the villagers in community singing.

A large number of gramasangams were organized during the month. Rural games and other entertainments were organized by these gramasangams. They also undertook rural uplift work like provision of first aid centres, adult night schools, construction and repairs of roads, installation of electric pumps, maintenance of manure pits, etc. Special mention may be made of the fact that Kottarsangam in Coimbatore district constructed a temporary plague hospital with 12 beds where 72 patients were treated free of cost.

Eight rural uplift schools were inaugurated during the month, one in each of the prohibition districts. The students were given instructions in rural games, community singing and rural uplift work.

Revenue

Jamabandi Report for fasli 1355

The jamabandi report of the Board of Revenue for fasli 1355 records that the main features of the fasli were as follows :—

The season on the whole was generally fair only in Coimbatore, Madura, Tinnevely, South Kanara and the Nilgiris. It was below the normal in the other districts, especially in parts of the Deccan and North Arcot, where it was disappointing. When compared to fasli 1354 there was an increase in the total extent of ryotwari holdings, the total assessment on ryotwari holdings and the total remissions. There was a decrease in the total area cultivated in ryotwari holdings, the amount of water-rate and second-crop charge, fixed remissions, beriz deductions, miscellaneous revenue and the number of sales of land.

Ryotwari villages.—The total number of ryotwari villages in the Presidency was 21,101, the same as in the last fasli.

Revenue under the principal heads.—Of the principal heads under which revenue is collected there were decreases as compared with the previous fasli in peshkash from Rs. 47,50,293 to Rs. 47,49,958, quit-rent from Rs. 7,36,922 to Rs. 7,36,040 and water rate and second crop charges from Rs. 52-64 lakhs to Rs. 48-21 lakhs, while ryotwari assessment increased from Rs. 604-27 lakhs to Rs. 604-51 lakhs.

General.—There has been an improvement in the social and economic conditions of the ex-addict. Domestic quarrels and street brawls have decreased.

[9th April]

Prohibition News

Coimbatore.—An agricultural and cattle-show was held in Kollegal taluk in Coimbatore district. The Gobichettipalayam Firka tournament was also held on the 5th of March. Arrangements are being made to install radios in seventeen villages. A night school and a reading room have been opened in Gobichettipalayam taluk.

Bellary.—Ten more grama sangams have organized.

Kurnool.—A firka tournament was held in Giddalore.

Vellore.—The Katpadi Co-operative Township was inaugurated recently.

Salem.—The Namakkal Rural Uplift School is giving intensive training to village guides.

Extent of ryotwari holdings.—The total extent of ryotwari holdings during the fasli increased from 27,654,185 acres to 27,661,319 acres. The total area cultivated in ryotwari holdings fell from 20-69 million acres to 20-20 million acres. There was a net decrease of 386,533 acres under dry and 95,295 acres under wet.

Remissions.—The total remissions granted were Rs. 71-33 lakhs as compared with Rs. 18-02 lakhs (revised figure) in the previous fasli. There was an increase in all the districts except Ramnad, the Nilgiris, South Kanara and Malabar. Seasonal remissions increased by 53-45 lakhs. Fixed remissions decreased from Rs. 1,84,340 (revised figure) in the previous fasli to Rs. 1,73,884 and beriz deductions from Rs. 10,15,783 (revised figure) in the previous fasli to Rs. 10,12,538.

Miscellaneous Revenue.—Miscellaneous revenue amounted to Rs. 120-70 lakhs as compared with Rs. 126-50 lakhs (revised figure) in the previous fasli. The total was made up of a number of items of which the more important were—

Jodi and quit-rent on minor inams (amounting to Rs. 22-97 lakhs as against Rs. 23-39 lakhs in the previous fasli), water-rate on minor inams in ryotwari villages (Rs. 15-57 lakhs as against Rs. 18-63 lakhs), charge for water in villages in estates (Rs. 28-24 lakhs as against Rs. 33-97 lakhs), enhanced water-rate on lands irregularly irrigated (Rs. 3-14 lakhs as against Rs. 4-05 lakhs),

charges levied for occupation with or without permission of assessed and unassessed lands (Rs. 6-25 lakhs as against Rs. 7-15 lakhs), charges levied for occupation of poramboke lands (Rs. 6-56 lakhs as against Rs. 6-14 lakhs), revenue derived from taxed trees (Rs. 3-32 lakhs as against 3-56 lakhs), rent of lankas (Rs. 12-86 lakhs as against Rs. 7-65 lakhs), commission for estates under the Court of Wards (Rs. 21,680 as against Rs. 30,314), revenue from process fees (Rs. 6,231 as against Rs. 5,812), proceeds of lands sold (Rs. 2-90 lakhs as against Rs. 2-16 lakhs), and quit-rent and ground rent (Rs. 2-98 lakhs as against Rs. 2-96 lakhs).

Demand and collection of land revenue and cesses (Current).—The current demand under Land Revenue and Cesses during the fasli was Rs. 974-35 lakhs. A sum of Rs. 950-81 lakhs or 97-6 per cent was collected within the fasli and Rs. 3-64 lakhs or 0-35 per cent was written off the accounts. The collection of a sum of Rs. 647 was suspended or postponed. The percentage of collection to the collectable demand was 97-96 as against 99-19 in the previous fasli.

Demand and collection of arrears.—The total arrear demand under all the heads amounted to Rs. 11-72 lakhs. A sum of Rs. 8-53 lakhs or 72-76 per cent was collected and a sum of Rs. 1-36 lakhs or 11-63 per cent was written off the accounts.

Processes under Act II of 1864.—As compared with the previous fasli, there was a marked decrease under every item, viz., number of demand notices, number of distraint or attachment notices, number of sale notices and number of defaulters whose properties were sold for arrears of revenue. The following statement shows the number of processes issued during the fasli under report as compared with the three preceeding faslis :—

	Coercive processes.			
Demand notices	..	..	..	..
Distraint or attachment notices	..	..	..	..
Sale notices	..	..	..	..
Sales (number of defaulters)	..	..	..	..

The number of defaulters whose immovable properties were attached during the fasli was 995 as against 2,166 in the previous fasli. Out of 11,255 defaulters, whose properties were attached, 99 per cent paid up the arrears before sale notices were issued as against 98 per cent in the previous fasli.

Value of lands sold.—Immovable property of the estimated value of Rs. 7,761 was sold for the recovery of arrears amounting to Rs. 5,768. The average price fetched for lands sold to private individuals was more than in the previous fasli

in the case of dry lands and less in the case of wet lands.

Extent of lands sold.—The extent of dry lands sold to private individuals fell from 353-70 acres in the previous fasli to 110-61 acres and that of wet lands from 121 acres to 75-35 acres. The total area bought-in by the Government for want of bidders fell from 157-25 acres in the previous fasli to 57-00 acres under dry and from 166 acres in the previous fasli to 35 acres under wet. The total area of lands sold was 277-96 acres against the total holdings of 7,189,106.

Interest on arrears of land revenue.—The total demand on account of interest on arrears of land revenue including the balance at the beginning of the fasli was Rs. 81,010 of which Rs. 15,294 was collected and Rs. 24,703 was remitted, leaving a balance of Rs. 41,013.

Loans and advances.—The advances made under the Land Improvement Loans and Agriculturists' Loans Acts amounted to Rs. 26-87 lakhs as against Rs. 19-97 lakhs in the previous fasli. No amount was advanced during the year under the Agriculturists' Loans (Madras Amendment) Act, 1935, for the relief of agricultural indebtedness, as this scheme was suspended by the Government for the duration of the war.

The aggregate amount of principal and interest repayable during the year under the Land Improvement Loans and Agriculturists' Loans Acts including the balance remaining unpaid from previous years was Rs. 31,24,416, of which a sum of Rs. 22,60,186 or 72-3 per cent was collected and a sum of Rs. 3,260 was written off. The balance outstanding at the end of the year was Rs. 8,60,970 as against Rs. 6,08,510 in the previous year.

Fasli 1352.	Fasli 1353.	Fasli 1354.	Fasli 1355.
8,49,750	2,98,255	4,83,621	3,12,486
36,653	30,317	27,250	21,860
30,689	9,143	5,618	3,262
4,223	1,283	347	90

The total amount of principal and interest repayable during the year under the Agriculturists' Loans (Madras Amendment) Act, 1935, was Rs. 3,00,670 of which a sum of Rs. 2,76,973 was collected.

Minor Irrigation works.—There were 31,479 minor irrigation works in the Province in charge of the Revenue department against 31,576 in the previous fasli. The total amount spent on their repair during the official year ending 31st March 1946 was Rs. 15-28 lakhs as against 11-09 lakhs during the previous year.

Transport

Motor Vehicles Administration Report

The Motor Vehicles Administration Report for 1945-46 for the Madras Presidency is as usual mainly one of statistics showing the number of vehicles of different types, the number of drivers, conductors and operators of public passenger transport services and the number of prosecutions and convictions under the Motor Vehicles Act and under the Madras Traffic Rules. The report also contains information on the working of the Petrol Rationing and Spare Parts Control Orders. Goods vehicles numbered 2,663 in 1944-45 and 3,311 in 1945-46. The corresponding figures for buses were 3,092 and 3,662; for motor cars 10,430 and 9,796; for taxis 404 and 371; for motor cycles 1,458 and 1,513; for driving licences 35,591 and 41,374; for public service vehicle drivers' licences 11,124 and 10,514; for conductors' certificates 12,888 and 13,828; for convictions under the Motor Vehicles Act 6,525 and 8,454; for convictions for traffic offences 90,838 and 103,571; for petrol consumed 59.79 lakhs and 75.45 lakhs of gallons.

The marked increase in the number of goods vehicles was due to the release of more controlled vehicles during the year for the transport of essential goods such as foodgrains, estate produce, firewood, timber, skins and hides. In view of the severe curtailment of railway facilities, however, even this increased number of vehicles was unable to meet the demands for goods transport and freight charges continued to be very high.

The increase in the number of buses was mainly due to the improvement in the supply of tyre and spare parts and to the large number of controlled chasses released to operators in the course of the year. However, as in the case of goods vehicles the demand was far in excess of the transport facilities available. Attempts were made to introduce town bus services but success was limited due to the scarcity of vehicles. There was no competition between the railways and road transport operators as there was more than sufficient traffic for both. The maximum rates of bus fares fixed for buses on roads in the plains and ghat roads continued to be in force.

As the Government considered that concentration of passenger transport in the hands of well organized concerns owning at least 20 buses would provide better travelling facilities and would help economical working of all bus services existing small owners were given the option of absorption by such companies or of amalgamation among themselves to form concerns fulfilling these requirements. Consequently, there was a marked decrease

in the number of small operators. There were 70 operators owning less than 20 buses and 119 operators owning 20 or more buses.

The Regional Transport authorities were re-organized with effect from 19th November 1945. The Road Traffic boards in the districts were abolished and in their place 6 Regional Transport authorities were formed with authority over 6 zones. The District Magistrate of the district where the headquarters of the region is situated is the Chairman of the Regional Transport Authorities and other District Magistrates included in the region are Vice-Chairmen. The Regional Transport Officer is the Secretary; Presidents of the District Boards included in the region are members. There was no change in the constitution of the Road Traffic Board, Madras. The new authorities took over the functions of the previous Road Traffic Boards except the issue of driving licences, conductors' certificates and work connected with the registration of vehicles which continued to be done by the District Superintendents of Police concerned. In the Provincial Transport Authority, the Chief Engineer (Highways) was made a member in the place of the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards and the strength of the non-official members was increased from 1 to 2, one to represent the northern districts, and the other the southern districts of the Province.

The control over giant tyres and tubes for transport vehicles was completely lifted in December 1945 after ensuring that all dealers held sufficient stock for sale to the public and that there could be no possibility of blackmarketing. There was a gradual and steady improvement in the petrol supply position which made it unnecessary to enforce the compulsory fitment of producer gas plants to transport vehicles. The basic rations for private cars and motor cycles were doubled with effect from 1st August 1945. Out of the 135 items of spare parts which were controlled under the Motor Vehicles Spare Parts Control Order, 1944, 71 items (including batteries) were decontrolled during the year but there was no improvement with regard to the supply of important spare parts which remained very difficult to get. Control over used motor cars was withdrawn in December 1945. As the tyre situation improved considerably in 1945 and as there was a substantial fall in the number of bullock shoe collections during the last months of 1945, the campaign for the collection of bullock shoes from roads as a measure of saving tyres was discontinued at the end of the year.

Miscellaneous

No Ban on Export of Cattle

The Government wish to make it generally known that the Provincial ban on the export of cattle, sheep and goats from this Province ceased to be operative with the expiry of the Defence of India Rules.

[3rd April]

Special Officers for Municipalities

The term of office of Municipal Councillors was fixed so as to expire on the 31st of March 1947. It has been now decided not to extend the term further, but to place all municipalities in charge of Special Officers, on and from that date. The Commissioners of the Municipalities have been appointed as Special Officers.

Cost of Living Index

Enquiries into the family budgets of industrial workers and low-paid employees in the Province were conducted in the year 1935-36, when conditions were normal. This year has been adopted as the base year for the compilation of cost of living indices for Madras City and eight mufassal centres, viz., Vizagapatam, Ellore, Bellary, Cuddalore, Trichinopoly, Madurai, Coimbatore and Calicut. Though there have been changes in the other items entering into the cost of living index due to changes in price levels, the index relating to house-rent has been kept constant so far at the level of 1935-36, as there have been no appreciable fluctuations necessitating a change in the index. The Madras Buildings and Rent Control Act came into force with effect from 1st October 1946. As this permits the enhancement of house-rent up to specified percentages, the question of revising the index for house-rent was taken up and an enquiry was conducted in Madras City and mufassal centres to determine the current rent corresponding to the base rent in the index. The current rents so determined will be incorporated in the cost of living index numbers from March onwards. As compared with the base rents, the current rents show an increase which ranges from 32 per cent in the case of Bellary to 129 per cent in the case of Coimbatore. Consequently, there will be a corresponding increase in the cost of living index numbers for the nine urban centres.

It should be remembered that the increase reflected in the index numbers is not an increase that has accrued all on a sudden but that it is an increase in the current rents that have accrued gradually since the base period 1935-36.

[31st March]

Recruitment of War Service Candidates

Under the various rules framed by the Government from time to time a number of substantive and temporary vacancies to be filled by direct recruitment has been reserved for candidates with war service. With a view to reconcile the claims of war service candidates for the reserved vacancies in Government service and the claims of those who were recruited to civil posts on a temporary basis, the Government have decided that roughly 66½ per cent of all reserved vacancies should be allotted to candidates with war service and that the remaining 33½ per cent of vacancies may go to civilians who have been filling the posts temporarily.

The expression "who have been filling the posts temporarily" refers only to those holding the posts after regular selection and appointment and does not include those appointed under the emergency provisions.

The Government wish to make it clear that if in any particular class or category of posts the total number of reserved vacancies is small, it will not be possible to allocate vacancies between war service candidates and civilians strictly in accordance with the percentages mentioned above. In such cases, allocation has been made in the most judicious and practical manner.

In the case of "civilians" who were selected for appointment before 2nd June 1944, selection for retention in service against civilian vacancies should be regulated according to seniority as provided in General rule 7. As regards those selected and appointed on or after 2nd June 1944 and who have no probationary rights, only the most suitable will be retained, irrespective of seniority but subject to the communal rule where it normally applies.

If any of the vacancies allotted to civilians are now unfilled or are filled by persons appointed under the emergency provisions, such vacancies may be filled by promotion or transfer in accordance with the special rules concerned or thrown open to the public, which term will include "war

service" candidates and "non-war service" candidates who are holding the posts under the emergency provisions and those not in the service of Government. War service candidates competing for these vacancies will not be allowed any special privileges or concessions as regards age, qualifications, etc., except in the case of those who applied or may apply in response to an advertisement inviting applications published by the Commission on or before 4th February 1947.

Similarly, if there are not enough suitable and qualified war service candidates to fill all the vacancies reserved for them, the vacancies for which there may be no such candidates should be allotted to temporary Government servants (i.e., persons appointed regularly) as laid down in rule 3 (4) (a) of the Madras Civil Services (War Service Personnel) Recruitment Rules, 1941, and when such persons are not available they may be filled by open competition.

In the case, however, of the posts of Civil Assistant Surgeons (Men's Section), Sub-Assistant Surgeons (Men's Section), Nurses, First-class Health Officers and Second-class Health Officers, the vacancies allotted to civilians should be filled by candidates who have held during the period of the war or are holding the posts after regular appointment or under the emergency provisions. Selection for retention will be made by the appropriate selecting authority from among the best and most suitable of them. If sufficient number of candidates of the above two categories are not available, the unfilled vacancies will be filled by direct recruitment.

Housing Problem

Government propose to appoint a wholtime Rent Controller for Madras and an additional Rent Controller for a period of three months to clear applications for housing accommodation awaiting disposal, stated Mr. Daniel Thomas, Minister for Housing, in the Legislative Assembly on March 31.

The question of providing housing accommodation for the people of the Province is now engaging the active consideration of the Government, added Mr. Daniel Thomas.

Statistics of Textile Mills in the Province

Replying to a question from Mr. N. M. R. Subbaraman, Mr. H. Sitharama Reddi, Minister for Industries, stated in the Assembly on March 26, that there were 55 textile mills in the Province of which 45 were purely spinning mills, 8 combined spinning and weaving mills though producing surplus yarn for handlooms and 2 purely weaving mills. The number of mills working one shift was 2, those working two shifts were 39, those working two and a half shifts were 9, and those working three shifts were 3. There was one mill in the Province which was not working.

Export Licences for Handloom Cloth

The Industries Minister, Mr. H. Sitharama Reddi, in the course of a reply to a question, stated in the Council on 29th March that it was the intention of the Government to do away with all cases of inequalities in the matter of granting export licences and quotas for handloom cloth.

The I.N.A.

The Government have decided that I.N.A. personnel should be treated in exactly the same way as ex-servicemen and that they should have equal claims for appointment to the reserved vacancies except in the Police services. Such persons will be eligible for all the concessions allowed to persons who have rendered war service in the matter of appointment to the public service. Membership of the I.N.A. should not also be regarded as a 'bad antecedent' for the purpose of recruitment to the public service.

Disabled Ex-Servicemen

The Government have also decided that disabled ex-service personnel should be allowed to compete for the reserved posts (not involving executive work) and that the physical standards prescribed for those posts should be relaxed in their favour, provided the disabled personnel are adjudged to be suitable in other respects. One per cent (included in the 66½ per cent of vacancies allotted to war service personnel) of the total vacancies should be treated as having been reserved for disabled ex-service personnel.

The Government have decided that roughly 50 per cent of the total number of vacancies thrown open to war service personnel less the number already filled by such persons should be made available for demobilized persons who have applied for appointment before 30th June 1946 and that the remaining 50 per cent should be made available for demobilized persons who have applied or may apply after that date and before a date to be specified later. [2nd April]

Premier's Appeal to Workers

My purpose in talking to you this evening is to repeat the appeal I made through the Press two days ago for the maintenance of law and order. The Madras City has been threatened with a general strike. This arose out of the strike of 14,000 workers in the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills. They struck work on 11th March 1947 over more than 25 demands. The Government appointed a Court of Enquiry, but the President of the Madras Labour Union, Mr. Anthoni Pillai, refused to co-operate with the Court and wanted the Government to allow him to negotiate direct with the management. The Government gave him three days' time and asked the management to assist in resolving the deadlock. But even before the time-limit expired, Mr. Anthoni Pillai informed the Government that the negotiations had broken down over two main issues, viz. the amount of bonus and dearness allowance. Now while communicating the fact of the failure of the negotiations, Mr. Anthoni Pillai also said that only time could settle the dispute. In other words, he wanted the strike to continue indefinitely. Government could naturally not allow this. No one, particularly a labour leader, should embark on a strike precipitately as Mr. Anthoni Pillai did and then refuse to allow the legal machinery meant to resolve strikes to function. A challenge to duly constituted Government, particularly a people's Government, should be met with a view to enforce law and order. So when there was no way of settling the strike because the leader was obstructive and unhelpful, he had to be arrested. Statements have appeared in the Press and have been repeated on the platform that he was arrested when negotiations were proceeding. From what has been said above, it is clear that these are all false.

The points in dispute are too many for the Government to settle by discussion. Besides, the Government should not ordinarily be dragged into such controversies when the Statute provides alternative means. Government intervention in settling strikes should be confined to setting in motion the prescribed legal machinery and taking a decision on the findings of such machinery. Hundreds of trade disputes occur all over the Province and if Government were to act otherwise in every case and meddle in individual cases, how can they attend to their legitimate work and what is the purpose of providing for conciliation, arbitration and adjudication?

On the reports received of the result of the negotiations between Mr. Anthoni Pillai and the management of the mills, it is clear that the

management conceded a number of demands, but that the discussions failed on the questions of dearness allowance and bonus. The present bonus distributed by the company is almost equal in value to that in Coimbatore. The dearness allowance is 3 annas, a point over 100 in the cost of living index and is over Rs. 25 per mensem per worker now. I leave it to my listeners to judge whether this is reasonable or not. I do not wish to judge because, as I said, I would rather leave it to a Court, who would be in a better position to consider the question in all aspects and appraise properly the repercussions of any change on other textile mills and industries in the Province. On the other hand the management offered to set apart five lakhs of rupees for housing labour if the demands for extra bonus and dearness allowance were abandoned. They even offered to raise the amount so set apart subsequently. But Mr. Anthoni Pillai declined to accept this offer. I do not see what can be done by the Government to settle a dispute if one side declines to compromise at all.

For his arrest, a general strike is threatened, tomorrow. I want to ask those concerned not to resort to this extreme and dangerous course. Let them come and tell me what their grievances are instead of putting the public to unnecessary trouble and inconvenience. No strike of this nature can be entirely peaceful and I do not wish to see the people of this Province courting trouble and breaches of peace. I therefore made a last minute effort to prevent the hartal by offering Government intervention. After discussion for over one and a half hours, the acting President of the Union, Sri Pakkiriswami Pillai and the strike leader, Sri T. V. Kalyanasundara Mudaliar, declined to open negotiations with the Government unless Mr. Anthoni Pillai is released. Government are not prepared to order his release at present and have told the labour leaders so. I appealed to them to assist in calling off the hartal tomorrow. They have expressed their inability to do so. But I do feel that labour cannot be so irresponsible as to wish to create chaotic conditions in the City even for a day. I therefore appeal to workers to abandon the hartal. I also appeal to them to appreciate the situation in the B. & C. Mills properly and allow the Government to resolve the strike through the machinery prescribed by law. I need not assure the people that my sympathies and the sympathies of the Ministry are entirely with labour and I do hope that the workers would respond to my appeal. [A talk broadcast by the Premier on the eve of 31st March 1947.]

Famine Relief Grants

The following allotments from the grant of the Indian Peoples' Famine Trust have been made for providing further relief to persons affected by the recent floods in the districts mentioned below :—

	RS.
Nellore	2,500
Cuddapah	2,500
Chingleput	5,000
South Arcot	5,000
Salem	5,000

Policemen's Pay Revised

The Government have decided to sanction the following revised scales of pay to the Police Subordinates mentioned below with effect from 1st April 1947 :—

Posts.	Scale sanctioned in G.O. No. 78, Finance, dated 6th February 1947.	Revised scale now sanctioned.
1. Madras Police Subordinate Service.		
	RS.	RS.
Constables—		
1 While under training.	19	20.
2 Remaining period of probation.	21	25.
3 After completion of probation.	25— $\frac{1}{2}$ (A)—35.	30— $\frac{1}{2}$ (A)—40.
Head Constables ..	35—1—40 (E.B.) —1—45.	40—1—50 (E.B.) —2—60.
Duffadars and lance duffadars of the Sowar Troop—		40—1—50 (E.B.) —2—60.
I Grade	45.	
II Grade	40.	
III Grade	35.	
Havildars-Major ..	55	70.
2. Malabar Special Police Subordinate Service.		
Constables	27— $\frac{1}{2}$ (A)—38.	32— $\frac{1}{2}$ (A)—43.
Naiks	40— $\frac{1}{2}$ (A)—46.	45— $\frac{1}{2}$ (A)—50.
Havildars	48— $\frac{1}{2}$ (A)—53.	55— $\frac{1}{2}$ (A)—60.
Havildars-Major ..	54— $\frac{1}{2}$ (A)—59.	65— $\frac{1}{2}$ (A)—70.

National Savings Certificates

Madras City stood first in the sale of National Savings Certificates, with 3,220,610, of the total collection in the province amounting to Rupees 1,68,75,274. These figures are for the period between the 1st of April 1946 and the 8th of March 1947.

Elimination of Uncertified Khadi

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan, replying to a question from Mr. R. Suryanarayana Rao regarding the Khadi policy of the Government, stated in the Council on March 29, that it was proposed by the Government to eliminate part of the Government Khadi scheme in the following areas :—(1) The areas in which the "intensive" scheme, (2) all the villages lying within a distance of 10 miles beyond the limits of the Khadi (4) villages within a belt of ten miles beyond the production centres of the All-India Spinners' Association and other organizations certified by the All-India Spinners' Association and other approved organizations, (5) Coimbatore and Erode Municipalities, and (6) Madura town.

Resettlement News

In Bellary three ex-servicemen were placed. Sixty-seven men have been appointed in Chingleput district.

Two-hundred and thirteen men have so far been found employment in South Kanara. One-hundred and ninety-three men in Trichinopoly district have been placed during the month.

In South Arcot, 33 men have been placed during the fortnight ending 15th March 1947. Twenty-one men have been found employment, in this fortnight, in Cuddapah; 5 men in Nellore and about 200 men in the City of Madras.

All-India Resettlement Scheme

The number of persons placed in employment by the Resettlement and Employment Organization of the Government of India in February, 1947, was 11,380, bringing the total number of persons thus placed up to the end of that month to 139,961. The placings include appointments to 56,421 vacancies in Central and Provincial Government Departments and 7,692 to reserved vacancies in the Railway Administrations.

Direct employment assistance to which these statistics relate forms only a part of the activities of the Central and Provincial Governments in regard to resettling ex-services personnel. Other forms of assistance offered to returning ex-servicemen, to mention only a few, are provisions for technical and vocational training and for resettlement on land through land colonization schemes, facilities for setting up co-operative societies, issue of yarn and other specific commodity permits, further education, etc.

Up to the end of February, 26,409 ex-services personnel had been selected and posted to 179 Training Centres. This figure includes 21,180 ex-servicemen posted to Technical Training Centres, 2,715 to Vocational Training Centres, 2,064 to Training Centres for the war-disabled and 450 women posted to institutes where training is being imparted to ex-servicewomen. The number of persons actually under training at the end of the month was 8,286 of whom 1,247 were disabled persons.

Labour Situation in the Province

Report for the fortnight ending 29th March 1947

The Southern India Mill Owners Association, Coimbatore, at its meeting held on 16th March 1947 resolved to recommend to its Member Mills' in Coimbatore district, payment of an additional bonus of two months basic earned wages for the year 1946 on or before 25th March 1947 as suggested by the Hon'ble the Premier.

The workers of the Buckingham and Carnatic Mill Company, Limited, Madras, struck work on 11th March 1947 demanding more bonus, dearness allowance, reinstatement of workers, etc., in spite of the Government's warning that the strike would be illegal. The Government have referred all the demands of the union to a Court of Enquiry. As the workers preferred to come to a settlement with the management by direct negotiation, the Hon'ble Minister for Labour sent for Sri S. C. C. Anthoni Pillai, President of the Madras Labour Union and the management and advised them to come to an early settlement.

The President of the Commercial Employees' Association, Madras, has issued a notice of strike to Management of Burmah Shell Company, intimating that the workers will go on strike on or after 10th April 1947, if their demands, for bonus, Provident Fund, reinstatement of a watchman, etc., are not conceded before that date. The Commissioner of Labour is looking into the matter.

The Government of Madras have referred the question of grant of interim relief to the workers of the motor transport services in the Madras Province to Sri Rao Bahadur M. Venkataramayya for adjudication.

The Government of Madras have referred the dispute between the workers and the management of Messrs. Hoe & Co., regarding gratuity, provident fund, wages, etc., Madras and Trichinopoly, to Sri Rao Bahadur M. Venkataramayya for adjudication, and the dispute between the workers and the managements of Sri Balasubramania Mills, Limited, and the Kothari Textiles, Limited, Singanallur, to the District and Sessions Judge, Coimbatore.

The Radhakrishna Mills, Limited, Pellamedu, stopped working from 1.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. on 22nd March 1947 on account of the stay-in-strike staged by the doffer boys of the spinning department demanding enhanced wages for work done on behalf of absentees.

The doffing boys again staged a stay-in-strike from 7.30 p.m. to 9.50 p.m. on 25th March 1947 for the same reason. The Court of Enquiry is expected to settle the dispute regarding wages for work done when some workers of the section are absent.

The workers of the Kothari Textiles, Limited, Singanallur, staged a stay-in-strike from 4.30 p.m. on 24th to 26th March 1947 as a protest against the punishment of a worker, who assaulted the maistry. The dispute has been settled by Conciliation by the Labour Officer, Coimbatore.

The lock-out of the Rajahmundry Printing Presses declared on 7th March 1947 has been lifted on 24th March 1947. The District Magistrate, East Godavari, has been asked to bring about a settlement.

The Carpentry and Saw Mill Workers' Union, Anjapuram, Rajahmundry, has postponed the date of the strike to 10th April 1947. The Labour Officer, Vizagapatam and District Magistrate, East Godavari, has been asked to settle the dispute.

The Tobacco workers of the National Tobacco Company, Limited, Pasuvamalai Branch, Chilakalurpet, struck work from 20th March 1947 demanding increased wages and other conditions of service. The local Police had to open fire on account of violent picketing by strikers. The District Magistrate, Guntur, and the District Superintendent of Police, Guntur, rushed to the spot with an armed reserve and restored order.

The ban imposed by the Additional District Magistrate, Madura, on 8th March 1947 for 15 days following a threat of general strike in the local textile mills has been extended for a further period of 10 days. The workers have been advised not to resort to strike pending the result of the court of enquiry.

The Joint Secretary, Madura Textile Worker's Union, Madura, has issued a notice of strike to the Management of the Kothandram Weaving Mill, Madura, on 25th March 1947 intimating that the workers will go on strike on or after 8th April 1947 if demands for bonus equivalent to 25 per cent of the total earnings of 1946, increase of dearness allowance, interim relief to clerical staff, etc., are not conceded by the management before 8th April 1947. The Labour Officer, Madura, has been advised to settle the dispute on the lines of the settlement effected by Government in respect of Mahalakshmi Mills, Madura.

The Management of the Commonwealth Tile Factory, Feroke, have decided to close down their tile factory from 15th March 1947 following a strike without notice. The report of the Labour Officer, Calicut, is awaited.

The strike in the Coir factories of Ponnani taluk was called off on 15th March 1947 as a result of settlement by direct negotiations.

The strike of the beedi workers of three beedi factories belonging to Messrs. R.V.G. Company, Palghat, Pudunagaram, Kouvayur and Kollengode, terminated on 18th March 1947, as a result of direct negotiation between the workers and their employees.

The Palghat beedi workers' strike has been called off.

The workers of three saw mills in Kallai (1) the South Indian Saw Mills, (2) the Dutt Saw Mills and (3) the Premier Saw Mills struck work from 24th March 1947 demanding increased wages and other conditions of service. The Labour Officer has been instructed to advise to the workers to resume work and await the result of the court of enquiry proposed to be appointed for saw mills in West Coast area.

The workers of the Premier Saw Mills, Kallai, have issued a notice of strike to the management of the mills intimating that they will on go strike from 24th March 1947 if their demands for increase of wages and dearness allowance, bonus of three months' wages, leave facilities, etc., are not conceded by the management before 23rd March 1947. The workers have been advised to await the result of the court of enquiry for saw mills in West Coast proposed to be appointed by Government.

The President, V.K.U. and Sons Saw Mills Workers Union, Chalapuram, has issued a notice on 24th March 1947 to the management of the V.K.U. and Sons Saw Mills, Prethiyapalam, intimating that the workers will go on strike from 7th April 1947 if their demands for increase of wages and dearness allowances, three months' wages as bonus, etc., are not conceded by the management. The Labour Officer, Calicut, has been asked to advise the workers to await the results of the court of enquiry to be appointed for saw mills in West Coast.

The Government of Madras have added one more issue regarding reinstatement of the 8 clerks of the Standard Furniture Company, Limited, Kallai, who struck work on 10th February 1947, to the issues already referred to the District and Sessions Judge, South Malabar, for adjudication. The workers have been advised to resume work.

The workers of the Mettur Industries, Limited, Mettur Dam, who struck work on 15th February 1947, have been advised to resume work pending the result of the Court of Enquiry.

The day shift workers of the Jawahar Mills, Limited, Salem Junction, staged a stay-in-strike on 19th March 1947 and 20th March 1947 as a protest against loss of service for absentees.

About 3,100 workers of the Chittivalasa Jute Mills Company, Limited, Chittivalasa, struck work from 6-45 a.m. on 18th March 1947 to 6-45 a.m. on 19th March 1947 to observe "Basic Demands Day."

The Government of Madras have accepted the award of the adjudication in the dispute between the workers and the managements of tanneries in Ellore regarding interim relief.

Baby Brand Condensed Milk unfit

Dr. P. Marthandam Pillai, Chairman, Standing Committee (Health), Corporation of Madras, writes:—The public are warned against the use of "Baby brand" condensed milk, made in U.S.A., as certain tins of the above brand have been analysed by the Analyst of the Corporation of Madras and found unfit for human consumption. The Health Officer is in communication with the importers of this stuff and is trying to trace the stock in the city to deal with it suitably.

The plenary session of the Inter-Asian Conference adopted on March 26, a four-point report on racial problems and inter-racial migration. The report suggested that there should be—

- (1) complete legal equality of all citizens,
- (2) complete religious freedom of all citizens,
- (3) no public social disqualification of any racial group,
- (4) equality before law of persons of foreign origin who have settled in the country.

"Reconciliation of each man with all men"

Aim and Substance of Co-operation

Sir S. V. Ramamurthi's message to Andhra Co-operators

"All over the world there are conflicting ideologies for the rebuilding of life. At one end stand the protagonists of the individual and the freedom of private enterprise. America is their bulwark. At the other end stand the protagonists of collectivism and the supremacy of the state. Russia is their head. India stands midway, with her faith both in the one and in the all, both in unity and in diversity, both in the freedom of the individual and the integration of humanity. Co-operation is an apt description of this reconciliation of each man with all men."

In the course of a message to the Andhra Co-operative Union on the occasion of the celebration of its Silver Jubilee which took place at Rajahmundry on April 5, Sir S. V. Ramamurthy, Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, said—

"India is a land of faith, of many forms of faith. We have long had spiritual faith in the form of religion, political faith in the shape of democracy and economic faith in the form of co-operation have come to us from Europe. Both are akin to our spiritual faith that one is all and all are one. Democracy asserts the freedom of the individual. That is what our religion seeks. Co-operation seeks the integration of individuals into a common whole. That, too, is the goal of our religion."

"It is the way of India to believe and then see. It has been said that unless you believe in God, you cannot see him. The fervour of co-operators in India has been the basis of their efforts, patient, long-drawn and persistent, in spite of discouragement from external circumstances as well from our character resulting from our history."

"History has now begun to give us a fairer deal than it has for some two centuries. The evils of a Colonial economy have sapped the foundations of our life and rendered our blood anæmic. Our economic resources of land and water, intelligence and labour, have had the primary task laid on them to satisfy the needs of an imperial economy which functioned in India through ports and towns. Commerce took the lead over internal welfare. The organization of urban life took precedence over that of rural life. The result has been that villages have been more and more left with the dregs of our life and cream—such cream as was left—was drained to towns. When the energy left to conserve and construct

villages was failing, it is no wonder that agriculture and cottage industries languished and emphasis was laid mainly on big industry and on trade. We are now left with 80 per cent of our population overcrowding on land and only 20 per cent left to depend on industry and other resources. Only a few decades back, these proportions were 70 per cent and 30 per cent. To be a healthy nation, India needs, I believe, to provide for 60 per cent of her people on land and 40 per cent in industry and services. The re-organization of the economic life of India in this manner is the great task that awaits New India as she develops a free economy."

Conflicting Ideologies

"All over the world, there are conflicting ideologies for the rebuilding of life. At one end stand the protagonists of the individual and the freedom of private enterprise. America is their bulwark. At the other end stand the protagonists of collectivism and the supremacy of the state. Russia is their head. India stands midway with her faith both in the one and in the all, both in unity and in diversity, both in the freedom of the individual and the integration of humanity. Co-operation is an apt description of this reconciliation of each man with all men."

"It is not therefore surprising that in India thoughts and faith are steadily veering in favour of co-operation. In Agriculture we seek not small farming, not collective farming, but co-operative farming. In Industry, we seek the strengthening of the individual producer through financial and technical co-operation and where large industry is needed, we seek to soften its rigidity by financial and technical decentralization."

Continuing, Sir S. V. Ramamurthy said:—

"You have been the inheritors of a Colonial economy. You will now be the builders of a free

economy. You had to stint and save and distribute from the earnings of your poverty and subordination. You have now the duty and privilege of working out an economics of plenty. The Godavari has been flowing in your land for many centuries. In the Ramayana there are descriptions of the Godavari and of the rice that grows in your land. Some 25 centuries of history link you with this river and with rice. Yet over 90 per cent of the water of this river flows waste into the sea. Thanks to Sir Arthur Cotton, a great Christian and a great Engineer, a small part of the river's waters have been used to protect the Godavari and Kistna Deltas. With a state that is bent on increasing the standard of living of the people, it should be a disgrace to waste the fresh water that God gives us.

"So, too, the Tungabhadra has been flowing by the Ceded Districts and yet witnessing famine on its banks. So, too, waterfalls in the Eastern Ghats have been wasting their energies for lack of facilities to harness them and draw hydro-electric power. Till now, there is not a single river—reservoir or a single Hydro-Electric Power Station in the north of this province.

Three Schemes

"I have therefore set my hand to three such schemes, of which the Tungabhadra Reservoir Scheme and Machkund Hydro-Electric Scheme

have been sanctioned and are under construction, and the Ramapadasagar Scheme will, I hope, be started before I retire from the service of the Government in November next. It is my hope that Gandhiji, the maker of modern India, may inaugurate with his blessings an irrigation scheme which is not only the biggest in India but one of the biggest in the world.

"These schemes will raise the economic life of North Madras to a new level. Gathering as you do in the Godavari Region, let me make a suggestion to you as co-operators. The Ramapadasagar Scheme is expected to produce a million tons of additional rice, valued at about 25 crores of rupees a year. With this flood of wealth in the land, it will be possible to make up for some of the drying of life in our people. If in each village which will get a large addition of wealth through the scheme, a Co-operative group of the people arrange to get a voluntary gift of a fraction of the increased wealth—perhaps, a fourth—to rebuild life in the village, it will be possible to provide for education and health, communications and culture in the village, so that as the wealth of the land grows, so too does its welfare with voluntary co-operation as the means. I venture to hope that petty feelings and self-seeking will vanish as when men who quarrel over the division of one loaf live in amity and cheerfulness when they have a plate of loaves from which they may eat their full."

Application of Communal G.O.

Mr. Muhammad Abdul Salam Sahib asked in the Assembly on March 28, why Government were not following the communal Government Order in making appointments to the Textile department, Firka Development Scheme, and producers cum consumers' co-operative societies.

Mr. H. Sitarama Reddi, Minister for Industries, replying stated that, as the Textile Control department was a temporary one, appointments to it were not being made on communal basis. The Government declared that the conditions of service in that department were matters not suitable for regulation by rule. Hence, the principle of communal rotation was not applicable to the appointment of officers in that department.

As for the Firka Development schemes, the following considerations were being borne in mind in selecting persons for filling the posts sanctioned in connection with the scheme:—(a) Possession of necessary enthusiasm and aptitude for rural reconstruction work, (b) organization capacity and (c) ability to feel at home in rural surroundings and to study the needs of the villagers with sympathy and understanding. The Government attached very great importance to the successful working of the scheme of intensive rural reconstruction and in order to obtain the services of the best men available possessing the qualifications mentioned above for filling the posts sanctioned in connection with the scheme, they were not making appointments on any communal basis.

In respect of the producers cum consumers' co-operative societies, they were organized in Malabar and in Northern Circars districts under the special schemes of procurement and distribution sponsored by Government. The societies were new to the work entrusted to them and they therefore required efficient men as secretaries, who alone would be able to manage the work of these societies on sound business lines. Selection to the posts of secretaries was made after rigorous tests. For lower posts in the societies, it was intended to employ as far as possible suitable men from among the staff under the private merchants, ousted on account of the formation of the societies. Further, the societies were non-official bodies and the communal Government Order would not apply to them.

Food situation in the Province.

Report for the fortnight ending 15th March

Seasonal conditions.—There was no rainfall during the fortnight in the Ceded Districts or in the coastal districts to the north of Madras. The other districts had generally light showers—which were beneficial to the standing crops and to the second-crop sowings. Water-supply for agricultural purposes was generally sufficient in all districts. The level of water in the Mettur reservoir was 109.60 feet on 15th March 1947 as against 12.05 feet on 15th February 1946.

Sowing or transplantation of paddy was proceeding in the districts of Vizagapatam, East Godavari, Kistna, Guntur, Kurnool, Cuddapah, Nellore, Chingleput, South Arcot, Chittoor, Coimbatore, Trichinopoly, Tanjore, Madura, Ramnad, Malabar and South Kanara, and of dry crops in the districts of Vizagapatam, Cuddapah, Nellore, South Arcot, Chittoor, Coimbatore and Ramnad. Sowing for the next potato crop in the Nilgiris district is in progress.

Chillies and tobacco crops in parts of Guntur district are reported to have been damaged by rains. White cholam and mixed cotton crops in Bellary district, second-crop paddy and standing white cholam crops in parts of Anantapur district, tender paddy crop in parts of Cuddapah district and cholam and cumbu crops in Coimbatore district are reported to have been affected by pests. In Ramnad district, standing paddy crop is reported to be withering in some parts. The tea crop in the Nilgiris district has been affected with blister blight. The condition of the standing crops in the other districts is generally fair.

Harvest of paddy was completed in the districts of Kistna, Nellore and Vizagapatam, was nearing completion in Tanjore district and was progressing in the districts of Bellary, Cuddapah, Chingleput, South Arcot, Chittoor, Salem, Coimbatore, Trichinopoly, Madura, Ramnad, Tinnevely, Malabar and South Kanara. Harvest of dry crops was proceeding in the districts of East Godavari, Kurnool, Bellary, Cuddapah, Nellore, Chingleput, Chittoor, Salem, Coimbatore, Madura and Ramnad. The out turn of paddy in Kistna, South Arcot and Tanjore districts and of cholam in Kurnool district was reported to be below normal. The out turn was generally fair in the other districts.

Price.—There was no perceptible change in the prices of foodgrains. As regards pulses, the only noticeable change was in the price of blackgram

dholl which increased by 10.2 per cent. There was a slight fall in the price of chillies. The position regarding the prices of oils, oilseeds, oil-cakes, etc., was as follows:—

No change.—Copra.

Rise.—Groundnut (machine shelled) (10 per cent), gingelly seed (6.1 per cent), gingelly oil (5.7 per cent) and groundnut oil (5.5 per cent).

Fall.—Coconut oil (2.4 per cent), gingelly oil cake (1.2 per cent), groundnut oil cake (5.5 per cent) and cotton seed (1.5 per cent).

(a) Local procurement—

		TONS.	
Paddy	..	57,872	} Together equivalent to 77,781 tons in terms of rice.
Rice	..	38,866	

(b) Receipts from other Provinces—

		TONS.	
Rice	..	6,522	
Millets	..	..	
Wheat	..	37	Samba wheat from Hyderabad.

Wheat products.	..	
Pulses—		
Redgram	..	..
Blackgram	..	596
Greengram	..	..
Bengalgram	..	3,353
Total pulses	..	3,952

(c) Imports from overseas—

Rice	..	..
Millets	..	..
Wheat	..	..
Wheat products.	..	..
Maize, etc.	..	..

Stock and supply

Rice.—The stock of rice in the Province was 251,643 tons on 13th March 1947 as against 206,588 tons on 27th February 1947. Movement of quotas from the northern surplus districts to deficit districts has been very much behind programme due to difficulties in procurement experienced by the new procurement agency, viz., the producers-cum-consumers' co-operative societies. Towards the end of the fortnight, the societies had taken steps to procure substantial

quantities and it is hoped that the delay in movement of quotas will be made up in the second fortnight. Procurement in Guntur came almost to a standstill and the export quota allotted to it for March 1947 had therefore to be transferred to Kistna and West Godavari districts. As a result, the districts in the western parts of the Province were not able to build up adequate stocks.

In Coimbatore district owing to lack of other grains the rice ration had to be reduced to 6 oz. to rice-eaters and 6 oz. of whatever grain was available to millet and mixed diet-eaters, in the rural areas. Arrangements are being made to move rice and other foodgrains to the district to enable the district to restore the 12 oz. ration.

Orders have been issued to raise the rice ration to 12 oz. in Madura district on the 23rd March and in Ramnad and Tinnevely districts on the 1st April, as the stock position in these districts is improving. In the districts of Salem, the Nilgiris and Malabar and in the Madras City stocks have still to be built up before the rice supplies can be increased to 12 oz.

Millets.—Stocks of millets increased slightly during the fortnight from 14,284 tons to 15,695 tons. The millets off-take has dropped from 15,693 tons in December to 10,143 tons in January and approximately 9,000 tons in February. The millets stocks continued to be low in Coimbatore, Nellore, Nilgiris and Guntur. But, all these districts, particularly Coimbatore, are importing substantial quotas from other districts.

Maize.—The maize stock has decreased from 11,409 tons to 9,223 tons. The off-take has dropped from 6,581 tons in January to about 5,400 tons in February. There is still a strong demand for maize from Coimbatore district and total quotas of 3,640 tons have been allotted to the district out of which about 1,600 tons have moved so far.

Wheat.—Wheat stocks have fallen from 7,884 tons to 6,906 tons. Movement of the 11,000 tons of wheat to United Provinces is almost completed and the movement of the 750 tons of wheat to Central Provinces has commenced. Stocks of wheat are low in several districts, but most of these districts are being supplied from surplus stocks in other districts. The wheat off-take has dropped from about 10,000 tons in January to about 5,040 tons in February.

Wheat products.—Stocks have fallen from 4,037 tons to 3,502 tons. The off-take has decreased from 1,244 tons in January to 812 tons in February. As in the case of maize and wheat, no imports of wheat products are expected in the near future.

Barley.—Stocks of barley have fallen from 3,257 tons to 2,062 tons. Out of the 2,362 tons allotted to United Provinces approximately 2,135 tons have so far moved. The off-take of barley is still low being less than 100 tons per month in February.

Rye.—Rye stocks have fallen from 640 tons to 500 tons. Stocks are being transferred from Madura to Coimbatore where rye is popular.

Pulses.—Stock position is satisfactory in most districts. Imports of bengalgram and greengram have been speeded up as a result of the Assistant Commissioner's (Movements) tour in North West India. Additional quotas of bengalgram have been allotted from the following places :—

500 tons from Patiala.
1,500 tons from Faridkot.
1,000 tons from Nabha
2,050 tons from Jind.

Government have now issued orders for the introduction of intensive procurement of pulses throughout the Province. Informal rationing will also be introduced in statutorily rationed areas.

Rationing

During the fortnight orders were issued permitting bakers to make bread entirely with maida without any compulsion to take maize or barley flour. If however they want these commodities also for that purpose, they were allowed to take them within their ration.

The issue of wheat flour (maida) to catering and other establishments was stopped in order to conserve stocks till the arrival of fresh supplies.

Medical Officers are being informed that it is not compulsory to take wheat or wheat products as part of the diet of patients. The hospital authorities can now take their ration in whatever grain they want, keeping in view the necessity to conserve wheat and wheat products.

The restrictions regarding the issue of wheat and wheat products only to habitual eaters and to those who require them on medical grounds were extended during the fortnight to Madura, Ramnad and Tinnevely districts.

Subsidiary Foodstuffs

Sugar.—In view of the low recovery of sugar from cane in all the sugar factories in the Province owing to unfavourable season, the South India Sugar Mills Association, Madras, have made a representation for the enhancement of sugar prices so as to compensate the factories for the loss sustained by them. The matter is under consideration.

Jaggery.—The Government have ordered the issue of permits for 3,000 tons to the nominees of the Government of the C.P. and Berar instead of to the merchants of this Province. This quantity will be counted against the current year's quota to C.P. and Berar. The Government have also ordered the issue of permits for the quota to Orissa for the current year to the nominees of the Orissa Government. The permits for these quotas will be issued by the Collector of Vizagapatam.

Edible Oils and Oilseeds.—The Government of India have lifted the control over the prices and movement of all edible oilseeds and oils, except copra and coconut oil, with effect from 5th March 1947.

Copra and Coconut Oil.—This province has an export quota of copra to Bombay and Sind. The question of allowing provisionally export of 1,500 tons to Bombay and 500 tons to Sind is under consideration.

As regards coconut oil, prices have been fixed by the Government. Instructions have also been

issued to the Collectors of the importing districts regarding the import of the quotas allotted to them from Malabar, Cochin and Travancore and their distribution in the districts at the controlled prices. The Collector of Malabar has already issued permits for the export of the quantities allotted from that district.

Miscellaneous Commodities

Supply of charcoal was inadequate in parts of Nellore and Bellary districts and that of firewood in parts of Guntur, the Nilgiris, Coimbatore, Chingleput, Ramnad and Tinnevely districts.

Scarcity of matches was reported from the districts of South Arcot, Vizagapatam, Cuddapah, the Nilgiris, North Arcot, Bellary, Coimbatore, Kurnool, Trichinopoly, Kistna, Malabar and West Godavari. Already arrangements have been made in some districts like Bellary for the distribution of matches through ration shops and similar arrangements are proposed to be introduced in some other districts like Vizagapatam.

Settlement of Labour Questions

Replying to Mr. P. R. K. Sarma, Dr. T. S. S. Rajan, Food Minister, said in the Council on 29th March that the general policy followed by the Government in regard to the appointment of adjudicators, conciliators and courts of enquiry, is to appoint officers of the status of District and Sessions Judge for such posts. In this connexion the other proposals that were under consideration of the Government were, "the Industrial Disputes Bill recently passed by the Central Assembly, the establishment of Wage Boards to fix minimum wages, the enforcement of the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, the Workmen's Health Insurance Act, the Shops and Establishments Act and the Non-power Factories Act, the extension of welfare measures such as recreation centres, creches, housing schemes, etc., and the strengthening of the present conciliation staff.

The same member was informed that two courts of enquiry, one to enquire into the conditions of labour in motor transport services, motor transport workshops, engineering firms and type foundries, and the other to enquire into the conditions of labour in rice and oil mills have been appointed. The object of the enquiries was to have a comprehensive picture of the conditions of service of the workers in the above services and industries in the Province in order to standardize them as far as possible."

Communist Party's Extra-territorial Loyalty

The United States House of Representatives Committee on "un-American activities" has issued what it called proof that the United States Communist Party was "an agent" of the Soviet Government.

The Committee's report listed, identified and dated 92 "typical directives from Moscow, affecting the Communist movement in the United States."

It declares: "The Communist party on the United States has functioned at all times and throughout all its forms as an integral part of the Moscow-controlled world-wide Communist apparatus, submitting unreservedly to its decisions, placing its resources and individual members at the full disposal of the Soviet Government committee for assignment to duty in any part of the globe and receiving in return certain special branch office privileges."

The Moscow magazine "New Times," published in five languages, the report declares, "has become recognized as the successor to the Communist International, and its authoritative articles are accepted as dogma by all functioning of Communist parties, including that in the United States."—*Reuter*.

Comprehensive Zamindari Legislation

Revenue Minister's Statement



Hon'ble Sri Kala Venkata Rao

The Hon'ble Sri Kala Venkata Rao, Minister for Revenue, issued the following statement on the 3rd of April 1947 :—

No one in our Presidency will dispute either the urgency or the necessity of putting on the Statute Book legislation that will give relief as well as ameliorate the condition of the toiling ryot. The problems facing the ryot are many and can be tackled only by comprehensive legislation. In our Presidency there is need for zamindari legislation, a Ryot wari Act and an Act to define the relations between the cultivating tenant and the owner of the land. To face this triple problem the Congress Government has been taking steps and as early as 1939 the Prakasam Report was published and discussed in the Legislature. Soon after the Congress took office in this Province last year, suggestions were made to the Ministry to bring forward immediately a Bill for the abolition of the zamindaris as such. The matter came up before the Congress Legislature Party, but it was pointed out by the then Hon'ble Premier that for abolishing zamindaris, the prior sanction of His Majesty the King was necessary under the Government of India Act, 1935, and that may delay matters. So he said that he would arrange for the simultaneous introduction of two Bills, one for the abolition of the zamindaris and the other for the reduction of rent

to the 1802 level in zamindari areas. After the lapse of some four or five months, the Government tabled a resolution asking the vote of the Legislative Council for the abolition of the zamindaris. No Bill was drafted. The other Bill, the Madras Estates Land Revenue Bill, 1947, was published. The resolution for the abolition of the zamindaris was adopted by the Council, but is yet to be discussed in the Assembly. The other Bill has not yet been introduced. This is the present position with reference to the zamindari legislation.

The public are aware that at present there is no Act to deal with the ryotwari areas in the Presidency. Survey, settlement and administration are subject to the Board's Standing Orders, of course, under the supervision of the Government. It is also a well-known fact that the land revenue in ryotwari areas was increased from settlement to settlement. The medium to settle the principles on which these have to be done and to fix the rates which can be safely collected as land revenue have to be settled.

The Marjoribanks Committee recommended the cancellation of the percentage increase imposed at resettlements in certain districts resettled after 1914. That report was not published. Subsequently during the last Ministry, the then Revenue Minister sought to bring about a universal reduction in the incidence of land-tax, but till now no effect has been given and even the yearly remission that was being granted was given the go-by during the war period.

The public are also aware of the fact that absentee landlordism is growing at a rapid speed throughout the Presidency. The landless are increasing while land has become a subject of investment by the non-cultivating classes. This tendency has got to be checked. The relation between the cultivating tenant and the non-cultivating owner has got to be defined. A Special Officer was appointed to go into this question but his report is not yet ready. In order to give a logical basis to the land revenue taxation the Government have already gazetted a Bill to levy agricultural income-tax on agricultural incomes above a certain figure.

No delay intended

Having taken charge of office only six days ago all these problems for the solution of which I have been striving for years either as a public worker or a

back-bench legislator are forcing themselves on my thoughts. I must also frankly state, personally speaking, that I would like a comprehensive reform under all the heads and that within the quickest possible time. One important matter which will have to be decided by the present Government is whether to proceed with the Estates Land Revenue Bill forthwith or not. Certain friends feel that it should be proceeded with. But others say that there is another side to this question. When this Bill was approved in the Congress Legislature Party the statement of the British Prime Minister of February 20th, 1947, was not available. According to that statement the British are surrendering their Paramountacy with reference to the Indian States and as such they would not obstruct the abrogation of the Permanent Settlement now. In view thereof it should be possible to secure the assent of the King for the abolition of the Permanent Settlement and proceed with the legislation without further delay. This would save the delay involved in getting through the Estates Land Bill, as published, adopted and worked. Competent authorities think that it would take a minimum period of seven years to finish the survey and settlement that will have to precede the settlement of rent under that Bill now published. Therefore we have to consider and decide almost immediately whether to proceed with the Bill or to introduce another Bill seeking to abolish the

zamindaris straightaway. There is also a suggestion that a short Bill may be introduced either by amending the Court of Wards Act or otherwise to provide for the taking over the management of all the estates in the Presidency, reduce rents to the level of the ryotwari areas, give facilities for the repairs of irrigation works and arrange for speedy survey and settlement and include whole inam villages in the purview of the Bill. It is too late in the day to appoint a Commission and go on enquiring into matters which have been under discussion for a long time. Therefore the Government before it comes to a decision in these matters, viz., (1) Form of Zamindari Legislation, (2) Rates of Ryotwari Land Tax, (3) Relation between tenant and owner and the programme of speedy legislation wish to consult representative bodies, persons interested, and experts. This consultation will not go beyond 15th April 1947. Meanwhile invitations will be issued to a limited number of persons for discussions, but the Government would be very glad to receive any representations written or oral in the matter before 15th April 1947. The Congress Legislature Party which will meet on 20th April 1947 will consider the matter. The Legislature will also be given the chance to discuss the same during the next sitting.

The Government wish to assure the public that in no case will the decisions on these matters be delayed beyond the most reasonable point.

Re-employment of Retired Officers

Answering an interpellation of Mr. R. Suryanarayana Rao about re-employment of retired officers, Dr. Rajan stated in the Council on March 29, that the services of all superannuated officials, either re-entertained after retirement for a definite period or given extensions of service, had not all been terminated. There were some still in service whose retention was considered necessary for special reasons. The reason for extension of service or re-employment was generally paucity of suitable or qualified candidates for appointment or promotion in the ordinary course. In the interests of economy, a list of persons so re-employed or granted extensions had not been printed. If any member wanted any information in that connexion, he could obtain it on application to the Chief Secretary.

Dr. Rajan further stated that generally, before such extensions were granted, efforts were made to secure officers with the same or similar qualifications either by promotion or recruitment.

Scholarships for Harijans

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan, Minister for Labour, informed Mr. S. Nagappa in the Assembly on March 26, that a sum of Rs. 1,25,100 had been set apart for the grant of scholarships to Harijan students in the budget for the year 1946-47. The scholarships would be distributed to students belonging to communities eligible for help from the Labour department and who profess the Hindu religion.

Creche for Work-women's Babies

On the suggestion of Lady Nye, the Corporation of Madras has made a start in the provision of creches in the City. Efforts are being made to provide a creche in Banda Rama Naicken Garden Street, Georgetown. In this connexion, the Health Committee of the Corporation has sanctioned an estimate of Rs. 25,000 towards the cost of construction of the creche so that women labourers, when leaving for their work, could hand over their infants and babies to the creche.

Poondi Irrigation Research Station

Premier's Visit



The Prime Minister and party.

The visit of the Hon'ble the Prime Minister and the Hon'ble Ministers for Revenue, Public Works and Finance, accompanied by Sri S. V. Ramamurthy, Chief Secretary, and Mr. Ramunni Menon, Additional Chief Secretary to the Madras Government, to the Irrigation Research Laboratory at Poondi, which took place on April 4th, proved to be both enlightening and interesting. It enabled the Ministers to get an opportunity to appraise the immense potential value of the practical experiments that are being carried on at the station on the training of rivers and the various irrigation projects that are at present under construction or consideration as also of the research on irrigation problems in general and to appreciate the intimate and inalienable relationship there is between irrigation research and irrigation development, between theoretical experimentation on a small scale and practical application on a large one of the results of the research. At the same time it provided an opportunity to the officers of the Public Works Department, who are engaged in the work of research, with particular reference to large scale irrigation projects like Ramapadasagar and Tungabhadra to indicate and explain to the Ministers the progress achieved so far in regard to them and

to elucidate other intricate points connected therewith.

The indubitable usefulness of irrigation research can be adequately realized in the context of an appreciation of the vital fact that the country's prosperity is inextricably bound up with the harnessing of our stupendous natural resources like rivers and waterfalls for the purpose of generating electric power, for extending the area under cultivation of food and other crops so that the Province can attain self-sufficiency in regard to food requirements and so on. It may sound superfluous to stress so plain and simple a fact as this, but it is necessary to stress it because of the rather slow pace of advance in this direction in the past and the need for the utmost expedition and speed in that respect in the future.

The models of the various projects and designs at the Irrigation Research Laboratory at Poondi that are on show point not only to the practical future possibilities of these projects but illustrate also the concentrated thought that is being bestowed on them and the systematic research that is being carried on by the officers concerned. They afford an idea of what has been accomplished, where we stand at present and how to proceed hereafter. One will be very much impressed in particular with the models of the Rs. 90 crore Ramapadasagar Project which when completed may prove to be one of the biggest in the world



Inspecting the works

and the Coffor Dam that is under construction in that connexion and the enormous amount of forethought, study, experimentation, and engineering skill that have gone and will have to go into its planning and execution before the scheme attains fruition. Similar is the impression left on one's mind on viewing the practical research that is being done *anent* the Rs. 12 crore Tungabhadra Project work on which has already started. Smaller model representations of the remodelling of a canal sluice at Bezwada, the Lower Bhavani, Vaigai and Melampuzha projects and one showing the Cooum tidal model also deserve mention.

The Hon'ble Ministers who visited the laboratory and who were shown round the whole place by Diwan Bahadur Govindaraja Ayyangar, Chief Engineer (Special), Rao Bahadur A. R. Venkatacharya and other Engineers, were obviously impressed with all that they saw, as their remarks in the visitors' book reveal. It will not be inappropriate to mention here that a number of world famous engineers like Mr. Savage, Dr. Terzhagi and others were also similarly impressed.

How Research is Carried on

Thirty-five miles from Madras is situated the Poondi Reservoir constructed during 1940-44 for supplementing the storage for the Madras City water-supply. This reservoir with its regulator and other connected works is a fine piece of engineering construction. A few hundred feet down stream of the regulator is located the Irrigation Research Station of the Madras Public Works Department. This station was opened in 1945 and has been rapidly expanding. Here a band of Engineers are engaged in studying and finding out solutions with the aid of small-scale models for various problems relating to the design of irrigation works connected with big projects like the Ramapadasagam, Tungabhadra, Vaigai, etc., and with the conservation and improvement of existing irrigation systems in the Presidency. One can see here small models of the huge overflow dams of the Ramapadasagam, Tungabhadra projects, of small tank weirs, sluices and canal drops, of large rivers like the Godavari and the Hagari, of canals like the Tungabhadra low-level canal and many other works of this kind.

Overflow Dams

Of the several studies undertaken at the station those on the designs of overflow dams are the most extensive. In most of the large projects

The visit to the Laboratory and its appendages was well worth the time spent on it.



Sir S. V. Ramamurthy explains to the Premier

contemplated under the Grow More Food schemes, dams of this type are proposed. These dams will be 100 to 150 feet high and floods will have to be passed over these dams with depths rising to 15 or 30 feet. The huge quantity of water falling through such great depths will create tremendous pressures on the various parts of the dam and cause deep scours in the river bed and margins down-stream. To evolve a design which will be efficient and economic, which will eliminate all undesirable pressures and provide for the disposal of floods in as harmless a manner as possible—that is the problem set to be solved by these model experiments.

Then there are the Ramapadasagar Coffor Dam models. The design of the coffer dam for this project is a problem of stupendous magnitude overshadowing anything that has been done hitherto. The foundations of the dam are to be taken down 150 to 200 feet below the river bed and work on these foundations is to go on uninterrupted for four or five years. All the time the river, which is the third biggest in India, has to be flowing. Construction of the dam foundation will be done in two halves to facilitate which one half of the river will be isolated by temporary coffer dams, leaving the other half free for the disposal of floods. The design of these coffer dams is of great importance and all care should be taken

to make the designs safe, suitable and economic. Model experiments at Poondi are doing a good deal towards satisfactory solution of the attendant problems.

A model study whose benefit was proved soon in the prototype was the remodelling of one of the sluices in Kistna delta. A new sluice was considered necessary at one time at a cost of Rs. 2½ lakhs. Devices for improving the entry into existing sluice by structural modifications were then thought of and tested on models. The addition of a bulb-shaped wall in front of the sluice indicated considerable improvement. This modification was immediately effected on the sluice and it has proved satisfactory. The cost of the improvements was about Rs. 2,500.

Other interesting models under operation refer to scours round the piers of the proposed Hagari Aqueduct, stilling of whirlpools endangering navigation in the gorges of the Godavari and opening of the sand bar at the mouth of the Cooum. Studies are also in progress on designs of tank weirs, canal drops, sluices, syphons, fluming and silt selective heads, structures on permeable foundations, sand sluices, training works and so on.

The technique adopted in these investigations is interesting. Small models are made accurately to the scale of rivers, canals and irrigation structures. These are operated with water flowing over them reproducing the conditions in the prototypes to the extent possible. Careful observations are made, and accurate measurements recorded. The data so collected is analysed and by this means intricate and complicated problems are tackled and solved. Large rivers and canals in miniature shape are thus brought into the laboratory and are made to work under controlled and varying conditions. Models do not always behave exactly like the prototypes. But, with a knowledge of the behaviour of water under various conditions, of the forces and factors that come into play and of how these behave when reduced to scale, it is possible to adjust every single factor and predict their probable behaviour in prototypes. Every

model is made with a set purpose and fulfils the purpose for which it is made. In this way hundreds of problems, in Hydraulic Engineering can be tackled with the aid of models.

The Research station is a building which is equipped with the apparatus required for these experiments, a pair of tanks for supplying the water required for the operation of the models, a pair of large iron-framed sheds to accommodate the Ramapadasagar Cofferdam and other models, a workshop and a wide plot of land provided with pipes, flumes and other control works wherein the several outdoor models are set out. The water-supply required for working the models is drawn from the reservoir through a sluice recently constructed and the water so drawn is returned to the river below the regulator. The staff is accommodated in Government quarters near the station.



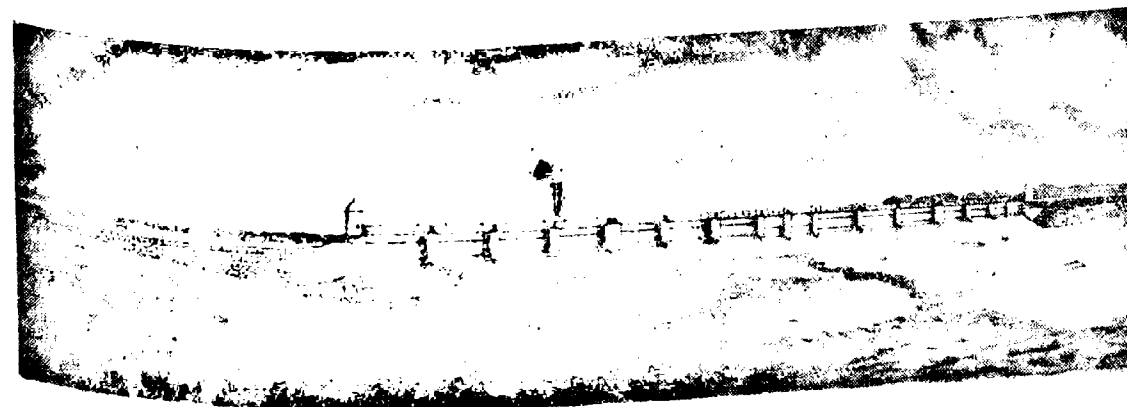
Hon'ble Sri A. B. Shetty, Minister for
Public Health and Medicine

Five-year Plan for Geological Survey

A five-year plan for extending both the fundamental scientific work and the programme of mineral development of the Geological Survey of India, is outlined in an official memorandum published by the Government of India. The fulfilment of the plan—within five years—will mark a suitable culmination of a century of progress and achievement that the Survey (founded in 1851) will then have recorded.

MADRAS: PRINTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRESS.

Poondi Reservoir



The Regulator



The Irrigation Research Station

Registered No. M-4767.

MADRAS INFORMATION

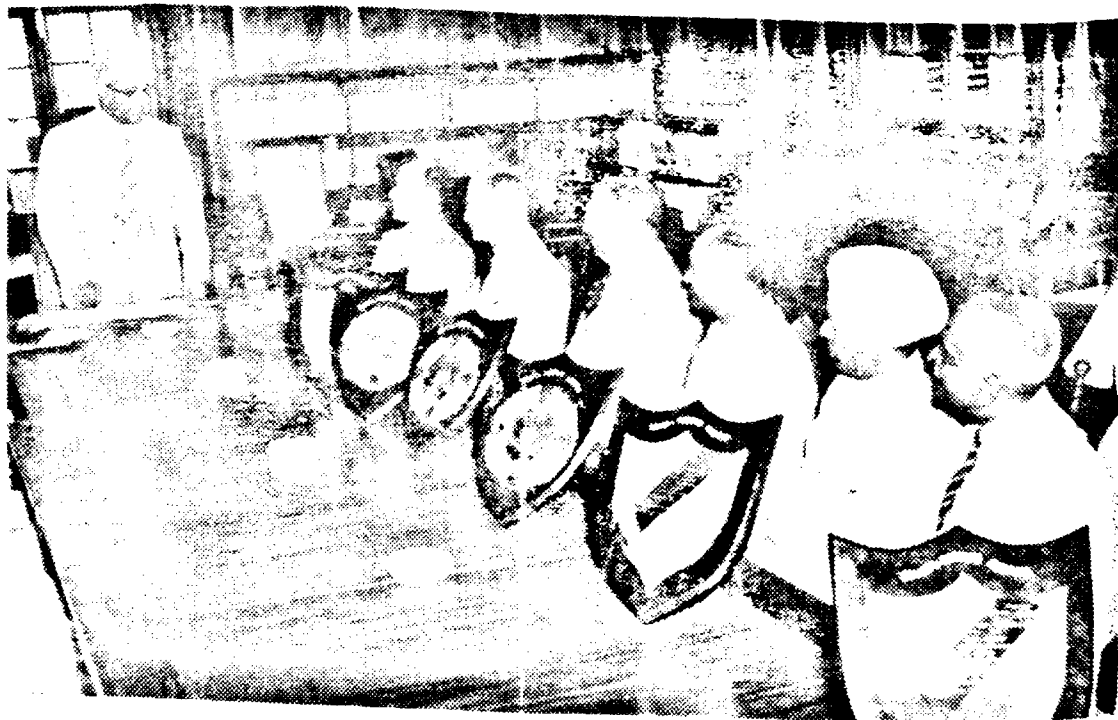
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SMALL SAVINGS SCHEME—FINANCE MEMBER PRESENTS SHIELDS TO WINNING AREAS



"Contributions to National Savings is a National Service," declared the Hon'ble Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, Finance Member in the Government of India, after presenting gold and silver shields today to the winning Provinces and States and other areas in the 1945-46 Small Savings Scheme Competition. The Scheme resulted in the collection of about Rs. 70 crores between October 1943 and February 1947.

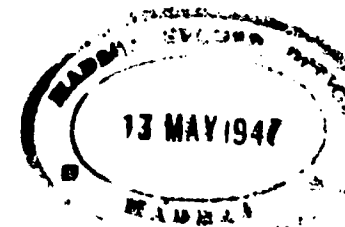
Photo shows : (Left to right) The Hon'ble Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan (Standing) ; Mr. C. N. T. Henry, National Savings Commissioner ; Major P. C. Hailey (Rajkot Civil Station) ; Mr. R. K. Mehta (Bombay Province) ; Mr. S. C. Desai (Cambay State) ; Kunwar Shiv Singh (Baghat State) ; Mr. M. S. Joshi (Idar State).

The object of *Madras Information* is to give a brief record of the Madras Government's activities and to educate the public opinion on the Government's policies.

However, the views expressed and the articles published in this journal do not necessarily represent the official opinion.

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1947 31/6/47



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Vol. I, No. 12

WE SEEK TO SERVE AND NOT TO COMPETE

May 10, 1947

Editorial Notes

Food Situation in Guntur District

The food situation in some districts of the Province is providing cause for a certain amount of anxiety and particularly so in the Guntur district. The Hon'ble the Food Minister, in the course of a statement he made in the last session of the Assembly, referred to two very important considerations in this connexion. The first was that the shortage of rice was due not to shortage of stocks but to unsatisfactory procurement and the second was that the Government were determined to see that better results were obtained in this regard by a change in the existing procurement agency. There has been a considerable amount of withholding of stocks by a section of the producers in anticipation of future higher prices and black-marketing has been going on unchecked in conditions of artificially created short supply. These two grave impediments to improvement in the food situation must be eliminated, and in this the general public should assist the Government. The evil of black-markets has struck deep roots and only close and large-scale public co-operation with the official agency in uprooting it will have any effect.

The following remedial measures have been taken by the Government to improve the situation in the district in the interests of better procurement—

(i) The procurement licences for the producers-cum-consumers co-operative societies have been cancelled from April 1, and given back to the millers so far as the Kharif year is concerned ;

(ii) The millets and maize stocks in the district are being replenished, though these grains particularly if they are of the imported variety are not consumed freely by the people who prefer rice.

As has been made perfectly clear in the official statement made by the Hon'ble the Food Minister in the Assembly, in a matter which concerns the people's food, no risks could possibly be taken. The first and most important thing is to see in what way procurement is speeded up and stocks replenished, subject of course to the imperative consideration that the price to the consumer is not increased at the same time and that no inducement is provided to the producer to keep back surplus stocks in the hope of future price increases.

MAIN FEATURES

- (1) Textile Policy
- (2) Press Notes
- (3) Prohibition
- (4) Government Departments at Work
- (5) Indonesian Delegation
- (6) Interim Relief to Milkmen
- (7) Official Trustee
- (8) Rationing
- (9) Nutrition

[MAY 10, 1947]

Application for Licences

The attention of the general public should be drawn to the Press Communiqué issued by the Government re-emphasising the procedure that should be followed in applying for licences and permits under the various Control Orders issued from time to time in connexion with cloth and yarn control. The point has been reiterated that it is very essential for those applying for the permits to approach the concerned local authorities in the first instance. Who the competent local authority is for granting licences under each of the Control Orders has been indicated in the Press Communiqué. It is only when any order issued by these local authorities is considered

manifestly unfair by the party that he can apply for revision or modification of the order to the Government. In any case, no useful purpose will be served by prospective applicants for permits or licences to sell or distribute controlled commodities coming up to Madras to interview Hon'ble Ministers or other officers at headquarters in regard to these matters, which are dealt with by local officers who have been duly authorized to do so. Much expense and trouble will be saved to them if they make a note of and observe the directions incorporated in the various Government Orders.

BLACK-MARKETING IS A TERRIBLE EVIL

HELP GOVERNMENT TO ROOT IT OUT and THUS
HELP YOURSELVES

Procurement Restored to Millers in Circars

Food Minister's Statement in Assembly

Famine in the usual sense of the term is caused by failure of rain. The rainfall in Guntur district during 1946-47 was above normal as will be seen from the figures given below. The unprecedentedly heavy rain in November damaged the paddy crop and reduced the yield. The millet crop also was partially affected by the heavy rains in November and by the comparative absence of rain in subsequent months. But there has been no widespread failure of crops to apprehend a famine. What has really happened is that the rural rationing has partially broken down and grain is not readily available to the poorer classes at reasonable prices. The trouble is largely the result of the inability of the new procurement machinery to cope with the work.

According to the final forecast of production and consumption in Guntur district for the year 1946-47, the estimated production was 203,000 tons of rice and the estimated consumption of both the producers and non-producers within the district 161,000 tons leaving an estimated surplus of 42,000 tons for export to the deficit districts

of the Province. As the yield was affected by the heavy rains, the production figure was calculated on the basis of 85 per cent of the normal and the target figure for procurement to feed the non-producers in the district and for export to deficit districts was fixed at 81,000 tons of which 42,000 tons was estimated to be the exportable surplus as against the target figure of 88,000 tons last year and an exportable surplus of 49,000 tons. In actual fact, both the target figure of procurement and target figure of export were exceeded last year, though the season was admittedly bad. The total procurement amounted to 93,463 tons and 49,820 tons were exported to deficit districts. It will thus be seen that neither the target figure for procurement this year nor the amount estimated as exportable surplus can be regarded as excessive or beyond the capacity of the district to attain.

Out of the total procurement target of 81,200 tons only 14,389 tons had been procured up to the end of March; and out of the exportable surplus of 42,000 tons only 8,216 tons have been moved out of the district. The result of this very

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unsatisfactory procurement was that the export quota of 4,000 tons for March had to be cancelled because there was no rice available to fulfil it and the stock of the district fell to the phenomenally low figure of 384 tons at the end of March.

Rainfall.					
Average.			Actual.		
1946—			1946—		
April ..	0.7	0.9	October ..	5.8	2.9
May ..	2.2	1.8	November.	3.4	15.1
June ..	3.3	3.6	December.	0.5	0.2
July ..	4.3	5.8	1947—		
August ..	6.1	4.2	January ..	0.2	..
Septem- ber.	5.3	3.9	February.	0.4	0.1
			March ..	0.4	..
South-west monsoon.			North-east monsoon.		
	21.9	21.2		10.7	18.3
Total for the year—					
Average ..		32.6			
Actual ..		39.5			

There are two main causes for this exceptionally bad procurement results during the months of

January, February and March this year as compared with last year. The first is that the ryots expected that the price of paddy would be raised or that the Government would give a bonus. Repeated declarations were made that neither would be done because the Government of India had ruled against an increase as a matter of All-India policy. But the ryots still seem to hold that there might be some increase in the offing. Even so recently as the 16th of this month, Dr. Ranga is reported in the "Indian Express" to have stated that on his authority he advised the ryots "if necessary to resort to satyagraha by not yielding their stocks to the Government and letting it be acquired by force. Then Dr. Rajan, the Food Minister, would be forced to fly to Delhi and fight for increasing paddy price." The second cause is the change over the agency of procurement from the millers to the producer-cum-consumer co-operative societies. The fact that the societies have proved

(Continued on page 17)

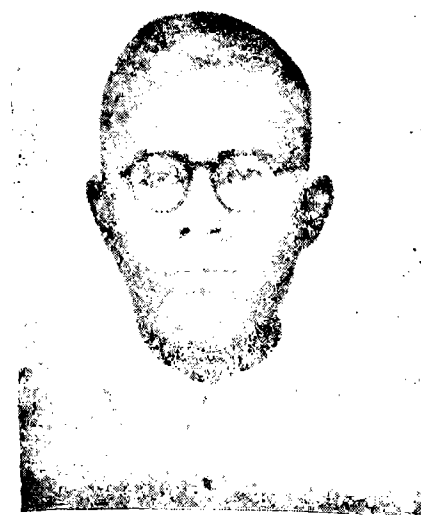
Government's Textile Policy Explained

Hon'ble Mr. Bhaktavatsalam's Statement in Assembly

The following statement was made by the Hon'ble Minister for Public Works and Planning on the floor of the Assembly on 24th April 1947:—

The controversy about the textile policy of this Government started with the decision of the Government to surrender to the Government of India the 352,000 spindles allotted to this Province under the post-war development plan. While on the one hand it was considered that this surrender of the spindles already allotted was not in the interests of this Province and that it was not consistent with the cloth requirements of this Province, it was maintained by the former Ministry that this must be done in the interests of the development of khadi. In order to appreciate the problem fully I shall recapitulate the history of the textile policy.

In 1945 the Government of India called for applications from those interested in textile mills for the registration for import of textile machinery. The Government of Madras then informed the Government of India that as this Province was comparatively undeveloped in the textile industry, they desired to be consulted before applications from this Province were accepted.



Hon'ble Mr. M. Bhaktavatsalam

Both the Government of India and this Government were interested in the development of textile industry on a rational basis. The applications

[MAY 10, 1947]

received by the Government of India were therefore sent to this Government and certain recommendations were made. On the basis of these recommendations, the Textile Commissioner, Bombay, informed this Government in April 1946 that a quota of 352,000 spindles, of which 152,000 were of fine and 200,000 were for coarse yarn, were allotted to this Province. The Government of India issued necessary permission for raising capital and import licences to promoters of textile mills. The net result of the scheme was that nine existing mills were to be expanded so as to be raised into economic units, and twenty-five new mills were to be started. The allottees proceeded with the floatation of companies, raising capital, starting construction of buildings and placing orders for the necessary machinery. The Ministry then assumed charge of the affairs of this Province and decided on an intensive scheme of khadi development. The details of the scheme have already been placed on the table of the House. It was felt that, in order to implement fully the khadi scheme, competition from mills should be avoided as far as possible. Consequently, the Government decided to surrender the spindles allotted to this Province and addressed the Government of India accordingly. The Government of India however, did not agree to this surrender and informed this Government that the cancellation of the permits already issued would be a breach of faith and would lead them into litigation which they wanted to avoid. The Government of Madras, however, were not satisfied with this reply and after having obtained competent legal advice again approached the Government of India and informed them that as neither the Government of India nor the Government of Madras were aware, at the time of the allotment of spindles, of the khadi scheme, there was every reason why the proposed surrender of spindles should be accepted by the Government of India. But the Government of India did not agree with the opinion put forth by this Government and they reiterated that they were not prepared to face possible litigation and that the

opinion of this Government ignored the moral obligations arising from the fact that the Government of India, on the advice of the Madras Government, had issued licences to individuals who had involved themselves in heavy expenditure and would suffer greatly and most unfairly if those licences were cancelled. The Government of India in their reply further stated that they could not accept the legal point made out in the communication from this Government that the adoption of the khadi scheme would constitute a reason of State justifying the Government in resiling from its commitments. The Government of India therefore were not prepared to accept the attitude assumed by the Government of Madras and would not withdraw the licences already issued. This reply was received on the 15th of March 1947 and was considered by the last Ministry who did not however take a decision on it. We have therefore to take a decision on the subject and have decided that in the circumstances we should not pursue the question further with the Government of India. I wish to make it clear that there is no difference of opinion on this side of the House in regard to the need for going forward with the khadi scheme. The khadi scheme that was already approved by the Government and is being worked in the districts will be vigorously pursued. We also propose to implement effectively the resolution passed by the All-India Spinners Association at its meeting in Delhi on the 9th October 1946 for the extensive development of khadi. The intensive part of the khadi scheme has already been introduced in seven selected firkas. The extensive part of the scheme will be introduced shortly in twenty-seven other firkas.

I wish to reiterate there will thus be no deviation from the policy so far pursued regarding the development of khadi. Just as the previous Ministry had agreed to permit the import of necessary spindles for replacement of the existing machinery, this Ministry has decided to accept the spindles already allotted for this Province in the circumstances pointed out above.

Madras Government Press Notes

Food and Clothing

Delivering Rice instead of Paddy

To clear any ambiguities in the Press Note issued earlier, the Government wish to make it clear that the permission allowed of delivering rice in

lieu of paddy applies to all districts. Prices for only five districts were mentioned in the Press Note as information was immediately available only in regard to those five districts. The Commissioner of Civil Supplies and Collectors concerned

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will work out and notify the price for rice in regard to the other districts.

Producers have now to obtain permits for hulling in the mills paddy which they are allowed to retain for their own consumption. It is possible that millers would require similar permits for paddy intended for sale as rice to the Government or their agents. The Commissioner of Civil Supplies is being requested to work out and issue suitable instructions to Collectors which will enable the producers to convert the paddy which they intend to sell as rice without delay or inconvenience.

[11th April]

Co-operative Societies in Malabar

There have been reports in the Press that the Government are examining the suitability and the general working of the Producers-cum-Consumers Co-operative Societies for efficient procurement with a view to decide about their future. The Government understand that this has created a feeling of uneasiness in the Malabar district. The societies have been doing good work in Malabar district and the Government have no intention of disturbing the societies in that district. On the contrary proposals to give them more work are under consideration. The survey and examination is confined to the societies in the four districts of East Godavari, West Godavari, Kistna and Guntur where the societies have only recently been formed.

[15th April]

Cut in Firewood Ration

As supplies of firewood to Madras city fell below expectations due to transport difficulties especially over the canal basin, following the rains in November and December 1946, the present stock position of firewood is unsatisfactory. The stocks of firewood stood at about 13,000 tons on 31st March 1947 while the normal requirements of the city under the Rationing Scheme are about 25,000 tons per mensem. Unless the supply position improves during April 1947 and the succeeding months, it will not be possible for the Government to maintain the normal scale of rations of firewood. The Government are taking steps to speed up supplies from different sources. However, as it will be some time before the stock position reaches the safe level, the Government have decided to impose a cut of 25 per cent in the firewood rations for a period of one month commencing from the 3rd quarter of April 1947.

[16th April]

Price of Palmyrah Jaggery

The Government have had under consideration the question of fixing the prices of Palmyrah Jaggery particularly in the districts of Tinnevely and West Godavari which are the main producing centres. They have now decided not to fix any statutory price for Palmyrah Jaggery.

[16th April]

Movement of Coconut

The Government have decided to remove with immediate effect the ban on the inter-district movement of coconuts, copra and coconut oil as also the control over the prices of coconuts. Exports outside the province of coconuts, copra and coconut oil will, however, continue to be controlled as hitherto and can be made only on permits issued by Collectors. No export of coconut oil outside the province will be allowed. Export of copra will be allowed to Sind and Bombay provinces only, up to the limits prescribed by the Government of India. Export of coconuts will be permitted after taking into account the local requirements and up to quantities that may be prescribed from time to time.

[17th April]

Food Control Prosecutions

There were about 325 prosecutions launched in the various magisterial courts of the province during the fortnight ending 31st March 1947, in respect of offences against the Foodgrains Control Orders and the Rationing Regulations. About 207 cases have resulted in convictions and sentences.

Other cases are sub-judice and the results are awaited.

Tanjore has headed the list in the matter of prosecutions for offences against the Foodgrains Control Orders and the Rationing Regulations with 93 cases.

[18th April]

Food Position in the Circars

In November last the Government decided to organize Producers-cum-consumers co-operative societies in the four delta taluks of the Circar districts of West Godavari, East Godavari, Kistna and Guntur with the object of entrusting the procurement of the surplus foodgrains as well as the distribution of imported foodgrains and other controlled articles to these societies as a part of the

social economic development plan for the province. When the decision to form the societies was taken, the season appeared to be favourable and if it had been favourable it would not have mattered if the societies had taken time over perfecting their procurement machinery. Unfortunately, heavy rains in November and December damaged rice crops in certain districts and millets crop in most of the districts. The recent heavy rains last week have also added to the damage. The following table shows the food position as can be judged at present :—

	Rice. TONS.	Millets. TONS.	Wheat and wheat products. TONS.
1 Requirements of the Province from now on to the end of October to feed the rationed population.	1,272,000	114,800	69,100
2 Estimate of quantity likely to be procured up to the end of October from now.	900,616	142,662	..
3 Balance out of allotments promised by the Government of India still to be received.	98,885	..	..
4 Net deficit	-272,499	+ 27,562	- 69,100
	- 314,037 tons.		

There is thus an unbridged gap of 272,499 tons of rice and 314,037 tons of all foodgrains together. The millets crops have generally been poor. It is not likely that the Government of India will be able to make any more substantial allotments to this Province unless their own prospects of imports materially improve. The pulses position too is very unsatisfactory. As against a deficit of about 146,000 tons of blackgram and redgram, the Government of India have allotted only 33,275 tons and even this quantity is not expected to be received owing to the failure of crops in Hyderabad and Central Provinces, the two main sources of supply. The shortage of millets and pulses will thus be reflected in increased strain on rice. The position in the deficit districts continues to cause anxiety. On 18th April 1946 the stocks of rice under Government control were 474,137 tons. On 10th April 1947, this year, which is indisputably better than the last in the matter of production, the stocks amounted to only 276,044 tons, i.e., nearly 200,000 tons less. During the last three months the stocks in the city have been ranging from 0.5 to 0.7 of a month's off-take. In Coimbatore, East Godavari, Salem and the Nilgiris, the stocks available are less than a month's requirements. Guntur which is a surplus district is facing a crisis in its uplands. As the monsoon will be setting in soon, it is necessary to build up a stock of three months requirements in Malabar before very long whereas the district has to present only 1.3 of a month's stocks. South Kanara wants also replenishment against the monsoon. In the circumstances it is absolutely essential that our procurement machinery should be cent per cent

effective. It is in this context that the performance of the Producers-cum-consumers co-operative societies in the circles gives room for anxiety. Out of a target for procurement of 699,500 tons up to the end of March in the four districts mentioned above, only 225,640 tons have been procured so far. The quantity procured in January, February and March is 150,010 tons of which 55,606 tons only was procured by the societies. Last year the then procuring agents of the Government procured 209,167 tons for the same period. In the Guntur district procurement has been very inadequate

with the result that not only the deficit districts which depend for supply on exports are running short but in the district itself rural rationing has partially broken down. Kistna district is fast reaching a similar situation. In the circumstances and in view of the imperative need to procure the maximum quantity with the minimum delay, the Government have regretfully decided to suspend the procuring agency given to these societies and restore the work of procurement to the previous procuring agencies including Co-operative Stores for the rest of the current kharif year, i.e., up to the end of October 1947, in the districts of East Godavari, West Godavari, Kistna and Guntur. In these districts where former Co-operative agencies were doing procurement, they will be given the option to take up the work again. The Government are anxious to prevent the frittering away of the large share capital collected by these societies, and to put the societies to the best use possible. They will appoint a special agency without delay to examine and devise suitable means for stabilising these societies for the benefit of the community.

The Government wish to take this opportunity to clear some misunderstanding that appears to have arisen in the matter of prices. It has come to their notice that it is being represented to ryots that as a result of agitation the Government have now enhanced the prices and further enhancement can be expected by adopting the same means. Talks of Satyagraha till prices are enhanced to the satisfaction of producers are also being heard. The Government desire it to be understood that their recent orders directing that producers should

be paid annas four more than at present for delivery at village site does not mean that there has been any real enhancement of the market price. This increase in the price paid to the producers has been found not by enhancing the consumers' prices but by reducing the allowances available to the intermediaries. This does not mean to say that there has been any real enhancement of the price and as has been pointed out on more than one occasion, this Government cannot enhance the prices to consumers without the consent of the Government of India; for the same reason they cannot give any bonus either. In the circumstances talks about the Government having gone back on their declarations not to enhance the prices and of having really enhanced the prices now are entirely misconceived. It is in their anxiety to meet the producers' points of view to the utmost extent possible that the Government have decided to cut down the allowances given to the intermediaries to the bone and to pass on the increased benefit to producers. This is the utmost that the Government can do in the present circumstances.

The facts stated above will make it clear that Government cannot view with equanimity any decline in procurement and must take all possible steps to see that the maximum quantity is procured in order to avert a food crisis. The Government therefore wish all producers to realise the present critical food situation and would request them not to be misled by exhortations that an increase in price can be secured by keeping up an agitation for it or by Satyagraha and to co-operate with the Government by yielding up all their surplus to the Government Procuring Agents without delay.

[23rd April]

Milling of Paddy

Government have issued orders under the Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers) Act of 1946 that no owner or other person in charge of a mill in any of the districts mentioned below, located in the areas in which rationing is enforced not by statutory but by executive orders, shall mill paddy brought to it for milling except on production of the authority or authorities mentioned in the schedule to the order. The owner or other person in charge of a mill is ordered to maintain accounts in prescribed forms for the quantity milled each day. The accounts shall be open to inspection by the Rationing Officers and the Officers of the Revenue Department of and above the rank of Revenue Inspectors. If any person contravenes any of the provisions of this

order, then without prejudice to any other punishment to which he may be liable, any court trying such contravention shall direct that any stock of rice or paddy together with the containers and coverings thereof in respect of which the Court is satisfied that such provision has been contravened, shall be forfeited to the Government unless the Court is of the opinion that such direction should not be made in respect of the whole or any part of such stocks as the case may be.

The districts to which this order shall apply are—

Anantapur, Bellary, Chingleput, Chittoor, Coimbatore, Cuddapah, East Godavari, Guntur, Kistna, Kurnool, Madura, Nellore, North Arcot, Ramnad, Salem, South Arcot, South Kanara, Tanjore, The Nilgiris, Tinnevely, Trichinopoly, Vizagapatam and West Godavari.

Among the class of persons who can get rice milled are—

1. Producers or receivers of rent in kind who are ration cardholders, on a permit issued by the Tahsildar or Taluk Supply Officer concerned;

2. ration cardholders on the basis of the ration cards possessed by them;

3. authorized wholesalers selected for the distribution of rice in rural areas on the authorization issued by the Tahsildars or Taluk Supply Officers and licences issued by the Commercial Tax Officers; and

4. other class of persons on special permits issued by Tahsildars or Taluk Supply Officers.

[23rd April]

Exemption from Sales Tax

The question of exempting the 'retail consignees' in the scheme of distribution of mill cloth in this province from liability to the payment of sales tax in respect of their transactions has been engaging the attention of the Government for some time past. It has been represented to the Government on behalf of the retail consignees that the Provincial Textile Commissioner, Madras, informed them that they would not be required to pay sales tax in respect of their transactions and that they undertook the distribution work under this assurance and did not collect sales tax from the retail dealers to whom they distributed cloth. In view of this fact the Government consider that it would be unfair to require the retail consignees to pay sales tax now in respect of their transactions. They have accordingly

[MAY 10, 1947]

issued orders exempting the retail consignees from the payment of sales tax in respect of their transactions which have taken place till the end of the financial year 1946-47. The question whether this exemption should be continued beyond 1946-47 will be examined by the Government afresh and orders issued in due course.

[22nd April]

No Ban on Export of Meat

According to a notification issued by the Government in the Food Department, the order prohibiting the export of meat to places in India outside the province of Madras except under permits has been rescinded. The notification takes effect from the date of its publication in *Fort St. George Gazette*.

According to another notification, the Government have rescinded the order controlling the distribution of yellow cholam.

[23rd April]

Madras Government Textile Policy

In April 1946 the Government of India allotted 352,000 (200,000 coarse and 152,000 fine) spindles to this province under the Post-war Development Plan. These spindles were allotted on the recommendations of this Government to 9 existing mills and 25 new mills to be started in this province. The Government of India also sanctioned the issue of capital and granted import licences in all these cases. The promoters of the several mills have proceeded with the construction of the necessary building, invited and collected share capital and placed orders for the machinery. These mills are at present in various stages of development.

When subsequently the Government of Madras launched a scheme for encouraging hand-spinning and hand-weaving in the province, they considered that the expansion of the mill industry might impede the progress of the Khadi Scheme. They therefore revised their policy in regard to the textile mill industry and surrendered to the Government of India the spindles already allotted to this province. The managements of the mills who had secured allotments of spindles were informed accordingly.

The Government of India, however, did not agree to the cancellation of the allotments already made on the ground that it would amount to a breach of faith on their part and involve them

in litigation. This Government urged the Government of India to reconsider their decision, but the Government of India only reiterated the view that they had taken. In view of this attitude of the Government of India, this Government have anxiously studied the whole question and feel that both for moral and legal reasons they should not insist on the surrender of the spindle allotted to this province. They have accordingly decided to withdraw the surrender of spindles already offered by the Government of India.

The Government wish to make it perfectly clear in this context that the acceptance of the quota of spindles allotted to this province does not mean any departure from their Khadi Scheme, the intensive part of which has already been introduced in 7 selected firkas and the extensive part of which is proposed to be introduced shortly in 27 other firkas. The scheme which has been formulated in consultation with the All-India Spinners' Association will be pursued vigorously and it will give effect to the resolutions passed by that body at Delhi, on 9th October 1946.

[24th April]

Charges for Cloth Processing

There have been widespread complaints from consumers of cloth in the province regarding the exorbitant charges made for bleaching, dyeing and printing (hand processes) over and above the price of cloth in the unprocessed state, and several concrete cases of levy of such charges have recently been noticed by the Textile Control Department. As such processing is carried on in this province mostly by small processors, the Government have been trying to avoid any drastic measures, but unscrupulous processors and dealers have been exploiting the absence of statutory control. The Government have therefore decided, in the interests of consumers, to take adequate powers to control processors, and have accordingly promulgated the Madras Processed Cloth (Control) Order 1947, which came into force from 22nd April 1947.

A Provincial Control Order is necessary because the All-India control measure on the subject namely, the Textile Commissioner's notification issued under the Cotton Cloth and Yarn (Control) Order, as amended up to date, does not apply to—

- (1) handloom cloth (including khadi),
- (2) hand-printed mill cloth (except blotch and screen-printed cloth),
- (3) Junnadi sarees, and
- (4) mill cloth processed by hand processor employing less than ten persons and not using power.

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The Provincial Control Order will apply to these classes of cloth. In the case of handloom cloth the Provincial Order will apply not only to such cloth woven from mill made yarn but also to khadi, whether blotch or screen printed or processed otherwise.

The processors cannot exceed the maximum processing charges which will be notified by the Provincial Textile Commissioner for each kind of processing, whether the processed cloth is intended for sale or for the bona fide personal use of a consumer.

Stamping of prices will be enforced in respect of all processed cloth other than those intended for the bona fide personal use of consumers. The stamping will be done by Processing Inspectors appointed by the Collectors, and a stamping fee of one pie per yard will be levied. The necessary additional staff of Inspectors will be appointed in processing centres where this stamping work also cannot be attended to by the Inspectors appointed under the Madras Handloom Cloth (Control) Order, 1947. The date from which stamping will be enforced in each processing centre will be duly notified by the Collector.

As textile mills are covered by the Textile Commissioner's Notification referred to above the provisions of the Provincial Order will not be applicable to them.

The maximum prices at which processed cloth may be sold by the processors thereof, and the dealers therein, will also be notified by the Provincial Textile Commissioner.

The Control Order contains provisions, on the usual lines, conferring powers of inspection and inquiry, as well as penal provisions for securing the effective enforcement of the Order.

The Order confers powers also on the Provincial Textile Commissioner to prohibit extravagant types of processing which involves waste of dye and chemicals in these times of short supply and which lead to increased cost of cloth for the consumer.

Dyers and printers have to take out permits on payment of an annual fee of Rs. 5 under the Cotton Textiles (Raw Materials and Stores) Order, 1946 and are subject to the provisions of that Order and the notifications issued thereunder. No licensing provisions have therefore been incorporated in the new provincial Order.

[24th April]

Food Ration may be Reduced

In accordance with their policy of restoring the 12 ounce rice ration throughout the Province the Government have decided to increase the

rice ration in Malabar district to 12 ounces from the 4th May 1947. This decision has been taken on the assumption that the Province will receive adequate imports of rice from other Provinces and States and from overseas during the coming months as the Provincial resources are limited and insufficient to maintain by themselves the existing scale of ration. The Government therefore wish to make it clear that if imports from outside fail or become inadequate, there may have to be a reduction once again, perhaps even to 8 oz.

Price of Brown Sugar.

Brown Sugar, for purposes of price control, has hitherto been treated as jaggery and the prices fixed in the order dated, 19th November 1946, for cane jaggery applied to it. Since representations have been made to Government that a higher price than that allowed for jaggery should be fixed for brown sugar, as its manufacturing process is more elaborate and costly, the Government, with the concurrence of the Government of India, have decided to fix the price of brown sugar at a level higher by Rs. 3 per Imperial maund than the price of jaggery (I sort).

The ceiling price per Imperial maund of brown sugar, exclusive of sales tax, in each district shall be as follows: Vizagapatam, Rs. 16-8-0; East Godavari, Rs. 17; Bellary, Rs. 17; Madras City, Rs. 19-8-0; West Godavari, Rs. 19; Kistna, Rs. 19; Chittoor, Rs. 17-8-0; North Arcot, Rs. 17-8-0; South Arcot, Rs. 17; Coimbatore, Rs. 18; Trichinopoly, Rs. 17-8-0; Guntur, Rs. 19; Kurnool, Rs. 19; Cuddapah, Rs. 19; Nellore, Rs. 19-8-0; Chingleput, Rs. 19-8-0; Tanjore, Rs. 19-8-0; Malabar, Rs. 20; Madura, Rs. 19-8-0; Ramnad, Rs. 19-8-0; Tinnevely, Rs. 20; Nilgiris, Rs. 20-8-0; Salem, Rs. 17-8-0; South Kanara, Rs. 17-8-0; Anantapur, Rupees 17-8-0.

For purposes of this order, brown sugar, as distinguished from Bura, Aska and country sugar, shall mean highly purified and refined sugar, non-crystalline, powdery and brownish in colour.

[25th April]

Mill Cloth Ration Cards

In order to prevent the dealers and consumers from practising fraud under the existing system of mill cloth rationing, the Government have ordered that the following precautions should be taken:—

No cloth should be sold to a customer unless he produces also his firewood ration card (in

Madras City) or his food ration card (in the mofussil) along with his cloth ration card. In the case of those who do not possess the firewood or food ration card,—a certificate to that effect by a competent authority to be specified by the Collector, should be produced along with the cloth ration card. No supply of cloth should be made against any ration card which contains any corrections, or erasures or overwritings whether attested or not. If a cardholder finds that his ration card contains erasures or corrections or overwritings, he should return it to the Inspecting Assistant Textile Commissioner of the district, so that it may be replaced, after due verification, by a fresh card without any corrections, overwritings or erasures.

When any dealer suspects the genuineness of a ration card, he should withhold supplies against that card unless and until the Inspecting Assistant Textile Commissioner, after examining the card and conducting investigations, if necessary, is satisfied as to the genuineness of the card and authorises supply of mill cloth.

In this connection, the Government have requested the non-official Inspection Sub-Committees in the mofussil and the local Inspecting officers to trace the buyers with reference to the duplicate copies of the bills kept by the dealers in as many cases as possible, and check whether the purchases have been made against genuine cards.

[25th April]

Procurement Orders Modified

The Government have rescinded the order, dated 21st January 1944 delegating powers to the Collectors of districts and Revenue Divisional Officers to control the prices or rates of cholam and cumbu sold otherwise than at a primary

wholesale market, as also the order, dated 29th October 1945 relating to the fixation of maximum wholesale prices for cumbu and cholam in primary wholesale markets in the province of Madras.

The Government have also rescinded the order issued by the Collector of Anantapur (published with the notification, dated 19th April 1946 in the Extraordinary issue of the *Anantapur District Gazette*, dated 25th April 1946) relating to the official procurement of grains and pulses from producers in Anantapur district, as also the order issued by the Collector of Anantapur (published with the notification, dated 17th May 1946 in the Extraordinary issue of the *Anantapur District Gazette*, dated 27th May 1946) directing the producers of grains and pulses to sell their produce only to wholesale co-operative stores or other agents authorised by the Collector.

[25th April]

Handloom Cloth Production Order

The Government have issued the Madras Handloom Cloth Production (Control) Order, 1947, the provisions of which shall be in addition to any other law for the time being in force.

According to the scope of the order referred to above, the Provincial Textile Commissioner, Madras, may from time to time issue directions to any producer regarding the varieties and specifications of cloth and the maximum or minimum quantities thereof, which he shall or shall not manufacture during such periods, as may be specified in the directions.

The directions may be given to individual producers or to producers generally or to any class of producers specified in the directions.

[25th April]

Development

Mettur Mill Dispute

The Mettur Mill Workers Union gave notice on 29th December 1946 that if their 14 demands were not accepted within fourteen days from 30th December 1946, they would go on strike. These demands related to the recognition of the Union, payment of six months bonus with allowances, housing, provision of educational facilities, institution of a Provident Fund and other conditions of service. The Commissioner of Labour informed the Secretary of the Union on 13th January 1947 that the Union would have to be

recognized under the Trade Unions Amendment Bill already introduced in the Central Legislative Assembly, that most of the other demands should be placed before the Court of Enquiry already constituted, that decisions had been taken in regard to two issues and that the remaining issues could be settled by conciliation. He therefore advised the Union not to go on strike. But the workers went on strike on 15th February 1947.

At a meeting of the Union held on 23rd February 1947, the workers are reported to have decided to await the decision of the Prime Minister on

the award of bonus but to continue the strike until the other thirteen demands were conceded even though the Prime Minister had called on the workers to resume work. The Management has agreed to pay to workers five month's wage as bonus in accordance with the Prime Minister's decision relating to Coimbatore. The President of the Union has accordingly been advised by the Commissioner of Labour to ask workers to resume work.

[11th April]

Concessions for Hiring Pumps

In connexion with the food production drive last year, the Government permitted the Director of Agriculture and the Director of Industries and Commerce to reduce the hire charges for oil-engine pump sets (including the trailer pumps) with their Departments to not less than Re. 1 per day and to waive the transport charges or part thereof where necessary. The normal hire rates for these pumps are Rs. 3 per day or Rs. 75 per mensem. The Government similarly fixed the concessional rates for petrol pump sets with the Agricultural Department at As. 8 per day or Rs. 10 per mensem for periods of one month and more. The normal rate fixed for these pumps is Re. 1 per day subject to a maximum of Rs. 20 per month. The concessional rates for oil engine pumps expired by 31st December 1946 and those for petrol pumps lapsed on 5th March 1947. Representations have now been made to the Government that the withdrawal of the concessional rates at present is a hardship to the ryots. The Government have considered the question and have decided to extend the concessional rates of hire charges mentioned above for oil engine and petrol pump sets up to the end of June 1947 in order to assist ryots to grow food crops in the off-season.

[18th April]

B. & C. Mills Strike

The strike in the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills has been going on since the 11th of March, notwithstanding all the efforts of the Government to effect a settlement. The workers have assumed the attitude that negotiations for a settlement should be preceded by the release of Mr. Anthony Pillai. The arrest of Mr. Anthony Pillai was ordered because he was not prepared to agree to Government intervention or to participate in the Court of Enquiry duly constituted by the Government. Having precipitated a strike on certain

important matters, decisions relating to which would have vast repercussions on industries in the Province, he was content to let the workers remain idle without making any serious effort at compromise. His defiance of authority could not be tolerated and the Government feel strongly that his release would only defer a solution of the dispute between the workers and the management. The Government have therefore made it clear to the workers' representatives that they cannot agree to the release of Mr. Anthony Pillai until work is resumed in the Mills and the workers agree to abide by the decision of the Court of Enquiry. The strike has been peaceful on the whole but instances of aggressive tactics by the workers are increasing and the Government will take all steps possible to prevent violence and disorder.

The Government have already made it clear to various labour leaders that their offer for a settlement cannot be held open indefinitely. They would therefore appeal to the workers once again to go back to work and abide by the decision of the Court of Enquiry. The strike is illegal and its continuance is illegal and unnecessary. The Government are anxious that so many workers should not be out of employment and that the production of cloth should not suffer further. If the workers fail to respond to this appeal before the evening of Wednesday, the 23rd April, the terms of settlement already offered by Government will be withdrawn and such further action as the Government deem fit will be taken.

[21st April]

Co-operative Housing Scheme

To relieve immediately the shortage of housing accommodation in the City of Madras, Government have decided that a new Co-operative House Construction Society, Limited, should be formed. It will undertake the acquisition of house sites and the construction of dwelling houses thereon for its members with its own share-capital and loans obtained from Government. The houses so constructed will be sold to members with the sites.

Three areas have been selected by Government as suitable for the proposed scheme. The first is 75 acres in extent in the Urur village near Adyar. It is situated within a furlong of the Elliotts Beach. The second comprising 60 acres belonging to Kapaleswar Temple is situated between St. Mary's Church Road, Brodie's Road and Pughs Road. The third comprising about 50 acres in extent is situated in the Avanavaram village north of the Mental Hospital, Kilpauk.

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Three classes of houses will be constructed by the Society according to type-designs: 'A' class on a plot of six grounds (30 cents) costing Rs. 15,000 exclusive of site value and amenities, 'B' class on a plot of about four grounds (20 cents) costing Rs. 10,000 exclusive of site value and amenities, and 'C' class on a plot of two grounds (10 cents) costing Rs. 5,000 exclusive of site value and amenities. The Society will construct A, B and C classes of houses in Urur and A and B classes only in the Mylapore area, and 'C' class houses only in Ayanavaram. It is expected that about 1,000 houses in all the three classes can be constructed, in these areas.

It is hoped that the cost of a house site including the lay-out, roads, etc., will come to about Rs. 5,000 for the A class of building, about Rs. 3,500 for the B class, and Rs. 1,750 for the C class. This is only an approximate estimate and may come to something more or less. Government have under consideration a proposal to control the value of building sites so as to prevent speculation and profiteering by land-owners. The sites selected will be acquired by the proposed Society under the Land Acquisition Act if they are not available by private negotiations.

Those who wish to purchase houses in the Society will have to pay the cost of the site (including amenities) as shares in the Society. The Society will acquire the lands referred to above with its share-capital and construct the houses thereon with the aid of state loans obtained on the security of the sites. The construction of the houses will be done by the Society by engaging building firms or contractors of repute who will work under the supervision of the Society or by employing its own engineers for the purpose. Government will assist the Society in procuring building materials.

When the houses are completed they will be allotted to members on the hire-purchase system. A member will have to pay to the Society one-fifth of the total cost of the house i.e., of the land, amenities and building after the allotment of the sites and before the commencement of the construction. The balance will be recovered from him after his occupation of the house in easy instalments over a period of 20 years together with interest at 4½ per cent per annum, which is ½ per cent over the rate at which the Government now lend to Co-operative Building Societies.

Applicants for admission as members in the proposed Society may file their application with the Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Government Press Buildings, Mount Road, Madras

before the 5th May 1947, if they have not done so already. Those who already own more than one house in the City of Madras cannot apply for membership; but those who do not own any houses will be given preference. In any case only one house will be constructed by the Society for each applicant. Government servants of all departments may also apply. Amendments to the Government Servants' Conduct Rules on this behalf are under consideration. [24th April]

Conference of Employers and Employees Postponed

In their Press Communique dated the 8th April 1947, Government announced their intention of convening a Conference of employers and employees in the Presidency on Monday the 12th May 1947 at the Secretariat, Fort St. George, with a view to appraise properly the difficulties on both sides and to evolve a labour policy that will ensure peace and contentment among workers and requested all interested parties to attend the conference. Owing to certain unavoidable circumstances, the conference has been postponed to Monday the 26th May 1947. Government trust that the minimum number of representatives of all interested parties will attend the conference on that day even though individual invitations are not received by them. [25th April]

Enquiry into Labour Conditions

With a view to have a comprehensive picture of the conditions of service of the workers in the Motor Transport Services, Motor Transport Workshops, Engineering Firms and Type Foundries in Madras City and the mofussil and to standardise them as far as possible, Government have appointed Sri Rao Bahadur M. Venkataramayya, Retired District and Sessions Judge as a Court of Enquiry. The Court which will, among other matters, enquire into the problems connected with the working conditions of labour such as wages, dearness allowance, bonus, leave facilities, etc., in these industries, has already commenced its work in respect of Motor Transport Services and Motor Transport Workshops. As there are a large number of companies and Fleet owners scattered throughout the Presidency the Court is unable to send individual invitations to them and to workers' unions. Interested parties may therefore make written representations to the Court of Enquiry at Block No. XVI, Fort St. George, Madras, so as to reach it before the 15th May at the latest. [April 25]

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Discovery of Minerals in Salem

The occurrence of the following minerals has been noticed in certain villages of Tiruchengode, Namakkal, Rasipur and Omalur taluks of the Salem district by the Geological Survey of India in the course of their investigations during the Field season 1945-46:

(1) Good charnockites which can be used as building stones has been reported in the following localities:—

(a) Around Pudur on Salem road, about 3 miles north of Namakkal.

(b) Around Chellappanpatti on the same road, about 6 miles north of Namakkal.

(c) At Sendamangalam and the hills south-west of it 1127 and 1034.

(d) The northern half of Nainar Malai, hills 1988 and 1302 and in the valley enclosed by the Nainar Malai.

(e) Along the main road from Rasipur to Salem.

(f) A large part of Alavay hill.

(g) East and West of Vaiyappamalai along Tiruchengode road.

(h) The ridges on the east bank of the Cauvery river at Mettur.

The granite and granitic gneisses of Sita Malai west of Mangavalli and Pakkanadu may yield good material as building stone if careful selection is made avoiding very coarse feldspathic material.

Several dyke rocks that are found in the following localities may be useful as good road metal:—

(a) On Salem-Namakkal road between Chellappanpatti and Kalangani villages.

(b) Two miles west of Sendamangalam.

(c) Three miles north of Sendamangalam two dykes cross the Belukkurichchi road.

(d) A prominent dyke running north-west—south-east 2 miles west of Balukkurichchi.

(e) A dyke west of Vaiyappamalai on Tiruchengode road.

(f) On the east bank of the Cauvery, east and north of the Mettur Mills.

(2) Pink coloured potash felspar associated with pegmatites has been reported in the following localities:—

(a) Between Jalakandapuram and Pakkanadu, especially south of 1044.

(b) Between Jalakandapuram and Kupampatti. Here massive felspar and quartz occur in the pegmatites.

(c) On the Chorka Malai, between Nangavalli and Tolasampatti.

(d) Between Pakkanadu and Oravappatti.

(e) Just north of Settukkappattiyur (11° 43'; 77° 57').

[28th April]

Selection of Site for Tungabhadra Project

At a Conference held at Hospet in the last week of January 1947 by the Hon'ble Ministers, Public Works and Revenue, regarding the valuation of the land to be acquired for the Tungabhadra Project, representations were made that the site of the Dam should have been at Thimmalapuram instead of at Mallapuram, that the latter had been chosen largely to help the Andhras, thought it is the Karnatakas who are going to be dispossessed of their lands which will be taken up for the Project works and that the Mallapuram scheme will benefit only dry cultivation of about 3 lakhs of acres while nearly 45,000 acres will be submerged and 25,000 people rendered homeless and destitute. It is therefore obvious that certain misapprehensions are prevalent, and Government desire that the full facts should be known so that the misapprehensions may disappear.

The Mallapuram site was selected in 1905 by Mr. Mackenzie (Superintending Engineer, Tungabhadra-Pennar Projects) after inspecting various sites from the confluence of Tungabhadra with Kistna and higher up to the various tributaries of Tungabhadra. This site has a good foundation, with hills on both sides of the river allowing of a short dam with proportionately good capacity. According to Mr. Benton (Inspector-General of Irrigation, 1906), the site is satisfactory from all accounts and best suited for the Headworks. Mr. Ireland (Executive Engineer on special duty on Tungabhadra Project, 1929) was of the opinion that though a dam at Thimmalapuram was possible as an engineering proposition, it had fewer natural advantages than the Mallapuram site and there was the possibility also of evolving a productive project at the Mallapuram site on the basis of the waters and costs being shared by the Hyderabad Government. The length of the dam at Thimmalapuram is 9,500 feet with another subsidiary earthen dam of 7,400 feet across a gap, whereas the Mallapuram dam is only 8,180 feet long. Moreover, on engineering grounds, the latter is by far superior to the former. The facilities for storage with a moderate dam are greater at Mallapuram. As, according to the agreement with the Hyderabad Government,

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only 65,000 M.C. feet of water is at present available for this Province, it is obviously uneconomical to construct a larger reservoir at Thimmalapuram to share this limited quantity. The Thimmalapuram site is far away from the railway line and a road, about 36 miles long, with bridges across several wild streams and rivers like the Hagari will be necessary. Mallapuram is only 3 miles from Hospet railway station. The area submerged under Thimmalapuram reservoir is comparatively large and is for the most part rich, cultivable land in Bombay province. Consequently the cost of acquisition will be higher, which will have to be borne entirely by this Government. Further, the Thimmalapuram Scheme involves long and extensive canals and it contemplated largely wet crops in the Ceded Districts. It has since been decided on the strength of an exhaustive soil survey specially undertaken for the purpose of determining the kind of crops that can be profitably grown that only dry crops with limited irrigation can be raised in the area, and it is on this basis that the Mallapuram scheme has been prepared. The area of submergence under the Thimmalapuram site is 228 square miles of which 125 square miles are in Bombay province comprising of 104 villages out of which 33 will be wholly submerged. The Mallapuram site submerges only 138 square miles, of which only about 5 square miles will be in Bombay Province. The Bombay Government stated that the submersion of the area under the Thimmalapuram scheme would result in large permanent loss of revenue to them besides creating serious administrative difficulties as the project would throw a belt of submergible area right across the centre of the southern half of the Dharwar district which would cut off all the local lines of communication from north to south of the tract submerged, and would entail serious loss and

inconvenience to the large and fairly dense population of the Karnatakas living in the neighbourhood. Thus the Thimmalapuram scheme would have created greater and possibly avoidable hardships to the Karnatakas.

It will thus be seen that there are engineering, financial and administrative difficulties in choosing the Thimmalapuram site, and the balance of advantage from all these points of view easily lies with the Mallapuram site. It was therefore chosen after a very careful consideration of all aspects. The two sites are only about 30 miles apart, in a short stretch of the river and the Mallapuram site can confer no special benefits on the Andhras at the expense of the Karnatakas. The scheme, which in its present form is only *partial*, benefits only certain taluks of Bellary and Kurnool districts while the Thimmalapuram scheme would have benefited, besides these areas, large extents in Anantapur and Cuddapah districts and on the other hand caused hardship to a larger number of Karnatakas in Bombay Province. As a result of the scheme, the people who are going to be disposed of their lands, etc., will no doubt, be subject to certain hardship. But in a scheme of this magnitude such hardships are inevitable and a few will have to make some sacrifice for the ultimate good of a very much larger number. It is also hoped that with the compensation that will be given and other facilities that will be provided, even the hardships of the few will be largely mitigated and short-lived.

In view of all that has been stated above, the Government trust that it will be realized that the Project, as at present under execution, has been designed and undertaken in the best interests of the people as a whole of a tract badly in need of facilities of this kind.

[28th April]

Miscellaneous

Petitions to the Government

In spite of the fact that the public were already informed that any person having a cause for complaint, should in the first instance seek redress from the local authorities and then from the authorities immediately superior to them before approaching the Government, it is found that a large number of petitions are being received by the Government for the issue of licences and permits for cloth and yarn. It will make for expeditious disposal of business, if the persons concerned approach the appropriate local authorities in the first instance. The licensing authority under the Madras Cloth (Dealers) Control Order, 1947, the

Madras Yarn (Dealers) Control Order, 1947, the Madras Cotton Cloth and Yarn (Brokers) Control Order, 1947, and the Madras Handloom Cloth (Control) Order, 1947, is the Collector or any officer authorized by him, while in the case of the Madras Handloom Cloth (Exports) Control Order, 1947, and the Madras Khadi (Control) Order, 1947, the authority competent to issue a permit or a licence is the Provincial Textile Commissioner. Under the Madras Artificial Silk Yarn (Dealers) Control Order, 1947, the licensing authority is the Commissioner in respect of importers and the Collector or other officer authorised by him in respect of other dealers.

[15th April]

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Government Quarters in Ooty

It has appeared in certain sections of the press that some of the occupants of the Government quarters on Stonehouse Hill, Ootacamund, were asked to vacate them for accommodating the staff of the Governor's Secretariat and the Indian Tariff Board. These quarters are intended for the staff of the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor of Madras, Military Secretary to His Excellency the Governor, and the Secretariat, when they move to Ootacamund for summer. During off-season, they were allotted to certain local Government servants on the distinct understanding and subject to a written agreement that they should vacate them on 24 hours notice when required by Government.

The staff of the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor and Military Secretary to His Excellency the Governor are moving to Ooty as usual this summer and notices were given to the occupants early in March 1947 to vacate the quarters as it is but right that the staff of the Military Secretary and Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor and Press-men should be allowed to occupy the quarters intended for them but temporarily allotted to others.

Only one occupied building "The Press Manager's quarters" was allotted to the Indian Tariff Board. The occupant is a Deputy Collector. The Subdivisional Officer offered him alternative accommodation but the officer did not accept it. The Collector of the Nilgiris has since been informed not to disturb even this officer.

[18th April]

Women in Health Services

Under the Government of India Act, 1935, a person is not disqualified by reason of sex for being appointed to any service or post under the Government unless otherwise directed by His Excellency the Governor with reference to Provincial and Subordinate Services. As the rules stand at present, women are not disqualified for appointment as First-class Health Officers in the Madras Public Health Service. The Government have accordingly ordered that women medical graduates are also eligible to apply for such posts. Roughly about 66½ per cent of the vacancies has been allotted to candidates with war service. Women medical graduates with war service may apply for these posts. In respect of other vacancies amounting to 33½ per cent which are thrown open to the public (which term includes war service candidates also) women medical graduates with or without war service

are eligible to apply. The women candidates need not possess the prescribed public health qualifications (B.S.Sc.) at the time of appointment, but they are expected to acquire this qualification within a period of four years from the date of their appointment, failing which they will be discharged from service. Fresh applications will accordingly be called for from women candidates by the Madras Public Service Commission. Women candidates with war service should apply to the Surgeon-General for application forms and copies of the pamphlet containing qualifications, etc., for the post of First-class Health Officers. The applications should be submitted to the Surgeon-General (along with the resettlement forms in the case of war service candidates) and the Surgeon-General will forward them to the Service Commission.

[18th April]

Free Movement of Cotton-seed

The Government have decided to remove the ban on the inter-district movement of cotton-seed within the Province. Imports of cotton-seed within the Tinnevely area will, however, continue to be controlled by the notifications issued under the Cotton Transport Act.

[22nd April]

Control on Certain Metals Revoked

In exercise of the powers conferred by sections 2-A and 9 (2) of the Madras Essential Articles Control and Requisitioning Act of 1946, the Government of Madras have directed that in the Food Department Notification, dated 30th September 1946, items relating to brass, copper and non-ferrous metals and aluminium utensils respectively shall be omitted. The following Control Orders, viz., Aluminium Utensils Control Order, 1945, the Non-ferrous Metals Control Order, 1945, the Brass and Copper Control Order, 1945, are ordered to be revoked in so far as they apply to the Province of Madras.

Posts for the Scheduled Castes

It has been the general principle of the Government to give as much encouragement as possible to members of the Scheduled castes in service consistent with the efficiency of the administration. In pursuance of this general principle, the Government have ordered that in filling posts in non-technical subordinate services and posts to which recruitment by transfer is admissible from

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the Madras Ministerial Service and such recruitment that is not made on a communal basis, preference should, as far as possible, be given to members of the Scheduled Castes, who are working in the department in which the non-technical services and posts exist.

The Government, however, wish to make it clear that particular care would be taken that there is no fall in efficiency by the indiscriminate application of the preference referred to above.

[22nd April]

Passports for Foreign Travel

It has been observed that many persons intending to travel outside India apply for passport or travel facilities at the last moment and ask for expeditious disposal of their applications on the plea of urgency. In many cases the grant of passports or visas involves references to more than one authority and it is very difficult to complete the procedure in a short time. Intending travellers, even if they get their actual passage allotments a short notice, are usually aware that they are likely to travel in the near future, and there is no reason why they should not apply for passport and other facilities well in advance. A passport once granted is valid for five years and can be renewed further for a period of five years. Prospective travellers are therefore advised to apply for the grant of passport or travel facilities as much in advance as possible of their proposed journey in order to avoid inconvenience to themselves.

[24th April]

Usage of the Term 'Razaka'

The Razaka Zana Seva Sangham, Amalapuram, East Godavari District, has represented to Government that the term 'Razaka' should be adopted in Government records to indicate the Washermen community to the exclusion of all other names like 'dhobies' or 'washermen' as that term is a time-honoured and respectable name approved by all in this Presidency. The Government invite the opinion of the members of the community in this Province on the representation. Such views as the individuals or organizations of members of the community wish to advance may be forwarded to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, Public (Elections) Department, not later than the 31st May 1947.

[24th April]

Revenue and Expenditure on Revenue Account

According to the Revised Budget for 1946-47, the Revenue to the Government of Madras is Rs. 5,742.92 lakhs. Revenue Accounts to the end of January 1947 stand at Rs. 3,181.95 lakhs as against Rs. 3,138.52 lakhs for the corresponding period in 1946.

The Expenditure on Revenue Account to the end of January 1947 totals Rs. 3,015.33 lakhs as against Rs. 2,379.70 lakhs for the corresponding period in 1946.

The total revenue realized to the end of January 1947 shows an increase of Rs. 73.43 lakhs as compared with the revenue for the corresponding period of 1945-46. The increase is the net effect of increases totalling Rs. 241.40 lakhs and decreases totalling Rs. 167.97 lakhs under the heads noted below.

The increase in Revenue related, among others, to items such as Stamps, Forest, Registration, receipts under Motor Vehicles Acts, Education and Public Health. The decrease was with reference to items such as, among others, Land Revenue, Provincial Excise, Irrigation, Administration of Justice and Industries.

[April 28]

Travellers to Palestine

Intending travellers to Palestine are informed that as from 15th April, 1947, no British subject or British protected person will be admitted into that country, even though his passport is valid for Palestine, unless it carries a special endorsement by a British Passport Issuing Authority valid for a period of 30 days. This applies to passengers in direct transit by air also.

[April 28]

Fees Exemption for Research Students

The Government have ordered that the University Research students and fellows and nominees of the Indian Research Fund Association may be exempted from the payment of fees while undergoing courses of research in the Government Medical Colleges and the attached hospitals.

[April 28]

Procurement Restored to Millers in Circars

(Continued from page 3)

inefficient as procuring agents in Guntur district cannot be disputed. In January 1946, millers procured 24,258 tons, in January 1947 the millers procured only 6,032 tons because the producer-cum-consumer co-operative societies were about to take over and the millers were restricted to procuring only sufficient for the export quota and for internal consumption and were not allowed to purchase freely to build up stocks. From the 1st of February 1947, the producer-cum-consumer co-operative societies started work but as they were not really ready, the millers were allowed to procure 4,700 tons for export only. Actually during February, 5,280 tons were procured in all as against 16,330 tons in February 1946 of which 4,775 tons were procured by the millers and 505 tons by the societies. In March 1947, the societies were given a free hand and the millers were prohibited from procuring anything, and the societies procured 3,077 tons as against 17,031 tons procured by the millers in March 1946. Thus, in all, the societies have succeeded in procuring only 3,582 tons in two months.

The result of the failure of the societies to procure sufficient paddy for the requirements of the district, much less for export, was that the ryots with paddy on their hands sold it in the blackmarket at the highest prices they could get for it. Undoubtedly, a large quantity of paddy and rice has been sold to the upland taluks; it is impossible to estimate this amount. This state of affairs was aggravated by the partial failure of millet crops in the upland parts of the district and by the amount of money which the ryots in the upland taluks have got from such paying commercial crops as tobacco. Thus ryots with plenty of money to spend were prepared to pay any amount for the rice from the delta.

The situation at the end of March was therefore very serious. The export quotas had to be cancelled which meant that the deficit districts like Coimbatore, Salem and the Nilgiris ran short and the stock in the district was only 384 tons. Still the situation is being managed with considerable difficulty. Statutory rationing has been maintained in all the five statutory rationed towns and in the rural areas no one has starved though he may have had to buy his needs in the blackmarket or live on what he had stored. There is plenty of paddy in the district. It is only a question of procuring it. If rice had been brought

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in from Kistna or any other adjoining surplus districts the incentive to procurement within the district, would have gone. Further, Kistna and the Godavaris have their own commitments and they are struggling hard to fulfil them.

The following measures were therefore taken to relieve the situation in the district:—

From the 1st of April, procurement licences of the societies have been cancelled and given back to the millers. In the first week of April, the millers were only able to procure 200 tons because they had to re-engage their staff, collect again their bandies and make new financial arrangements. From the 9th to 12th of April, in the course of three days, they have procured further 800 tons. Part of the damage has already been done and it is unlikely now that the district will be able to honour the whole of the export quota because so much of the surplus has been sold in the blackmarket. The situation in the district, however, is slowly improving and stocks are now being sent in small quantities to those rural areas most in need. It is desirable to build up further stocks in the district before anything more is exported and owing to the big and unusual demand for rice from the upland taluks, the full export quota of 42,000 tons cannot be met in full but it should be possible to export at least half that quantity in due course provided the district plays its part.

The stock of millets on 1st November 1946 was 546 tons. Since then, 1,618 tons of millets have been sent to the district. The closing stocks for the week ending 10th April 1947 are 537 tons and the district is to receive out of the allotments already made 672 tons. Similarly, the district had 1,117 tons of maize on 1st November 1946 and about 300 tons were diverted from other districts. One would have expected an increase in the offtake of millets as a result of the partial failure of millets crop. But in fact the offtake has gone down as the following figures show:—

	Millets.	Maize.
Offtake in December ..	640	280
Offtake in January ..	345	123
Offtake in February ..	339	64

It is clear from these figures that the millet eaters are unwilling to consume the imported millets but prefer to get hold of rice by fair means or foul. If this tendency persists, it is unnecessary to say that the habitual rice-eaters in the rest of the Province will suffer seriously.

It is obvious that the millers, judged from their performance in the last few days, will be able to show better results than the societies have done if they are assured that procurement will not be

(Continued on page 18)

Ex-Servicemen's Co-operative Societies

Report for 1945-46

To resettle ex-servicemen in civil life and to find them employment, the Government sanctioned the following schemes during the year:

1. Co-operative labour contract societies in the districts of Vizagapatam, Bellary, North Arcot, Madras, Chingleput, Tanjore, Madura, Tinnevely and Malabar.

2. (a) Co-operative metal factories in the districts of Vizagapatam, Tinnevely, North Arcot, Tanjore and Malabar.

(b) Co-operative timber factories in the districts of Vizagapatam, Tinnevely, North Arcot, Malabar and Chingleput.

(c) Co-operative brick and tile factories in the districts of Madura, Bellary, Tinnevely, North Arcot, Vizagapatam and Kistna.

3. A piggery and poultry farming society in Chingleput district for providing employment to demobilised personnel of the Madras Guards.

The Co-operative department was in administrative charge of the scheme till 8th April 1946. As the Director of Re-settlement and Employment was in charge of the re-settlement work, Government considered that the administrative control of the co-operative societies intended for ex-servicemen should also be with the Director of Re-settlement and Employment and accordingly transferred the control to the Directorate. Subsequently, the statutory powers were also ordered to be vested with the Directorate. The Deputy Directors were invested with the powers of the Registrar under the Madras Co-operative Societies Act VI of 1932 in respect of societies for ex-servicemen.

Societies, membership and share capital.—During the year, 11 societies were registered and started work. There were 1,306 members with a paid up share capital of Rs. 80,295. Of these, only two societies, viz., the Strathie Co-operative Engineering Workshop and the Rahm Piggery and Poultry Farming Society were organized and registered by the Deputy Directors.

Labour contract societies.—There were seven labour contract societies for ex-servicemen. The societies at Madras, Madura, Vizagapatam and Tanjore undertook different contract works,

handed over to the societies. They cannot be expected to put out their capital or show any enthusiasm over procurement if there is no likelihood of the societies being given procurement work again this year or their having to transfer

The society at Vellore could not proceed with road work as the members were reluctant to take to up. The Chingleput society did not undertake any work. The societies provided work for 327 members. They undertook work to the value of Rs. 32,300 and executed work to the value of Rs. 8,706. The societies purchased materials to the value of Rs. 9,894 and paid Rs. 17,474 as wages.

Co-operative workshops. Three societies, viz., the Kumbakonam Co-operative Metal Works, the Reid Co-operative Timber Works, Limited, Tiruvottiyur, and the Strathie Engineering Workshop, Madras, were registered and started work. Of these, the first two commenced manufacture of metal wares and timber products, respectively. The Strathie Co-operative Engineering Workshop which was registered at the end of the year under report, i.e., 5th June 1946, could not commence work. Arrangements were made to engage its members in the second and third shifts at the Public Works Workshops, Madras. It was possible to start work only in the beginning of July 1946 (during the current year).

The members of the Kumbakonam Metal Factory and the Reid Timber Works were given training in the respective trades under the Government of India Technical Training Scheme. There were 187 members with a paid up share capital of Rs. 40,674-4-0. A sum of Rs. 9,282 was borrowed as loans of which a sum of Rs. 1,513 was repaid leaving Rs. 7,768 outstanding at the end of the year.

Raw materials worth Rs. 7,406-2-0 were purchased and finished products worth Rs. 3,247 13-0 were sold to the Public. These societies worked at a net total profit of Rs. 1,758 during the year 1945-46.

These factories are newly started and they are expected to show all round developments in the next year.

Piggery and poultry farming society.—The society was registered only at the end of the year, i.e., in June 1946. There were 15 members who contributed Rs. 15,000 towards their shares in the society. The society did not undertake any activities before the close of the year.

any of the stocks which they have procured to the societies. The question of the suitable agency for the four circle districts is being separately examined and the Government will take a decision as soon as possible.

Working of Prohibition Act

Minister's Discussions with Officials

The Hon'ble Mr. Daniel Thomas, Minister for Prohibition, visited Vellore on the 3rd April and held a conference of all the prohibition and ameliorative officers of the district. The working of the Act was discussed, in all its various aspects.

It was pointed out that under the Act, as it now stands, only persons who are actually found distilling illicit liquor or in possession of distilling materials or liquor are prosecuted. It was urged that it was necessary that persons who are found drunk should also be made liable for prosecution. The Minister assured them that amendments to that effect, in the Bill, would be put through as early as possible.

It was also suggested that the landowner must be made liable for any prohibition offence committed on his land. The Minister pointed out that one has to move cautiously in this matter, as there was a possibility of prosecuting innocent persons. As the law stands at present, there is a liability on the owner to give information to the authorities, and the Minister thought it would meet the situation if this liability could be strictly enforced.

He also promised to consider bringing an amendment to the Act, so as to vest the Magistrates with powers of summary trial.

The Minister emphasised the necessity of the village officers and organizations co-operating with the Prohibition work. The formation of District Advisory Councils would be an effective means of doing propaganda. It would be desirable to have this Prohibition Committee as a separate and distinct body and not as an appendage to the Food Committee.

The idea of levying collective fines on villages where large-scale illicit distillation is going on did not find favour with the Minister.

The Minister also spoke in highly appreciative terms of the ameliorative work done by the Grama Sanghams. The Sanghams at Sholingar and Sumaithangi were particularly commended by him.

To provide employment for ex-toddy tappers and ex-addicts, co-operative societies have been started in several places. Palmyra jaggery manufacture, milk supply, carpet making, are some of the activities of these societies. The Minister promised to consider favourably the request that a special officer of the co-operative department should be deputed to manage these societies.

Health of Cattle

Report for February 1947

There was a fall in the incidence of and mortality from contagious diseases among animals in the Province during the month of February 1947, as compared to January 1947. The total number of outbreaks reported and deaths recorded were 288 and 1,647 respectively as against 384 and 1,873 in the previous month.

Rinderpest.—There was a slight rise in the incidence of and mortality from this disease during the month as compared to the previous month, the figures being 51 outbreaks and 720 deaths as against 45 outbreaks and 366 deaths in the previous month. The disease was comparatively severe in Nellore district.

Hæmorrhagic Septicæmia.—There was a considerable fall in the incidence of and mortality from this disease during the month as compared to January 1947, the figure being 71 outbreaks and

383 deaths as against 122 outbreaks and 777 deaths in the previous month. The disease was comparatively severe in districts of Tanjore and Chingleput.

Black Quarter.—There was a fall in the incidence of and mortality from this disease during the month as compared to the previous month, the figures being 94 outbreaks and 405 deaths as against 127 outbreaks and 465 deaths in the previous month. The disease was comparatively severe in the districts of Chittoor, North Arcot, Coimbatore and Tinnevely.

Anthrax.—There were 11 outbreaks and 130 deaths during the month as against 11 outbreaks and 111 deaths in the previous month.

Foot and Mouth.—Sixty-one outbreaks with nine deaths were reported during the month as against 79 outbreaks with 154 deaths in the previous month.

Indonesian Delegation's Visit to Madras

Memorandum Submitted on Food Situation



The Indonesian delegation arrives at the aerodrome

The following memorandum on the food situation in the Province has been presented by the Government of Madras to the Indonesian Delegation, who are on a visit to Madras:

1. The normal production of rice and millets in the Province of Madras is estimated to be 4.9 million tons of rice and 2.8 million tons of millets. Before the war, Madras used to import on an average 451,000 tons of rice and 9,000 tons of millets every year and in addition about a quarter

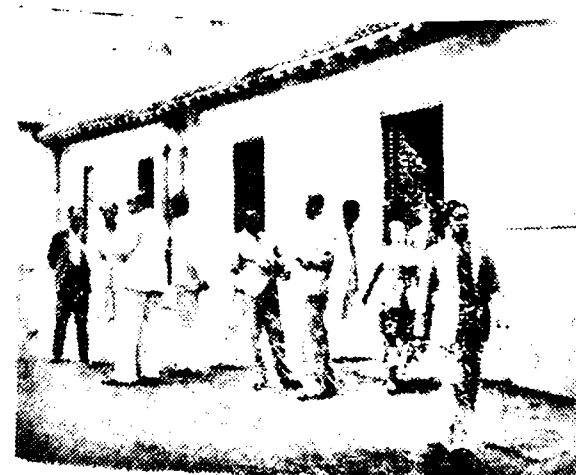
million tons of pulses and 66,000 tons of wheat and wheat products also. Most of the rice imports used to come from *Burma and Siam*. Owing to the war, these imports ceased in 1942, and were only resumed on a quite inadequate scale from the end of 1945 onwards.

2. The season of 1945-46 was a disastrous one for this Province, the final estimate of rice production for the kharif year, i.e., from 1st November 1945 to 31st October 1946 being as low as 3,827,000 tons and that of millets being only 1,942,000 tons. The causes for this enormous decline in production were the very inadequate rainfall in the central and southern portions of the Province and the cyclonic storm which ravaged the rice-growing areas in the Kistna and Godavari deltas in October 1945. At the beginning of the calendar year 1946, therefore, the Province was faced with a deficit of 1,135,000 tons of rice and 948,000 tons of millets. The danger, however, was faced and overcome during 1946 by extension of intensive procurement and rationing throughout the Province and by the supply of imports of rice, wheat, wheat products, millets and maize to the extent of 565,042 tons. This figure includes 14,177 tons of Indonesian paddy in terms of rice.

3. Though the Province weathered the storm in 1946, it faces the lean months of 1947 with inadequate stocks of grains. The production in 1946-47 is estimated to be 4,827,000 tons of rice and 2,338,000 tons of millets. As far as rice is



The delegation was given an at home at the Secretariat



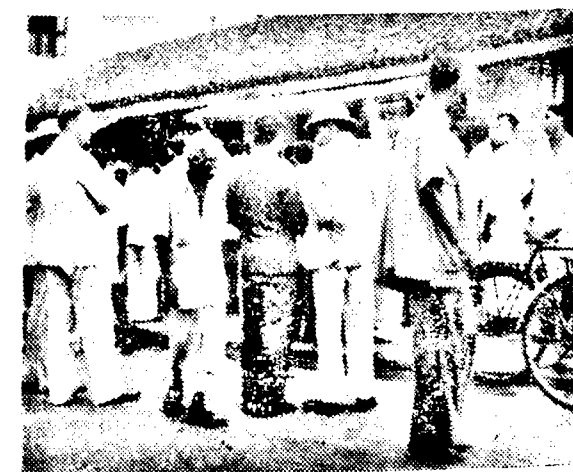
Visit to the A.C.G. godown

concerned, the figure is nearly normal, but in the case of millets it is far below the average.

4. The actual situation with which the Province is now confronted is this. To maintain the system of rationing in the Province and to supply the needs of all the non-producers from now until the end of October 1947 we require 1,272,000 tons of rice, 114,800 tons of millets and 69,100 tons of wheat and wheat products. The targets for procurement of rice and millets for the whole kharif year 1946-47 are 1,730,700 tons of rice and 190,100 tons of millets. Out of these targets, up to the end of March, 657,014 tons of rice and 28,728 tons of millets have been already procured. Even if it is assumed that 90 per cent of the balance of the target, i.e., 966,317 tons of rice and 142,272 tons of millets will be procured between April and October this year, there will still be a shortage of 413,732 tons of all grains, the shortage in rice alone being as much as 372,014 tons. Against this deficit, the Province is still due to receive only 89,067 tons out of the 174,800 tons of rice promised by the Government of India for the whole kharif year and it is not likely that even this exiguous quantity will be received in full. The balance of the rice requirements, viz., 282,947 tons can only be obtained from imports and these figures show the imperative necessity to obtain a regular and steady flow of imports of rice during the next seven months.

Procurement and Rationing

5. The Madras system of procurement is the most comprehensive and far-reaching to be found



Inspecting a ration shop

in India. It is based on assessment of the production of each individual cultivator whose surplus is bought up by Government after his requirements for home consumption are satisfied and payments of wages in kind, etc., are allowed for. This system ensures so far as is possible that every grain which is surplus with the cultivators is bought up at controlled prices and issued through the ration shops. The rationing system is equally elaborate. It is estimated that out of the total population of 42.82 millions in terms of adults in the Province, 33.5 millions in terms of adults is the effective number that comes under the rationing scheme, the remainder being producers who grow enough foodgrains to maintain themselves throughout the year without recourse to ration shops. By means of this rationing system, the available resources are distributed fairly throughout the Province and if, owing to shortage of supply, the ration has to be cut, the sacrifice is borne alike by all classes of consumers. The rationed population of this Province have cheerfully borne the successive ration cuts imposed in 1946, when the total cereal ration was cut from 16 oz. to 12 oz. at the beginning of the year and later the rice content of the ration had to be reduced successively to 10 and later to 8 oz. Throughout the dark year of 1946, the rationing system was maintained successfully and it is hoped that this will be the case in 1947 also. But the present situation is not without peril, and without large imports drastic cuts in the ration to a level below that of subsistence leading even to breakdown in rationing in some of the more heavily deficit areas may occur within four months.

Summary

	TONS.		TONS.
I. Average import per year —			
Rice	* 451,000	Millets	114,800
Millets	9,000	Wheat and wheat products	69,100
Pulses	25,000		
Wheat and wheat products	66,000		
* Rice used to come from Burma and Siam.			
II. Imports of rice, wheat and wheat products, millets and maize during 1946. * 565,042			
* This figure includes 14,177 tons of Indonesian paddy in terms of rice.			
III. Quantity required to maintain the system of rationing in the Province (until the end of October 1947) —			
Rice	1,272,000		
IV. Target for procurement in the Province during the year ending October 1947 —			
Rice	1,730,700		
Millets	190,100		
V. Anticipated procurement from 1st April to 31st October 1947 —			
Rice	899,986		
Millets	142,272		
VI. There is a shortage (till October 1947) of all grains 413,732			
Rice alone	372,014		
Imperative necessity—			
The balance of rice requirements to be obtained from imports	282,947		



Dr. Sutan Sharir, Indonesian Premier, and Mrs. Sharir in pleasant conversation with the Hon'ble Dr. Rajendraprasad, Food Minister, Government of India.

Subsidised Cattle-feed and Interim Relief to Milkmen

Cattle-feed Advisory Committee's Views

The Committee constituted in G.O. Ms. No. 403, dated the 8th April 1947, to put forward concrete proposals for the Government procurement and distribution of cattle-feed in the City of Madras held its first meeting on 10th April 1947 at 11-30 a.m. Diwan Bahadur Sri V. Bhashyam Iyengar was in the chair. The following members were present :—

(1) Diwan Bahadur Sri C. Tadulingam Mudaliyar, President, Madras Co-operative Milk-Supply Union, Ayyanavaram. (2) Mr. K. O. Anthoni, M.L.C., Vepery, Madras. (3) Sri T. S. Ramanujam, President, The Madras Milkmen's Union. (4) Sri Thangavelu Mudaliyar, Secretary, The Madras Milkmen's Union. (5) Sri K. Govinda Wariar, Secretary, Triplicane Urban Co-operative Society, Triplicane, Madras. (6) The Secretary to Government, Development Department. (7) The Additional Joint Registrar of Co-operative Societies. (8) The Livestock Development Officer, Veterinary Department and (9) The Deputy Secretary to Government, Food Department.

The Committee thought that before any useful work could be done by it, it should have some reasonably correct estimate of the number of cattle in the City. Sri Ramanujam gave it as his estimate that there were about 100,000 animals in the City including both dry animals and animals in milk. This was generally considered to be an over-estimate. The Additional Joint Registrar of Co-operative Societies, who had gone into this question in great detail and submitted a report to the Government in 1944, thought that the total number of animals in the City was not likely to exceed 17,000 or 18,000. In view of these conflicting estimates Sri Tadulingam Mudaliyar suggested that a census should be taken immediately of the number of animals in the City. The Corporation agency could be used to take the census and if the Sanitary Inspectors in each division were asked to take up this work they would get the figures very quickly.

Interim Relief

The discussion then proceeded on the assumption that the number of animals in the City, both dry and in milk, might be taken to be about 50,000. The Chairman expressed the view that the Committee's deliberations would necessarily take

some time and it would be at least two to three months before the Committee could submit considered proposals to the Government. Thereupon it was suggested that some immediate relief should be given to the milkmen pending the decision of the Government on the question of procurement and distribution of cattle-feed on Government account.

It was also generally conceded that the cattle-feed prices had increased out of proportion to the increase in the prices of milk. Generally speaking, cattle-feed prices had increased roughly 400 per cent over the 1939 prices whereas the increase in the price of milk had been only less than 300 per cent. Owing to the non-availability of the correct varieties of cattle-feed the yield of milk per animal had also definitely gone down. In view of these two factors the Committee agreed that some immediate relief should be given to the milkmen.

The question as to the form in which this relief should be given was considered next. One suggestion that was made was to the effect that a subsidy might be given on the quantity of milk produced by each animal in milk. This was considered impracticable as it would give an inducement to milkmen to do wholesale dilution of milk by water and it would also be very difficult to keep reliable records of the amount of milk produced each day by every animal. It was therefore accepted by the Committee that the only practicable way in which such interim relief could be given would be a subsidy at so much per head of cattle in respect of all animals kept by milkmen who produced milk for purposes of sale. This would exclude all cattle owners who produced mainly for their own consumption.

The Committee was unanimously of the opinion that a subsidy on these lines should be given to the milkmen with immediate effect. With regard to the amount of subsidy it was considered that a reasonable subsidy would be 25 per cent of the cost of concentrates required to feed each animal under normal conditions. On this basis Sri C. R. Srinivasan, one of the members of the Co-operative Milk-Supply Union, who was present at the meeting by special leave of the President, said that it would cost Rs. 2-8-0 per day to feed an animal in milk inclusive of the cost of straw,

and that without straw the cost would be about Rs. 2 per animal per day and such an animal would yield about 18 to 20 pounds or 4½ to 5 Madras measures of milk per day. At the rate of Rs. 2 per day for concentrates the monthly feeding charges would amount to Rs. 60, one-fourth of which would be Rs. 15. The Committee was therefore of the unanimous opinion that a subsidy of Rs. 15 per animal per month would be reasonable. A subsidy at this rate may be given for animals in milk owned by milkmen producing milk for sale and a subsidy at half this rate could be given for other animals which were not incapable of further lactation. It was considered that the interim relief can be given to the animals on the basis of figures of the milkmen and the animals obtained from the Corporation from which a licence had to be taken for keeping cattle. The Committee also recommended that animals belonging to members of the feeder societies in Chingleput district who supplied milk to the Madras Co-operative Milk-Supply Union for consumption in the City and also animals belonging to others who, though not members of the Milk-Supply Union, produced milk exclusively for supply in the City of Madras, should also be made eligible for this subsidy. The authority disbursing the subsidy would have the discretion to decide whether particular animals were entitled to get the subsidy or not.

It was generally conceded that this interim relief should be replaced at the earliest possible date by the subsidised distribution of cattle-feed, to ensure that the subsidy was really appropriated to the purpose for which it was intended. The Committee therefore appointed a sub-committee consisting of the Additional Joint Registrar of Co-operative Societies, the Livestock and Sri C. R. Srinivasan to prepare an estimate of the monthly requirements of the City in respect of each item of cattle-feed in regard to which Government procurement and distribution were considered necessary and feasible.

Sub-Committee's Report

The Cattle-feed Advisory Committee held its second meeting on 17th April 1947 at 11-30 a.m. All the members present at the first meeting were present, as also the Registrar of Co-operative Societies. A statement prepared by Sri Ramanujam detailing the difficulties of the milkmen and the cost of maintaining milch animals in the City, as also the report of the sub-committee appointed at the previous meeting were read out before the Committee and it was agreed that copies of these statements should be prepared

and distributed to the members and that further discussion could usefully be taken up the next day.

Government Procurement Recommended

The Committee met again on 18th April 1947 at 3-30 p.m. to discuss Sri Ramanujam's statement and the sub-committee's report. In addition to the regular members present on special invitation was also Sri Doraikannu, Assistant Secretary of the Madras Milkmen's Union. Sri Ramanujam mentioned at the outset that the Committee was not tied down to make recommendations only in regard to the procurement and distribution of specified items of cattle-feed on Government account: when he interviewed the Hon'ble Minister for Food just before this Committee was constituted, the Hon'ble Minister had given an assurance that the Committee could go into the whole question of production of milk in Madras City and its recommendations might cover the whole field of Government assistance required by the milkmen.

Sri Tadulingam Mudaliar then referred to the sub-committee's report in which it had been suggested that dhall husk and dhall broken (noi) might be left to the trade and said that these were important items of bulk food for animals and should therefore be procured and distributed on Government account. It was also suggested that even according to the sub-committee's report, the price has come down to only Rs. 6-4-0 per bag, which was 4 times the pre-war level and that it was therefore necessary to attempt to reduce husk prices and make them available at nearer Rs. 5 per bag.

At this stage Sri Ramanujam made it quite clear that his Union did not want any cash subsidy except as interim relief and that the milkmen only wanted that cattle-feed should be made available to them at reasonable prices. Sri Thangavelu read out extracts from a speech said to have been made by the previous Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture at the opening of some milk conference in Coimbatore, about nine months earlier, and pointed out that the promises made by him had not been fulfilled by the Ministry.

It was decided that subsidised distribution of cattle-food should be confined to concentrates. With regard to straw, attempts should be made to obtain hay presses which would press the hay into bundles of convenient sizes for transport from the surplus areas to the City. Meanwhile the Government might help by allowing milkmen in the City to import straw from districts where prices were reasonable and if any permit

was necessary from the Collector of the district, the Government should see that import permits were given for bona fide users. Similarly Government should obtain rail priority for transport of straw from surplus districts to the City.

The Registrar of Co-operative Societies referred in this connexion to the Regional Food Commissioner's promise of assistance in regard to Army surplus items of food which had grown old and were not fit for human consumption but which were still valuable as cattle-feed. The Registrar also thought that veterinary assistance should be made available free of cost to the milkmen in the City for a period of three years at least. Mr. C. R. Srinivasan referred to the difficulty felt in regard to breeding bulls and said that more breeding bulls should be provided.

Complaints against Sales Tax

Mr. C. R. Srinivasan next referred to the difficulty experienced by milkmen who supplied milk to the Co-operative Milk Supply Union on account of the imposition of sales tax on the milk sold by them to the Union and wanted that this should be taken up with the concerned department of the Government and sales tax cancelled. The Committee agreed that sales tax should not be imposed on sales of milk by primary producers.

33-1/3 per cent Subsidy Demanded

The sub-committee's report was then taken up for consideration. Mr. Ramanujam, Mr. Thangavelu and Mr. C. R. Srinivasan said that the stand taken by the two non-official members at the sub-committee had been misunderstood. What they had said was that the prices suggested as fair prices for gingelly cake and wheat bran should be fixed by Government as the maximum prices and a subsidy to the extent considered desirable by the Committee should be given to the milkmen, to make it available at substantially lower price. Mr. Ramanujam referred in this connexion to a scheme which was got ready during the Advisers' regime, following the visit of the Dairy Development Adviser to the Government of India, which provided for Government procurement and distribution of essential items of cattle-feed at prices which were 25 per cent below the market price, the difference to be met by a subsidy to be shared equally by the Provincial Government and the Central Government and said that although the Adviser's regime had promised to put the scheme into execution, it had been shelved. The Union would therefore be right in insisting that any scheme of relief for the milkmen should be given

retrospective effect from 1944. As this was not possible and as cattle-feed prices had gone even higher since 1944, while the increase in the price of milk had been comparatively on a smaller scale, a higher percentage of subsidy than the 25 per cent considered sufficient in 1944 should be given. The Committee discussed the question at length and concluded that a subsidy of 33½ per cent on the items of cattle-feed required by the milkmen, viz., gingelly cake, wheat bran, dhall husk and dhall broken should be given by the Government. The Committee recommended that these four items of cattle-feed should accordingly be obtained at the best possible market price by the Government and distributed to the milkmen at 33½ per cent less than the cost price, the difference being met by Government subsidy.

Fixation of Milk Price

The question was then considered whether in view of the subsidy that was being given some attempt should be made to provide for the maximum price at which milk should be sold in the City by the milkmen. In this connexion it was noted that the sub-committee had recommended that milkmen who did not sell milk at the prices fixed by the Government should be refused subsidised rations. It was however the opinion of most of the members present that the question of milk prices might be left to the good sense of the milkmen and the law of supply and demand and that the Government would be ill-advised to interfere in regard to the fixation of milk prices.

The Committee also considered that special arrangements should be made to give some limited quantities of cumbu to animals immediately after calving and green-gram for about three months after calving.

The Committee also considered that Government should obtain priority for movement of cattle to the City from the breeding centres and also for the movement of dry animals to areas outside the City where such animals could be fed at reasonable expenditure.

The Committee also considered that Government should take up the question of cattle insurance very urgently and devise ways and means to protect milkmen from utter financial ruin on account of sudden death of a good-yielding animal.

The Committee thought that, in view of the high prices of cattle, Government should provide loans free of interest or at a very low rate of interest to enable milkmen to buy fresh stock. It also recommended that the question of prosecutions by the Sanitary staff of the Corporation and by

the police should be gone into and Government should see that such harassment was reduced to the minimum and confined to really glaring cases of insanitary conditions.

With regard to the interim relief recommended at the first meeting of the Committee, it was considered that such relief might be granted from the date of appointment of the Committee for a period of not more than two months during which time arrangements should be made for making available the concentrates already specified at subsidised prices.

Cattle-feed Depots in Madras City

One of the reasons for the present shortage of milk in the Madras City is the difficulty in getting adequate quantities of cattle-feed at economic rates. The Madras Co-operative Milk Supply Union, which is the major supplier of milk to the City, and other milkmen organizations have been feeling for some time past that immediate steps are necessary to make cattle-feed available to the milkmen at reasonable prices. The important items of cattle-feed generally in use are gingelly oil cake, wheat bran and husks. Government have been considering the question of supplying these feeds to the persons engaged in the milk trade at reasonable rates. Pending the formulation of measures by Government with a view to relieve cattle-feed position in the City, the Madras Co-operative Milk Supply Union has, at the instance of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, taken up the distribution of cattle-feed on a much larger scale than in the past. The Registrar has suggested to the Union to obtain the important items of cattle-feed such as oilcake and husks from the wholesale dealers and to distribute them to the milkmen in the Madras City. The Madras Co-operative Milk Supply Union has gladly taken up this

Permanent Milk Board

The Committee also recommended that the Government should constitute a permanent whole-time Milk Board as early as possible to be in constant touch with the problems of production, distribution and price of milk and cattle-feed over the whole presidency and to take such steps as may be necessary to improve the production of milk both in regard to quality and quantity. The Committee considered that the institution of such a Board should be given high priority and taken up very urgently.

work and is getting oilcake at wholesale prices from Messrs. Ralli Brothers and husks from the wholesalers in the Madras City. At the instance of Government, the Collector of Madras allotted to the Madras Co-operative Milk Supply Union 450 bags of husks and chunai during March 1947 and the latter arranged for their distribution through its cattle-feed depots in the City. The Union has recently opened four cattle-feed depots in addition to the one it had at Ayyanavaram. The five depots are located at Ayyanavaram, Basin Bridge, Choolai, Triplicane and Kosapet. Cattle-feed is sold at these depots to members and non-members alike, at cost price charging a small commission to meet overhead charges. The sales at the depots are increasing and the weekly sales at present exceed Rs. 10,000. Government have appointed a Committee recently to make concrete proposals in regard to the procurement and distribution of cattle feed to the milkmen in the Madras City on Government account. The Madras Co-operative Milk Supply Union will be able to play an important role in the scheme for the distribution of cattle-feed in the City that may be set up as a result of the Committee's recommendations.

Government Departments at Work

Education

Salient Features for April 1947

General.—The Government have constituted a Board for further education of demobilized personnel with the Director of Public Instruction as Chairman, Personal Assistant to the Director of Public Instruction as Secretary of the Board and the Principal, Medical College, the Principal, Veterinary College, the Director of Agriculture and

the Deputy Director of Resettlement as members of the Board.

Elementary Education.—The Government have ordered the discontinuance with effect from 1st April 1947 of the supply of mid-day meals to school-children in the rural areas in which the scheme of compulsory elementary education was introduced with effect from 1945-46.

Work of the Official Trustee Explained

History

The office of the Official Trustee in India was created more than a century ago by Act XII of 1843 when such an office had not even been thought of in England. It can, therefore, be claimed that it is India which led the way in the creation of an office of this nature. The Public Trustee's Act was passed in England only in 1906 and it came into operation in 1908.

The Act of 1843 empowered the Supreme Court to appoint the Registrar or other Officer of the Court as Official Trustee. The next piece of Legislation on this matter is Act VIII of 1855 which provided that the Administrator-General might be appointed Official Trustee. By Act VII of 1854 the Chief Justice of the High Court was authorized to appoint the Officer, but by Act II of 1890 the power of appointment was taken over by the Government. Act V of 1902 not only provided for the appointment of a Deputy but also for the remuneration of the Official Trustee by a fixed salary. As several changes in the law relating to the Official Trustee had taken place since 1854 and amendments in various respects were considered necessary, the consolidating and amending Act II of 1913 was promulgated and it is under this Act that the Official Trustee of Madras is now functioning.

Jurisdiction

The Administrator-General of Madras is also the Official Trustee. His jurisdiction in relation to British Subjects includes not only the entire Province of Madras but also the States within the political charge of the Resident for Madras States and the Residents in Mysore, and at Hyderabad and the Chief Commissioner of Coorg.

Objects

The office was constituted with the express object of affording a safe and efficient agency for the administration of Trusts and for the protection of the public against the risks and inconveniences incidental to the employment of private individuals as Trustees. Quite apart from the difficulty in inducing private persons to undertake the troublesome and onerous duties of Executors and Trustees, there is also the lack of knowledge on the part of private persons, which prevents them from discharging their duties efficiently. Owing to incompetence, negligence, etc., on the part of private Executors and Trustees, considerable loss of Trust properties results, accompanied in not a

few cases by very real distress and protracted litigations.

Various Capacities of Official Trustee

The Official Trustee may be appointed either as original Trustee or as a new Trustee. He may be appointed as original Trustee of a marriage settlement or a family settlement or as Trustee for debenture-holders of a limited liability company. He may also be appointed Trustee in respect of Trusts for charitable or religious purposes provided he is not made liable to see to the proper performance or carrying out of the objects of religious or charitable institutions.

The Official Trustee may be appointed a Trustee under a Will without having been appointed Executor thereof. In this case, the Executor or Administrator after notifying the contents of the will may transfer to the Official Trustee the properties subject to the Trust.

The Official Trustee may be appointed Trustee in the place of private Trustees. Private Trustees or the surviving or continuing Trustee or Trustees as well as all the persons beneficially interested in the Trust may appoint the Official Trustee as Trustee in the place of the original Trustee or Trustees.

In the same way the Executor or Administrator of the estate of a deceased person may transfer to the Official Trustee any share of the assets which devolves on a minor or a lunatic to be held by him upon Trusts for the minor or the lunatic as the case may be. Section 27 of the Administrator-General's Act contains a similar provision under which the Administrator-General is empowered to transfer to the Official Trustee the assets of an estate remaining in his hands after the completion of the administration thereof.

The provisions mentioned above have proved to be of great utility to private executors or administrators who are desirous of winding up the estates in their hands and closing their accounts without having to retain in their hands funds belonging to a Trust estate for possibly a considerable time.

In all the above cases the Official Trustee should be appointed sole Trustee and the transfers to the Official Trustee must be evidenced by deeds which should be executed both by the transferors and by the Official Trustee. The consent of the Official Trustee must be recited in the deeds.

The Official Trustee may be appointed as Executor of a Will only if he is appointed sole

Executor and also appointed Trustee, but not otherwise.

Under section 10 of the Official Trustees Act, the High Court may appoint the Official Trustee of property subject to a trust in cases where disputes have arisen between trustees or between trustees and beneficiaries and the Court is of opinion that the trust funds should be administered by the Official Trustee. The Official Trustee can also be appointed Trustee by the High Court under the following Acts :—

- (1) The Indian Trustees Act XXVII of 1866 (Section 35).
- (2) The Trustees' and Mortgagees' Powers Act XXVIII of 1866 (Section 34).
- (3) The Indian Trusts Act II of 1882 (Sections 73 and 74).

The Official Trustee can also be appointed guardian of the properties of minors under Guardian and Wards Act VIII of 1890 and the manager of the properties of a lunatic under the Indian Lunacy Act IV of 1912 by the High Court.

Apart from the provisions of law mentioned above, Section 6 of the Married Womens' Property Act, empowers Insurance Companies to pay the moneys due under policies of life insurance taken out for the benefit of an assured's wife and/or family to the Official Trustee, if no trustee is appointed to receive the moneys due under the policies to be held in trust by the Official Trustee.

Powers and Duties

The Official Trustee generally has the same powers, duties and liabilities and is subject to the same controls and orders of the Court as any other Trustee acting in the same capacity. He can decline any Trust, but not on the ground only of the small value of the property. He is debarred from accepting any Trust which is known or believed by him to be insolvent or which involves the management or carrying on of any business, or any Trust under a deed of arrangement for the benefit of creditors or any Trust which involves the exercise, supervision or control by him as trustee of any religious observance or ceremony or the decision of any questions as to the religious merit or character of any individual or institution. Where the Official Trustee is appointed he must be appointed the sole Trustee.

The Official Trustee is authorised to retain and pay out of Trust Property any expenses which he might retain or pay if he were a private Trustee for the proper care and management of property belonging to any Trust administered by him. In addition he can also with the sanction of the High

Court incur expenditure on such religious, charitable and other objects and on such improvements as may be reasonable and proper in the case of such property.

Advantages of Official Trustee

While the disadvantages of having private Trustees are numerous the advantages of appointing the Official Trustee are many. The office of the Official Trustee is continuous and has a perpetual existence. Thus although the individuals holding the office of the Official Trustee may be absent from India, become incapacitated, resign or die, the office of the Official Trustee will be continuously carried on without interruption in the performance of its duties. The public are thus saved the trouble and expense of appointing fresh Trustees since it will never be necessary to transfer a Trust accepted by the Official Trustee to any other private Trustee, as in the case of private trustees when they become incapacitated, desire to retire or die.

The responsibility and integrity of the Official Trustee is guaranteed by the Government. The Official Trustee possesses rights and privileges not enjoyed by a private trustee. He is not required to enter into any bond or security or file affidavits or accounts. There is a consequent saving of expense to an Estate or Trust in his charge. These privileges are intended to provide simplicity, cheapness and rapidity of administration in cases taken over by the Official Trustee. Many details of administration in respect of which a private trustee is liable to incur professional expense will be carried out through the Official Trustee's office as a matter of routine.

The charges payable to the Official Trustee will be generally 2 per cent on the capital value of the property transferred to him up to one lakh and on estates of over a lakh the charges will be much lower. The commission on the capital value of the Trust is chargeable only once. Besides the above fees, commission at 5 per cent on the income is charged as and when actually realized. In exceptionally simple administrations of Trust Government may remit the whole or any part of fees and if the income of any Trust is not liable to serious fluctuations Government may fix a fixed half-yearly fee in respect of the collection of income. No additional charges are made for such services as obtaining probate and the preparation of income-tax returns for which private trustees have to employ lawyers and accountants. Considering the responsible nature of work done by the Official Trustee the charges paid are very moderate. The accounts of the Official Trustee are accurately

kept and regularly audited by Government officials. Any person entitled to trust moneys may inspect the accounts and obtain on payment of the prescribed fee certified copies of such accounts.

In the absence of any directions in the deed or other declaration of trust, moneys in the hands of the Official Trustee are invested in accordance with the provisions of the Indian Trusts Act except on mortgages of immovable properties which he can do only with the sanction of the High Court.

All the Government and other securities and jewels and valuable belonging to a Trust are lodged by the Official Trustee for safe custody in a Bank or other safe place approved by Government.

Subject to such information as may be given to the proper parties, the Official Trustee and his staff will observe absolute secrecy in respect of all trusts accepted and administered by him.

Where the Trust provided for periodical payments these are regularly and punctually paid to the persons entitled. If any question of difficulty arises in connection with the management of a Trust, the Official Trustee is guided by the orders of the High Court, Madras.

The Official Trustee endeavours to administer estates entrusted to his charge efficiently and prudently. In the administration of Trusts in favour of minors and persons of unsound mind the Official Trustee will have regard to the wishes of the beneficiaries and relations unless he considers such a course would be prejudicial to the due administration of the Trusts. Close and individual attention is paid to the special problems and difficulties of each Trust. The activities of the department are directed with a view to inspiring confidence in its administration.

Work done so far

The extent and nature of the work done by the Official Trustee can be judged from the following statistics :—

1. Number of Trusts on hand at the end of 1945—615.

	RS.	A.	P.
2. Value of the Trust properties vested in the Official Trustee.	2,41,49,238	0	0
3. Receipts from the Trust properties during 1945—			
Government Securities.	80,04,700	0	0
Other Securities	12,58,690	0	0
Cash	24,35,646	1	11

	RS.	A.	P.
Payments—			
Government Securities.	54,36,400	0	0
Other Securities	5,15,000	0	0
Cash	23,52,614	6	0

4. Average annual receipts and payments during ten years from 1935 to 1944—

Receipts—			
Government Securities.	12,79,667	0	0
Other Securities	4,67,348	0	0
Cash	11,52,104	0	0
Payments—			
Government Securities.	6,56,642	0	0
Other Securities	4,87,252	0	0
Cash	11,62,583	0	0

5. Categories of Trust according to subject matter—

(1) Settlements	170
(2) Transfers from executors, trustees, etc.	32
(3) Executor and Trusteeships ..	20
(4) Trusteeships under Indian Trust Act.	129
(5) Guardianships under G.W. Act.	204
(6) Managerships under Lunacy Act.	11
(7) Trusts under M.W.P. Act ..	46
(8) Miscellaneous	3
	615

6. Categories of Trusts now under administration according to value—

(1) Below Rs. 1,000	317
(2) Above Rs. 1,000 and below Rs. 2,000.	61
(3) Above Rs. 2,000 and below Rs. 5,000.	52
(4) Above Rs. 5,000 and below Rs. 10,000.	67
(5) Above Rs. 10,000 and below Rs. 20,000.	41
(6) Above Rs. 20,000 and below Rs. 50,000.	36
(7) Over Rs. 50,000	41
	615

Rationing in Madras City

It was at the time of the Bengal Famine that the Government of Madras decided to introduce rationing in the City of Madras. The A.R.P. Staff were employed for enumerating households for writing ration cards and for distributing them. The work was not easy. There are 310,537 households covering an area of nearly 40 square miles. The work was new and, often at least in the beginning, we had to deal with hostile or suspicious people. Nevertheless, the work was pushed through with commendable speed and accuracy, and rationing was introduced in September 1943.

The Madras City was the first place to come under rationing in South India.

When it came, what a contrast it presented to the days that had gone by. In those uncertain days before rationing, large crowds used to flock at the grain shops. Invariably there used to be a scramble, because no one was sure whether he would get grain. Always the scenes were unseemly. Often they ended in blows. Between that picture and the present day, there is a vast difference. For rationing brought an assurance of supply and dispelled men's fears. Though people have to queue up even now, they are in no danger of missing their quota.

It would be interesting to recall details of the Scheme as it worked in the beginning. Rationing started with a one pound ration which was also the standard set up by the Foodgrains Policy Committee. Rice alone was rationed. Children below two years were not (as also now) given any ration. Children between 2 and 12 were given half the adult ration. Two kinds of ration cards were used, one a daily card on which ration could be drawn daily, chiefly to suit the convenience of poor people, and the other a weekly card on which ration could be drawn once or twice a week. In a few cases there was provision to issue supplementary ration of half a pound per worker per day. There was of course provision for the issue of rations to visitors to the City, who were likely to stay for more than a week.

Rationing in the City was pioneer work in that direction as far as this province was concerned. Yet it is gratifying to note that the per capita expenditure was only 6 pies per mensem in the first year of rationing. This is nothing compared to the vast loss in human lives and property suffered in other provinces owing to the absence of any machinery to control and regulate food supplies.

The scheme was constantly being modified with a view to enhance its usefulness to the public. We soon devised a ration card on which ration could be drawn either daily or weekly or for any number of days within the week.

While we were thus adjusting and improving the scheme, there came the testing time, the food scarcity of 1946. Failure of crops in several parts of the province and in the country owing to floods or cyclone led to a deterioration of the food position. The scale of ration was immediately reduced to 12 oz. The rice content was progressively reduced to 10 oz. and again for a short while to 8 oz. Even landholders who had produce of their own were allowed only this much. All millets and wheat and wheat products including bread were now brought within the rationing scheme. Several austerity measures were launched such as restriction on the number of persons to be fed at parties, restriction on courses at meals, etc. Since the food shortage, rice has not been issued to non-meals hotels which get their requirements in other grains such as wheat, wheat flour, sooji, baker's bread or maize.

All these naturally hampered men's normal ways of feeding. The Madrassi who has been long accustomed to several rice dishes in hotels has no doubt had a hard time of it. Though the food position has lately shown signs of improvement, it has not improved to such an extent as to justify the relaxation of the austerity measures.

According to the 1941 census, the population of the City was 777,000. Rationing started with 887,645 persons excluding those in hotels, hostels, etc. But there appears to have been an enormous increase in population since then. At present 1,401,852 are drawing rations. Distribution is done through approximately 650 retailers. The off-take in the month of February (four weeks) was: rice—9,912 tons, wheat and wheat products—862 tons, millets—215 tons.

In attempting to regulate, under the present abnormal conditions, so intimately personal a matter like food about which people have their particular likes and dislikes, it is difficult to satisfy all. Naturally criticisms are not wanting. It has been suggested, for instance, that all landholders should be allowed to import for personal consumption one year's requirements at the rate of 1 lb. irrespective of whether the land is in a surplus district or not or whether the landholder is an actual cultivator or not. The

rejection of the proposal was based on several sound reasons. First of all, the fundamental objective of rationing is that all should equally share the incidence of shortage of the rationed article. It will go against this basic principle if certain people are allowed to hoard for a whole year grains of their choice when others have to take what stuff they get from week to week. Exporting from deficit districts which depend upon outside imports results in double movement of foodgrains which aggravates the already acute transport problem. For most of the people the rice ration has so far been 10 oz. To have allowed the non-cultivating landholders 16 oz. of rice ration would have been a violation of the principle of rationing. After all, mere ownership of land was only a form of property and if property were to be taken as the basis in these matters, it would at once have ended in confusion and injustice.

A second complaint is that there is often delay in getting orders on the applications presented

Towards Tackling Mal-nutrition

Food Consciousness

All Governments, all the world over have proclaimed it to be their aim to improve the moral, material and the physical welfare of the peoples inhabiting their zones of administration. Food plays an important role in the physical welfare of a nation. Very few Governments have however bestowed any serious attention in the past to the problem of food for the masses, excepting in times of acute emergency when there is actually a food famine due to flood, fire or water scarcity. Life is not possible without food and active life is not possible without a good balanced diet to sustain it. It may be that because people are so familiar with food that they ignore its importance and fail to deal with it systematically and scientifically. If the general state of health of the masses in different parts of the world continues to be the same or is much worse in some areas than ever before, it is because proper attention to the requirements of the people in the matter of food has not been bestowed.

It may be strange but it is all the same true that Governments did not realise, until recently, what were the actual daily food requirements of a human being. Knowledge of food and nutrition is of comparatively recent origin, though it is probable that ancients of different countries might have grasped the fundamentals of the science of

in the rationing offices in the City. The orders are that all applications should be disposed of within 24 hours of presentation. In a City like Madras where multitudes of people come and go, Rationing Officers have to be circumspect and the applications have necessarily to be investigated. If specific cases of delay are brought to the notice of the City Rationing Officer, suitable action will surely be taken.

Rationing has been a new experience and a new discipline. Considering this fact, one should say that it has worked most successfully. There have not been any wide-spread attempts at evading rules. There have been no sensational cases at all. Though much publicity and propaganda were done in the beginning, still its result would not have been achieved without the intelligent co-operation of the public. The people of Madras have to be complimented for this excellent result.

nutrition. The study of the science of nutrition requires steady, laborious, unspectacular and sometimes monotonous methods. Such study is based on collection of facts relating to the ways of life, as regards food of different human beings and a correlation of such facts with the state of health prevailing in those areas. No serious attempts appear to have been made in the past to find out the normal requirements of human beings at different ages of life, of different states of society and for different occupations. Again, no attempts appear to have been made to correlate the production of food with the requirements of man, the production of different kinds of food to the requirements of a balanced diet and the capacity of man to buy required quantities for a balanced diet. Such studies have been undertaken only very recently in some parts of the world; a few such studies, though at random, have been made in some parts of India. But no systematic study has been undertaken in this country to correlate resources and requirements and to find out how we can improve and how much we should increase the resources to meet requirements.

Intelligent Planning

There is definite and urgent need to grow more food everywhere. It is however desirable that the "Grow More Food" activities should be properly

planned, in order to see that there is no production of any particular food, much in excess of our requirements to the detriment of production of other foods which are also in short supply. Such a campaign should not end in a glut in any individual commodity. A planned agriculture and balanced diet should go together. In addition it should be known what kinds of food should be grown more urgently than others, how ill-health springs from a lack of some of these foodstuffs and how such ill-health can be prevented by a supply of more of the required foodstuffs to the population before it begins to feel the effects of lack of them. All these investigations should be undertaken for a proper appreciation of the relation of food to health and to avoid unnecessary sickness and suffering. If Administrations in different parts of the world had the vision and the wish to think beyond their times, food scarcity could be avoided in future. Food production and health are long-term matters and cannot be managed or manoeuvred within the space of a few years. They require deep thinking, diligent planning and devoted application.

Mal-nutrition

It is well-known that in a poor country like India mal-nutrition is prevalent to a very large extent. The word mal-nutrition is an ill-understood and abused term. It does not mean the same thing all over the country. Mal-nutrition may be due to lack of food; it may be due to lack of proper food; it may also be caused by insufficiency of one or more of the food-factors or it may be the result of a combination of all the above. It results in diseases due to deficiency of protein or vitamins or minerals or some other food factor. Mal-nutrition is a general term to cover all conditions of illness arising from consumption of ill-balanced diets. It therefore follows that there may be different kinds of mal-nutrition in different parts of the country. It should be the endeavour of Governments to spot the different kinds of mal-nutrition existing in different localities under their control, what they are due to and how they can be prevented and controlled. Detailed information on this aspect of mal-nutrition is not available at present.

Food Survey

While effects of ill-balanced diets on health should also be studied, the more important and urgent task should be to assess the prevailing food habits of the people as compared with their optimum requirements. While we may visualise a general picture of mal-nutrition in the Presidency, it could not be assumed arbitrarily that identical conditions of food deficiency prevail in

all its different areas. Certain localities may be lacking in foodstuffs rich in proteins, other areas may be sufficiently well-stocked with them, while requiring foodstuffs rich in fats, minerals or vitamins or a combination of some of them. It may be that the picture of food deficiency may vary from district to district. A thorough understanding of this picture, when drawn properly with the aid of irrefutable facts will help the framing of a proper food policy, which would pave the way for a better state of health and contentment among the millions of our countrymen. Protein deficiency can be met only by the supply of foodstuffs rich in proteins, while mineral deficiency requires treatment in a different way, just as vitamin deficiency will require to be tackled by the supply of foods rich in particular vitamins. All these require collection of basic information about them. Without any such basic information collected by studious, labourious and sometimes thankless work, mal-nutrition cannot be overcome seriously by any organisation interested in the welfare of the country. Intelligent and otherwise well-meaning men and women may be under the erroneous impression that vitamin deficiency can be solved by the supply of a few vitamins in tablet form and similarly, mineral deficiency by the purchase of some of the mineral elements sold in a Chemists shop. This is neither the practical nor the correct nor the cheapest way to deal with mal-nutrition. Mal-nutrition should be tackled by steps taken to deal with the root causes leading to it.

Fighting the Evil

No doubt mal-nutrition is connected to a great extent with poverty. Poverty and mal-nutrition are found together but it should not be assumed that it is always so. Mal-nutrition can be due to ignorance. Indifference also plays a great part in the problem of mal-nutrition. A person may be rich but if he does not know what to eat, when to eat and how to eat, he may suffer from mal-nutrition. Such cases of mal-nutrition are not rare but Governments as a whole are concerned mostly with mal-nutrition caused by poverty and ignorance amongst the poorer classes of the population. There are various ways and means by which much of the mal-nutrition existing among the poorer classes can be avoided and prevented by changes in their diet without involving appreciable additional cost, changes brought about by re-alignment of components of their diets and by increasing their knowledge of nutrition. All this can be done only if we are fully in possession of accurate information relating to the different kinds of mal-nutrition and the exact the dietary

habits of the people existing in particular areas. Steps can certainly be taken effectively even under scarcity conditions to lessen the incidence of mal-nutrition. Any attempts to improve rural conditions should be wholly supported by the local population, without which whole-hearted co-operation any amount of initiative on the part of the administrations cannot bear much fruit. With increased knowledge on nutrition disseminated to the population, much of the prevailing mal-nutrition can be tackled effectively. What is wanted is the desire and determination to study

the situation and face it as it exists and to do things in a way that should stand the test of posterity and incidentally, may lead to an improvement in the state of health of population even in the near future. The problem of mal-nutrition requires early attention, while the problem of poverty to which it is related, which has probably a political background, can only be dealt with slowly and steadily.

—B. G. KRISHNAN,
Nutrition Officer to the Government of Madras.

Labour Situation in the Province

Report for the fortnight ending 30th April 1947

The Hon'ble Minister for Labour, Madras, the Joint Secretary to Government, Development Department and the Commissioner of Labour, Madras, attended the Labour Ministers' Conference on 16th and 17th. The Commissioner of Labour attended also the Eighth Labour Meeting on 21st and 22nd.

The workers of the Radhakrishna Mills, Peelamedu, Coimbatore, who were on strike from 8th April 1947, resumed work on 16th April 1947.

The Commissioner of Labour, Madras, has advised the workers of the Kothandaram Spinning Mill, Madura, who were on strike from 21st March 1947 and the workers of the Rajah Mills, Madura, who were on strike from 3rd April 1947, to resume work pending the result of the Court of Inquiry.

The workers of the Standard Furniture Company, Limited, Kallai, Malabar, have called off the strike. The management have taken back the eight discharged clerks.

The dispute between the Mannarghat Beedi Workers (Malabar) and the management of the beedi establishments has been settled and the strike notice issued by the workers has been withdrawn.

The strike in the Asoka and other weaving factories in Cannanore has been called off.

The Nellore District Electrical Labour Union, Nellore, has postponed the date of the strike to 22nd May 1947 to enable the dispute to be settled by negotiation and conciliation.

The workers of the South Indian Silk Mills, Limited, Gudiyattam, North Arcot district, are on strike from 29th March 1947. The Commissioner of Labour, Madras, has instructed the Labour Officer, Vellore, to bring about a settlement of the dispute quickly.

At a meeting of the Mettur Mill Workers' Union, Mettur Dam, held on 14th April 1947, the workers of the Mettur Industries, Limited, have resolved to continue the strike and press for the other demands and wages for the strike period in addition to the grant of bonus of five months wages offered by the management. The Union has been instructed to advise the workers to resume work pending the result of the Court of Inquiry which has since been appointed as an Industrial Tribunal under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

The dispute in the Drum Plant Section of the Mettur Chemical and Industrial Corporation, Limited, Mettur Dam, has been settled as a result of negotiations between the President of the workers' union and the management. The workers themselves taking up the contract relating to the production of containers.

As the dispute in the Sri Krishna Jute Mills, Ellore, has been referred for adjudication, the workers have called off the strike and resumed work on 10th April 1947.

The workers of the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills, Limited, Madras, who struck work on 11th March 1947, are still on strike. The Hon'ble Prime Minister and Hon'ble Minister for Labour have advised the Labour Leaders to agree to appear before the Court of Inquiry and to instruct the workers to resume work.

The Government of Madras have referred the industrial dispute between the workers and the management of the Burmah-Shell Company, Limited, Madras, to an Industrial Tribunal consisting of Sri Rao Bahadur M. Venkataramayya for adjudication under section 7 (1) and (2) read with section 10 (1) (c) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

The workers of the East Asiatic Company (Oil Mills), Rayapuram, Madras, have served a notice of strike on the management of the East Asiatic Company, on 10th April 1947 putting forward nine demands, and intimating that they will go on strike on any day after 21st April 1947 if their demands are not conceded. The Labour Officer, Madras, is looking into the matter.

The Management of Sri Sarada Mills, Limited, Poddanur, closed down their mills until further notice as the workers did not turn up for work from 25th March 1947. They reopened their mills at 10 p.m. on 7th April 1947 as a result of the settlement arrived at between them and the workers in the presence of the Labour Officer, Coimbatore.

The workers of the Radhakrishna Mills struck work from 8th April 1947 as the result of a clash between workers belonging to rival unions over the reinstatement by the management of a woman worker supported by one of the unions. The Commissioner of Labour visited Coimbatore on 11th April 1947 and tried to bring about a settlement. No settlement could be reached as one of the unions adopted an unreasonable attitude. He has submitted reports to Government in the matter.

On the intimation of the Labour Officer, Vizagapatam, the Hume Saw Mill workers, Rajahmundry, have withdrawn the notice of strike given by them.

The dispute between the workers and the management of the National Tobacco Company, Chilakalapet, has been settled and the strike has been called off on 3rd April 1947.

The Nuzvid motor workers have called off their strike on 6th April 1947 on the intervention of the Revenue Divisional Officer, Nuzvid, and the District Magistrate of Kistna.

The workers of the Kothandaram Spinning Mill, Madura, who struck work on 21st March 1947, have been advised to resume work as the management have proposed to pay the Madura Mills rates of wages as in Mahalakshmi Mills.

The workers of the Rajah Mills, Madura, struck work on 3rd April 1947, in spite of the advice of the Commissioner of Labour through their union not to go on strike. The Commissioner has asked the Labour Officer, Madura, to advise the workers to resume work immediately and to await the result of the Court of Inquiry, and to ask the management to pay interim relief to the workers as directed by Government.

The Secretary of the Tobacco and Cigar Labourers' Union, Dindigul, has issued a notice

of strike on 3rd April 1947 to the Proprietor, Angu Vilas Tobacco and Cigar Company, Dindigul, intimating that the workers will go on strike after 17th April 1947 if their demands for recognition of their union, increase of pay and dearness allowance, annual bonus, leave facilities, etc., are not conceded by the management. The Commissioner of Labour has advised the union not to precipitate a strike, but to await the result of the Court of Inquiry for beedi, cigar, etc., industries.

The workers of the Commonwealth Trust, Limited, Calicut, who struck work on 2nd April 1947 demanding three months' wages as bonus, etc., have been advised to resume work as the management have agreed to pay bonus.

The workers of the W. K. Saw Mills, U. B. Dutt, Saw Mills and the South India Saw Mills, Kallai, called off the strike and resumed work on 1st April 1947.

The Nellore District Electrical Labour Union, Nellore, has issued a notice of strike on 5th April 1947 to the management of the Nellore Power and Light Company, Limited, Madras, intimating that the workers will go on strike from midnight on 22nd April 1947, if their demands for reinstatement of a Lineman, recognition of their Union, leave facilities, etc., are not conceded by the management. The Commissioner of Labour met the Secretary of the Union on 10th April 1947 and advised him to come to a settlement with the management by conciliation with the assistance of the Labour Officer, Bezwada, who will be visiting Nellore on 17th April 1947 to bring about a settlement of the dispute.

The workers of the South Indian Silk Mills, Gudiyattam, struck work on 29th March 1947 demanding increase of wages, dearness allowance, etc. The Labour Officer is trying to bring about a settlement of the dispute.

In their Order Ms. No. 1426, Development, dated 31st March 1947, the Government of Madras have accepted the award of the Adjudicator in the dispute between the workers in the Pottery department of the Ranipet Factory of the East India Distilleries and Sugar Factory, Madras, and the management of the factory.

The strike notices issued by the tile and press workers, Karaikudi, has been withdrawn.

The workers of the Mettur Industries, Limited, Mettur Dam, who struck work on 15th February 1947, have not yet resumed work in spite of the advice of the Commissioner of Labour to resume work accepting the offer of the management to pay five months' wages as bonus as in Coimbatore and to await the result of the Court of Inquiry. The District Magistrate, Salem, reports that the situation is peaceful.

Food Situation in the Province

Report for the first fortnight of April

Season and crops.—During the fortnight rainfall occurred mostly in the Southern and West Coast districts of the Province. It was heaviest in the Madura district and fairly heavy in the districts of Ramnad, Tinnevely and Malabar. The heavy rains were reported to be slightly harmful to the standing crops.

Water supply for agricultural purposes was adequate in all the districts.

Prices.—There was no perceptible change in the prices of rice and other cereals.

As regards pulses, the only noticeable features were an increase of 2.4 per cent in the price of redgram dhall and a fall of 1.1 per cent in the price of bengalgram.

The price of chillies showed a fall of 2.2 per cent that of salt a fall of 7.5 per cent and that of firewood an increase of 2.9 per cent.

The position regarding the prices of oils, oil seeds, oil cakes, etc., was as follows:—

No change.—Copra and coconut oil.

Rise.—Groundnut shelled (2.8 per cent), gingelly oil (6.8 per cent), groundnut oil (1.7 per cent), gingelly oil cake (2.8 per cent), groundnut oil cake (5.8 per cent) and cotton seed (1.5 per cent).

Fall.—Gingelly seed (0.7 per cent).

Procurement.—The following statements show the quantities of paddy, rice and millets locally procured and the quantities of cereals and pulses received from sources outside the Province.

(a) *Local procurement during the fortnight ending 31st March 1947—*

	TONS.	
Paddy	82,657	} Together equivalent to 110,681 tons in terms of rice.
Rice	54,121	
Millets	4,035	

(b) *Receipts from other Provinces and States during the fortnight ending the 15th April 1947—*

	TONS.	
Rice	3,539	
Millets	Nil	
Wheat	19 (from Hyderabad).	
Wheat products.	Nil	
Pulses—		
Blackgram ..	500	
Redgram ..	Nil	

Pulses—cont.

	TONS.
Greengram ..	209
Bengalgram ..	410
Total (pulses) ..	1,119

(c) *Imports from overseas during the fortnight ending 15th April 1947—*

	TONS.
Rice	4,870 (ex- S.S. <i>Isitalia</i>).
Millets	Nil
Wheat	Nil
Wheat products.	Nil

Stock and supply—Rice—The stock of rice in the Province was 276,044 tons on 10th April 1947 as against 290,045 tons on 27th March 1947.

Despite strenuous efforts made by the Government it has not yet become possible to build up stocks adequate for the enhancement of the rice ration to 12 oz. in the districts of Malabar, the Nilgiris and Salem. In respect of Malabar, however, arrangements are being made for introducing the enhancement of the ration from 4th May 1947. In some of the other districts in which the ration has already been raised to 12 oz., its maintenance at that level has been constantly beset with difficulties owing to unsteady imports from the surplus areas. During the fortnight under report, the stock position in the districts of Salem, North Arcot and Chittoor became low, owing to the non-receipt in time of the allotted quotas which were mostly due from the Circars. In the case of Salem and North Arcot emergency supplies were arranged from the districts of Tanjore, Trichinopoly, South Arcot and Chingle put which had stocks to spare. In the case of Chittoor, instructions were issued to the Supply Officers of the supplying areas concerned to expedite the movement of the quotas to that district.

Millets.—The stock of millets increased from 16,328 tons on 27th March to 21,349 tons on 17th April, mainly due to arrival of the 5,000 tons of American milo on the "Deepavu Victory." Millets procurement continues to be much less efficient than last year. The off-take of millets in March was about 8,350 tons.

Maize.—Maize stocks decreased during the fortnight from 7,813 tons to 6,277 tons against an off-take of about 2,780 tons in March.

Barley.—Stock of barley has decreased from 1,644 tons to 1,236 tons. The off-take during March was about 270 tons, which is more than double the off-take in February.

Wheat.—Stocks of wheat have fallen from 5,898 tons to 4,953 tons. The off-take in March approximated to 2,170 tons. It is, therefore, anticipated that stocks will last until the end of June. Against the quota of 100 tons of samba wheat from Hyderabad, 74 tons have been received.

Wheat products.—Stocks have fallen from 3,178 tons to 2,745 tons. The off-take during March approximated to 1,028 tons. As in the case of maize and barley, no imports of wheat products are expected.

Pulses.—Large imports of bengalgram and a lesser quantity of greengram continued to arrive from Karachi. S.S. "Palamcottah" carrying 4,000 tons of bengalgram and 1,000 tons of greengram arrived in Madras on 9th April. The S.S. "Jayabrahma" discharged 1,080 tons of gram flour at Cochin on the 8th and is proceeding to Madras to discharge a further 1,130 tons of bengalgram and greengram. The S.S. "Ghazana" arrived at Madras on the 13th, with 1,600 tons of bengalgram and flour. The rationing of pulses was introduced into Madras City on 7th April

Work of the Fire Services

The Madras Fire Services Department was originally constituted under section 3 of the A.R.P. Ordinance No. IV of 1941 as an adjunct to the A.R.P. and Civil Defence Services. As a result of the measures taken for Civil Defence during the beginning of 1941, the organization of Madras Fire Services was extended to other towns which were classified for purposes of Civil Defence measures. The Government have decided to retain the Fire Services Organization as a peace-time measure and ultimately the Service will be functioning in the Madras City and 81 municipalities throughout the Province. The Director of Fire Services is the head of the department. For administrative and operational purposes, the Province is divided into three Regions, Central, Western and Northern. The Central Region comprises the districts of Madras, Chingleput, Tanjore, South Arcot, Trichinopoly, Salem and North Arcot. The Western Region includes the districts of Coimbatore, the Nilgiris, Malabar, Ramnad, Madura, South Kanara and Tinnevely. The districts of Nellore, Bellary, Chittoor, Cuddapah, East Godavari, Kurnool, West Godavari,

1947. The stock position of pulses is generally satisfactory.

Rationing.—During the fortnight under report instructions were given to the Rationing Officers at Hill stations in the Province to the effect that visitors from outside the Province may be given rice against their rations if the stocks of wheat and wheat products are not adequate for the purpose.

Subsidiary Foodstuffs—Sugar.—As a result of the low recovery of sugar from cane in all the sugar factories in the province the Government have addressed the Sugar Controller for India for an increase in the price of sugar produced in this Province by Rs. 2 per imperial maund.

Intimation has been received that there will be a cut of 8 per cent in the sugar quota to this Province for the current year. The district quotas will therefore have to be reduced proportionately.

Miscellaneous Commodities.—Firewood was reported to be inadequate in parts of Coimbatore, Guntur and Ramnad districts. There was a steady decline in the stock of firewood in Madras City. Scarcity of matches was reported from the districts of Nellore, Vizagapatam, the Nilgiris, Cuddapah, Malabar and Chingleput.

Guntur, Anantapur, Kistna and Vizagapatam are administered by the Northern Region. Each of the above Regions is under the command of a Chief Regional Fire Officer, who is assisted by a Divisional Officer and the requisite number of District Officers, Station Officers and Sub-officers.

At present, the Fire Services Organization is operating in 50 towns including the Madras City and it is anticipated that before the close of the current financial year, 14 more Fire Service Sections will be inaugurated. During the year 1946, the Fire Services attended 1,637 Fire Calls, of which 1,591 were actual fires and 41 were false alarms. The value of estimated property at risk involved in these fires is Rs. 415.5 lakhs. The value of property actually lost is estimated at Rs. 42.8 lakhs. The estimated value of property saved by this Department is Rs. 372.7 lakhs.

Ambulance Service

In addition to undertaking fire-fighting operations, the department is running an Ambulance Service. One or more ambulance is attached to each Section. The Ambulances are available to

the public at all times and will attend to accident cases free of charge. In other cases where patients require removal to or from hospitals, the ambulances are always on call on payment of a flat rate, viz., Rs. 3 within the Madras City limits and Rs. 2 within municipal limits or panchayat areas in mufassal towns for any one engagement. Outside the municipal limits in the City or mufassal a charge of annas eight per mile or a fraction thereof subject to a minimum of Rs. 3 is charged. During 1946, 4,699 ambulance calls were attended

by this department and a sum of Rs. 34,935 was realized and credited to Government.

The Fire Services is mainly a non-productive humanitarian public service dedicated to the saving of life and property from uncontrolled fire. The activities of the department are mainly connected with fire prevention, fire precaution and fire extinction. They do, however, undertake private pumping for essential purposes and in this connexion a sum of Rs. 14,000 was realized during 1946.

ROYAL INDIAN NAVY EXAMINATION

An examination for the selection of cadets for entry to the permanent cadre of the commissioned ranks of the Royal Indian Navy will be held in Simla on Monday, the 23rd June 1947, and subsequent days. The examination will be conducted by the Federal Public Service Commission.

At this examination the following vacancies will be offered:—

Branches.	Number of vacancies.
(1) Executive	3
(2) Engineering	4
(3) Supply and Secretariat	1

The number of vacancies allotted to different branches is subject to alteration and candidates should show in the application form the order of their preference for all the three Branches—Executive, Engineering, and Supply and Secretariat—if they wish to compete for more than one Branch.

Candidates who qualify at the written examination will be required to appear before a Services Selection Board, which will make recommendations to the Government of India for the final selection of cadets for appointment to the vacancies offered at the examination.

Candidates for admission to the Royal Indian Navy examination must have been born not earlier than the 2nd January 1928 and not later than the 1st January 1930. The age limits can in no case be relaxed.

Particulars relating to educational qualifications and subjects prescribed for the examination are stated in the rules prescribed for the examination, and published in the Defence Department Resolution No. 751, dated the 22nd March 1947.

A candidate who desires to appear at the examination is required to submit his application

in the prescribed form with the necessary documents in accordance with the "Instructions to candidates regarding the filling up and submission of applications." Applications must reach the Federal Public Service Commission direct on or before the 5th May 1947. Copies of the Rules and the Application form, etc., may be obtained direct from the Secretary, Federal Public Service Commission, Simla.

The fact that an application form has been supplied on a particular date will not be accepted as an excuse for the late submission of an application. Candidates who delay their requests for forms until a late date will do so at their own risk.

Candidates who are already in Government service may compete at the examination, provided that they fulfil all the conditions mentioned in the rules. Applications from candidates in Government service whether employed in a permanent or temporary capacity, must be submitted through the Head of the Department or office concerned.

NOTE—(1). If any candidate who has applied for admission to the examination held in February 1947 for entry to the Royal Indian Navy, wishes to appear at the examination to be held in June 1947, he must submit his application by the prescribed date without waiting for the results of the former examination. If he is successful, his candidature for the June examination will be cancelled.

(2) The approximate cost of training for the Royal Indian Navy is £116.

(3) The Government of Madras have instituted a scholarship of the value of £280 to be awarded annually to the Madras candidate standing highest in the examination and selected as cadet for the Royal Indian Navy.

Detailed rules for the grant of the scholarship are published in the Madras Government G.O. Ms. No. 2218, dated the 21st September 1945.

Report on Gingelly Cultivation

The average area under gingelly in the Madras Province during the five years ending 1944-45 represents 14.7 per cent of the total area under gingelly in India.

The area sown with gingelly in 1946-47 is estimated at 652,300 acres. When compared with the area of 557,500 acres estimated for the corresponding period of last year, it reveals an increase of 17.0 per cent. The present estimate reveals an increase of 8.9 per cent when compared with the finally recorded area of 599,956 acres in 1946-47.

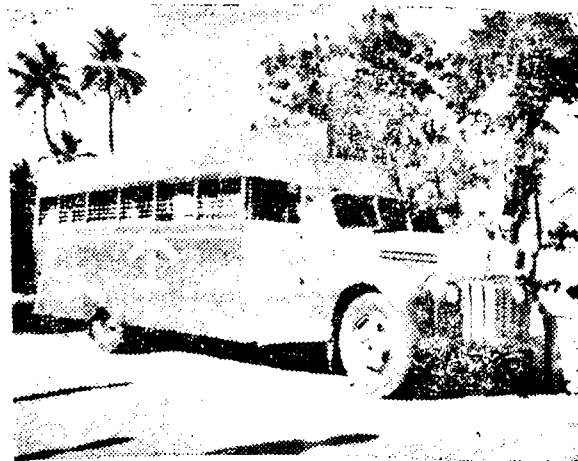
One hundred and forty-five thousand three hundred acres have been reported as sown since the previous forecast was issued in January 1947 as against 82,000 acres during the same period of last year. These late sowings were mainly on wet lands in Vizagapatam, East Godavari, West Godavari, South Arcot, Tanjore, Ramnad and Tinnevely where gingelly was as a second crop after the harvest of paddy.

As compared with the final figures of the previous year, a decrease in area is estimated in West Godavari, Guntur, Anantapur, Cuddapah, Madura and Malabar and an increase in the area in the other districts of the Province. The increase is marked in South Arcot (+ 11,000 acres), Tinnevely (+ 53,000 acres), and Bellary (+ 51,000 acres).

The yield per acre is estimated to be normal in West Godavari, Cuddapah, Nellore, Ramnad and Tinnevely and below the normal in the other districts of the Province due mainly to the adverse seasonal conditions on account of the heavy rain in November and December 1946. The condition of the late sown crop is reported to be generally satisfactory. The seasonal factor for the Province as a whole works out to 88 per cent of the average as against 83 estimated in the season and the crop report of the previous year. On this basis, the total yield works out to 78,600 tons which is more than that estimated in the season and crop report of the previous year by 17.0 per cent.

The whole price of gingelly seed per imperial maund of 82.2/7 lb. (equivalent to tolas) as reported from important markets on the 12th April 1947 was Rs. 32-4-0 in Trichinopoly, Rs. 32-2-0 in Vizagapatam, Rs. 32 in Salem, Rs. 30-15-0 in Tinnevely, Rs. 29-10-0 in Tuticorin, Rs. 29-4-0 in Rajahmundry, Rs. 28-13-0 in Cuddalore, Rs. 28-12-0 in Ellore, and Rs. 25-1-0 in Cocanada. When compared with the prices which prevailed on the 11th January 1947 these prices reveal a rise of approximately 25 per cent in Salem, 23 per cent in Trichinopoly and Vizagapatam, 19 per cent in Tuticorin, 14 per cent in Rajahmundry and Cuddalore, 12 per cent in Ellore and 7 per cent in Tinnevely, the price at Cocanada remaining stationary.

STATE TRANSPORT BUS



Outside view.



Inside view.

Report on Groundnut Cultivation

The area sown with summer or irrigated groundnut during the three months (January to March 1947) is estimated to 40,400 acres. When compared with the estimated area of 30,800 acres for the corresponding period of last year, there is an increase of 31.2 per cent due mainly to the attractive price for groundnut.

Figures by districts are given below :—

Districts.	Estimation of area sown with irrigated groundnut from January to March.		Increase (+) or decrease (-) of the area in col. 2 as compared with the area in col. 3.	
	1947.	1946.		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
	ACS.	ACS.		ACS.
Anantapur	100	Nil.	+	100
Cuddapah	1,000	1,300	-	300
Nellore	400	100	+	300
Chingleput	4,000	4,500	-	500
South Arcot	24,000	14,000	+	10,000
Chittoor	2,700	3,000	-	300
North Arcot	1,000	1,400	-	400
Trichinopoly	1,800	2,200	-	400
Tanjore	2,200	1,200	+	1,000
Madura	1,900	1,100	+	800
Ramnad	1,300	2,000	-	700
Total	40,400	30,800	+	9,600

The wholesale price of groundnut (shelled) per imperial maund of 82.2/7 lb. (equivalent to 3,200 tolas) as reported from important market centres on 12th April 1947 was Rs. 21-6-0 in Cuddapah, Rs. 21-1-0 in Vizianagram, Cuddalore and Tadpatri, Rs. 20-15-0 in Guntur, Nandyal, Adoni, Vellore and Coimbatore, Rs. 20-7-0 in Bellary, Rs. 20-2-0 in Salem and Rs. 20 in Erode. When compared with the prices published in the

South Indian Railway

Business Conditions during March 1947

During February 1947, 10 additional trains were introduced on the Broad Gauge and 4 on the Metre Gauge, and in March, 2 trains were introduced on the Metre Gauge. Among the important trains re-introduced is the Cochin Express between Madras Central and Cochin Harbour Terminus. Thus nearly 84 per cent of pre-war train service has been restored on the Broad Gauge whilst 69 per cent has been restored on the Metre Gauge.

The area sown with bengalgram in 1946-47 is estimated at 71,200 acres. The present estimate reveals an increase of 6.8 per cent when compared with the actual area of 66,675 acres according to the Season and Crop Report of the previous year.

The crop is not grown in the districts of Chingleput, South Arcot, Tanjore, Malabar, South Kanara and the Nilgiris. The area estimated is the same as that of last year in North Arcot, Trichinopoly, Ramnad and Tinnevely. An increase in area is estimated in Vizagapatam, Kistna, Kurnool, Bellary, Anantapur, Cuddapah, Nellore, Chittoor and Coimbatore and a decrease in area is estimated in the other districts of the Province.

The crop has been harvested in most of the districts. The yield per acre is expected to be below the normal in all the districts of the Province due mainly to insect attack during the period of growth.

The seasonal factor for the Province as a whole works out to 81 per cent of the average as against 83 per cent according to the Season and Crop Report of the previous year. On this basis the yield works out to 12,800 tons as against an estimated of 12,330 tons for the previous year according to the Season and Crop Report representing an increase of 3.8 per cent.

previous report, i.e., those which prevailed on 11th January 1947 these prices reveal an increase of 76 per cent in Tadpatri, 69 per cent in Cuddalore, 68 per cent in Vizianagram, Guntur and Coimbatore, 67 per cent in Vellore, 66 per cent in Bellary, 61 per cent in Nandyal and Salem, 60 per cent in Erode, 59 per cent in Adoni and 44 per cent in Cuddapah.

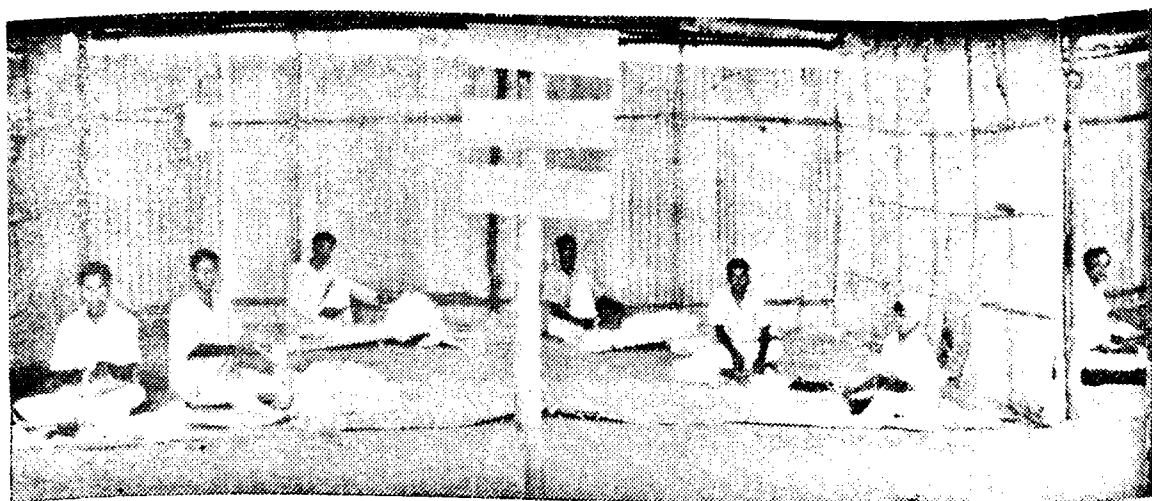
The following statement will give an idea of the train miles run in March 1947 in comparison with the corresponding month of the previous year :—

	March 1946.	March 1947.
	MILES.	MILES.
Public train miles—		
Coaching	678,380	747,552
Goods	269,767	281,335
Total	948,147	1,028,887

(Continued on next page)

475

The Government of Madras with the assistance of the All-India Spinners' Association arranged for a demonstration of the several processes of Khadi Production at the Thakkar Bapa Harijan Industrial Benefit Fund Exhibition in the Congress Grounds, Teynampet. The Government have granted Rs. 5,000 towards the expenses incurred in this connexion. The following pictures give an idea of the various stages of Khadi production :—



Ginning



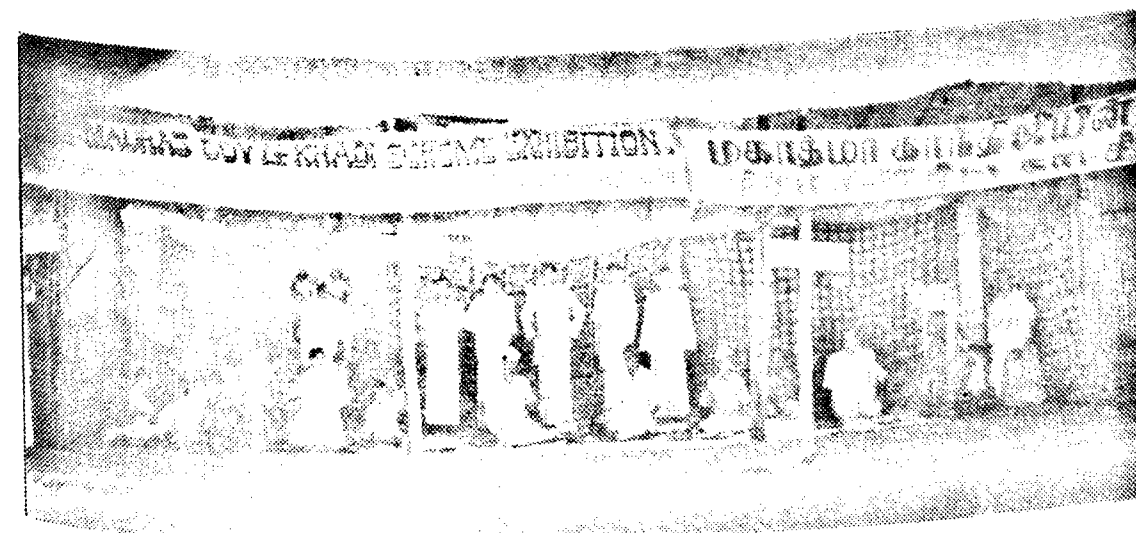
Spinning

Details of traffic, both passenger and goods, carried during the month of March 1947, as compared with the previous month and the corresponding month of last year, are given below :—

	March 1947.	February 1947.	March 1946.
<i>Coaching traffic.</i>			
Number of passengers.	11,154,432	10,235,452	10,801,501
Earnings in rupees.	68,18,195	64,92,879	54,60,575
<i>Goods traffic.</i>			
Weight in tons.	520,159	483,158	565,290
Earnings in rupees.	42,60,102	41,16,973	53,51,603

Masi Maham festival which fell on 6th March 1947 and Maha Sivarathiri on 20th March 1947 attracted a large number of pilgrims to several stations and particularly to Tiruchendur and Dhanushkodi respectively.

The number of passengers carried is much more than that of the previous month and also of March 1946. Even with the increased train service it was not possible to reduce the overcrowding in trains and the consequent inconvenience to passengers as the passenger traffic continued to be very high.



Andhra Fine Spinning

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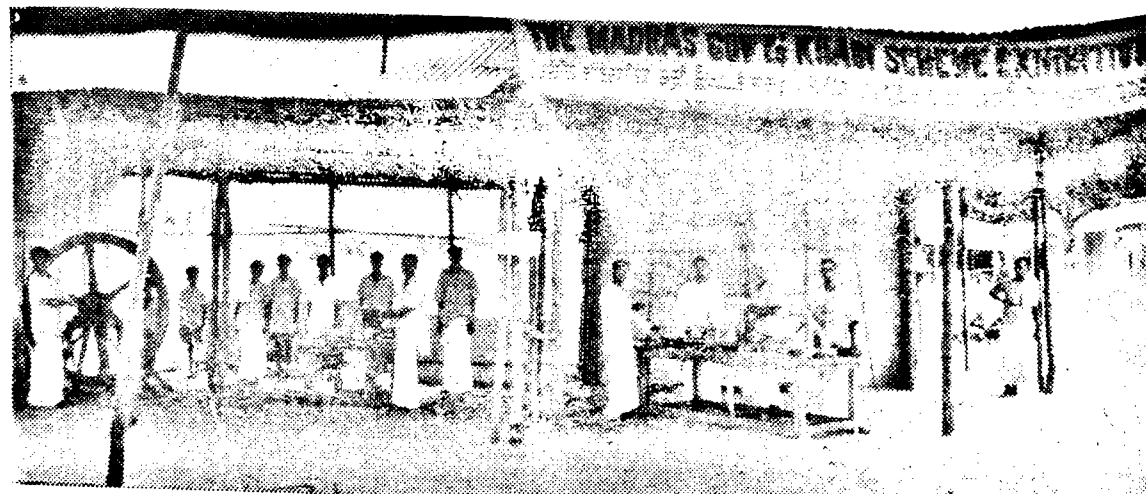


Reeling, Warping and Sizing



Khadi Museum—Finished Products.

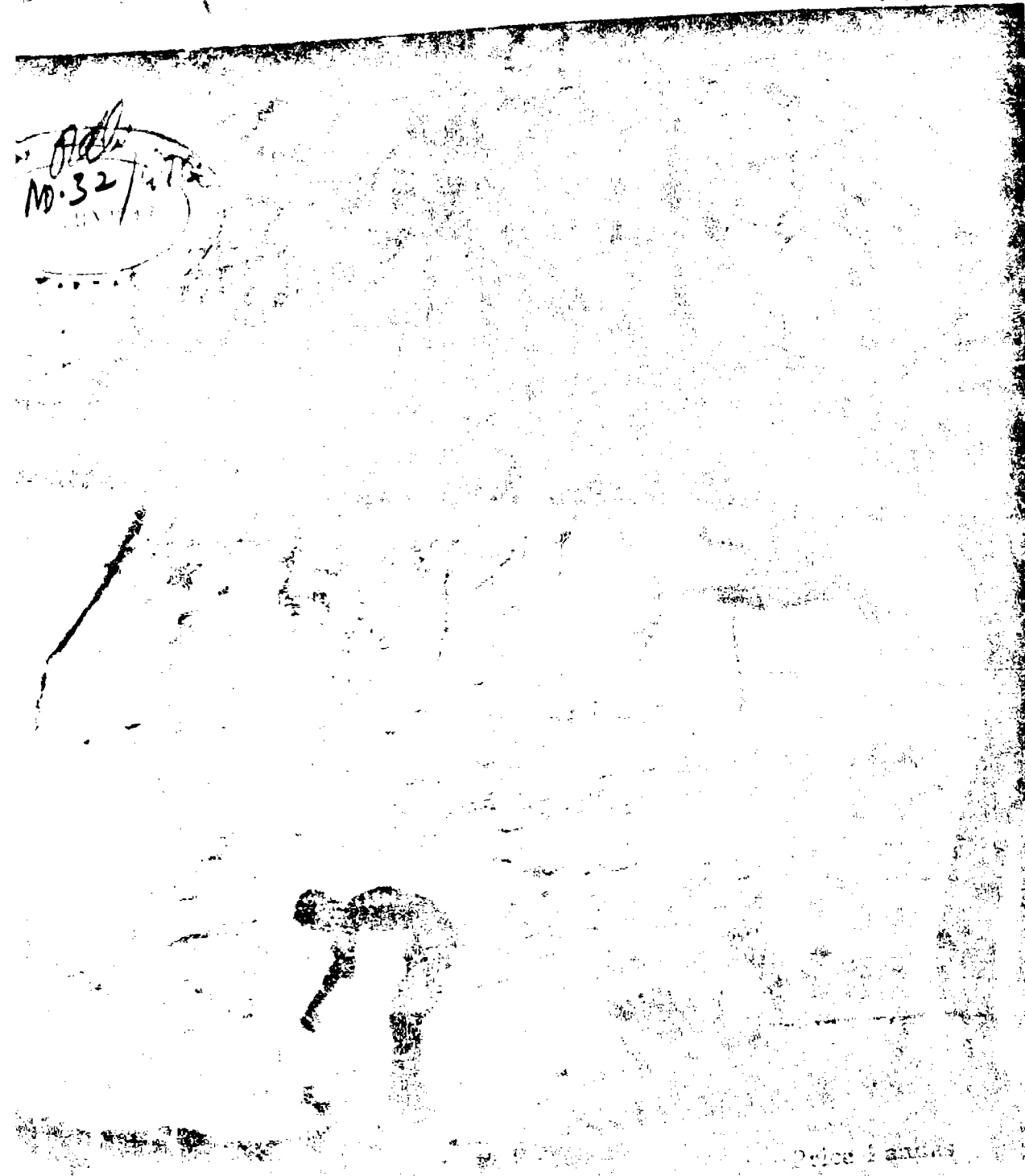
Readers are invited to send questions seeking clarification of the policy of the Government or allied matters. Answers will be published as soon as possible.



Manufacture of Charkas.

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WE SEEK TO SERVE AND NOT TO COMPETE

May 24, 1947

Readers are invited to send questions seeking clarification of the policy of the Government or allied matters. Answers will be published as soon as possible.

The object of *Madras Information* is to give a brief record of the Madras Government's activities and to educate the public opinion on the Government's policies.

However, the views expressed and the articles published in this journal do not necessarily represent the official opinion.

Anything except pictures appearing in this journal may be freely reproduced.

Editorial Notes

Food Position in Madras

All India Problem

The food position in the country is unsatisfactory; but there is no need for panic. Provided provincial procurement is kept up and the stocks of local supplies are replenished by the steady release of produce by cultivators, the situation is bound to improve and gradually change from dismal to satisfactory if not bright, and we can tide over the difficult times ahead during the next few months. This is the essence of the statements and speeches made by the Hon'ble Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Member for Food and Agriculture in the Interim Government of India, during his recent visit to Madras.

The Government of India's policy in regard to fixation of grain prices has always been clear. They regard it as an all-India question. "It is an all-India problem" said the Hon'ble Dr. Rajendra Prasad in his broadcast talk from Madras on May 14th, "which has to be handled in accordance with an all-India policy." It has an intimate

The Hon'ble member repeatedly emphasized the consideration that the Centre might not be able to come to the assistance of the Madras province as it did last year. Nor was it possible for it to agree to an increase in the price of paddy or even to the payment of bonus. Expectations about a good wheat crop in the important wheat producing provinces entertained earlier in the year has been dashed owing to an unexpected destruction of a major part of the crop by 'rust.' The rice crop had been on the whole good and Madras too had a good crop; but India taken all in all is a deficit country with regard to rice and the deficit which could have been to some extent mitigated by wheat from the surplus areas cannot be so filled in now that the wheat crop itself has been a disappointing one.

MAIN FEATURES

- (1) The Editorial
- (2) Government Press Notes
- (3) Food Situation in the Province
- (4) Dr. Rajan Babu's visit to Madras
- (5) The Premier's address at the All-India Conference of Co-operative Registrars.
- (6) Labour Situation in the Province
- (7) The Hon'ble Sri Avinashilingam Chettiar on Teachers' Grievances.
- (8) Working of the Cloth and Yarn Control Order
- (9) Government's Industrial Policy Outlined
- (10) Report on Cultivation of Pulses
- (11) Prohibition
- (12) Women's Cottage Industries Co-operative Society.

inter-connection with the general level of prices and wages in the country and if prices of foodgrains are increased, the demand for an increase in wages from those who do not produce their own food or produce it inadequately will become irresistible. The consumer section of the population may be an indeterminate section even in a country which is a reputedly agricultural country, because a vast proportion of those engaged in agriculture are those who are in the category of landless agricultural labourers or small cultivating tenants, even if we leave out those who are wage-earners in industrial and other establishments. Price increase is thus ruled out, because all-India considerations are involved in it, and because the consumers cannot be constrained to bear an insupportable burden. "The plain fact is," said the Hon'ble Member for Food, "that neither the Government of India nor the provincial Government, nor the people can afford any further increase in the price of foodgrains anywhere in the country."

Payment of bonus in order to bring out stocks hoarded or withheld may be equally impracticable because it may be an unconscionable burden on the exchequer and if bonus is paid on stocks withheld and is not paid on stocks already released, it will mean discrimination in favour of those who have not discharged an important social obligation at a time of crisis and penalising those who have discharged it. The Government of Madras have more than once expressed their view that no bonus would be paid and in this, Dr. Rajendra Prasad said, they had and have the support of the Government of India.

Depend on Internal Resources

All in all, it seems imperative, and this was repeatedly emphasized by the Food Member, that Madras has to depend mainly and principally on her own internal resources for the rest of the year and with determination face the ordeal that

Teachers' Grievances

The Hon'ble Sri T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar, in his address at the inauguration of the Craft Training organised by the Elementary School Teachers' Association, North Madras Range, informed the teachers that he realised the needs of the teachers and would do whatever was possible to better their lot. The teachers' grievances were very much before the Government's view, assured the Education Minister. But he wanted them to realise the implications of their demand for a further revision of pay. The pay revision

lies ahead. "I must tell you frankly," he pointed out, "that the position as I see it to-day, is not at all as it should be. . . . The stock of foodgrains in the provincial Government's hands is only about one-half of what it was at this time last year. The quantities so far procured are not appreciably higher, and in some parts of the province, very poor indeed. It is essential that this trend should be changed and changed immediately." At the present rate of rice procurement in the province, supplies cannot be maintained for the rationed population even on a 10 ozs. ration. The only barrier between further reduction in rations and maintenance of the present rate of ration for an already undernourished population is better and more intensive procurement and greater readiness on the part of the producers to sell their stocks.

South Indian Must Respond

Dr. Rajendra Prasad's fervent appeal in this connection bears quotation. "We are once again face to face with a crisis but without last year's moral and physical preparation to meet it. But I know that the will and determination to conquer the difficulty are still there—they are latent at present and have to be roused once again. We must realise the gravity of the situation and prepare to meet it. Let the South stand on its own legs, relieve the Centre of all anxiety and responsibility for it and set an example of self-help and self-sufficiency as it did of patience and self-sufficiency last year." South India must respond to the call of duty and should be prepared, if necessary, to make sacrifices for self-sufficiency even if self-sufficiency may mean a lower level of subsistence for all. The rationing system, which has sustained this province and country during a period of severe stress and strain on our internal resources, can be maintained in tact only if grain flows from the stocks of producers at the prices fixed by the Government.

proposals sanctioned by the Government cost the public exchequer Rs. 247 lakhs taking all the Government departments into account, and those employed in the Education Department were the beneficiaries to the extent of nearly Rs. 120 lakhs or fifty per cent by this revision of scales of pay. An extra expenditure of Rs. 60 lakhs is incurred by the local boards on pay revision of teachers employed under them which means a total of Rs. 180 lakhs of additional expenditure on education.

Teachers' Demands

The main demands of the teachers at present are equality of pay for teachers employed by various agencies in charge of education, a minimum pay of Rs. 50 and free education for teachers' children. It was pointed out by the Hon'ble Minister that the financial implication of these demands would be nothing less than Rs. 6 crores, over and above the increases provided for in the recent pay revision. That consideration, the Education Minister said, should lead to a better and more realistic appreciation by the teaching profession of the impracticability of their demands being accepted, though, as he pointed out, the

Government would consider their grievances and strive to redress them as far as possible.

It is essential to draw attention in this connection to the note of warning struck by the Minister against indiscipline in the ranks of the teachers. Teachers, who are to be the strongest protagonists of discipline themselves, without which their work would be impossible, should not appear to be doing anything which smacks of a propensity to encourage indiscipline. Threats of strike by them heard from time to time are not a very commendable method of securing redressal of grievances of which Government are already aware and towards the removal of which they are not unsympathetic.

"Grow More Food" Campaign in Madras

"The slogan should be not more money per maund, but more maunds per acre. If we succeed in achieving this object not only will the producers be benefited by the price they get for their extra produce, but the country as a whole would be benefited," said the Hon'ble Dr. Rajendra Prasad, in the course of his broadcast address in Madras, emphasizing the need for increasing production of foodgrains in the Province. It is indubitable that chronic shortage of foodgrains in the Province can be reduced and the permanent deficit therein can be covered only if there is intensified activity in pursuance of the grow more food campaign. Dr. Rajendra Prasad expressed gratification at the proposal under the consideration of the Madras Government for procuring the maximum possible supplies of manure and making it available at cheap rates to cultivators. He assured the full sympathy and active support of the Government of India to the Madras Government in any endeavour the latter may make in this direction.

Supply of Manure

In this connection it will be relevant to give a resume of the measures taken by Madras Government to increase the yield of land by the supply of manures, supply of seeds, supply of iron and steel implements and the supply of agricultural machinery. They have prohibited the exports of oil-cakes, bone and bonemeal, hoofs, horns, fishmeal and chemical fertilisers except under permits issued by the Director of Agriculture. The entire production of groundnut cakes from power driven mills and hand-presses so acquired by the Government in 1946, had been sold to ryots by the Agricultural Department through the agricultural depots. Thus the total quantity of

oil-cake distributed by the Department in 1946 was: groundnut cake, 152,389 tons; castor cakes, 2,666 tons and other categories of cakes, 163 tons. To the poor and deserving ryots, manure is distributed free to an extent of Rs. 2,000 in each district except in the Nilgiris and Vizagapatam districts, where the limit has been fixed at Rs. 4,000. A scheme had been sanctioned for the conversion of town refuse into compost and also another scheme for rural compost making from the waste vegetable matter, which is working in certain districts. The Government have made arrangements with a fertiliser firm in Travancore for the production and annual supply of 20,000 tons of ammonium sulphate, and they have also made arrangements for getting a share of the ammonium sulphate produced by the Government of India at their factory at Sindhri which is expected to commence production soon. The quantities of imported chemical fertilisers allotted by the Government of India are taken over by the Madras Government and distributed partly through the Agricultural Department and partly through the Imperial Chemical Industries, Limited.

Supply of Implements

As regards the supply of seeds a comprehensive scheme covering all the districts in the province for the multiplication and distribution of improved seeds of paddy and millets, pulses, groundnut and green manure, has been sanctioned by the Government. Quantities of improved seeds distributed from 1944-45 up to the end of 1946 are about 22,500 tons of paddy seeds, 200 tons of millets, 2,370 tons of other seeds, including green manure seeds, and about 540 tons of pulses. About 4 million acres are already under improved seeds of paddy and about 7 million acres more

are expected to be brought under the scheme. Seeds are supplied free to poor and deserving ryots up to a limit of Rs. 100 in each district.

It has been estimated that the annual requirements of iron and steel for agricultural purposes in this province are about 30,000 tons. In relation to this demand, the quota allotted by the Government of India to this province is far short of the requirements and even these small allotments are not received in time. The Madras Government have repeatedly pressed on the Government of India the need for increased and timely supplies of iron and steel implements. Arrangements are made for the supply to ryots through the Agricultural Department of agricultural machinery such as pump sets, oil and petrol engines, tractors and tractor implements. A number of pump sets are also maintained by the Department and are hired to the ryots on a subsidy basis.

It will thus be seen that the Madras Government have been doing something substantial to assist the ryots to secure cheap manure and agricultural machinery and seeds, and that the gratification expressed by the Food Member of the Government of India at their efforts to augment production of foodgrains is justified. It is nevertheless possible that what they have been doing in this regard may have to be increased both qualitatively and quantitatively. Reference may be made here to the schemes sanctioned for the free supply of manures on a large scale in two taluks of Malabar and one taluk in South Kanara districts during April to June 1946, resulting in an increased production of 33,500 tons of paddy and 73,350 tons of straw, which indicates that food production does respond readily to Governmental assistance.

Other Schemes

There are various other schemes under the 'Grow-More-Food' campaign which the Madras Government are undertaking such as, for example,

Madras Government Press Notes

Development

B. and C. Mills Strike

Certain statements have appeared in the Press that the Government have rejected the terms suggested on behalf of the Madras Labour Union for the settlement of the strike in the B. and C. Mills. These statements do not represent the position correctly. The facts are that after the Government had informed the representatives of the

the well-sinking scheme of which there have been three in number, the scheme for increasing the production of protective foods like vegetables, the state trading scheme under which a permanent advance of Rs. 170 lakhs has been placed at the disposal of the Director of Agriculture for the purchase and sale of manures, seeds and iron and steel. The last mentioned scheme is financed from the free loan of Rs. 85 lakhs given by the Government of India up to the end of February 1947 towards half the permanent advance of Rs. 170 lakhs sanctioned to the Director of Agriculture. The Government of India have been giving a 50 per cent grant for the Grow-More-Food schemes and the additional staff employed therefor. Under the Five-Year Plan for expansion of food production the Government of India have programmed to produce an additional annual 3 million tons of foodgrains in British India during the period 1947-48 and 1951-52. In this target of increased production the share of Madras has been fixed at 6.5 lakhs tons of rice. This ultimate target of 6.5 lakhs is proposed to be attained by sinking 6,250 wells, by encouraging the digging of new private tanks in Malabar and other districts, by providing an increased number of private pumping sets, by the construction of 240 Public Works Department minor irrigation projects, by increasing the area manured with sulphate of ammonia, by increasing the manure supplies by phosphates and oil cakes, by the multiplication and distribution of improved seeds, by cultivation through mechanical means and by securing increased yield through contour-ridging and levelling of about 5,000 acres of land. The estimated cost of the Five-Year scheme so far as it relates to the Agricultural Department is 8 crores and 89 lakhs of rupees. The Chief Engineer for Irrigation has drawn up a five-year plan consisting of 298 schemes of irrigation estimated to cost Rs. 5 crores, and which are expected to bring in an additional area of 250,000 acres under cultivation.

Union that they would be prepared to release Mr. Anthony Pillai if the strike was called off and the workers agreed to recognise the Court of Enquiry, Sri Suryaprakasa Rao and Sri Kalyanasundaram Mudaliar desired to discuss the Government's proposals with Mr. Anthony Pillai and were given necessary facilities to do so. Thereafter Sri Suryaprakasa Rao informed the Government

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MADRAS INFORMATION

that the following terms should be conceded before the strike was called off:—

(1) There should be a change in the personnel of the Court of Enquiry.

(2) While the quantum of bonus can be left to the Court of Enquiry to decide, an interim bonus should be determined and announced by the Government or by any other third party.

(3) Dearness allowance at 4 annas a point must be agreed to.

(4) The 52 workers dismissed in 1942 should be reinstated.

(5) Pending prosecutions should be withdrawn and arrested workers released.

(6) The question of payment for the strike period should be decided.

(7) There should be no victimization of workers for the strike.

The Government pointed out that once a Court of Enquiry was constituted, it was for the Court to decide on all the points in dispute and that it would not be fair or proper for the Government or anyone else to examine isolated issues and prejudge the decision of the Court. Sri Suryaprakasa Rao promised to convey this to the workers but reported later that the terms suggested by him were unalterable.

The Government have always been anxious to effect a settlement. Their offer to intervene was not accepted by Mr. Anthony Pillai and they had therefore to leave the matter for direct negotiations as desired by the labour leaders or for decision by a Court of Enquiry. As direct negotiations between the parties failed, there is no alternative to the Court of Enquiry. And as a Court of Enquiry has been constituted, the strike has become illegal under clause (iii) of Order No. LR 16 (10), dated 19th December 1945, issued by the Central Government under rule 81-A of the Defence of India Rules read with section 2 of the Emergency Provisions (Continuance) Ordinance, 1946.

[30th April]

Housing Schemes

Shortage of housing accommodation in Madras City as well as in mufassals has become, as the public are aware, a serious problem, and Government have been devoting special attention to finding out ways and means for easing the situation in this regard. A scheme of building expansion has been planned and details are being worked out.

In this connection, the Hon'ble Minister Mr. Daniel Thomas met the Directors of the Coimbatore Co-operative House Mortgage Bank in the course of his recent tour in the district and discussed with them the question of expanding housing accommodation. Incidentally, the bank is having in hand a big scheme of house construction to relieve congestion. Already preparations for 49 houses are under way on an extent of 5 acres. In the course of the discussion, the Hon'ble Minister suggested that a more ambitious scheme might be taken up and an extent of not less than 100 acres in the neighbourhood might be acquired to expand building activities. The Directors were agreeable to this suggestion subject to certain conditions. The matter is being pursued further. In this connection the Hon'ble Minister inspected a site of 400 acres near Podanur. A Co-operative Township is envisaged and necessary steps to this end are being taken.

[1st May]

Dispute in India Ceramics, Limited

There was a trade dispute between the workers and management of the India Ceramics, Limited, Nellore. As the parties to the dispute were unable to arrive at an amicable settlement, the Government referred the dispute to the District and Sessions Judge, Nellore, for adjudication. After enquiry the adjudicator had made the following recommendations:—

(1) The employers have agreed to disburse wages regularly on every Saturday, to provide for the supply of drinking water and to provide for rest-houses and canteen as laid down by law.

(2) Payment of wages to the workers for Sundays does not arise as the law does not provide for payment of wages for Sundays to daily wage earners.

(3) The existing leave facilities are adequate in the case of workers paid by the week. In the case of workers paid by the month casual leave on half pay for twelve days in the year may be granted in addition to the compensatory holidays and local holidays.

(4) The question of instituting provident fund can be considered only after the company is established on a firm basis.

(5) The company should frame standing orders by 15th April 1947 and prescribe a period of six months as the period of probation for all workers paid by the week as well as by the month.

(6) Daily wage workers need not be paid anything for the period of closure of the factory from 14th December 1946 to 2nd January 1947 but the monthly paid workers should be paid wages for the entire period of 18 days.

(7) The scale of pay for the monthly paid staff should be Rs. 45—1—60 for supervisors, Rs. 25—1—35 for watchmen, Rs. 30—1—55 for lorry drivers and Rs. 15— $\frac{1}{2}$ (annual)—25 lorry cleaners. Unskilled daily wage male cooly should be paid twelve annas and unskilled daily wage female cooly should be paid nine annas. In the case of skilled daily wage workers, the wage should be Rs. 1—8—0 for drivers, blacksmiths, carpenters, masons, and firemen, twelve annas for fitters. The wages for moulders, castors, and glazors should be fifteen annas for class I men, twelve annas for class II and class I boys, eight annas for class II boys and six annas for class II girls. No dearness allowance need be paid.

(8) The discharged workers referred to have no claim to be re-employed by the India Ceramics, Limited.

The Government agree with the recommendations of the adjudicator and accept his award in full. [2nd May]

Opening of Rural Dispensaries

In pursuance of the policy of the Government to encourage the development of Indian medicine,

Food and Clothing

Hulling of Producers' Paddy

According to a Food Department notification, the Collector, for the time being of each district in the Province, is authorized to issue directions to the owner or person in charge of each of the rice mills situated within the district with regard to—

(1) the quantity of paddy belonging to the producers and to the procuring agencies appointed by him which the mill should hull;

(2) the rates at which he should charge for the hulling of different varieties of paddy;

(3) the period within which such paddy should be hulled and the rice delivered;

(4) the specification of the quantity of rice so delivered and the sharing of the by-products arising from the milling of such paddy.

The owner or person in charge of the mill shall comply with all such directions.

[16th April]

they have approved the proposals of the Presidents of the District Boards of Nellore, Ramnad, Guntur, South Arcot and Malabar to open rural dispensaries of Indian medicine (16 in all) subsidized by Government, in their respective districts.

The Government have accorded sanction to the payment of subsidies to the 16 rural medical practitioners to be employed in the dispensaries. The Government have also approved the proposal of the District Boards of Guntur and South Arcot for the employment of a midwife in each of the dispensaries at Mandadam and Tsodayapalem in Guntur district and a midwife in the dispensary at Puduchatram of South Arcot district and to the payment of subsidy to them from provincial funds.

[5th May]

Concession to Agriculturists

The Madras Government have directed, in the interests of growing more food, that loans granted for the purchase of agricultural machinery should be free of interest for the first year and that repayment may start after three years. They have also directed that only persons who can obtain delivery of the machinery on a fairly certain date and who know clearly the price and their liability in the matter will be given loans with this concession, which will be available till 31st March 1950.

[10th May]

Milling of Paddy

In supersession of the notification, dated 24th August 1945, issued by the Commissioner of Civil Supplies, Madras, the Government have directed that no owner or other person in charge of a mill in any area of this Province in which rationing is enforced by statutory orders, shall mill paddy brought to it for milling, except on production of permits or authorization issued by the Tahsildar, Rationing Officer or Grain Purchase Officer in the case of landholders and authorized wholesalers, or ration cards in the case of other cardholders.

The Government have further directed that the owner or other person in charge of a mill shall maintain accounts in which entries should be made regarding the number of the permit or ration card or authorization or licence, and the name and address of persons who bring paddy, the quantity of paddy brought for hulling and the quantity of resultant rice. These accounts shall be open to inspection by the officers concerned.

[30th April]

Rice Ration in Malabar

With a view to bring Malabar district on a par with the other districts in regard to the scale of rations, the Government issued orders directing the increase of rice ration from 10 oz. to 12 oz. with effect from the 4th May 1947. Even then the stock position in the district was such that the increase was not warranted, at least for some time. The Government hoped that imports from other provinces and states and also from overseas as well as procurement and movement of quotas from the northern surplus districts which are the main sources of supply to Malabar would enable the maintenance of the ration at 12 oz. They however felt it necessary to warn the public that if these supplies were not received in adequate quantities it would be necessary to reduce the ration again to 10 oz. or even lower, and they issued a press note, dated 21st April 1947 to that effect.

The present position is that to maintain a 12 oz. scale of ration, the Malabar district will require an average import of about 30,000 tons of rice per month. Against this requirement there was a stock of 29,500 tons on 30th of April 1947. On that date, against an allotment of 19,823 tons from the northern surplus districts, as much as 10,923 tons remained to be moved to the district. At the request of this Government, the Government of India have allotted a quota of 6,000 tons of broken rice from Sind to Malabar and of 2,000 tons of imported rice from overseas for the month of May. 1,600 tons of rice are still due to be received in the district from Coorg. Unless it is absolutely certain that these stocks as well as the allotments for May reach the district before the end of May, it would not be possible to continue the ration at the rate of 12 oz., sanctioned with effect from 4th May 1947. Due however to unsatisfactory procurement in the Circars and the uncertainty of supplies from overseas and the delay that is likely to occur in the receipt of rice from Sind and Coorg, it is utterly unsafe to count on the stocks reaching the district in time. The district stock of 29,800 tons represents only requirements of about 26 days and is held by 106 producers cum consumers co-operative societies spread all over the district and the stocks available in each area vary. It is not possible to even out stock held by the societies. No appreciable quantity can be expected from local procurement as a major portion of the last crop has already been procured and what remains to be procured will not make any material difference to the stocks in the district. The Government cannot take the

Food Control Prosecutions

There were about 177 prosecutions launched in the various magisterial courts of the province in respect of offences against the Foodgrains Control Orders and Rationing Regulations, during the fortnight ending April 15, 1947. About 123 cases have resulted in convictions and sentences, which have generally been deterrent.

Other cases of infringement of the Foodgrains Control Orders and Rationing Regulations are sub-judice and the results are awaited.

[2nd May]

Cut in Firewood Ration Continued

In a Press Note, dated the 16th April 1947 the Government announced a 25 per cent cut in the firewood ration in the city of Madras for a period of one month commencing from the third quarter of April 1947. As the supply of firewood in the city has not shown any appreciable improvement, the Government have decided to continue the cut for another month commencing from the third quarter of May 1947.

[2nd May]

Manure Dealers' Licensing Order

In supersession of the Madras Manure Dealers' Licensing Order, 1943, the Government have issued the Madras Manure Dealers' Licensing Order, 1947, under the Madras Essential Articles Control and Requisitioning (Temporary Powers) Act, 1946.

According to this Order, no person shall, on and after 29th April 1947, carry on business as a dealer in manures in the province of Madras, except under and in accordance with a licence issued in that behalf by a licensing authority.

The Government have prescribed that applications for licences under the Madras Manure Dealers' Licensing Order, 1947, should be made to the licensing authority in the prescribed form giving particulars regarding the applicants name and address, place of business, duration of trade in manure and quantities of manure handled during 1945 and 1946, and at present in possession, and places where they are stocked.

[5th May]

risk of using up the existing stocks when replenishment in time is full of uncertainties specially as the monsoon is approaching. In the circumstances the Government have regretfully decided to put back the rice ration to 10 oz., with effect from 11th May 1947. They will however very carefully watch the situation and take all possible steps to intensify procurement and speed up movements to the district and they will take the earliest opportunity to raise the rice ration to 12 oz., in this district, if circumstances permit.

[8th May]

Delivery of Surplus Grains

In a Press Note, dated 10th April 1947, the Government announced their decision to give the option to the producers to deliver their surplus grain in the shape of rice. Since then numerous representations have been received that the pro-

Miscellaneous

Appointment of Honorary Medical Officers

In a Government Order, dated 15th March 1947, the Government laid down that roughly 66-2/3 per cent of all reserved vacancies of appointments of honorary Medical Officers in Government Medical Institutions should be allotted to candidates with war service and the remaining 33-1/3 per cent of vacancies may go to members of the public. It has now been decided that all honorary appointments should be filled up in accordance with the provisions of this Government Order.

Government have asked the Surgeon-General to advertise all the reserved vacancies including posts which are held by honorary medical officers who have rendered service for a period of five years or more and they will be filled in the proportions mentioned above. War service candidates will be eligible to apply for the vacancies allotted to members of the public though they may not be given any special preference therein by reason of the war service alone. The duration of the appointment of each selected candidate has been tentatively fixed at one year.

[16th April]

Reinstated in Service

The Government have reinstated Sri S. Anantapadmanabha Bhatt, who was dismissed from

ducers are taking advantage of the concession to delay or evade procurement with the result that procurement operations are impeded. As the food situation in the deficit districts is becoming grave and as rice has to be rushed to these districts from the surplus districts without any delay, the Government are reluctantly put to the necessity of temporarily withdrawing the concession with immediate effect in the surplus districts of East Godavari, West Godavari, Kistna, Guntur, Nellore and Tanjore. This is, however, a temporary measure and the concession will be restored as soon as the food position in the deficit districts improves. As regards other districts, the Government have issued instructions to the effect that the producers who desire to deliver their surplus in the shape of rice should be allowed only 15 days time after the service of the demand notice for getting their paddy milled and delivered to the procuring agents.

[9th May]

service for participation in the Civil Disobedience movement, as Patel of Bairampalli village, Udipi taluk, South Kanara District.

[30th April]

Honorary Director of Homeopathy

The Government have appointed Dr. T. Janakiram, M.B., CH. B. (Edin.), as Honorary Director of Homeopathy for a period of three months from the date of taking charge for submitting to Government detailed proposals on the recommendations of the Board of Studies for Homeopathy constituted in 1946 and other matters connected with the recognition and development of Homeopathy.

[30th April]

District Board Membership

The Government had fixed the 1st May 1947 as the date for the coming into office of the members newly elected to 23 District Boards. As the elections to these District Boards have not yet been held, the Government have directed that the members newly elected to these District Boards at the next ordinary elections shall come into office on the noon on the 1st day of August 1947.

[30th April]

Donations for Government Hospital

The following gifts and donations have been offered by the gentlemen mentioned below, for the benefit of patients in the Government Hospital, Periakulam :—

- (1) Janab S. A. Rahim Sahib and Brother—A frigidaire costing about Rs. 1,500.
- (2) Sri B. V. Ramachandran—Four fluorescent shadowless mercury tube lights.
- (3) Sri C. Soundiah, Advocate—A mercury lamp.
- (4) Sri Kulandaivelu Pillai—A mercury lamp.

The Periakulam Municipal Council also has offered to make a gift of a Radio for the Hospital. The Government have gratefully accepted the offer.

[1st May]

Unqualified Medical Practitioners

Instances have been brought to the notice of Government where unqualified persons practising Medicine use bogus titles and commit other breaches of the provisions of the Indian Medical Degrees Act, 1916, as amended by the Indian Medical Degrees (Madras Amendment) Act, 1940. As it is possible that some of these cases may be due to ignorance of the Law and of the Rules on the subject, the Government desire to give due publicity to the relevant provisions, while emphasizing the obvious fact that ignorance of law is no excuse.

Under section 13 of the Madras Medical Registration Act, 1914, only those practitioners are entitled to registration who hold the qualifications prescribed in the schedule to the said Act. Under section 6 of the Indian Medical Degrees Act, 1916, and section 6-A added by the Madras Amendment Act No. XX of 1940, no person shall add to his name any title, description, letters or abbreviations which imply that he holds a degree, diploma, licence or certificate as his qualification to practise any system of medicine unless he actually holds such degree, diploma, licence or certificate recognized by law, or conferred, granted or issued by competent authority as defined in section 3 of the Indian Medical Degrees Act No. VII of 1916 and the schedule, thereunder. Contravention of any of the provisions of section 6 or 6-A entails, in the case of a first conviction, a punishment which may extend to Rs. 250 and in the case of subsequent conviction to fine which may extend to Rs. 500.

Under the instructions issued by the Madras Medical Council for Registered Practitioners, the employment by any Registered Medical Practitioner of an Assistant who is not duly qualified, and the countenancing or assisting of treatment by such unqualified person, are considered discreditable practices which will entail erasure of the practitioner's name from the Medical Register.

[3rd May]

Grant for Relief

Government have sanctioned the expenditure of a sum of Rs. 1,435 for the relief of distress caused by fire which occurred on 2nd March 1947 in Somapura agharam in Srungavarapukotta taluk in Vizagapatam district.

[3rd May]

Appointment of Assistant Public Prosecutors

It has been ordered that, with regard to the appointment of Assistant Crown Prosecutors in the Madras City and of the Assistant Public Prosecutors in the districts, the appointing authority should be the Government and not the Commissioner of Police and the District Magistrates respectively as has been the case till now. Appointments will be made by the Government on the recommendation of the Chief Presidency Magistrate, Madras, in the case of Assistant Crown Prosecutors and of the District Magistrates concerned in the case of Assistant Public Prosecutors.

The Government will hereafter be the authority competent to impose on Assistant Crown Prosecutors and Assistant Public Prosecutors, the penalties of compulsory retirement, removal and dismissal from service and other penalties referred to under rule 8 of the Civil Service Rules being imposed by the Chief Presidency Magistrate in the case of Assistant Crown Prosecutors and the District Magistrates concerned in the case of Assistant Public Prosecutors. An appeal will be made to the Government against any order of punishment passed by the Chief Presidency Magistrate or the District Magistrate, and His Excellency the Governor will exercise the individual judgment against such an order passed by the Government. The Chief Presidency Magistrate and the District Magistrates will have the power to grant leave other than special disability leave, to Assistant Crown Prosecutors and to Assistant Public Prosecutors respectively.

[10th May]

not be appointed owing to non-availability of suitable hands. The lower ranks of the prohibition staff—especially constables, need strengthening, and this also presents difficulty for want of suitable recruits. Government are nevertheless actively tackling this matter.

It has been suggested in the Committee that drunkenness should be made an offence under the Prohibition Act. The suggestion received more or less unanimous support although there may be practical difficulties in proving drunkenness in a Court of Law. The Committee was also of opinion that extra penalty should be imposed under Prohibition Act for second offences. It was also suggested that a portion of the fines imposed upon Prohibition offenders should be made available for distribution as rewards for informants. The question of further continuing the sale of opium and ganja, as well as the possibility of curtailing the quota per head needs examination and this is being done.

On the ameliorative side provision for those who have been thrown out of work consequent upon prohibition is receiving special attention. Seventy-four Co-operative Societies for the manufacture of palmyra jaggery have been organised so far in the district. They are awaiting to get

into their stride after the appointment of Senior Inspectors who will be chiefly responsible for the working of these societies. These Inspectors will also organise cottage industries like coir making, cattle breeding, poultry farming, etc., among ex-toddy tappers. Tapping of coconut sweet juice for the manufacture of coconut jaggery might, it was suggested, absorb a few of the unemployed but the apprehension was expressed that this would lead to abuses. It has however been decided to allow the tapping of coconut sweet juice in Erode taluk in the first instance and confine it to members of the jaggery co-operative societies.

Encouragement of indigenous sports is an important aspect of the social side of prohibition. Attention is being paid to this aspect. The Hon'ble Minister attended a Firka Tournament attended by nearly 5,000 people. Rural games and folk dances with a rural Exhibition in between formed the main features of this tournament. Silver shields, trophies and prizes evidenced local enthusiasm. Hundi boxes were distributed on the occasion in furtherance of the thrift campaign. At Perumanallur the Hon'ble Minister laid the foundation stone for a Radio House donated by a local gentleman. [1st May]

Food Situation in the Province

Report for the first fortnight of April

Season and Crops

During the fortnight rainfall occurred mostly in the Southern and West Coast districts of the Province. It was heaviest in the Madura district and fairly heavy in the districts of Ramnad, Tinnevely and Malabar. The heavy rains were reported to be slightly harmful to the standing crops.

Water supply for agricultural purposes was adequate in all the districts.

The level of water in the Mettur Reservoir was 109.50 feet on 15th April 1947 as against 12.55 feet on 15th April 1946.

Sowing or transplantation of paddy was proceeding in the districts of Cuddapah, Nellore, Chingleput, South Arcot, Chittoor, Coimbatore, Trichinopoly, Tanjore, Madura, Ramnad, Malabar and South Kanara, and of dry crops in the districts of Cuddapah, Chittoor, Coimbatore, Salem, Trichinopoly and Ramnad. The condition of the standing crops was fair except in parts of Guntur, Kurnool, Chittoor and Ramnad districts.

Harvests of paddy was proceeding in the districts of Nellore, Chingleput, South Arcot, Chittoor, Salem, Trichinopoly, Tanjore, Madura, Ramnad, Tinnevely, South Kanara and the Nilgiris, and of dry crops in the districts of Vizagapatam, Bellary, Cuddapah, Nellore, Chittoor, Madura, Salem and the Nilgiris.

Prices

There was no perceptible change in the prices of rice and other cereals.

As regards pulses the only noticeable features were an increase of 2.4 per cent in the price of redgram dhall and a fall of 1.1 per cent in the price of Bengalgram.

The price of chillies showed a fall of 2.2 per cent, that of salt, a fall of 7.5 per cent, and that of firewood, an increase of 2.9 per cent.

The position regarding the prices of oils, oil seeds, oil cakes, etc., was as follows:—

No change—

Copra and coconut oil.

	PER CENT.
<i>Rise—</i>	
Groundnut (shelled)	2.8
Gingelly oil	6.8
Groundnut oil	1.7
Gingelly oil cake	2.8
Groundnut oil cake	5.8
Cotton seed	1.5
<i>Fall—</i>	
Gingelly seed	0.7

Procurement

The following statements show the quantities of paddy, rice and millets locally procured and the quantities of cereals and pulses received from sources outside the Province:—

(a) *Local procurement during the fortnight ending 31st March 1947—*

Paddy—82,657 tons.	} Together equivalent to 1,10,681 tons in terms of rice.
Rice—54,121 tons ..	
Millets—4,035 tons.	

(b) *Receipts from other Provinces and States during the fortnight ending the 15th April 1947.—*

Rice	3,539 tons.
Millets	Nil.
Wheat	19 tons (from Hyderabad).
Wheat products ..	Nil.
Pulses—	
Blackgram ..	500 tons.
Redgram ..	Nil.
Greengram ..	209 tons.
Bengalgram ..	410 tons.
	1,119 tons.

(c) *Imports from overseas during the fortnight ending 15th April 1947—*

Rice	4,870 tons (ex-S.S. Ismailia).
Millets	} Nil.
Wheat	
Wheat products ..	

Stock and Supply

Rice.—The stock of rice in the Province was 276,044 tons on 10th April 1947 as against 290,045 tons on 27th March 1947.

Despite strenuous efforts made by the Government it has not yet become possible to build up stocks adequate for the enhancement of the rice ration to 12 ozs. in the districts of Malabar, the Nilgiris and Salem. In respect of Malabar, however, arrangements are being made for introducing the enhancement of the ration from 4th May 1947.

In some of the other districts in which the ration has already been raised to 12 ozs. its maintenance at that level has been constantly beset with difficulties owing to unsteady imports from the surplus areas. During the fortnight under report the stock position in the districts of Salem, North Arcot and Chittoor became low owing to the non-receipt in time of the allotted quotas which were mostly due from the Circars. In the case of Salem and North Arcot emergency supplies were arranged from the districts of Tanjore, Trichinopoly, South Arcot and Chingleput which had stocks to spare. In the case of Chittoor, instructions were issued to the Supply Officers of the supplying areas concerned to expedite the movement of the quotas to that district.

Millets.—The stock of millets increased from 16,328 tons on 27th March to 21,349 tons on 17th April, mainly due to arrival of the 5,000 tons of American milo on the 'Deepavu Victory'. Millets procurement continues to be much less efficient than last year. The off-take of millets in March was about 8,350 tons.

Maize.—Maize stocks decreased during the fortnight from 7,813 tons to 6,277 tons against an off-take of about 2,780 tons in March.

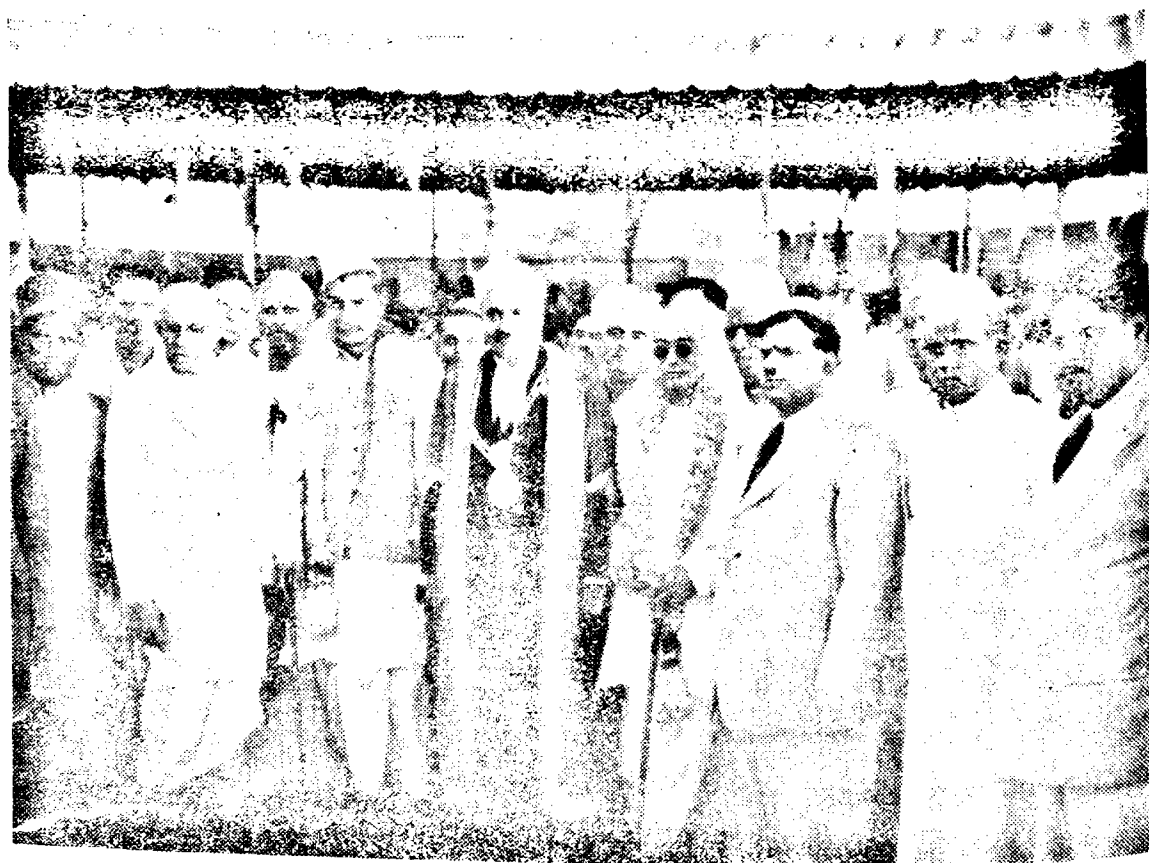
Barley.—Stock of barley has decreased from 1,644 tons to 1,236 tons. The off-take during the month of March was about 270 tons which is more than double the off-take in February.

Wheat.—Stocks of wheat have fallen from 5,898 tons to 4,953 tons. The off-take in March approximated to 2,170 tons. It is, therefore, anticipated that stocks will last until the end of June. Against the quota of 100 tons of sambe wheat from Hyderabad 74 tons have been received.

Wheat products.—Stocks have fallen from 3,178 tons to 2,745 tons. The off-take during March approximated to 1,028 tons. As in the case of maize and barley no imports of wheat products are expected.

Pulses.—Large imports of Bengalgram and a lesser quantity of greengram continued to arrive from Karachi. S.S. *Palamcottah* carrying 4,000 tons of Bengal gram and 1,000 tons of greengram arrived in Madras on 9th April. The S.S. *Jayabrahma* discharged 1,080 tons of gram flour at Cochin on the 8th and is proceeding to Madras to discharge a further 1,130 tons of bengalgram and greengram. The S.S. *Ghazana* arrived at Madras on the 13th with 1,600 tons of bengalgram and flour. The rationing of pulses was introduced into Madras city on 7th April. The stock position of pulses is generally satisfactory.

(Continued on page 16)



Civic Reception at the Corporation Stadium to Dr. Rajendra Prasad and Dr. Rajagopalachari

Dr. Rajan Babu's visit to Madras

Food Position discussed with Ministers

The Hon. Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Member for Food, Government of India, discussed the various aspects of the Grow More Food campaign in this province with the Hon. the Premier and Ministers of the Madras Government and the concerned departmental heads, at the Legislative Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at 9-30 a.m. on the 12th of May.

Dr. Rajendra Prasad initiated the discussion by emphasising the point that India should in future as well as in the present rely mainly on her own internal production in the matter of food. Imports were very difficult to get for two reasons. Firstly, foodgrains are not available abroad. Secondly, there was the question of financing the purchases. Hence they had to rely

thoroughly upon their own resources. Realizing this, the Government of India have decided to give blockgrants to the provinces to increase their food production. He wanted to know what progress Madras Province had made in the matter of increasing food production, with particular reference to the last two years.

On behalf of the Madras Government, it was pointed out that Madras was perhaps the first province in India to launch a vigorous Grow More Food campaign at the beginning of 1942. Progress was satisfactory till 1945, more especially in 1944-45. But owing to cyclones, drought and unseasonal rains in 1945-46, though vigorous attempts were made to push through various schemes, the net result was not appreciable.

As for the future, it was stated that there were two serious weak links in the chain of agricultural production in this province. First is the problem of manure. The natural fertility of the soil down here has been exhausted by intensive cultivation and so the need for manuring is much greater in South India than perhaps in other parts of India. The main source of manure in Madras Province is groundnut cake supplemented by a meagre supply of ammonium sulphate. What with short imports and insignificant internal production, the actual amount of ammonium sulphate coming into this province is very very small. This fact accentuates the importance of conserving whatever groundnut is available in this province for local use. However, as things stand to-day, in the absence of any restriction on the inter-provincial movement of groundnut cake and kernel, out of the total production of about 10 to 12 lakhs tons of groundnuts per annum, about 60 per cent are exported from this province. So much so, the needs of the ryots here are not adequately met. To provide sufficient manure, say at the rate of four bags per acre, the province requires 4 lakhs tons of groundnut cake to produce which 10 lakhs tons of seeds is required. This means that the whole production of the province requires to be conserved for internal use. If this is not possible at least two bags of groundnut cake per acre should be distributed to the ryot and at this rate we require 5 lakhs tons of groundnuts. In addition to the need for manure, there is the need for fodder, etc. Adding up all that, this province requires immediately at least 8 lakhs tons of groundnuts. In short, what Madras wants is that the Central Government should devise means for enabling the Madras Government to keep 8 lakhs tons of groundnuts within the province itself.

The second problem is that of water. This is a two-fold problem. On the one hand, certain areas had too much of water and the land is waterlogged. So water has to be drained away from these areas. On the other hand, certain other areas have only too little of water and water has to be provided in these areas. Thus drainage and irrigation facilities are equally important. During the next year, the Madras Government have earmarked more than two Crores of rupees to be spent on the various Grow-more-food schemes. The Madras Government wanted in this connection that the Central Government should liberalize the terms under which aid and subvention are given to the Provincial Governments.

On behalf of the Government of India, it was pointed out that in the matter of production of food, whatever be the amount of subsidy that the Provincial Government give to the ryots, an equal amount will be given by the Central Government.

(The Conference, was adjourned at this stage, to meet the next day.)

When the discussion was resumed the next morning, the Hon'ble Member for Food referred to the food position in the country with special reference to the position in Madras.

He stated that till a few weeks back, the expectation was that the wheat and rice crops in the country were normal. But in the course of the last few weeks very serious damage has been sustained by the wheat crop owing to rust. The estimated loss may be about 1½ to 2 million tons, and hence though the rice crop is more or less normal, the overall picture regarding the food position remains the same as last year. The only difference is that the areas affected this year are different from those affected last year. The only provinces that have any surplus at all are Punjab,

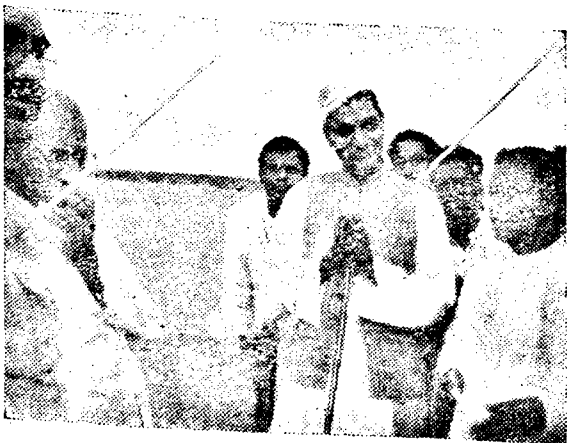


Dr. Rajendra Prasad and Madras Ministers at Poondi



Sind and Orissa, but the surplus is not considerable. As for imports, the actual position is not known yet. For the first half of this year 400,000 tons of rice was promised. But, so far, only 180,000 tons have been received. May be, by the end of June, India will get another 100,000 tons. Even then there is a disparity of 120,000 tons between what has been promised and what has been received. The maximum we may expect for the second half of the year will not be more than 200,000 tons of rice. There is a similar disparity between the wheat imports promised and the wheat actually received. In view of all this, this year, Madras may not get any further substantial allotments from the Central Government. If the procurement scheme in Madras succeeds there should not be the necessity for any large additional allotment.

The Hon'ble Member said that the crux of the food problem in Madras this year is what should be done to make procurement a success.



Another happy snap at Poondi

On behalf of the Madras Government, it was pointed out that the price paid to the cultivator should be raised a little, or alternatively a bonus should be given to the cultivator. It was also pointed out that except in Orissa, the price of rice in other provinces was slightly higher than that in Madras.

Referring to the question of increasing the prices, Dr. Rajendra Prasad said it was not quite feasible at the moment. For one thing, if Madras is allowed to raise the price every other province may demand a similar increase. Secondly, if the cultivator is to be paid more, the money has to come either from the consumer or from the Government or from both, and the total amount involved will be about Rs. 7½ crores. The Central Government may not be prepared to grant such

large subsidies. If, on the other hand, the consumer was to bear the burden, then one should remember that the consumers are much more numerous than the producers and include a large number of people in the villages who are agricultural labourers or who are themselves producers.

The Narasaraopet Co-operative Stores and the Mahasivarathri Festival

"Kotappakonda" which is at a distance of about eight miles south of Narasaraopet town in the Guntur district is very famous for its historical hill shrine of Lord Shiva. Mahasivarathri festival is celebrated every year at this hill and it is largely attended by pilgrims from all over the district and from the districts of Nellore, Kistna, East Godavari, West Godavari, Cuddapah, Kurnool, Anantapur and Bellary. To cope with the work connected with the supply of rations to these pilgrims special arrangements are being made every year and for this purpose some temporary ration shops are also opened.

During the last Mahasivarathri festival, the Narasaraopet Co-operative stores volunteered to take up the management of the special ration shops. The President of the stores with the assistance of a Senior Inspector of Co-operative Societies made timely arrangements for opening five ration depots at places suggested by the Rationing Officer. All the five depots were kept open both day and night on all the festival days. An employee of the stores was specially deputed to supervise the working of the depots and to see that all the pilgrims were served properly by the depot managers. The President himself took a keen interest in the matter and personally supervised the work of the depots on the most busy days of the festival. The five depots catered to the needs of 3,776 ration cards involving 32,665 persons and distributed 237 bags of rice.

(Continued from page 13)

Rationing

During the fortnight under report instructions were given to the Rationing Officers at Hill stations in the province to the effect that visitors from outside the province may be given rice against their ration if the stocks of wheat and wheat products are not adequate for the purpose.

Miscellaneous Commodities

Firewood was reported to be inadequate in parts of Coimbatore, Guntur, and Ramnad districts. There was a steady decline in the stock of firewood in Madras city. Scarcity of matches was reported from the districts of Nellore, Vizagapatam, the Nilgiris, Cuddapah, Malabar and Chingleput.

A New Social and Economic Order Through Co-operation

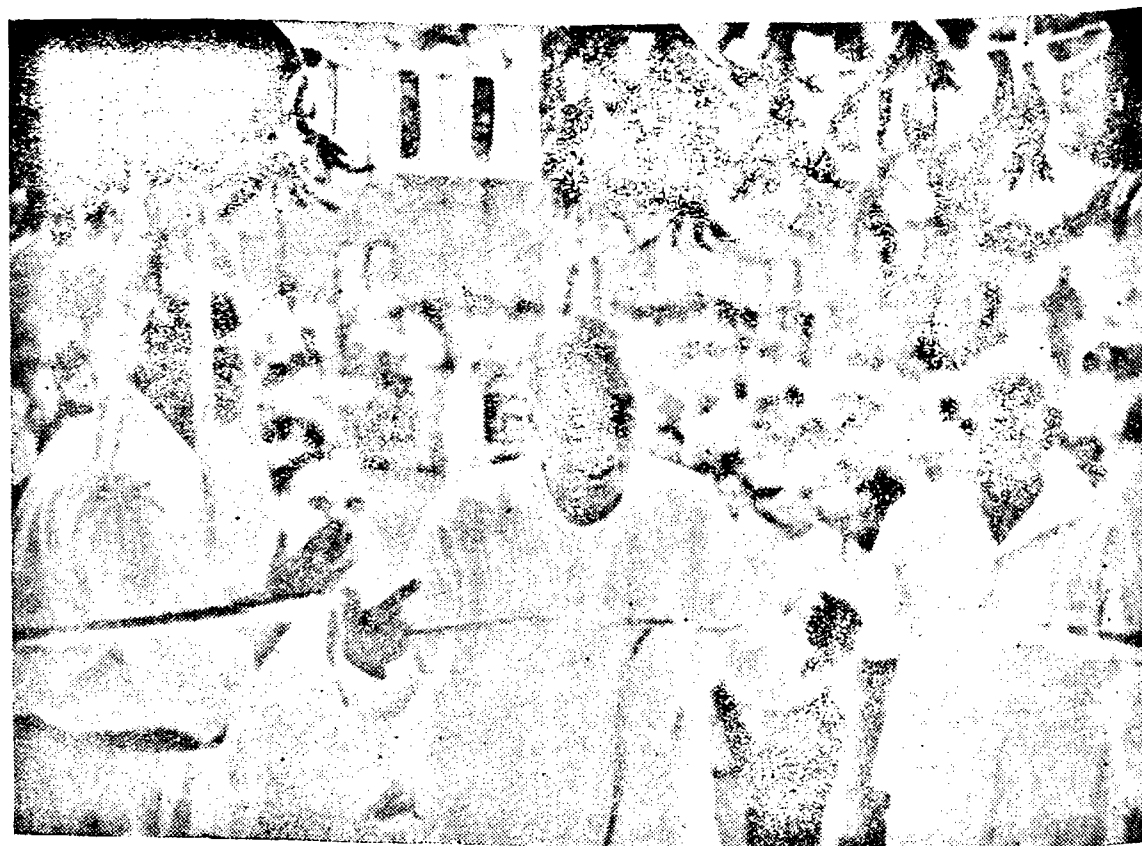
The Hon. Premier's Speech

The following is the full text of the speech delivered by the Hon. Mr. O. P. Ramaswamy Reddiar, at the recent All-India Conference of Co-operative Registrars.



It is now forty-three years since the co-operative movement was introduced in this country. During this period, officials and non-officials have contributed their best to the progress of the movement. It has had varying fortunes; it has developed well in certain provinces and states; it has progressed feebly in certain others. Nevertheless, it has now definitely come to stay. There was a time (1928), when the Royal Commission on Agriculture observed in a despondent tone: "If co-operation fails, there will fail the best hope of rural India." But we have now reached a period when we realise that Co-operation has not failed but is a live movement rich in promise. We have so far been inclined to confine our activities only in the Co-operative Credit side. We note with satisfaction that recently in some parts of the country the co-operative credit structure is so strong that it has made it possible to launch and finance non-credit co-operative institutions on a pretty large scale. The producer-consumers' co-operative societies are one of our greatest experiments in the co-operative field. They have been successful in Malabar and

it is a pity that the timing of their beginning to function in the Circars and the lack of trained personnel has led to a temporary partial suspension of their activities there. But I have no doubt that the principle is good and those societies deserve to succeed. If you will forgive me a bit of local pride, 25 crores of rupees worth of business a year in the co-operative stores of this province, three crores of transactions in the land mortgage banks, four crores of sales in the handloom weavers co-operatives and over 1/2 crore of milk produced in co-operative milk supply societies are some indications of the benefits which co-operation can confer on the masses. But even this is not enough. The co-operative movement must identify itself with the cultivator. I am sorry to see that even co-operative institutions are charging the cultivators nearly double the rate of interest at which money is available in the open market. This situation must be remedied. Some banks are refusing credit to co-operative institutions on the ground that they are interfering with the activities of normal trade channels. On behalf of the Government I want to sound a note of warning to them. If banks become mere tools of vested interests and try to stand in the way of people developing a spirit of self-reliance and developing the co-operative movement, these tactics will not be tolerated for a moment. I request the Government of India to take note of the situation and do the needful. I am envisaging the time, at a not distant future, when all the financial transactions of the Governments and institutions like the insurance companies will be with the co-operative banks. We look upon co-operation as the harbinger of a new India built on new economic foundations. We realise that in it, the greed for profit which animates the capitalistic endeavour is subordinated to the desire for mutual well being. We see in it a means of conferring the highest good upon the largest number, without sacrificing the stimulus for individual gain which is so necessary for economic progress. More than all, we are convinced that a new economic system can be established in the country through co-operation without having to go through the travails of a



Rajaji opens the T.B. Sanatorium, Tirichinopoly

revolution. My own dream for the villages of our country are villages, like Gosaba in Bengal started by Sir David Hamilton.

All-India Planning

This is presumably the reason why the last Registrars' Conference which met at Bombay in 1944 suggested the constitution of a committee to plan out the economic progress of this great land on co-operative lines, and the Government of India set up the Planning Committee on Co-operation in 1945. I understand that your chief work during this conference will be to discuss, dissect and decide upon the elaborate recommendations made by this committee. Some of them are of far-reaching importance like the constitution of an All-India and Provincial Co-operative Councils, the establishment of an All-India Research Institute and Provincial Co-operative Colleges, the setting up of Promotional Agencies for small industries, the creation of Agricultural Credit Co-operatives, etc. I am sure that both the Government of India and the Provincial

and State Governments will have your considered opinion on these subjects based on your wide practical experience in the field of co-operation. It will be a representative opinion because this conference is constituted with delegates coming from all the eleven provinces and as many as eleven of the Native States, besides representatives of the Government of India, the Agricultural Research Council, the Central Marketing Board, the Reserve Bank of India and the All-India Association of Co-operative Banks and Institutes.

State-aid

If I may make one observation to the Conference on the recommendations of the Planning Committee, I should draw attention to the fact that the bulk of their recommendations relate to State-aid. I recognize that in any scheme of planning, the agency which plans out the scheme should meet the cost of the plan in very large measure. At the same time, it should not be ignored that co-operation is essentially a system based on self-help. Dependence on the State

for progress will detract the spirit of self-reliance and independence which make for true progress. The co-operative movement should enter all walks of life like industry, dairy-farming, co-operative commerce, agriculture and agro-industries. Co-operative insurance institutions should take up new lines like, crop insurance and cattle insurance. There must be an Agricultural Finance Corporation on the lines of Industrial Finance Corporations and the various Governments, Central and Provincial, should help towards that end. The benefits of co-operation should be brought home to the children at school as also to the grown-ups. It is not too much to say that this spirit should be inculcated in persons in power as well as officials. I am, however, conscious of the fact that if co-operation is to expand and develop as it should, a considerable degree of State-help that can be given by any provincial Government or State will depend on the extent of their own resources which are pretty limited and on which there are various demands. I hope the Government

of India, under the able guidance of our beloved leader, the Hon'ble Dr. Rajendra Prasad, will supplement the resources of local Governments liberally so that we may attain the rapid and stable expansion of the Co-operative movement which we all desire. We have benefited a great deal under his leadership. Not only Bihar but the whole of India owes him a deep debt of gratitude for his selfless endeavours in the case of political emancipation. The right to rule our land has been won, thanks in a considerable measure to his counsels and his deep sacrifice. The freedom from famine in India in these hard days of food scarcity is due to his able administration of the Food Department of the Government of India. But may I be permitted to request him to reconsider the question of prices of foodgrains in Madras so as to give the agriculturist a fair price and make him produce more grain. May we not hope that the establishment of a new economic order based on co-operation in this vast land will also owe much to his leadership and generosity?

Hon. Mr. Kurmayya's Tour in Malabar

The Hon'ble Sri V. Kurmayya, Minister for Rural Development, left Madras by the Mangalore Express on the 5th evening and arrived at Calicut on the 6th afternoon accompanied by the Deputy Director of Fisheries (Marine), Madras.

On the 6th May, the Hon'ble Minister motored to Chaliyam and visited the Malabar Fisheries Company. After this the Hon'ble Minister visited the Government Coir School at Beypore where the teachers of the Fisheries' School undergo training in the coir craft. The fishermen of Chaliyam and Beypore waited on deputation on the Hon'ble Minister and submitted a memorandum describing their difficulties in securing yarn for their requirements. As the Hon'ble Minister actually wanted to satisfy himself by seeing the nets to determine whether their demand was really genuine, he ordered them to bring specimen nets and show him. Accordingly the nets were brought. Later he discussed various items relating to the uplift of the Harijan community with the President of Malabar Harijan Sevak Sangh. Then the Hon'ble Minister interviewed the district officials of the various departments including the Collector of Malabar. The Hon'ble Minister spoke to the Collector stressing the requirements of fishermen, viz., yarn for the manufacture of nets.

On the 7th May, the Hon'ble Minister motored to Kandankulam to see the inland Fisheries demonstration pond. The next place to be



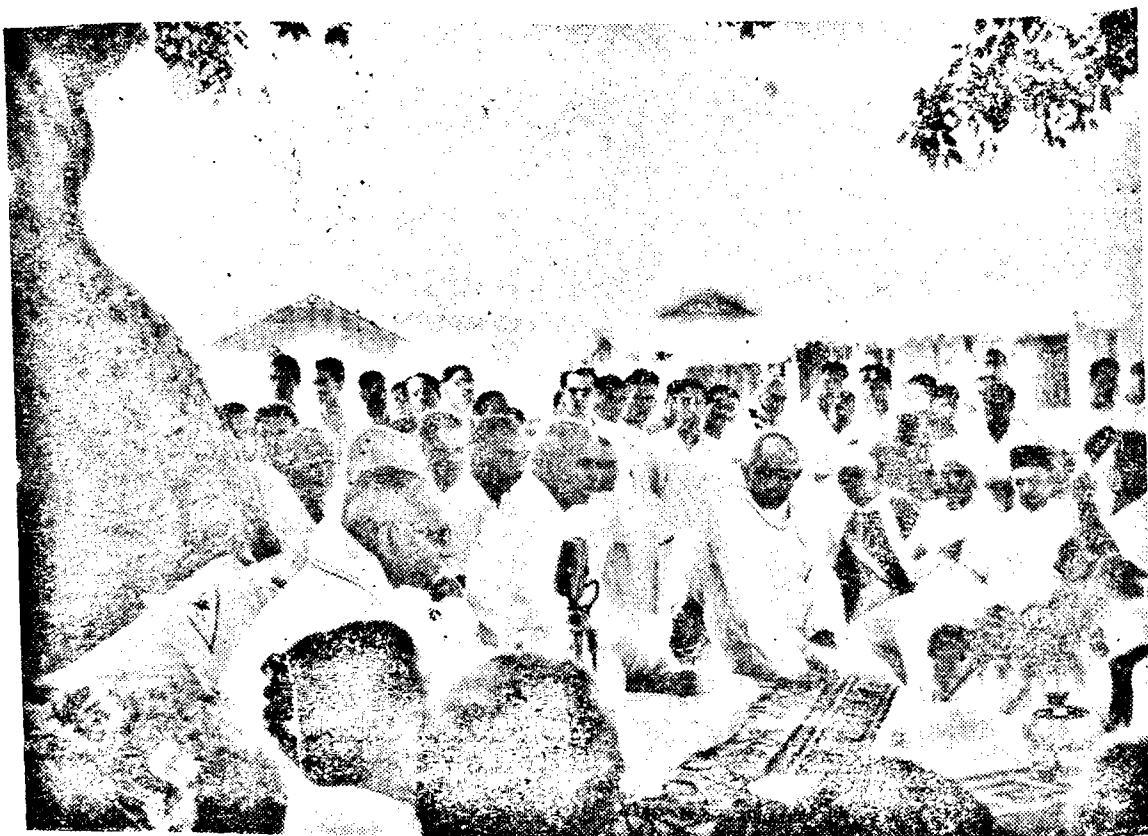
visited was the Government Oil Factory. The Hon'ble Minister promised to request the Central Government to recognise this useful oil and order its supply to all the hospitals run by Government and private agencies. Then the Minister visited the Kerala Soap Institute, Polytechnic and the West Hill Biological Station.

Then he drove to Tellicherry. After inspecting the sites selected for the Fisheries Technological Station Polytechnic, Hydrogenation Factory and Oil Technology Station at Tellicherry, he visited the Fish Hook Factory run by one Mr. M. Kumaran and the separate building yard of Mr. Rever of Mahi who has undertaken the manufacture and supply of small boats for the inland fisheries work. Then the Minister returned to Calicut and addressed a public meeting arranged for the Harijans from 7 to 9 p.m. In the public meeting the Hon'ble Minister spoke at length about the various efforts taken by the Congress Government to improve the status of the Harijans. He also mentioned a few details of his personal efforts to secure some concessions to Harijan students undergoing Law course. He deprecated the idea of asking for separate colonies for Harijans. He specially appealed to the people of Malabar to throw open the temples to their fellow Hindus who are unfortunately classified as Harijans. He pointed out the example of the Christian Missionaries who have more than 12 crores of rupees in India to popularise

their religion by building schools and hospitals. He requested the Hindu friends to raise such funds to help in the uplift of the Harijans.

In answer to a question from one among the audience regarding the proposed abolition of Producers'-cum-Consumers' Co-operative Societies, he pointed out that these societies in the surplus areas failed to procure the required food-grains and cereals for want of funds, and proper organization. Even though deficit districts like Malabar organized good societies with adequate funds, several other societies could not organise themselves properly in their districts and appealed to the Government to liquidate them. The Hon'ble Minister said that the Government have not yet decided to abolish these societies and that they are still considering this question.

On the 8th morning the members of the Harijan Sevak Sangh of Malabar met the Minister and represented their difficulties. The fishermen of Calicut brought their Memorandum and submitted it to him. The Minister promised to do the needful



Hon'ble Sri A. B. Shetty addressing the gathering at the opening ceremony of the T.B. Sanatorium, Trichinopoly

in the matter. Later he left for Olavakkot. The party motored to the Nayidi colony, Olavakkot and the Minister inspected the Labour school containing about 120 children of the Scheduled class. On behalf of the Nayadis the labour leader presented a memorandum to the Hon'ble Minister requesting that the lower elementary school there may be raised to a higher elementary school and that the members of the Nayidi community may be granted free house sites for building their huts. The Minister promised to consider the question of granting house sites to these families who have not been granted required houses. Owing to the existence of another

higher elementary school in close proximity, the Minister said that it may not be possible to raise the present school to the standard of a higher elementary school. Then he visited the Arundathi colony at Palghat where the Harijans presented a memorandum stating that one Namboodri gentleman was objecting to the Harijans burying their dead bodies in a land which they had used for a very long time as a cremation ground. The Minister advised the Harijans to settle this question with the help of the local Revenue officials and the Tahsildar who was present promised to do the needful for the Harijans. The Minister returned to Madras on 9th morning.

Labour Situation in the Province

Report for the fortnight ending 10th May 1947

The strike in U.K.S. Saw Mills, the South Indian Saw Mills, the Premier Saw Mills and U.B. Dutt and Company, Kallai, was called off on 1st April 1947, on the advice of the Commissioner of Labour to await the result of the Court of Enquiry proposed to be appointed for the timber and saw mills industry in the West Coast.

The Secretary, Kerala Rubber Estate Workers' Union, Aruvankundu, wired on 1st May 1947 stating that one thousand estate workers had struck work on 28th April 1947 demanding 25 per cent bonus and 50 per cent dearness allowance. The District Magistrate, Malabar and the Labour Officer, Calicut, have been asked to bring about a settlement of the dispute.

It is reported that 26 workers in the Pottery department of Messrs. Parry and Company, Limited, Ranipet, have been dismissed for refusing to work as per Adjudicator's award, and that another batch of 25 workers have been suspended for a week for refusing to do shift work on Sundays.

About 200 workers of the milk powder repacking department are also reported to be on strike demanding payment of bonus on the same scale as the workers of the main factory.

The Government have informed the Secretary of the Ranipet Labour Union that the award of the Adjudicator regarding pottery workers has been accepted by them and enforced on the parties, and that the management of the factory can take disciplinary action against the workers if they fail to abide by the Adjudicator's award.

In spite of Government Order of 29th April 1947 prohibiting the continuance of strike the

workers of the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills, Madras, have not yet resumed work.

The Management of Messrs. Vummudi Ramaiah Chetty and Guruswamy Chetty and Company's Jewellery and Silverware Workshop, Madras, declared a lockout on 1st May 1947, on account of the misbehaviour of one of the workers and the apprehended trouble in the factory. The Commissioner of Labour is looking into the matter.

The workers of East Asiatic (Oil Mills) Company, Royapuram, Madras, struck work from 2nd May 1947, as a protest against the dismissal of 118 workers. The Commissioner of Labour is looking into the matter.

The Honorary Secretary, South Indian Cinema Employees Association, Madras, has issued a notice of strike, dated 5th May 1947, to the proprietors of all cinema theatres in the City intimating that the workers will go on strike on any day after 20th May 1947, if their demands for fair wages, bonus of three months salary, leave facilities, provident fund, etc., are not conceded by the proprietors. The Commissioner of Labour is looking into the matter.

The President, Coimbatore District Coffee and Tea Supply Workers' Union, Puliakulam, has issued a notice of strike, dated 1st May 1947, to the United Coffee Supply Company, Limited, Coimbatore, intimating that the workers will go on strike from 5th June 1947 if their demands for a minimum wage of Rs. 35 to each worker and an annual increment of Rs. 2 to each worker are not conceded by the management. The Commissioner of Labour has instructed the Labour Officer,

Coimbatore, to bring about a settlement of the dispute and to advise the workers not to go on strike.

The workers of the Dhanalakshmi Mills, Tiruppur, struck work from 2nd May 1947, as a protest against the dismissal of three workers for misbehaviour. The Labour Officer, Coimbatore, has been asked to bring about a settlement.

The Secretary, Tiruppur Mill Workers' Union, Tiruppur (Communist), has issued 14 days notice of strike to the management of the Dhanalakshmi Mills, Tiruppur, on 5th May 1947, intimating that the workers will go on strike if their demands for reinstatement of discharged workers, withdrawal of notices of warning, stoppage of the practice of suspending and fining the workers, etc., are not conceded by the management. The Commissioner of Labour has instructed the Labour Officer, Coimbatore, to bring about a settlement of the dispute and to advise the workers to await the award of the Industrial Tribunal.

The Collector of Coimbatore has informed the management of Sri Palamalai Ranganadhar Mills, Limited, Periyannayakanpalayam, on 2nd May 1947, that it is advisable for them to keep the mill closed till a settlement is reached between the workers and the management, as it is not possible for the Police to give protection to the loyal workers.

On the advice of the Commissioner of Labour, Madras, during his visit to Madura, the strike committee of the workers of the Kothandaram Spinning Mills and the Rajah Mills, Madura, called off the strike in the two mills.

The workers of the Kothandaram Spinning Mills, Madura, resumed work on 8th May 1947.

The workers of the Rajah Mills, Madura, resumed work on 10th May 1947.

The Secretary, Calicut Textile Workers' Union, has issued a notice of strike, dated 30th April 1947, to the management of the New Textiles, Puthiyara, intimating that the workers will go on strike on any day between 15th and 29th May 1947 if their demands for refund of wages recovered from some weavers, stoppages of the recovery of wages from weavers, reinstatement of a worker in his old post, continuance of old concessions, etc., are not conceded by the management. The Commissioner of Labour has instructed the Labour Officer, Calicut, to advise the workers not to go on strike but to come to an amicable settlement with the management.

The Secretary, Calicut Textile Workers' Union, Calicut (Communist), has issued a notice of strike, dated 5th May 1947, to the management of St. Vincent's Industrials, Calicut, intimating that the workers will go on strike between 19th May 1947 and 3rd June 1947 if their demands for production of the management's accounts before people's

committee, supply of necessary quota of yarn, etc., are not conceded by the management. The Commissioner of Labour has instructed the Labour Officer, Calicut, to bring about a settlement and to advise the workers not to go on strike.

The President, St. Vincent's Industrials Labour Union, Chalapuram, has issued a notice of strike, dated 5th May 1947, to the management of St. Vincent Industrials, Calicut, intimating that the workers will go on strike from 19th May 1947 if their demands for bonus of three months' wages, increase of wages, etc., are not conceded by the management. The Commissioner of Labour has instructed the Labour Officer, Calicut, to bring about an amicable settlement of the dispute and to advise the workers not to go on strike.

The President, Press Workers' Union, Vellore, has issued a notice of strike, dated 5th May 1947, to the proprietors of the presses in Vellore intimating that the workers will go on strike from 23rd May 1947 if their demands for increase of wages and dearness allowance, bonus, leave facilities, etc., are not conceded by the proprietors of the presses. The Commissioner of Labour has instructed the Labour Officer, Vellore, to bring about a settlement of the dispute and to advise the workers not to go on strike.

The Labour Officer, Vellore, has reported that the management of the South Indian Silk Mills, Gudiyattam, have no intention of re-opening their mills as they have incurred loss and are trying to sell away the factory.

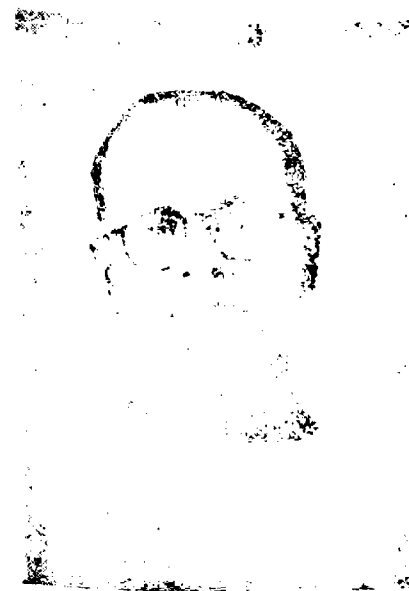
The workers of Sri Krishna Jute Mills, Ellore, struck work from 8th May 1947 as a protest against the dismissal of six workers by the management. The reports of the District Magistrate, West Godavari, and the Labour Officer, Bezwada, are awaited.



Rajaji and the Hon'ble Sri O. P. Ramaswamy Reddiar on a visit to the Srirangam Temple

Deep and Abiding Interest in the Welfare of Teachers

Hon'ble Mr. Avinashilingam's Assurance



interest in the teachers, who are instrumental in educating the children of the province and I as one, who has lived and moved with the children and teachers for the major portion of my life have a great and abiding faith, respect and sympathy for teachers. I am one of those people who believe that in the interest of our children, we must be able to recruit good type of men and women for the teaching profession and for doing that, their pay should be fixed at such levels which will attract such men and women. But it must be made clear that with all the best wishes in the world, the Minister for Education cannot do anything by himself. For, questions of policy and matters of large expenditure are, and must be, governed by the decisions of the Cabinet as a whole. The Cabinet again has limitations within which it has to work and that is, the financial condition of the province.

Ministry must have Time

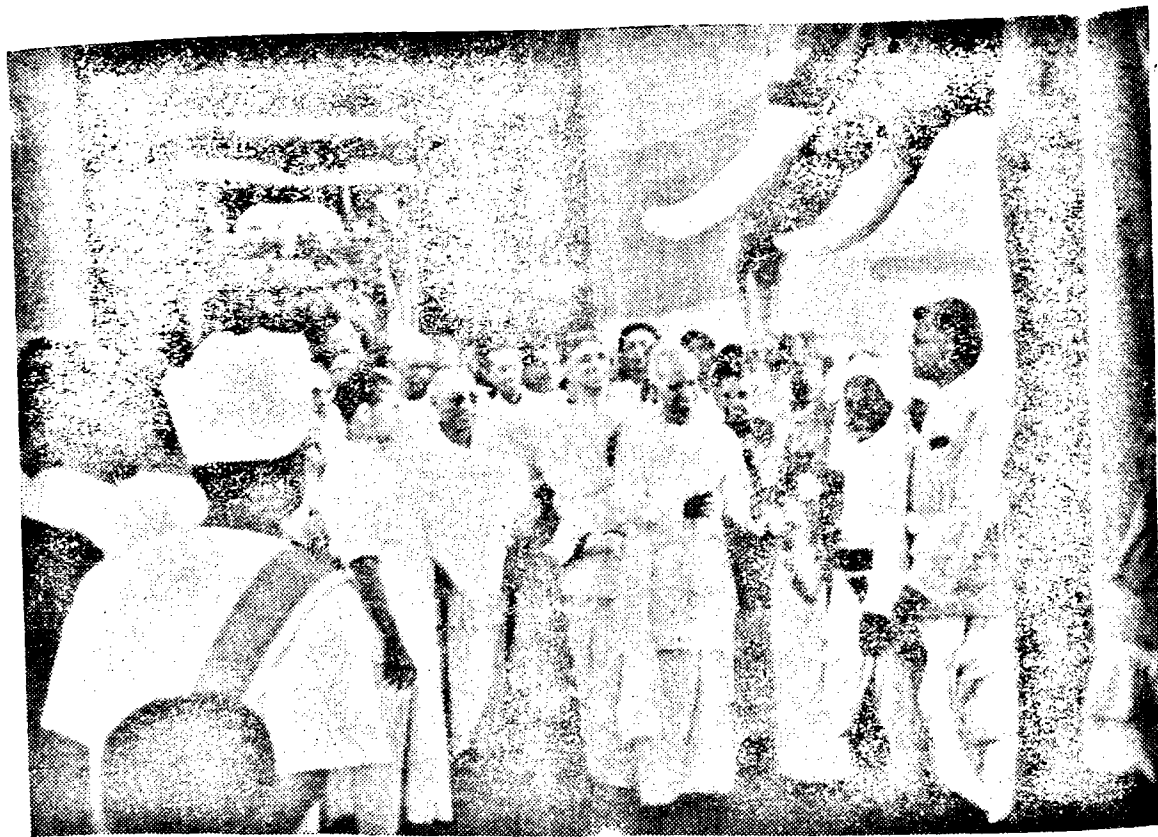
The Ministry has been in existence only for about one year and its hands have been full with such great and urgent problems as scarcity of food and clothing and unrests of all kinds in the province. It will be only the bare truth to say that this country has not had such a difficult situation in the last half a century. And so, they have barely had time to do such reorganisation, as many of our friends would like us to do. While we may agree with many of their suggestions, the Government must require time to put them into action. Many have been dissatisfied with the salaries revision but I would like to point out the immensity of the problem. The revision of salaries in all the services of the Government has cost about 247 lakhs of which more than half is in the Education Department alone. Besides the expenses incurred as above by Government it has cost 60 lakhs more of extra expenditure for the local boards and so, by the revision, the Government will be spending nearly one crore and eighty lakhs and more. This has not given satisfaction to the teachers. The Government are not unaware of the feelings among the members of the teaching profession in this matter. They are actively considering certain proposals in this regard.

The following is the address delivered by the Hon'ble Sri T. S. Avinashilingam, Minister for Education, on the occasion of the opening of the Seventh Conference of the Mayavaram Municipal Teachers' Association :—

The Government are aware of the various problems which are disturbing the minds of the elementary school teachers throughout the province to-day. The teachers have a feeling that they have been let down in the recent salaries revision. The result has been agitation throughout the province and in some places, notices of strikes have also been given. I do not like to refer now to the advisability or otherwise of teachers resorting to strikes, but I would certainly like to remove certain misunderstandings which exist in the minds of the teachers.

A Misunderstanding

There has been a feeling expressed in various parts of the province that the Government are not sympathetic towards the teacher and that particularly, I as the Minister for Education, have not been so. These are far from the truth. The Government have got deep and abiding



An elephant garlanding the Hon'ble Sri O. P. Ramaswamy Reddiyar at the Srirangam Temple

Financial Implications

In this context, I would like to point the financial consequences of certain of the demands made by the elementary school teachers associations. Their main demands have been three: (1) Equality of pay in all the agencies of education; (2) a minimum pay of Rs. 50; and (3) Free education to their children. They have made other demands also such as provision for old-age, leave with pay, interim allowances and such other things which for the present, I do not take into consideration. Let us see what will be the cost of the important items alone. The cost of these will be about six crores of rupees in addition to the nearly two crores which we have already provided for in the recent revision of salaries. In the present state of the finance of the province and with prohibition on hand, I leave it to you to find out how practicable it will be to find out this large amount of money from the present provincial budget which is already a deficit one by nearly ten crores. Besides it must be remembered that education is a growing expenditure which must be provided in a larger measure every year.

Suggestions about Loans

There are certain friends who have suggested that this expenditure can be met out of loans. I am afraid, and I hope people won't mistake me when I say, that such people have no sense of public finance. Capital expenditure which will last for many years or an expenditure like a war expenditure which is a struggle for life and which comes once in a life-time might be financed out of loans, but recurring expenditure and an expenditure, which by its very nature is bound to be growing every year, cannot by any stretch of imagination be financed by loans and no student of economics will agree to this suggestion. In fact, the Government will not get loans if they resort to such expenditure out of loans.

A warning and an assurance

All these do not mean that the Government are unsympathetic towards the legitimate demands of the teachers. They are earnestly giving their attention to them and I hope before long, the Cabinet will be able to announce its decision in the matter. Before concluding, I would like to say

one word about notices of strike which have been given in various places. I should think that in the interest of the teachers themselves that it is not a measure to which they should resort to.

The Government have found of late that there has been a lot of intemperate talking in certain parts of the province. That a popular Government is functioning in the province should not make anybody feel that they can take law into their own hands or they can go without discipline. While the Government will be very sympathetic towards the legitimate demands of teachers as well as others, I must give a warning that serious breaches of law and discipline will be properly dealt with. Before closing, I would like to assure you of my deep sympathies towards the cause of the teachers and personally, I shall try my best to do what I can in raising their status.

Government Departments at Work Revenue

A scheme for the reclamation of certain undeveloped lands for wet cultivation in the project areas in Trichinopoly district was sanctioned from fasli 1355 (1945-46).

The following concessions were granted:—

- | | |
|---|---|
| Undeveloped lands in the old project areas. | (1) Remission of water cess for faslis 1355 and 1356. |
| Ayacut lands under the Kattalai High level channel. | (2) Grant loans under certain conditions to ryots at Rs. 100 per acre for ordinary land and Rs. 150 per acre for stony land and |
| | (3) Grant of subsidy at the rate of Rs. 10 per acre under certain conditions for bringing lands under paddy cultivation. |

Undeveloped lands in the new project area.

- (1) Remission of water cess for faslis 1355 and 1356.

A special Public Works department staff was appointed for advising ryots on the method of reclamation and for organizing a drive among them for the cultivation of the undeveloped lands.

The Government of India sanctioned a grant of Rs. 20,855 to meet half the cost of staff and subsidies. As this cost came only to Rs. 9,370 the Government of India was informed that Rs. 4,685

Contagious Diseases among Animals

Report for March 1947

There was a considerable fall in mortality from contagious diseases among animals in the Province during the month of March 1947 as compared to February 1947. The total number of outbreaks reported and deaths recorded were 280 and 1,300 respectively as against 280 and 1,647 in the previous month.

Rinderpest.—There was a slight rise in the incidence of but a great fall in mortality from this disease during the month as compared to the previous month, the figures being 56 outbreaks and 276 deaths as against 51 outbreaks and 720 deaths in the previous month. The disease was comparatively severe in the districts of Vizagapatam, West Godavari, Nellore and Cuddapah.

Hæmorrhagic septicæmia.—There was a rise in the incidence of and mortality from this disease during the month as compared to February 1947, the figures being 81 outbreaks and 463 deaths as against 71 outbreaks and 383 deaths in the previous month. The disease was comparatively severe in the districts of Nellore, Chittoor, Tanjore and Malabar.

Black-water.—There was a slight rise in the incidence of and mortality from this disease during the month as compared to the previous month, the figures being 104 outbreaks and 446 deaths as against 94 outbreaks and 405 deaths in the previous month. The disease was comparatively severe in the districts of Nellore, Chittoor, North Arcot, Salem, Chingleput, Coimbatore, Trichinopoly, Madura, Ramnad and Tinnevely.

Anthrax.—There were 11 outbreaks and 108 deaths during the month as against 11 outbreaks and 130 deaths in the previous month.

Foot and mouth.—Twenty-eight outbreaks with seven deaths were reported during the month as against 61 outbreaks and nine deaths in the previous month.

representing half of this expenditure would be utilized from this grant.

According to this scheme, about 2,000 acres of land were attempted to be reclaimed up to the quarter ending 31st December 1946 and about 930 acres were actually reclaimed.

Working of the Cotton Cloth and Yarn Control Order

Report for March 1947

Cotton yarn.—The Textile Commissioner, Bombay, has arranged to make good the short deliveries of yarn in the Province during the months of November and December 1946, in three monthly instalments in April and May 1947.

Handloom cloth.—At the first meeting of the Provincial Handloom Wages Board which was held on 16th April 1947 under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Minister for Industries, recommendations were made as to the maximum weaving wages to be notified under the Madras Handloom Cloth (Control) Order, 1947, and certain other matters connected with the enforcement of that order. The Government have accepted the recommendations of the Board and this new

price control scheme will be brought into operation shortly.

Mill cloth—Progress of procurement from the Bombay Surplus Area—1946—

(1) *Pre-September quota of the Bombay centre.*—The entire quota of 4,482 bales from Bombay has been purchased and 70 bales are awaiting transport.

(2) *September quota.*—The entire quota of 3,365 bales at Bombay and 4,460 bales at Ahmedabad has been purchased.

(3) *October quota.*—Out of a quota of 4,531 bales at Bombay about 139 bales have still to be released by the Textile Commissioner and 28 bales are awaiting transport. At Ahmedabad,

the entire quota of 4,849 bales has been purchased and 3 bales are awaiting transport.

(4) *November quota.*—Out of a quota of 4,780 bales at the Bombay centre about 66 bales have still to be released by the Textile Commissioner and 23 bales are awaiting transport. At Ahmedabad the entire quota of 4,966 bales has been purchased and 238 bales are awaiting transport.

(5) *December quota.*—No allocation.

(6) *1947 January quota.*—Out of a quota of 3,678 bales at Bombay about 3 bales have still to be released by the Textile Commissioner and 117 bales are awaiting transport. At Ahmedabad, the entire quota of 2,557 bales has been purchased and 1,204 bales are awaiting transport.

(7) *February quota.*—At Bombay, out of a quota of 4,147 bales, 56 bales have still to be released by the Textile Commissioner and 2,263 bales are awaiting transport. At Ahmedabad, the entire quota of 2,264 bales has been replaced by an equal allotment from the Bombay centre. Out of this about 1,467 bales have still to be released by the Textile Commissioner and 508 bales are awaiting transport.

(8) *March quota.*—635 bales out of a quota of 2,122 bales from the Bombay centre have still to be released by the Textile Commissioner and 332 bales are awaiting transport. At Ahmedabad, 942 bales out of a quota of 1,223 bales have still to be released by the Textile Commissioner and 269 bales are awaiting transport. The entire quota of 250 bales at Sholapur and 250 bales at Baroda has been purchased. The 250 bales from Baroda are awaiting despatch while those from Sholapur have been despatched.

(9) *April quota.*—According to information so far received, the Textile Commissioner has promised to release from Bombay 5,046 bales against the arrears due for March 1947, 2,505 bales against the allocation for April 1947 and 5,000 bales as an advance against future allocations and has so far released a part of this quota. Some varieties released are reported to be not attractive and unsuitable for this Province and the Government have telegraphed to the Textile Commissioner, Bombay, to allot acceptable varieties and to defer releases for a week pending decision on this point.

The quota from Ahmedabad is 2,436 bales and part of it has so far been released. The Agent reports that there are fairly large stocks of varieties suitable for this Province at Ahme-

dabad and the Government have telegraphed to the Textile Commissioner, Bombay, to increase our allotment from this centre to the utmost extent possible.

At Baroda and Sholapur, the entire allotment of 250 bales at each centre has been released by the Textile Commissioner.

(10) *Transport.*—The railway restrictions on booking from Bombay to Madras and to the centres in the south are delaying despatches of goods purchased by our Representative Buyers. All booking from Bombay to Madras was stopped during the second week of April, and though opened again early last week, was again stopped by the week end. The Government have already telegraphed to the Regional Controller of Railway Priorities, Bombay, in the matter on 24th April 1947.

General.—The strike in the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills and the Mettur Industries is still continuing. The Radhakrishna Mills, Limited, Coimbatore, was closed from 8th April 1947 to 15th April 1947 on account of labour trouble, while there was heavy absenteeism during the month in the Coimbatore Kamala Mills. Labour troubles are thus continuing to aggravate to a serious extent, the yarn and cloth position in the Province.

The prosecution of the Lotus Mills, Coimbatore, for blackmarketing in yarn has ended in the conviction of all the accused.

Mill cloth.—(i) Local mill production—2,056 bales of 1,500 yards each.

(ii) Receipts from Bombay Surplus Area—12,380 bales of 1,500 yards each.

(iii) Imports of mill cloth from outside Madras Province but inside the South Zone—910 bales of 1,500 yards each.

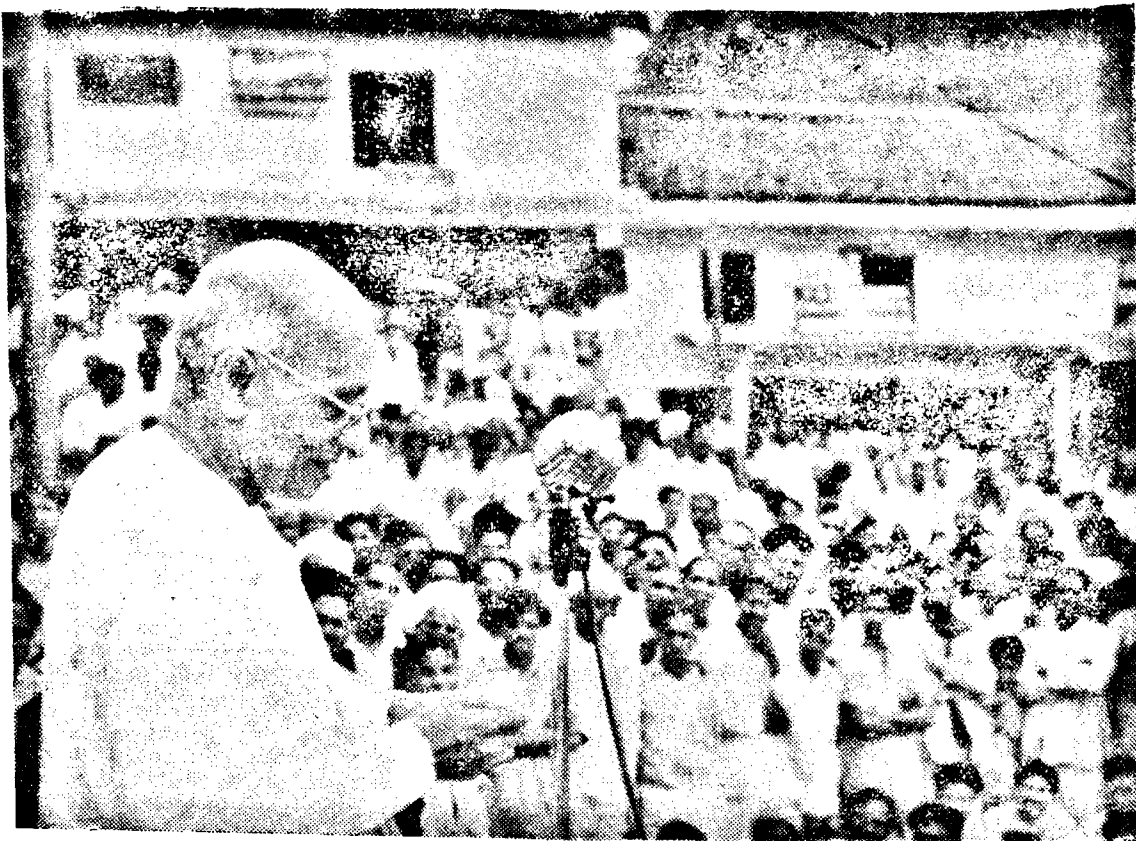
(iv) Cloth made available for distribution by the Mills in the South Zone—2,612 bales of 1,500 yards each.

(v) Cloth imported from other countries into the Province—100 bales of 1,500 yards each.

Handloom cloth.—Local production in the Province—20,400 bales of 1,500 yards each.

Yarn.—(i) Local mill production—34,000 bales of 400 lb. each.

(ii) Imports from outside the Province—1,775 bales of 400 lb. each.



Hon'ble Sri C. Rajagopalachari addressing a public meeting at Coonoor

Government's Industrial Policy Outlined

Hon'ble Mr. Sitarama Reddi's Clarification



In a press interview, the Hon'ble Sri H. Sitarama Reddi, Minister for Industries and Information, explained the present Government's policy, regarding the development of the old and establishment of the new industries in the province. He said that, as Minister, he had definite plans for this purpose. The following questions were answered by the Minister :—

Question.—What are the natural resources of the Andhra Province and how best to tap them?

Answer.—The Andhra territories of our Presidency have immense resources and potentialities. Paper mills, cement factories, textile mills and other industrial concerns, aided by forest wealth, are a few of the industries that could be developed. Besides, there is the mineral wealth, which has not been tapped at all until now. In the interests of national progress, the Government will always help, with money or other facilities, those who come forward with information and suggestions regarding the utilization of the potential wealth and possibilities of the land, and those who are willing to start and run different industries. We would be willing to aid the industrialists, in their practical schemes of development, through contributing towards share capital

and for investments, giving and obtaining technical advice and help and procuring sites for establishing the industries and supplying power. Andhra areas have numerous possibilities of improving cottage industries. Development of cottage industries is of equal importance in our plan of industrial expansion, though, according to some, these may not be given too much importance. Of all things, first in importance are the textile industries, spinning and weaving. Electrical expansion is an imperative need. Japan has achieved a lot by utilizing electric powers for the promotion of cottage industries. We have got to study how the Japanese Nation, as industrialists, could achieve so much. We have to follow their methods and in relation to our own circumstances formulate a clear-cut programme and plan for the development of cottage industries.

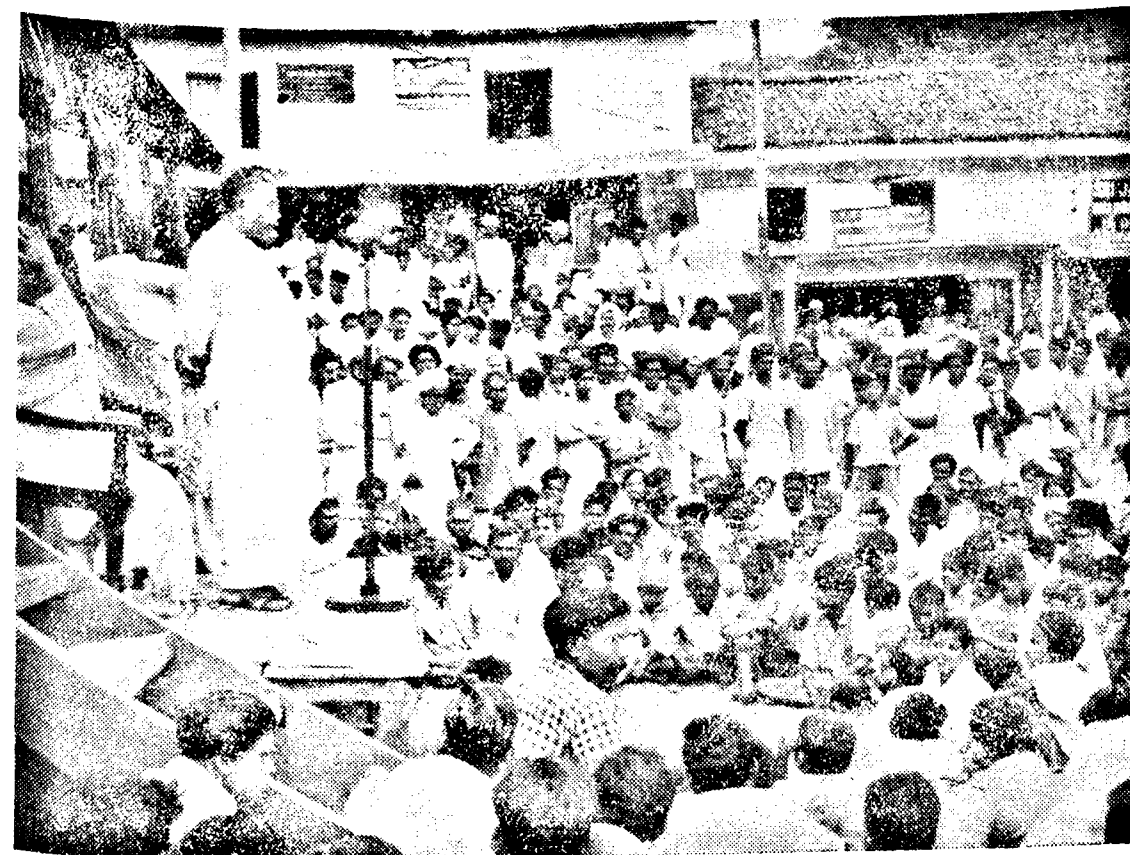
Large and Small Industries

Question.—What is the best way to correlate the large-scale industries and small-scale industries or crafts?

Answer.—Circumstances being what they are in this Presidency, there is scope for both to co-exist and develop. Our chief aim ought to be to see that the large-scale industries do not hamper or stifle small industries and village crafts. That is the main principle. Secondly assuming the unity and indivisibility of India as a nation and a country, we must take into consideration the needs of our particular province in relation to what is being done in other provinces and formulate a sensible policy. We have to study what the other provinces have been doing, and thus, draw up our own plans for success. So long as we visualise a united India, and work towards that end, we have to think in terms of all-India and draw up our plans accordingly. We should do nothing to suggest, that we are going out of the all-India economic picture. But, at the same time, we cannot sacrifice our legitimate rights or privileges. We have to harmonise the best interests of our province with the larger interest of the nation.

Decentralization

Question.—What is your own view regarding the essential need for decentralisation of the production of essentials of human life—food and clothing?



The Hon'ble Sri M. Bhakthavatsalam addressing a public meeting at Coonoor

Answer.—Decentralisation is not an abstraction or a philosophical doctrine. It is a relative term, in this world of relative values. It varies with different territories and times and the interpretation naturally may also vary. We have to rationally discuss and decide things, basing our decisions on facts and figures, and the practicability or otherwise any particular step.

Nationalization of Industries

Question.—What is your opinion about nationalisation on industries? State ownership of Mills and factories?

Answer.—Indeed, for industries to be state-owned and managed should be good, because, that brings in more finance into the Government exchequer. But the fact remains, that even in England, industries like steel manufacture, etc., have not yet been taken up by the Government. It has not been yet possible for the Britishers, even though people with socialist outlook are at the helm of affairs. In the taking over, by the

Government, of the entire coal mines and coal industries in England, a lot of expert advice and investigation have had to be made. Opportunities were given to the people to criticise or assess the value of the policy. At long last, after a good deal of controversy and discussion when useful suggestions were invited and taken, the coal industry had been transferred to Government management. Likewise, we have to think much, and weigh the pros and cons, with regard to each particular industry, before nationalising it. The ultimate objective may be, that all things should be state-owned; at the same time there is absolutely no cause or discouragement for enterprising industrialists. It is my earnest appeal to them that they should not run away with the fear, that some day, the industries which they start will be taken away from them by the Government.

I would assure all on behalf of the Government, that all possible aid will be rendered to our industrialists, who would plan intelligent and

practicable programmes of development and come forward with initiative and resources. We have so far been backward in industrial development. I assure all, however, that the Government would go into the matter carefully and investigate the workability or otherwise of the scheme of nationalisation of industries, taking all facts and available details into consideration. I want to make it clear that some time would be needed, as a matter of course, for state-ownership and working of industries, to become efficient and workable propositions. State Motor Transport will be useful to bring in more income for the Government. This can be immensely expanded. While the Central Government have taken over the charge of all Railways, I do not see any impediment in the way of our Provincial Governments running all buses and lorry-services. Now, it is not possible for the Government to take over paper-making, cement and other industries right away, because the Government will have to pay for the existing factories. There are many financial and legal complications in this process which are not easy to deal with. For the present, this whole Province has only one paper-mill. But, in due course, we can have more paper mills in

forest areas, and thus, increase their number and output. The Government will help this industry in every way.

Question.—Don't you think that a planning board, with expert advisers, is necessary for the Government in all such matters?

Answer.—Quite so.

Question.—In the recent budget, provision has been made by Sri Prakasam for an Industrial Financial Corporation. How, do you think, it will help the development of industries?

Answer.—The Central Government is bestowing great thought on this matter. Such an institution is very much necessary for expansion of industries. That was the reason for the provision in the budget.

People's Clothing Needs

Question.—Don't you see that ordinary people and the middle classes are not able to get their requirements of sarees, dhoties, etc.? But too many of voils and too much of coating cloth, are available. Is there no means for altering such conditions?

(Continued on page 31)

Madras Government's Intensive Khadi Scheme

A.I.S.A. Khadi Vidyalaya, Payyanur, Malabar



Students demonstrating all the processes from ginning to Duppatta

Report on the Cultivation of Blackgram

The area sown with blackgram in 1946-47 is estimated at 300,600 acres. When compared with the actual area of 307,604 acres according to the Season and Crop Report of the previous year, the present estimate reveals a decrease of 2.3 per cent.

The crop is mainly grown in Vizagapatam, East Godavari, Kistna, Guntur, South Arcot, Coimbatore, Tanjore, Madura, Ramnad, Tinnevely and South Kanara. The area estimated is the same as that of the previous year in Bellary, Anantapur, Chittoor, North Arcot, Trichinopoly and Malabar. An increase in area is estimated in Vizagapatam, East Godavari, Guntur, South Arcot and South Kanara and a decrease in the other districts of the Province.

The crop has been harvested in most of the districts. The yield per acre is estimated to be normal in West Godavari, Tanjore, Malabar and South Kanara and below the normal in the other districts of the Province due to insect attack and

the adverse seasonal conditions on account of heavy rainfall in November and December 1946. The seasonal factor for the Province as a whole works out to 88 per cent of the average. On this basis the yield works to 36,000 tons as against the corresponding estimate of 34,900 tons for the previous year which shows an increase of 3.2 per cent.

(Continued from page 30)

Answer.—Yes. This is a fact. The Government will have to take action in this matter. The thing is, the commercial interests only have the privilege of buying the allotted quota of cloth for this Province and the curious fact is that profitability is based on yardage, and the price thereof. But the vast majority of the people need thicker and cheaper varieties of cloth. I cannot assure you just now that any decision could be taken in this connection. But I shall soon come to a decision on the advice of the Provincial Textile Commissioner, who is the technical adviser to the Government, which will help the largest number of our Province's population.

Women's Cottage Industries Co-operative Society

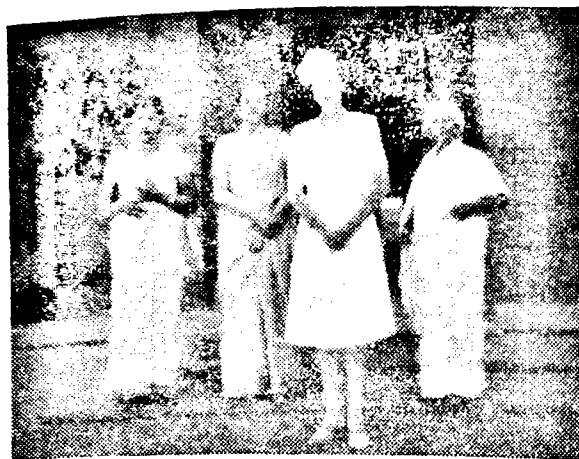
Lady Nye's Tribute to Good Work Done

Her Excellency Lady Nye paid a visit to the Women's Cottage Industries Society at T'Nagar on 4th March 1947. She congratulated the members on the good work done by them.

(The T'Nagar Women's Cottage Industries Co-operative Society is one of the seven women's cottage industries societies doing good work in the City. These seven societies are working at Georgetown, Mylapore, Rayapetta, T'Nagar, Rayapuram, Pudupet and Seven Wells. They are under the general supervision of an Executive Sub-Committee of 12 members with Mrs. K. Sathianadhan as its president. The committee meets frequently, discusses questions relating to the development of the societies and guides their activities. The membership and share capital of these societies increased from 255 and Rs. 716 on 1st July 1945 to 616 and Rs. 1,791 respectively on 31st December 1946.) The present average monthly production and sales are nearly Rs. 5,000

and the monthly wages earned by members are about Rs. 1,500.

(In the initial stages, the Madras Provincial Co-operative Bank gave financial assistance to these societies by the grant of subsidies for the purchase of necessary machinery and for meeting the cost of establishment, rent and other contingencies. Since 1st December 1944, Government were pleased to sanction an annual subsidy of Rs. 3,650 for meeting the cost of establishment and contingent charges.) Out of the subsidy two group clerks for maintenance of accounts, two lady instructors and a peon have been appointed. Government have also sanctioned the post of a Woman Special Officer for the supervision of these societies. She visits the societies frequently and assists the members in their work. She arranges for the supply of raw materials like cloth, thread, etc., required by the members and for the marketing of the finished goods of the



Her Excellency and the Chief Organizers of the Society

societies. The societies have been undertaking several items of work such as tailoring, needle work, embroidery, crochet knitting, etc., and, have produced articles like shirts, jumpers, skirts, blouses, knickers, napkins, lace embroidered pillow cases, pappadams, pickles, etc. A training instructress was appointed by the Committee for imparting training to the members in needle work. Another instructress was deputed to Guntur for training in doll making, so that the industry might be introduced in the societies in the City. Some of the members in one Centre were also given training in hand-loom weaving on a frame-loom. The goods of the society command good sales. They are sold through the emporium of Provincial Co-operative Marketing Society at Mount Road.

The question of expanding the activities of these societies has been under consideration. The Ex-Sub-Committee for the development of these industries in the City has resolved to introduce charka spinning. So far 10 charkas have been purchased and distributed to the members of the societies. They have also applied for Government subsidy for purchase of a few more charkas. The societies, most of which undertake the manufacture of ready made garments from mill cloth, have not been able to make more headway, in view of the present cloth scarcity. Attempts are, however, made to overcome this difficulty and to induce the members to take up other activities as hand-spinning, hand-sewing, preparation of pappadams, preserved vegetables, etc. It has also been suggested that the societies may take

up bulk purchases of special or quality articles not commonly available in the nearby shops, and their sale to members. The question of running training classes in knitting, embroidery, etc., in addition to sewing and the supply of these manufactured articles to institutions and hospitals is under consideration.

The following observations of Her Excellency during the course of her visit to the T'Nagar society are of particular significance for the furtherance of Co-operative movement among women :—

"I was glad to visit the organisation to-day. The rapid increase in the membership and turn-over shows enthusiasm and 'drive' on the part of those responsible. I congratulate them on the work they are doing. I feel it is terribly important that we should bear in mind that this movement exists for the benefit of the poor and that hand-sewing is within the means of all and can be very lucrative, if it is properly taught in the first instance. There are proportionately few homes that can afford to buy a machine even on the instalment system. I realise that the difficulties of getting cloth are immense and as there is such a shortage, I think, the members would find it more profitable to make such material as they can get into wearable garments rather than clothes, etc., though these were extremely decorative and well embroidered. I very much hope that more well-to-do ladies may be prepared to adopt my suggestion of giving their work to the society and expecting no return but allowing all the profits to be used for the purchase of unrationed and more expensive materials to be made up by poorer members for sale. This would at least do something for the organisation to tide over the present cloth shortage."



*Needle work—
One of the jobs
undertaken by the
Society*

INDIA'S CHARTER OF FREEDOM

THIS Constituent Assembly declares its firm and solemn resolve to proclaim India as an Independent Sovereign Republic and to draw up for her future governance a Constitution:

WHEREIN the territories that now comprise British India, the territories that now form the Indian States, and such other parts of India as are outside British India and the States as well as such other territories as are willing to be constituted into the Independent Sovereign India, shall be a union of them all; and

WHEREIN the said territories, whether with their present boundaries or with such others as may be determined by the Constituent Assembly and thereafter according to the law of the Constitution, shall possess and retain the status of autonomous units, together with residuary powers, and exercise all powers and functions of government and administration, save and except such powers and functions as are vested in or assigned to the Union, or as are inherent or implied in the Union or resulting therefrom; and

WHEREIN all power and authority of the Sovereign Independent India, its constituent parts and organs of government are derived from the people; and

WHEREIN shall be guaranteed and secured to all the people of India justice, social, economic and political; equality of status, of opportunity, and before the law; freedom of thought, expression, belief, faith, worship, vocation, association and action, subject to law and public morality; and

WHEREIN adequate safeguards shall be provided for minorities, backward and tribal areas, and depressed and other backward classes; and

WHEREBY shall be maintained the integrity of the territory of the Republic and its sovereign rights on land, sea and air according to justice and the law of civilised nations; and

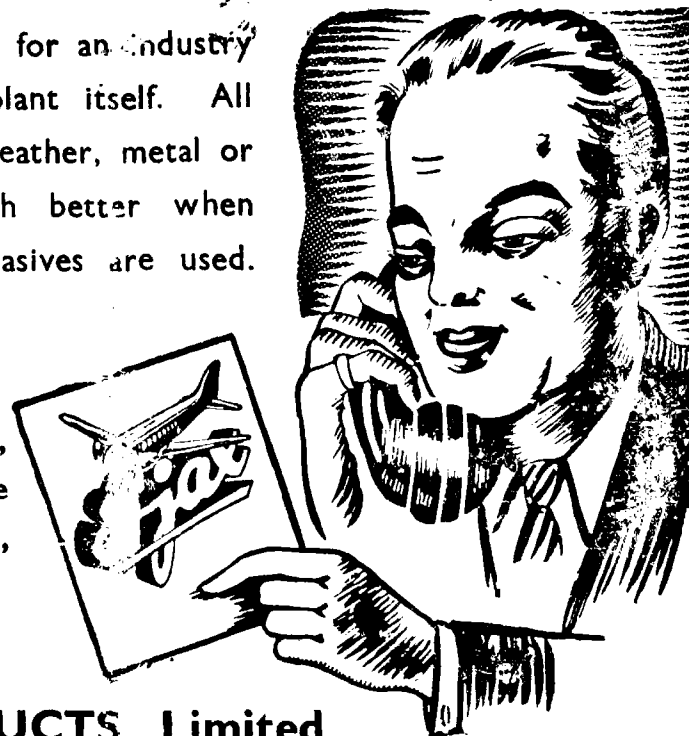
THAT this ancient land attain its rightful and honoured place in the world and make its full and willing contribution to the promotion of world peace and the welfare of mankind.

This is the text of the Resolution unanimously adopted by the Constituent Assembly of India on the 22nd January 1947.

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"WE SEEK TO SERVE AND NOT TO COMPETE"

June 7, 1947

Readers are invited to send questions seeking clarification of the policy of the Government or allied matters. Answers will be published as soon as possible.

The object of *Madras Information* is to give a brief record of the Madras Government's activities and to educate the public opinion on the Government's policies.

However, the views expressed and the articles published in this journal do not necessarily represent the official opinion.

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Editorial Notes

Planned Industrialization

An important and vital step in the promotion of industrialization of the province on a planned basis has been taken by the Hon'ble Minister for Industries, Mr. H. Sitarama Reddy, by the appointment of a Committee for the purpose. The Committee, which is wholly non-official in complexion, has been given comprehensive terms of reference, which should enable it to advise the Government on all aspects of the problem, and to recommend appropriate measures for achieving the purpose in view. Attention may be drawn to a few of the terms of reference which indicate the potentially beneficial work that the Committee can turn out. It has been asked to draw up a short-term as well as a long-term plan for industrialization; it has been asked to report on the extent of Government assistance that can be accorded to the various industries and the manner in which that assistance can be given; and it has been asked to advise on the nature and extent of the control which should be exercised by the Government over the industries and to suggest which industries should be State-owned, State-controlled and left to private enterprise. These involve intricate questions of both policy and administration, and it is on the evolution of satisfactory principles which can form the constituents of a well-thought-out policy and on the efficient administration of the policy thus formulated that successful planned industrialization

ultimately depends and can become an accomplished fact. The Committee is also expected to report on the manner in which and the extent to which labour should participate in the profits of industry and whether any conditions should be imposed on industries that may be started hereafter in the interests of labour.

Regional Planning

It is admitted that Madras is comparatively backward in industrial progress and equally clearly is it admitted as a result of recent experience that industrial progress is co-terminous with systematic planning. The Provincial Government's powers in this matter may be limited to some extent by the

MAIN FEATURES

- (1) Press Notes
- (2) Textile Control
- (3) University Education
- (4) Labour Situation
- (5) Food Position (Fortnightly Report)
- (6) Khadi Scheme
- (7) Rice Problem
- (8) The Fight against Plague

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constitutional set-up and the statutory division of powers between the Centre and the provinces. For the fulfilment of certain essential pre-conditions of progress like availability of machinery, tariff protection to industries and so on, the goodwill and co-operation of the Central Government are indispensable. But subject to these limitations, each provincial government can substantially aid progress in the direction of industrialization by helping in the drawing up and execution of schemes of industrialization on a regional basis which will provide for the beneficial and maximum utilization of existing local facilities like raw materials, power—both man-power and electric power—, capital and technical skill, in the furtherance of local interests.

That the Government are in earnest about the matter and are anxious to do everything possible to expedite the work in this connexion is clear from the time-limit of three months set for the completion of the Committee's labours and the injunction to the Committee to submit a preliminary report and interim reports as and when investigations about a particular subject are completed. Madras has an enormous industrial potential which has remained untapped so far.

Cloth Control—Its Implications

Undoubtedly a good deal of feeling prevails among the public as regards the continuance of price and distribution control in respect of a number of commodities even after the emergency of war has passed off and conditions of peace prevail. It is a subject on which probably there can be argument both hot and long; but the imperative consideration that bears remembrance is that what we are having now is only a technical peace and that in so far as world production levels have not attained their pre-war tempo, conditions of commodity scarcity that prevailed during war time are bound to continue necessitating the continuance of the war-time controls over at least the most essential commodities like food and cloth.

Two vital considerations enter into the determination of the question of retaining or abolishing controls. One is the supreme need to enable the vast and numerous body of consumers to procure their essential requirements at a fair price and the second is to ensure a continuous and regular flow of supplies of commodities in short supply so as to facilitate the maintenance of the rationing system in tact. Associated with this latter problem is the super-need to eradicate black-marketing, which seems to flourish the more extensively the greater the efforts that are made

It has capital waiting for remunerative employment and raw-materials for the starting of mining, cotton, paper, cement and chemical fertilizer industries. If this latent industrial potential is properly exploited, the province can attain that much desired but invariably elusive thing known as a balanced economy, with which will be achieved also an improvement in the standard of living of the masses.

Financial Provision

When the Committee's report is ready, the implementation of the recommendations should be facilitated by the establishment of the Industrial Finance Corporation, with a capital of a crore of rupees, for which provision has been made in the Madras Budget for 1947-48. The Corporation while working under Government auspices will provide ample opportunities for private capital to be beneficially invested in enterprises which will strengthen the economic foundations of the province. If the Government decide that any industries should be run as State-owned and State-managed industries, or in other words nationalized, the Budget has also provided for a sum of Rs. 50 lakhs for capital outlay likely to be required under this head.

to put an end to it. Particularly essential it is to take into account these considerations when considering the question of de-controlling food and cloth distribution.

It was good, therefore, that at the press conference which he held a few days back, the Hon'ble Minister for Industries firmly scouted the idea of eliminating control over cloth prices and distribution and leaving the consuming public to the tender mercies of scarcity, high prices and black-marketers, the crevices of whose souls are as black as the markets in which they operate. The supply question in regard to cloth being as unsatisfactory as it is and with production still terribly handicapped by labour strikes and depreciated and not easily replaceable machinery, de-control of cloth distribution would inevitably provide a dangerous fillip to price racketing and the poor consumer will not get even the limited amount of cloth that he is assured under the present distribution scheme. At the rate of 10 yards per head our total requirements are for 29,636 bales of cloth, which is made up at present by 8,966 bales of mill-cloth, both locally produced and allotted from the all-India pool and 20,673 bales of handloom cloth. There is no immediate prospect of augmentation of the existing quotas of

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MADRAS INFORMATION.

allotment as firstly, the distribution can be adjusted only on an all-India basis and secondly, the impediments which have so far prevented the stepping-up of production figures continue to exist. In the matter of cloth, as in the matter of food, therefore, the people must be prepared for the persistence of austerity conditions, unless the over-all situation with respect to production shows definite improvement.

Handloom Cloth

This brings us to the question of handloom cloth production as a method of mitigating cloth shortage. The problems in this connection are the high prices of handloom cloth and the inadequate supplies of yarn to the handloom weavers. The prices of handloom cloth can be brought down only as a consequence of regulation of the wages of handloom workers and by increasing the quotas of yarn to the weavers. The figures given by the Hon'ble Minister for Industries and Information in the course of his address to the Provincial National Handloom Weavers' Conference held in Madras about our yarn requirements are illuminating and provide the key to the present position. The monthly quota of yarn allocated to the Madras province is 21,000 bales whereas the number of looms that will have to be fed are about 496,000. Obviously the yarn available can feed the looms for only 10 days the month; but admittedly there is considerable traffic in

black-market yarn even as there is a number of bogus looms which enter into the calculation in the matter of yarn distribution. By and large it means that a substantial quantity of yarn is available in the black-market or alternately that a number of bogus handloom weavers are cornering stocks on the basis of spurious and non-existent looms. Both are nefarious practices which affect the supplies of handloom cloth to the consumers and provide the only tenable explanation for prevailing high prices.

Both these practices must be put a stop to if the position with regard to handloom cloth is to improve. The weavers themselves can do a lot to prevent yarn essential for bona fide weaving establishments from being cornered by bogus operators in the yarn market for being disposed of in the black-market. They should also welcome price fixation and regulation of wages of the handloom weavers, as they are in the interests of all the honest weavers and the consuming public. The Government is interested as much in safeguarding the interests of the weavers as they are in protecting the interests of the consumers. The latter cannot be sacrificed for enabling some sections of weavers to earn clandestine profits. The fundamental requirement being to increase cloth supplies, the Government will have to do everything necessary to ensure that result and from this standpoint price and wage fixation cannot be avoided.

Marked Improvement in Procurement

For the week ended May 22, it has been possible to procure nearly 35,073 tons, which is slightly above the off-take during the same period. The figure for the previous week was only 30,110 tons. During this week it has been possible for procurement to overtake the off-take.

Figures shown districtwar indicate that the procurement in the Circars has been progressing steadily with West Godavari topping the list with a quantity of 9,157 tons closely followed by Kistna which has about 4,457 tons. The corresponding figures for Kistna for the previous week was only 2,318 tons. Procurement work in East Godavari is also understood to be keeping up a high pace 3,361 tons being the figure for the week under review while the figure for the previous week was only 1,344 tons. Although no appreciable improvement could be seen in Guntur where for the week-ended May 22, the quantity procured was only 1,363 tons while the figure for the previous week was 1,344. It is claimed that more rice is forthcoming in that

district which, however, could not be procured for want of sufficient transport and storage facilities.

Taking the province as a whole, procurement for the week ended May 15 was roughly 8,000 tons more than the previous week and for the week ended May 22, 5,000 tons more.

It is significant that the improvement is more marked in the Andhra districts. West Godavari showing roughly 1,500 tons and Kistna 2,000 tons more than the previous week.

Procurement in other districts is progressing steadily with Tanjore giving out a figure of 2,666 tons and Nellore 2,406 tons.

If the procurement rate keeps up the present rate of improvement it is reliably learnt that Government hope to retrieve the position in the matter of rice-stocks in the province before long and the possibility of restoring the 2 oz. cut in the rice ration recently introduced in the province by the first week of July is not altogether ruled out.

A Charter of Religious Freedom

June 2, the date on which the Madras Temple Entry (Authorization) Act came into effect, must be regarded as a red-letter day in the annals of the province. On that day Harijans and other hitherto excluded classes among the Hindus of Madras, for whose benefit the enactment was primarily designed, have acquired the legal right to enter into all places of public worship in the province. The enactment of the legislation amounts to a charter of religious freedom for these classes. For, no longer does the right of permitting certain categories of Hindus to enter certain temples vest in the temple trustees concerned nor is the grant of such permission dependent on the consent of the general public of the locality. The right becomes an inherent one and can be

freely and unrestrictedly exercised by Harijans or other excluded classes. The impression in some parts of North India and elsewhere is that South India is a sort of citadel of Hindu religious orthodoxy and that the rigidity of the caste system deprives important sections of the Hindu community of some fundamental civic rights. Absence of freedom to enter into and worship in temples is an instance of this inflexible rigidity that is generally mentioned in support of the impression. The Temple Entry (Authorization) Act formally removes a long-standing ban, and enthrones the principle that in the matter of communing with God distinctions based on caste are neither justified nor warranted nor necessary.

Concessions to Communist Detenus

Attention may be drawn to the various concessions that the Government of Madras have decided to extend to the Communist prisoners under detention in the various jails in the presidency. With the detention of large number of Communists under the Public Safety Ordinance and the Public Safety Act which replaced it, this question of their treatment has received prominence in a section of the press. The press note issued in this connection emphasizes the consideration that no discrimination is being made between Congress political prisoners and Communist detenus and that the latter enjoy almost all the privileges

and advantages which the former did. Special mention may be made of the Government's decision to grant allowances to the families of the detenus, who have applied for them, with effect from the date of their detention and that these allowances range from Rs. 25 to Rs. 150. The press note points out that Communist detenus have also been permitted analogous facilities in the matter of securing legal advice as Congress prisoners. On the whole, the concessions allowed to the detenus make an impressive list and should be an effective answer to captious criticisms about discrimination in the Communist press.

Madras Government Press Notes

Food and Clothing

Handloom Cloth Control Order

The promulgation of the Madras Handloom Cloth Production (Control) Order, 1947, has been criticised in the local press as a dictatorial Act on the ground that it gives powers to the Provincial Textile Commissioner to take unilateral action and makes the weavers slaves without the semblance of freedom of choice or action. The Government would like the public to know why the order was issued and what action is proposed to be taken under it.

As the quantities of handloom cloth to be exported from Madras province to Ceylon, Burma,

Malaya and other countries outside India are fixed by the Central Government periodically and the Madras Government also has fixed the quota for exports of handloom cloth to other provinces within India, only a limited quantity of such cloth can be exported from this province. The master weavers, handloom factories and independent weavers were all producing exportable varieties much in excess of the quota, leading to accumulation of large stocks with exporters, cessation of purchases from producers and consequent suspension of work and temporary unemployment among weavers. Accumulation of exportable varieties led to smuggling of such cloth into

contiguous Provinces and States and to abuse of permits granted to exporters. Frequently speculative buying by exporters resulted in increase in prices to unprecedented levels not only of exportable varieties but also of cloth produced for local consumption. There were also complaints that numerous handloom factories in Malabar were producing only exportable varieties with a view to earn large profits, even though they were in a position to produce utility varieties. The Control Order has, therefore, been promulgated to assist in regulating the production of varieties of handloom cloth, which are intended solely or mainly for areas outside the province, so that varieties suitable for consumers in this Province may become available.

Executive instructions were issued some time back by the Provincial Textile Commissioner restricting the production of exportable varieties on certain types of looms and directing the production of larger quantities of women's white sarees of which there is an acute shortage. There has been no protest at all against these orders and they will now be placed on a statutory basis under the new Madras Handloom Cloth Production (Control) Order.

The power given under the Order will not be exercised except in public interests. There is no proposal for the standardization or rationalization of handloom cloth. The weavers will be free to use their skill and produce the designs and varieties fit for local consumption.

The powers taken under the Order are not new. Under clause 11 of the Cotton Cloth and Yarn (Control) Order, 1945, the Textile Commissioner, Bombay, has powers to issue directions to a producer of handloom cloth "regarding the classes of specifications of cloth and the maximum or minimum quantities thereof, which he shall or shall not manufacture during such periods as may be specified in the directions and producer shall comply with all such directions." The Textile Commissioner, Bombay, has not exercised these powers so far in respect of handloom cloth. It is, in every way, desirable that the Provincial Textile Commissioner who is in close touch with the handloom industry in the Province should have these powers rather than the Textile Commissioner, Bombay, who does not know the local conditions.

Government wish to make it clear once again that they do not propose to interfere with individual weavers or producers. They will take action only to limit the production of exportable varieties up to the export quota sanctioned, in the interests of the consumers in this Province.

[19th May]

Rice Ration Cut

In view of the considerable decline in procurement and of the remote prospects of imports of any appreciable quantities of foodgrains during the remaining period of the current Khariff year, the Government have examined the question whether it will be possible to maintain a 12 ounce rice ration or even a 12-ounce overall ration of foodgrains up to the end of October 1947. On 1st April 1947, the stocks of rice were only 282,000 tons and of millets 16,200 tons. There has been a progressive decline in procurement and it is estimated that if procurement proceeds at the present slow pace, not more than 853,600 tons of rice and 79,000 tons of millets can be procured before the end of October next. The quantities of rice and millets expected to be received from other Provinces, States and overseas during the rest of the Khariff year are 72,515 tons and 13,000 tons, respectively. The Government of India have made it clear that they are not in a position to give any further substantial assistance to this Province and that this Province should rely chiefly on its own resources in the coming months. The minimum requirements for consumption on the basis of 12-ounce ration, for the period from April to October 1947, are estimated at 1,260,000 tons of rice and 116,200 tons of millets. In order to ensure that rationing does not break down during the lean months of November and December 1947, it is necessary to keep buffer stocks of 250,000 tons of rice and 16,000 tons of millets at the end of October. Adding all these items, the result is there will be an uncovered deficit of over 300,000 tons of rice and 23,000 tons of millets.

The Government see no way of making up this shortage of over 323,000 tons of rice and millets other than that of suitably reducing the consumption. They have, therefore, regretfully decided to reduce the overall ration of foodgrains from 12 ounce to 10 ounces in all the statutorily and rurally rationed areas in the Province, as per details below:—

Rice eaters—10 ounces of rice or millets or maize or barley flour.

Millet eaters—2 ounces of rice and 8 ounce of millets, maize or barley flour.

Mixed diet eaters—4 ounces of rice and 6 ounces of millets, maize or barley flour.

This reduction has already been brought into effect from 11th May 1947 in the rural areas of Vizagapatam, Cuddapah, Kurnool, Bellary, Anantapur, North Arcot, Chittoor, Madura, Ramnad, Tinnevely, Coimbatore and South Kanara and it will be given effect to from 25th May 1947 in other districts except Malabar. As regards Malabar

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district, a separate Press Note has been issued on 8th May 1947. It has since been found necessary to reduce the rice ration to 8 ounces in the non-municipal areas of all taluks in this district except Palghat and Wynad. The ration for producers will remain at the old level of 1 pound.

It has been computed that it will not be possible to maintain even this 10-ounce ration unless the progress of procurement improves considerably. Production of rice this year is about 10 lakhs of tons more than last year and if only the producers respond as generously as they did last year and sell every ounce of their surplus to the Government procurement agents, it should be possible to manage without any further reduction and possibly restore the scale of 12 ounces to non-producers. The producers may still be in the expectation that the Government will offer increased prices or bonuses later on in the year and may be holding on to their stocks.

Any such idea should have been dispelled by the broadcast speech of the Hon'ble Dr. Rajendra Prasad on the All-India Radio on 14th May 1947 where he emphasized the two cardinal points, viz., that there will be no further increase of prices or bonuses and that Madras must rely on its own resources. It is therefore up to the producers to rise to the occasion and save the Province from a breakdown in rationing and consequent suffering by offering all their surpluses for sale to the Government procurement agents immediately. The Government appeal to them in all earnestness to do so and avert a food crisis.

The Government are aware that the producers are suffering under several difficulties in carrying on their agricultural operations. The Government have under consideration a scheme for making manures easily and readily available to the producers at concession rates. The Government hope to be able to announce the details of the scheme shortly.

[23rd May]

Distribution of Samba

A quantity of 100 tons of samba wheat has been imported into this Province by the Commissioner of Civil Supplies, Madras, from Hyderabad, and out of this quantity the districts of Chingleput, South Arcot, Tanjore, Trichinopoly, Madurai, Ramnad, Tinnevely, Malabar and South Kanara have been allotted 5 tons each. The balance has been allotted to Madras City. Samba wheat will be issued to the public within their rations on production of a medical certificate at intervals of not less than 4 days and subject to a maximum

quantity of one rupee's worth at a time. In Madras City as well as in the mufassal it will be equitably distributed to all the ration shops to facilitate easy purchase by the consuming public.

[27th May]

Fruit Products Control

About nine months ago, the Government of India promulgated the Fruit Products Control Order in order to ensure that fruit products maintained a standard of quality as well as approximated to essential sanitary requirements. Provision was also made in that order for the disposal of fruit products manufactured prior to 1st July 1946, so that manufacturers might be spared unnecessary loss due to the promulgation of the order. The Government of India, however, received reports to the effect that though sufficient time had passed since the order was brought into force, fruit products which contravened the provisions of the Fruit Products Control Order are continuing to be sold by dealers. As they did not want to be particularly harsh, they allowed time till 15th May within which the dealers were asked to get their stocks stamped by the nearest Inspector of Fruit Products. This date has now passed and the Government desire to state that they have decided to enforce the order very rigidly in future.

[28th May]

Transport of Rice

The Government have revised the procedure in regard to the transport of rice for personal consumption. According to the procedure till now in force, the consignor has to surrender the permit to the stationmaster at the time of booking. The stationmaster sends back the permit to the issuing officer with particulars of invoice number, quantity booked, etc., duly furnished. This procedure has given rise to difficulties when the transport is partly by rail and partly by road. The road movement is left uncovered by a permit when once the consignor surrenders the permit to the station master.

The procedure was, therefore, examined by the Board of Revenue and has now been suitably revised. According to the revised procedure, the consignor will present the permit at the despatching station at the time of booking. The stationmaster should return the permit to the party after verification and after noting down the invoice Number and other particulars. He should also send a copy of his endorsement on the permit

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to the permit issuing officer for information. The party will then utilise the permit to cover the road movement. He should ultimately surrender the permit to the Rationing Officer or the Village Munsif of the place which is the final destination of the consignment.

[29th May]

Cost of Living Index

During the week ended 24th May 1947, the index number of cost of living for working classes in Madras City remained stationary at 268.

[29th May]

10 oz Rice Ration in Malabar

The Collector of Malabar passed orders on May 29 increasing the rice ration from 8 ounces to 10 ounces throughout the district with effect from June 8.

Costly Cloth excluded from Rationing

In consultation with the Price Committee, the Provincial Textile Commissioner has decided to exempt certain costly varieties of imported cloth from being rationed.

The following are some of the varieties so excluded :—

Black Cotton Cambrics at Rs. 3-3-6 per yard; Black Satin at Rs. 2-12-10 per yard; Dyed Cotton Gaberdine at Rs. 7-13-7 per yard; White Pique Standard at Rs. 6-4-5 per yard; Coloured Woollen Pyjama Striped poplin at Rs. 4-7-0 per yard; Dyed Cotton Coating at Rs. 5-2-11 per yard; Printed mercerised Poplin at Rs. 4-4-6 per yard; Fine bordered Austria-umbrella Cloth at Rs. 3-5-5 per yard; Plain Austria-umbrella Cloth at Rs. 2-10-1 per yard; Clydella 27 inches cream at Rs. 3-6-6 per yard; Clydella 36 inches at Rs. 4-2-0 per yard; Vieyella cream 36 inches at Rs. 5-4-2 per yard; Vieyella mixed 31 inches at Rs. 5-9-1 per yard; Vieyella 27 inches at Rs. 4-13-7 per yard; Novelty fabrics ranging from Rs. 4-1-4 to Rs. 6-1-10 per yard; White dyed "Winseyett" at Rs. 3-0-2 per yard; Dyed shirting ranging from Rs. 3-0-2 to Rs. 4-9-0 per yard.

Forthcoming World Food Conference

The 34-nation emergency cereals conference due to meet in Europe in July under the joint sponsorship of the International Emergency Food Council and the U.N. Food and Agricultural Organisation may be held in London, Paris or Rome, rather than in Geneva.

On of the chief aims of the meeting is to publicize the gravity of the continuing world food crisis. The British and American food administration in Germany, Japan and Korea will be "on trial" at the conference.

Madras against Removal of Textile Control

When his attention was drawn to a New Delhi report that the Government of India are actively considering the question of removing Textile controls, Mr. H. Sitarama Reddy, Minister for Industries, said that the removal of control at this stage would hit Madras hard and, although some of the other Provincial Governments might have favoured the move, the Madras Government had also placed their point of view before the Central Government which, he hoped, would receive its due weight before final decision was taken by the Centre one way or the other.

Facilities for Detenus

As the detention of Communists in the Province whose activities were prejudicial to the public safety or the maintenance of public order has come in for a certain amount of criticism on the ground that conditions of detention in jail have been unsatisfactory and that they compare unfavourably with the conditions of Congress detenus in jail in past years, the Government desire to make public the fact that the following amenities and facilities have now been granted to these detenus :—

The system of looking them up at nights has been given up.

Their ration allowance has been raised from Re. 0-12-6 to Rs. 1-11-0 for vegetarians and Rs. 2-2-0 for non-vegetarians.

A full time medical officer has been appointed to attend on them urgently on the spot. Cases calling for special treatment are immediately sent to other hospitals. The District Medical Officer of the place visits them periodically and reports on their health.

They have been allowed suitable furniture, with lights for reading upto 10 p.m.

Clothing, bedding and toilet articles have been ordered to be supplied to them as in the case of Congress detenus previously.

They have been allowed to write two and receive eight letters a week and in cases of absolute necessity to send out two more letters. They have been allowed privileges in the matter of interviews as in the case of Congress detenus.

(Continued on page 14)

Development

Working of Cattle-pounds

Government have reviewed the working of cattle-pounds in the Province for the triennium ended with 31st March 1946.

The publication of the Administrative Report for the last triennium which ended with 31st March 1943, was suspended owing to war. At the end of the present triennium there were in all 8,633 cattle-pounds as against 8,663 at the end of the triennium which concluded with 31st March 1940.

There was an increase under receipts during the present triennium and a decrease under charges. The increase under receipts were marked in the districts of West Godavari, Kistna, Nellore, Bellary, Chingleput, South Arcot, Tanjore, Trichinopoly, Salem, South Kanara and Malabar.

Under expenditure there was a large decrease in the districts of West Godavari, Kistna, Guntur, Nellore and Bellary, while there was an appreciable increase in the districts of Chingleput, Tanjore, Trichinopoly and South Kanara.

The actual receipts and charges (direct) during the period under report amounted to Rs. 11.10 lakhs and Rs. 7.00 lakhs as against Rs. 9.16 lakhs and Rs. 7.75 lakhs respectively during the triennium which ended with March 1940.

[23rd May]

Electric Power for Agriculture

The Government consider that electric power can play a great part in the development and in raising the efficiency of agriculture, that electrical energy should be made available for ryots in areas where it can easily be extended and that the ryots should be given facilities for securing the necessary electrical materials like motors, switches, starters, etc. In this view of the matter the Government have examined the proposal of the Director of Agriculture for the establishment of a Central Agricultural Engineering Store and Servicing Centre in Madras for storing and distributing electrical as well as other engineering equipment required for agricultural purposes and have decided that, as an experiment to start with, the Agricultural Department should stock electrical pumps and supply them to agriculturists in areas where there is great demand. The ordinary ryot who needs an electric pump will thus be enabled to get requirement through departmental assistance which he cannot do if he were to get it in competition with others in the open market.

It is however considered necessary that there should be a combined effort on the part of the Electricity and Agricultural Departments for giving maximum assistance to ryots in the use of electricity for irrigation and other agricultural purposes. The Government are considering the establishment of a Central Agricultural Engineering Store and Servicing Centre in Madras as recommended by the Director of Agriculture to implement the above policy.

A Trade Dispute

A trade dispute arose between the workers and management of the Nellimerla Jute Mills Co., Ltd., Nellimerla. As the parties to the dispute were unable to arrive at an amicable settlement, the Government referred the dispute to the District and Sessions Judge, Vizagapatam, for adjudication. The adjudicator has after enquiry submitted his report. The following are the recommendations of the adjudicator:—

(1) It is the duty of the machine sewers (men) to assist hand sewers (women) in lifting bundles of bags whether light or heavy. The management should provide aprons made of gunny bags to the machine sewers, with strings long enough to tie them up properly either round the shoulders or round the waist. There must be a receptacle attached to the table of the machine sewer or at other suitable place in which the tally card can be thrown and from which it can be readily removed. The management should bring in a scheme to have special coolies to assist such of the hand sewers as might be old and infirm or pregnant.

(2) The closing of sections on 22nd October 1946 or of the whole mill on 11th November 1946 was justified but the closing of hessian and twist departments on 20th November 1946 was not justified. The management will pay to the workers in the hessian and twist departments the wages they would have ordinarily earned during the period of closure from 20th November 1946.

The Government accept the recommendations of the adjudicator.

[20th May]

Food Control Prosecutions

There were about 297 prosecutions launched in the various magisterial courts of the Province in respect of offences against the Foodgrains

Control Order and Rationing Regulations, during the fortnight ending 30th April 1947. About 115 cases have resulted in convictions and sentences.

Other cases of infringement of the Foodgrains Control Order and Rationing Regulations are *sub-judice* and the results are awaited.

[20th May]

Revised Newspaper Control Order

The revised Control Order embodying the relaxations announced in the Press Note issued by the Department of Industries and Supplies of the Government of India on the 14th February 1947 has been republished in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 29th April 1947. The Order has come into force from the 3rd April 1947. Briefly, it prescribes the submission of returns of acquisition, consumption and stocks of newsprint by importers of newsprint, proprietors of newspapers and other persons carrying on any undertaking involving the sale, storage or distribution of newsprint, removes the restriction on the starting of new newspapers published at intervals of not more than a month and restricts the consumption of newsprint to the printing of newspapers only. It also prescribes a maximum and minimum price for newspapers of different sizes.

[26th May]

Adjudicator's Recommendations

There was a dispute between the workers and management of the Vizagapatam Sugars and

[28th May]

Revenue

Revenue and Expenditure

The following is on the progress of Revenue and Expenditure on Revenue Account to the end of February 1947:—

According to the Revised Budget for 1946-47 the revenue receipts amount to Rs. 5,742.92 lakhs. Revenue accounts to the end of February 1947 stand at Rs. 3,762.35 lakhs as against Rs. 3,679.43 lakhs for the corresponding period in 1946.

The expenditure on revenue account to the end of February 1947, totals Rs. 3,329.05 lakhs as against Rs. 2,650.99 lakhs for the corresponding period in 1946.

The total revenue realised to the end of February 1947 shows an increase of Rs. 82.62 lakhs as compared with the revenue for the corresponding period of 1946-46. The increase

[20th May]

Refinery, Limited, Anakapalli. As the parties to the dispute were unable to arrive at an amicable settlement the dispute was referred to the District and Sessions Judge, Vizagapatam, for adjudication. The adjudicator has submitted his report after enquiry and the following are his recommendations:—

1. No increase in the basic wage is necessary but regular scales with increments for each class of workers should be introduced immediately.

2. Dearness allowance should be raised to Rs. 16 per mensem with retrospective effect from 1st November 1946.

3. Some difference in pay and provision of certain amenities are necessary for Biharis who come from a long distance, but the management should advertise for all classes of local skilled workers and replace Biharis with local men as far as possible. When skilled local men are not available, the latter should be trained immediately.

4. No case is made out for the payment of bonus.

5. The dismissal of Suryanarayana Rao was justified. The management may reconsider the case of S. Narayana, and if possible, re-employ him. None of the other workers is entitled for re-employment.

6. No change in the existing leave rules is necessary; but the management should bring to the notice of the workers the existing leave rules so that the workers may take full advantage of them.

is the net effect of increases totalling Rs. 310.41 lakhs and decreases totalling Rs. 227.49 lakhs.

The increase in revenue related, among others, to items such as Land Revenue, Stamps, Forest, Registration, receipts under Motor Vehicles Act, Education and Co-operation. The decrease was with reference to items such as, among others, Provincial Excise, Irrigation, Administration of Justice and Industries.

The total expenditure on revenue account to the end of February 1947 shows an increase of Rs. 678.06 lakhs as compared with the expenditure for the corresponding period of the previous financial year. One of the reasons for the increase is the payment of a month's salary as bonus, subject to a minimum of Rs. 20 and a maximum of Rs. 150, to all non-gazetted Government servants during December 1946.

Transport

Dispute in Motor Transport Services

In February 1947, the Government appointed Sri Rao Bahadur M. Venkataramayya, Retired District and Sessions Judge, as a Court of Enquiry to go into all problems connected with the working conditions of labour in the motor transport services, etc., in the Province. As the final report of the Court of Enquiry was likely to be delayed in view of the elaborate enquiries which the Court had to undertake, the Government considered that the question of interim relief should be referred for adjudication and accordingly referred that issue to Sri Rao Bahadur M. Venkataramayya for adjudication. After enquiry the adjudicator has made the following recommendations :—

(1) Workers whose salary and dearness allowance do not exceed Rs. 50 per mensem should be paid an interim relief of Rs. 7-8-0.

(2) Workers whose salary and dearness allowance exceed Rs. 50 per mensem should be paid an interim relief of Rs. 5 per mensem.

(3) Workers whose salary and dearness allowance falls between Rs. 47-8-0 and Rs. 50 should be paid such an amount of interim relief as may be necessary to make up a total of Rs. 55.

Batta should not be included in arriving at the total income for which interim relief is recommended. The interim relief should be paid with effect from 1st April 1947.

The Government accept the recommendations of the adjudicator. [20th May]

Regional Transport Authorities

The Government have directed that the Regional Transport Authorities in districts excluding the Madras City should be reconstituted with the District Magistrate as Chairman and the District Superintendent of Police, the President of the District Board and one non-official person to be nominated by the Government as the members. This is as a result of the consideration they have given to various criticisms offered and representations made to them on the existing organisation of the Regional Transport Authorities in the province and the constitution of these authorities. They have decided to abolish the prevailing zonal system under which the jurisdiction of the Regional Transport Authorities extends over more than one district and to revert to the system of road traffic boards renamed as Regional Transport Authorities, for each district to be constituted as mentioned above, which were in force until November 1945. The existing Regional Transport Officer will be the Secretary of all the Regional Transport Authorities of the districts within his jurisdiction. He will have no right to vote but can take part at the discussions and the meetings of the Board. He will act as the Executive Officer of the Regional Transport Authorities and will carry out their orders. [23rd May]

Miscellaneous

Anti-malarial Measure

The Government have approved the proposal to pave with cement concrete slabs the sides of the Raya channel within the Hospet Municipal limits, as a permanent anti-malarial measure, at an estimated cost of Rs. 68,400.

[17th May]

Elections to Municipal Councils

It has been decided to hold elections to municipal councils in the months of June and July 1947. The following is the tentative programme of dates :—

Publication of election notice .. 26-6-1947

Receipt of nominations	7-7-1947
	8-7-1947
	9-7-1947
Scrutiny of nominations	10-7-1947
Publication of valid nominations, if no appeal	14-7-1947
In the event of appeal	18-7-1947
Poll	31-7-1947
Counting of votes	1-8-1947

The dates may be varied slightly by the Inspector of Local Boards in respect of a few municipalities where local circumstances require it.

[17th May]

Hostel for School of Indian Medicine

The Government have sanctioned the construction of additional hostel buildings in the School of Indian Medicine, Kilpauk, Madras and have approved an expenditure not exceeding Rs. 2.5 lakhs for the purpose.

[17th May]

Relief Grant to Tenali

Government have sanctioned a sum of Rs. 1,620 towards the relief of distress caused by the fire accident on 25th April 1947 in Tenali taluk, Guntur district.

[19th May]

Bill to Regulate Profession of Dentistry

The Government of India propose to introduce in the Indian Legislative Assembly a Bill to regulate the profession of Dentistry and for that purpose to constitute Dental Councils. Opinions on the Bill, the text of which has already appeared on pages 305-317 of Part III-B of the *Fort St. George Gazette* of 13th May 1947, may be submitted by the 31st July 1947 through the Provincial Government only. The following statement of Objects and Reasons appended to a draft Bill gives an indication of the scope of the proposed Legislation :—

Statement of Objects and Reasons

Except in Bengal, where there is a Provincial Dental Council established under a Provincial Act, there is no legal provision for the regulation of the education and training of dental practitioners or for the registration of qualified persons. There is also no restriction on the practice of dentistry by persons without scientific training. It is well known that the practice of dentistry by untrained or inadequately trained persons may constitute a danger to the patient. It is accordingly proposed to constitute an Indian Dental Council, which will be empowered to lay down minimum standards of training, and Provincial Councils, which will maintain registers of persons entitled to practise dentistry. The Indian Dental Council will also be authorized to enter into agreements with corresponding authorities in other countries for the reciprocal recognition of qualifications.

For the purposes of the preparation of the first register persons holding certain specified qualifications and persons who do not hold such qualifications but have practised dentistry for a minimum period of two years will be entitled to registration. Thereafter entry to the profession will be restricted

to persons who have undergone a minimum standard of training.

As the Indian Dental Council will have the responsibility of laying down standards of education and training, only dentists who have undergone such training and possess recognized qualifications will be entitled to be elected to the Council.

In order that simple dental aid may be made available to the people on as wide a basis as possible, provision is made for the registration of dental hygienists who will be entitled to carry out simple extractions and perform minor dental work. Registered medical practitioners will be entitled to practise dentistry.

The existing Bengal Dental Council will perform the functions of a Provincial Dental Council under this Act and persons registered under the Bengal Dental Act will be entitled to registration without payment of registration fee.

In view of the provisions of section 119 of the Government of India Act, 1935, persons who are not British subjects of Indian domicile and who are residents in British India and hold specified dental qualifications, will be admitted to the first register but thereafter such persons will be entitled to registration only if their qualifications have been recognized by the Indian Dental Council in pursuance of a reciprocity agreement. The Indian Dental Council will be debarred from entering into a reciprocity agreement unless by the law and practice of the foreign country Indians are permitted to enter and practise dentistry in that country. [20th May]

Discrimination against Harijan Students

The Government of Madras have issued a warning to all concerned that they would not hesitate to take stern action, disciplinary or otherwise, against such educational institutions or individuals connected with them as may be guilty of discrimination of whatever type against Harijans. The warning has been issued with reference to complaints that in certain educational institutions Harijan students are treated badly and the teachers use language of the kind which tends to discourage them in their studies. It is also understood that admission to the hostels attached to some educational institutions is not open to Harijans and that even in the hostels to which they are admitted they are not given the same treatment as that accorded to the candidates belonging to other communities.

Attention is drawn in this connexion to the fact that discriminatory treatment against Harijans

will become a cognizable offence under the Madras Civil Disabilities Removal (Amendment) Bill, 1947, when it is passed into law.

The Director of Public Instruction has been asked to issue necessary instructions to inspecting officers in this matter and when cases of discriminatory treatment are established and when mere warnings are not likely to have the desired effect, teachers against whom specific allegations are proved should be punished severely, and in the case of institutions, appreciable reduction in the grants-in-aid paid to them should be effected.

[21st May]

Bollary Sanatorium for Civilians

Tuberculosis is one of the scourges that has to be successfully combated in this province. It has wrought extensive havoc in the past and Government have been considering ways and means of arresting its spread. In this connexion the need has been felt for more hospital accommodation for the treatment of Tuberculosis cases. There is a Sanatorium in Bellary under the control of the Jail Department which is used exclusively for the treatment of prisoners suffering from Tuberculosis. Though its bed strength is 175 the actual number of in-patients has not at any time exceeded 82. A suggestion was made that the Sanatorium should be thrown open to civilian patients also. Government have accepted the suggestion and the Sanatorium is being transferred to the Medical Department. The bed strength has also been increased to 200.

[31st May]

Interest on Loans to Local Bodies

Government have decided that the rate of interest to be charged on ordinary loans to local bodies like the Presidency Corporations, District and other Local Fund Committees and the municipal municipalities be finally fixed at 3½ per cent per annum and that for loans to local bodies to cover deficits, the rate should be 3½ per cent per annum.

The rates of interest on loans and advances sanctioned by the Government in 1947-48 to Co-operative Loans and Sales Societies for the construction of godowns or other Co-operative Societies and loans to Land Mortgage Banks shall be 3½ and 4 per cent per annum. Advances to cultivators under the Agriculturists Loans Act of 1935 will be at the rate of 5½ per cent and advances under the Special Loans to the State Aided Industries Act will be 5 per cent. Loans to co-operative societies and individuals under the requisition of house-sites for communities eligible

for help by the Labour Department will be 5½ per cent. The penal interest in all overdue instalments and interest will remain at 7½ per cent per annum. [22nd May]

Remission Sanctioned

The Government have sanctioned the proposal of the Collector of Bellary for the remission of 25 per cent dry assessment for fasli 1356 in the villages of Pachanur and Halabarivi in Alur taluk of Bellary district, where the outturn of the crop was 4½ annas and below. The concession will apply also to unobjectionable cases of Sivoojama minor inam lands charged without rent or jodi equal to or more than the full assessment and lands assigned temporarily. [30th May]

Fire Relief

The Government have sanctioned a sum of Rs. 2,448 towards the relief of distress caused by the fire accident in Uddandapuram village, Sarvasiddhi taluk, Vizagapatam district, on 23rd April 1947.

The Government have also sanctioned a sum of Rs. 1,000 towards the relief of distress caused by the fire accident on 24th April 1947 in Kokkrapalli village, Sarvasiddhi taluk, Vizagapatam district. [30th May]

Poster Design for U.N.O.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations is organizing a "Poster of the Year" competition to encourage professional artists in all member countries to submit designs for a poster portraying some aspect of the aims and principles of the United Nations as outlined in the United Nations Charter. The best poster submitted will be adopted by the United Nations for official use.

Three posters selected from each participating country will be forwarded to the headquarters of the United Nations where an International Committee will be formed to make the final awards. The prizes will be \$1,500 for the first prize, \$1,000 for the second prize, \$500 for the third prize and \$100 for each of ten prizes for honourable mention.

The winning poster is to be issued during the second session of the General Assembly in September 1947 and selected entries are to reach Lake Success (New York) before July 1, 1947. Those interested may obtain full particulars from the Art in Industry Institute. [30th May]

Control of Yellow Cholam

It has been reported in certain local dailies that the Government have cancelled their previous notification relating to the control over the distribution of yellow cholam. As this implies that all restrictions on the purchase and sale of yellow cholam have been removed, the Government wish to make it clear that the orders relating to the procurement, distribution and price control still remain in force for yellow cholam. The order recently issued in G.O. Ms. No. 465, Food, dated 18th April 1947, merely permits the delivery of the consignments of yellow cholam or its products imported into this Province without the countersignatures of the Collectors on the Railway receipts or shipping documents and the disposal of the consignments so imported without the written consent of the Collectors. [30th May]

Engineering Courses in Karachi

The Government of Sind have decided to continue the "Two-year Overseer's Course" started at the N.E.D. Engineering College, Karachi, and the I.C.E. Institute, Sukkur, for training candidates for posts of overseers in the Sind Public Works Department, for another term of two years ending 31st March 1949.

The admissions to this course will be restricted to Muslims only. If, however, the number of Sindhi Muslims is not up to the mark, non-Sindhi Muslims will be given preference, provided they give in writing that, after passing this course, they will serve in Sind Public Works Department, unless no post could be offered to them within a period of three months from the date of declaration of the result of the examination.

The successful candidates will be considered as qualified overseers and will be eligible for being appointed as such on the temporary establishment in the first instance, in the Sind Public Works Department on a starting pay of Rs. 105 in the grade of Rs. 60-5-120 (E.B.) 6-180 (E.B.) 8-200.

Twenty (20) scholarships (each of Rs. 50 per mensem tenable at the N.E.D. Engineering College, Karachi, and of Rs. 30 per mensem tenable at the I.C.E. Institute, Sukkur) have been sanctioned for the duration of the full term of the course referred to above. The question of further increasing the number of scholarships is receiving attention of Government.

Applications are invited from the intending Muslim candidates who have passed at least the Matriculation Examination of the University of Bombay or any other recognized University or an

equivalent examination and whose age on admittance in the above course does not exceed 26 years.

While applying, the following particulars should invariably be furnished:—

- (i) Name, father's name and surname.
- (ii) Native place.
- (iii) Date of birth.
- (iv) Educational qualifications and when each examination was passed. Total number of marks secured in the Matriculation Examination should be shown separately.

(v) Whether the candidate likes to join at Karachi or at Sukkur.

Muslim candidates should address their applications to the Chief Engineer in Sind, Post Box 328, Karachi-3 and non-Muslim candidates should apply direct to the Principal, N.E.D. Engineering College, Karachi, or the Principal, I.C.E. Institute, Sukkur. The applications of Muslim candidates must reach the Chief Engineer's office before the 10th June 1947.

Any attempt, direct or indirect, to influence any officer of the Public Works Department will disqualify the candidate concerned. [29th May]

Breeding Bulls Provided

In view of the large demand for good breeding bulls in Madras City, the Director of Veterinary Services has submitted a scheme for the stationing of breeding bulls in the cattle depots of the Corporation of Madras. According to this scheme, suitable breeding bulls will be stationed by the Veterinary Department in the seven Corporation Cattle Depots in different Wards of the City and maintained at Government cost. The services of these bulls will be made available to the public on payment of the usual service fee. The bulls will be supplied from Government farms as and when they become available. They will be inspected periodically by the officers of the Veterinary Department and will be withdrawn in case they are not properly looked after by the Corporation authorities or are not performing a reasonable number of services. The maintenance charges of the bulls will be paid to the Corporation with reference to the number of bulls actually maintained at the depots each year. The Commissioner, Corporation of Madras, has agreed to the proposal. He has also agreed to construct sheds in the concerned cattle depots for housing the bulls separately and to appoint an attendant at each of these depots exclusively to look after the bull. The Government approve the scheme and sanction it for a period of three years in the first instance.

Sanction is accorded in this connexion to an expenditure of Rs. 3,200.

The Ban on Movement of Chillies

The Government have removed the ban on the movement of chillies and chilli products from the Madras Province to any place in India. No permits will therefore be necessary for such movements hereafter.

The ban on the export of chillies and chilly products to places outside India however continues.

[31st May]

The Madras Temple Entry Act

The Madras Temple Entry Authorisation Act, 1947 (sections 2 to 11) is coming into force on 2nd June 1947 and a notification to that effect has already appeared in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 28th May 1947. Under the provisions of this Act, unlike the earlier Act of 1939, the right of the excluded classes to enter temples and offer worship is not dependent upon any resolution of the trustees and the consent of the Government being obtained thereto or upon the trustees being of opinion that the worshipping public are not generally opposed to the entry of Harijans. The Act confers an absolute right of worship which does not depend upon the consent of any authority. Government have already appointed a committee to advise them in regard to the framing of rules and regulations under the Act. But the right of entry into and worship in temples conferred by the Act is not dependent on the framing of rules and regulations.

With effect from the 2nd June 1947, Harijans will have the same right to enter Hindu temples and offer worship in them in the same manner and to the same extent as Hindus in general have. The Act applies to every public temple in this Province and the Tirupati temple is no exception. In view, however, of an injunction having been recently issued by the High Court before the

coming into force of the new Act, the Tirupati temple authorities are advised by the Government to take appropriate steps before the High Court to move for the discharge of the injunction recently issued.

[31st May]

Electricity Project Sanctioned

The Government have sanctioned an estimate of Rs. 26.40 lakhs for the advance construction instead of in 1951-53 of the Madara-Tirumangalam-Rajapalayam-Tenkasi 66 KV line with telephones and 3 sub-stations on this line in the Papanasam Hydro-Thermal Electric System. The Scheme is intended to meet the large demand for power that has arisen in the Tenkasi, Rajapalayam and Tirumangalam areas especially for agricultural and industrial requirements.

[31st May]

(Continued from page 7)

As regards books and periodicals they have been allowed the privileges given to "A" class prisoners and in addition they are free to get, subject to censorship, any book or periodical not proscribed or banned by Government.

They enjoy the same privileges in the matter of legal advice as Congress detenus did and have been granted special facilities in the matter of morning and evening walks as well as games.

Above all, those of the detenus who have families to maintain and have applied for family allowances, have been granted allowances ranging from a minimum of Rs. 25 (or less if they have applied for less) to a maximum of Rs. 150 a month according to the circumstances of each case from the date of their detention.

[31st May]

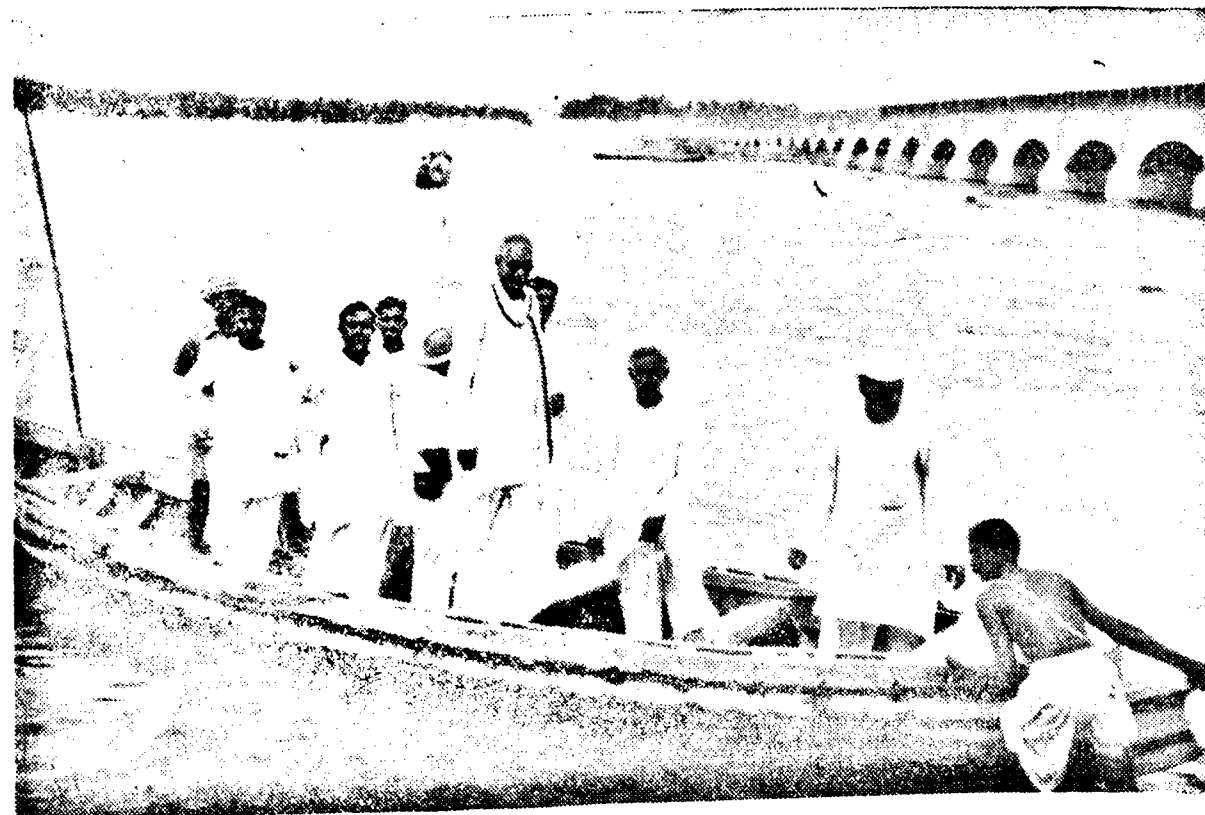
Reorganization of Textile Control

Mr. Sitarama Reddi Explains Plan

The Government's intention to appoint a committee to go into questions connected with yarn and cloth controls in the Province, was announced by the Hon'ble Mr. H. Sitarama Reddi, Minister for Industries, at a Press conference held on May 27.

The proposed committee would consider all questions relating to control regarding procurement and distribution of yarn and cloth, handloom wages, and export policy.

The Minister pointed out that no proposal for removal of cloth control was pending before



The Hon'ble Sri Kala Venkata Rao and party inspecting the Gannavaram Aqueduct (Valnatyam river) during his recent tour in Andhra.

the Government. He added, "So far as our province is concerned it would be very difficult for us if controls are removed. There is no question at present of giving up cloth rationing or of changing the method of distribution."

Referring to the position of hand-loom and mill cloth in our Province the Minister stated that it was the general rule that exports of hand-loom cloth were not permitted to other provinces. Export was permitted only to Ceylon, Malaya and Burma. He also said that except Bengal, Hyderabad and Mysore, the other provinces had not agreed to take our hand-loom cloth in exchange for mill cloth, due to the high prices of the former.

The total monthly requirement of cloth of Madras province at the rate of 10 yards per capita for its population of 53.35 millions was 29,639 bales (a bale containing about 1,500 yards). In lieu of this demand, 26,673 bales of handloom cloth and 8,966 bales of mill cloth were now available for the province, both from internal production and supplies from surplus areas.

The Minister then explained the scheme of the reorganisation of the Textile Control Department. The object of the Government was to facilitate quick disposal by the authorities in the districts of local complaints and grievances. Nearly all these could be redressed through the Village, Town, Taluk and District Committees. The Government would not ordinarily entertain any representations, unless the District Collector or the Provincial Textile Commissioner, as the case might be had first been moved in the matter.

Under the new scheme, the Collector or the Assistant Textile Commissioner, if so authorised by the Collector, is the licensing authority under all the control orders with the exception of Artificial silk, Khadi controls and licenses for retail depots of mills under the Madras Textile Mills Control Order, 1946. The excepted items shall be under the Provincial Textile Commissioner.

It is proposed to delegate licensing powers under the Cotton Textile (Raw Materials and Stores) Order, 1946, to the Collectors in respect of dealers

and consumers of dyes and chemicals, licensing powers in respect of importers and importers, distributors being, however, reserved in the hands of the Provincial Textile Commissioner. But until further orders, all representations relating to licences and permits under the Central Government's Control Order cited should be addressed to the Provincial Textile Commissioner.

The distribution of cloth and yarn within the district is entirely a matter for the Collector and all representations in regard to it should be addressed to him accordingly, if the order as desired is not obtained or is not obtainable under the rules, through the local Committee.

Enforcement of Textile Control Measures.—The District Collector is the authority responsible for this except in regard to the measures in force for the control of mills. The Provincial Textile Commissioner is the authority responsible for the latter. Representations regarding control of mills

should, therefore, be addressed to the Provincial Textile Commissioner and to the Collector in all other cases.

The Provincial Textile Commissioner is the authority to be addressed in regard to all matters connected with (1) Export of cotton textiles from the province, including export permits; (2) The Khadi scheme including the administration of the Madras Khadi Control Order, 1947; (3) Procurement of cloth and yarn from areas outside the Province; and (4) Issue of permits for the despatch of cloth by post under the Cotton Textiles Transmission by post Prohibition Order, 1946, promulgated by the Central Government.

The Provincial Textile Commissioner should be addressed in regard to all matters not covered by the above analysis. The Provincial Textile Commissioner or the District Collector as the case may be, should accordingly be addressed in the first instance, with reference to the division of functions explained above.



The Hon'ble Sri Kala Venkata Rao speaking to a way side gathering at Pallankuru, Amalapuram. Seated on his left is the Hon'ble Sri Ramakrishna Raju, President of the Madras Legislative Council



A general view of the bridge now being constructed at Gannavaram—Hon'ble Sri Kala Venkata Rao visited this place during his recent tour in Andhra

University Education in South India

Need to Correlate Instruction with Country's needs

Education Minister's Broadcast

"The number of Universities has steadily grown in South India. What was only one University for the whole of South India, the Madras University, has developed to-day into as many as six Universities. The development of the new Universities has not resulted in reducing the numbers at the Madras University. Thus, while in 1916, before the inauguration of any of the new Universities, the number of undergraduates on the rolls of the University of Madras was 11,510, the number in 1946-47 in the Madras University alone is 29,631. It need not be added that the other Universities also are working in full strength. This only shows as to how in this country University education has covered rapid ground in the last few years. With this rapid growth, fresh problems have arisen in University education and it is no surprise that we find statements being made everywhere that University education requires reorganization.

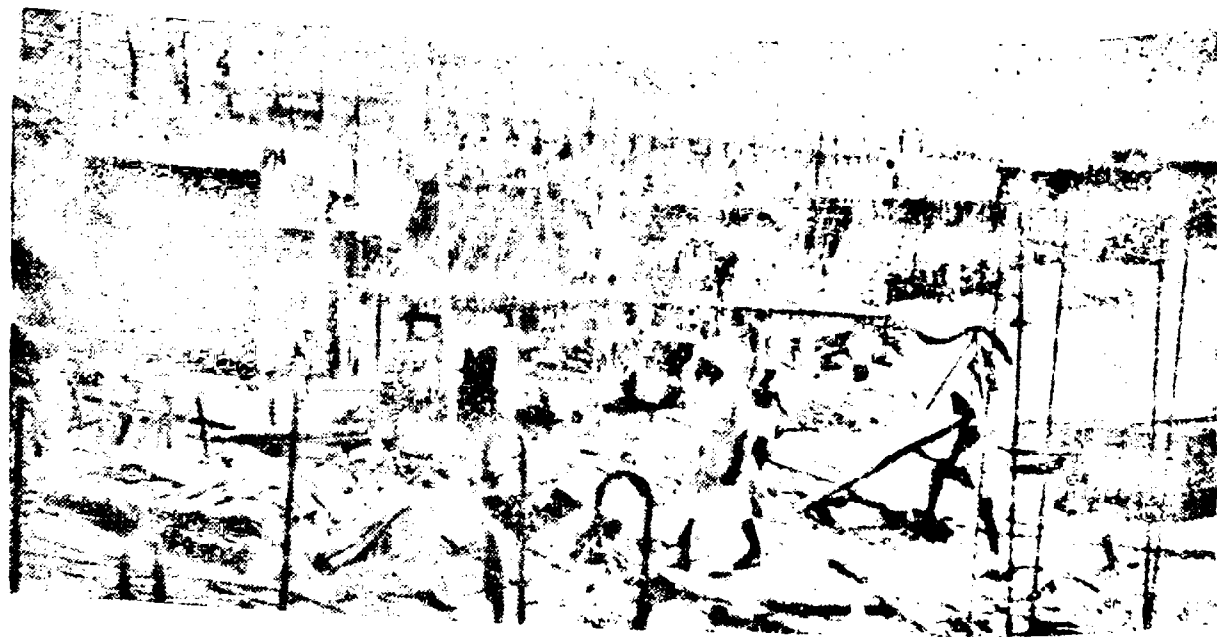
The times also have changed. The spirit of the times to-day is very different from the spirit of the times a quarter of a century ago. In those days, people thought in terms of Western culture and they thought that the man who aped Western manners was a cultured man, but to-day with the dawn of Swaraj and Independence, the old ideology is giving place to a new one in which Indian culture, tradition and learning are bound to have greater respect. Besides, time was when only a few from the so-called advanced communities chose to go for University education but now with Democracy has come an yearning for knowledge amongst all classes of people. And so, it is natural that in these transitional times, our Universities should be having fresh problems to face. When people criticize certain aspects of our University education to-day, we need not be disheartened for it only means that in a fast-growing age, as in the case of our other social and educational

institutions, the Universities also require re-adjustment. They have served to the best of their ability in the past and they must be so moulded as to contribute their best towards the future.

At the outset, we must make it clear to our own minds as to what is the object of our University education. There are some who believe that the object of University education is merely the imparting of intellectual knowledge in the various spheres. There are others who believe that its object is to give a liberal education for such of those who come to its portals. There may be still others who think that it is an institution through which one can qualify himself for higher jobs and emoluments in Government service. While these may all be partly true and express certain aspects of University education, they lack a fundamental basic element. A mere intellectual education makes a man selfish. While it may equip him well to fight the battles of life, it makes him live for himself rather than for the community; but the characteristics of true education must be the making of a whole man and the training of his heart also. A man, while he should be enlightened, must use his enlightenment and learning to serve the community and the country to the best advantage. These are the characteristics of all true education. Our Universities like all real educational institutions, must produce men and women of character. That attitude of service

and devotion to the country, of putting the country and the community first and ourselves second, must be more and more emphasized in our Universities as elsewhere.

All our Universities have grown in numbers especially in the last few years. As a result of these large numbers, the touch between the teachers and the taught has become very much less than before, with the consequent deterioration in discipline. It has also been said that a good number of those who seek and find admission for University classes now are not suited for University education, and so, in the long run, make for waste. The Government are earnestly considering this matter and are trying to find ways and means by which such of those who are unsuited to University studies may be diverted to other avocations. But unfortunately, this problem, while it may be easy in many other countries, seems to present a peculiar difficulty in this country. Where there are no castes by birth and where there is a homogeneous community, weeding out becomes easy and no heart-burning is created. But in a country where certain communities by birth have been forced to be mere drawers of water and hewers of wood for thousands of years, it is very difficult for any Government to impose upon them the same stringent conditions for taking to University education which may be easily satisfied by other communities who have



Labourers are busy with the work of building the bridge at Gannavaram



During his recent tour in Andhra the Hon'ble Sri Kula Venkata Rao addressed a large number of meetings at which thousands of people were present. The picture here gives the front view of one such meeting at Tanuku, West Godavari

had an advantage over them for many centuries. Difficult of solution as these problems may be, we must face and solve them as best as we can.

One of the results of overcrowding in our colleges, has been a marked tendency towards inefficiency. When compared to a few decades ago, the Universities as well as the various colleges have had to provide a much greater variety of subjects than before. The result has been, that every college, in competition with others, has sought to provide as many courses of instruction as possible though they do not have the requisite funds to provide the necessary equipments for these many courses. Consequently, while many courses of instruction are available in all the colleges, their general efficiency has suffered. I have heard that even in America where large funds are available to the colleges and large endowments are being made for University education, colleges and Universities have set upon

themselves the duty of specializing in certain subjects for which they may have some special advantages. The result has been that in those subjects in which they could specialize, they could achieve a high standard of efficiency. This, in its turn, has raised the general level of University education to a higher degree in those countries.

If we are also to have an equally high standard of University education in our own province, I should think action on these lines may be necessary. But this will not by any means be an easy thing to achieve. It will require a great deal of understanding, co-operation and sacrifice if we are to organize on this basis.

In the past, our Universities and colleges have grown without any reference to the industrial or commercial needs of this country. Time was when most of the products of the Universities expected employment in the Government; but that condition obtains no more to-day. Now it is

[JUNE 7, 1947]

very necessary for our Universities and colleges to be in touch with the industries and commerce of this country as these will be our greatest employers in the future. I have heard as to how intimate are the relations between the industries and the Universities in many countries and how they are mutually helpful to each other. By thus keeping touch with the Industries, while University education has become more practical, the industries in their turn have received help from the research work in the Universities. If the same result is to be achieved in this country, I believe a great deal of reorganization in University education will be necessary.

This is more so with regard to professional education such as Engineering. Attempts have been made in the past to give University graduates a year of practical training before degrees were awarded to them. But, for many reasons, this plan was not successful and was given up. The Government are contemplating the introduction of an Apprenticeship Bill by which power will be taken to make industrialists give this practical training to our graduates in Engineering and other courses. This step, I believe, while it will bring us in line with the other progressive countries, will substantially aid the industries and the students to become more efficient.

There are many other problems which the Universities have to face. So long as the medium of instruction in the Universities is English, it will be impossible for us to expect that a large proportion of the people of the province will take advantage of that education. Using the regional language as the medium of instruction in the University will have an indirect effect in stimulating the literature in those languages in all subjects, which in its turn will act as the greatest lever of adult education in the country. Along with this must also come the establishment of rural Universities which must serve the special needs of the millions of men and women in our villages. We have our Oriental Colleges. The time must come when we should re-organize them also and put them on a proper footing. These and many other problems, the Universities have to face and I have no doubt the innate strength in these institutions will assert themselves and find proper solutions for these and many other problems that may face us.

Those who are in charge of University education, need today great vision, strength and daring, which will give them strength and ability to plan well for the future of a glorious India. And God willing, I have no doubt we will evolve a plan to suit the genius of this great country.



Another view of the meeting at Tanuku

JUNE 7, 1947]

Labour Situation in the Province

Report for the Fortnight Ending 24th May 1947

About 150 tannery workers of the Naicker Shop at Madhavaram who struck work without notice on 10th May 1947 resumed work after two days. The Labour Officer, Madras, is looking into the demands of the workers.

Under Section 11 (5) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, the Government of Madras have appointed Mr. S. Anantharamakrishnan, Managing Director, Messrs. Simpson and Company, Limited, Madras as Assessor in connection with the Court of Inquiry for Motor Transport Services and Motor Transport Workshops in the place of Mr. E. A. Watson who has resigned.

The Collector of Coimbatore has posted a Deputy Tahsildar as Special Labour Officer for the Radhakrishna Mill, Coimbatore, for a period of 3 months.

The workers of the Dhanalakshmi Mills, Limited, Tiruppur who struck work on 2nd May 1947 as a protest against the dismissal of three workers for misbehaviour resumed work on 7th May 1947 unconditionally.

The workers of the Lakshmi Mills Limited, Peppinickenpalayam, Coimbatore, struck work from 12.30 p.m. on 3rd May 1947 as a protest against the suspension of a doffing boy for half an hour for misbehaviour towards the head maistri. The workers resumed work on the same day at 4.30 p.m. on the intervention of the leaders of the Coimbatore District Textile Workers Union, Sirgannallur.

The workers of Argus Engineering Works, Coimbatore, struck work on 7th May 1947 as a protest against the practice of cutting two days discretionary bonus from the wages of the workers for one day's absence. On the intervention of the Labour Officer, Coimbatore, the workers returned to work on 8th May 1947.

Twenty-one clerks of Sri B. Sasubramania Mills, Sirgannallur, struck work on 8th May 1947 as a protest against the assault on the head clerk of the mill by some workers. On the intervention of the Labour Officer, Coimbatore, they returned to work on 9th May 1947, on the assurance given by the labour leaders that they would give adequate protection to the clerks inside and outside the mills.

The workers of the Radhakrishna Mills, Limited, Peelamedu, Coimbatore, observed hartal from 5 p.m. on 9th May 1947 to 3.30 a.m. on 10th May

1947 in connection with the arrest of the Socialist Leader, Sri Jai Prakash Narain.

The Secretary, Calicut Textile Workers' Union, Calicut, has issued a notice of strike, dated 25th April 1947 to the management of the Commonwealth Trust, Limited, Calicut, intimating that the workers will go on strike between 11th May 1947 and 26th May 1947 if their demands for fixation of 8 hour working days, increase of wages and dearness allowance, etc., are not conceded by the management. The Commissioner of Labour has asked the Labour Officer, Calicut, and the District Magistrate, Malabar, to advise the union to withdraw the strike notice and to await the result of the adjudication regarding standardisation of wages in handloom factories in Calicut.

The Secretary of the Standard Cotton and Silk Weaving Company Labour Union, Calicut, has served a notice of strike on the management of the Standard Cotton and Silk Weaving Company on 26th April 1947 intimating that the workers will go on strike from 12th May 1947 if their demands for a bonus of 3 months wages to all workers, provident fund, arrangements instead of Benefit Funds, free medical aid, etc., are not conceded by the management. The Commissioner of Labour has instructed the Labour Officer, Calicut, to bring about a settlement of the dispute and to advise the workers not to go on strike and to await the orders of Government on the recommendation of the Commissioner of Labour to appoint a Court of Enquiry for the handloom industry in the Province.

The Secretary, Kerala Rubber Estate Workers Union, Karuvankundu, wired on 1st May 1947 stating that one thousand estate workers had struck work on 28th April 1947 demanding 25 per cent bonus and 50 per cent dearness allowance. The Labour Officer, Calicut, has reported that the workers resumed work on 10th May 1947.

The Secretary of Textile Workers Congress, Calicut, has issued a notice of strike, dated 8th May 1947 to the Proprietor of the Malabar Weaving Establishment, Calicut, intimating that the workers will go on strike from 22nd May 1947 if their demands for 3 months wages and bonus, medical aid, canteen, leave facilities, etc., are not conceded by the management.

The workers of Messrs. K. P. Neelambi and Sons, Calicut, have issued a notice of strike, dated 8th May 1947, to the management of Messrs. K. P. Neelambi and Sons, Calicut (Handloom Factory) intimating that the workers will go on a strike from 26th May 1947 if their demands for 3 months wages as bonus, increment in wages, medical aid, leave facilities, etc., are not conceded by the management.

The workers of Prabhat Textiles, Calicut, have issued a notice of strike, dated 13th May 1947, to the management intimating that the workers will go on strike from 27th May 1947 if their demands for 3 months wages as bonus increased dearness allowance, provident fund, starting of canteen, medical aid, etc., are not conceded by the management.

The Secretary of the Tile Workers Congress Union issued a notice of strike to the management of the Cydone Home Textile Company, Limited, Calicut, intimating that the workers will go on strike from 16th May 1947 if their demands for bonus, increase of dearness allowance, to 15 per cent pay for leave period, medical aid and canteen, etc., are not conceded.

The workers of the Handloom factories in Calicut struck work on 12th May 1947 demanding increase in wages, supply of enough yarn to keep the looms engaged throughout the month, 3 months wages as bonus, opening of canteen for workers, etc. The Labour Officer, Calicut, has been instructed to advise the workers to call off the strike and to resume work pending the orders of Government on the Commissioner's proposal to appoint a Court of Enquiry for the Handloom Industry in the Province.

The Government of Madras have accepted the Adjudicator's award in the dispute between the workers and the management of India Ceramic, Limited, Nellore.

It is reported that 26 workers in the Pottery Department of Messrs. Parry and Company, Limited, Ranipet, have been dismissed for refusing to work as per Adjudicator's award, and that another batch of 25 workers have been suspended for a week for refusing to do shift work on Sundays.

The Government have informed the Secretary of the Ranipet Labour Union that the award of the Adjudicator regarding pottery workers has been accepted by them and enforced on the



The Hon'ble Sri Kala Venkata Rao is being welcomed by the Congress leaders at Mungonda, Razole taluk.
— Picture taken during his recent tour in Andhra.



At Lakshmi Palavaram, Razole taluk, the Hon'ble Sri Kala Venkata Rao was given a splendid reception. Here in the picture the Revenue Minister is seen seated in a cart drawn by fifty pairs of bullocks. A huge crowd accompanies the Minister.

parties, and that management of the factory can take disciplinary action against the workers if they fail to abide by the Adjudicators' award.

The workers of the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills, Madras, who struck work on 11th March 1947 have not yet resumed work.

Sri S. Suryaprakasa Rao, Acting President of the Madras Labour Union is carrying on negotiations with the Hon'ble Minister for Food and Labour and the Hon'ble Premier on behalf of the workers.

The workers of the East Asiatic Company Oil Mills, Rayapuram, who struck work on 2nd May 1947 for terminating the services of 118 operatives from 1st May 1947 have been advised to resume work and the management have been advised to take back workers in the order of seniority.

The management of Messrs. Vummidi Ramayya Chetty and Guruswamy Chetty and Company (Jewellers), Madras, have closed their workshop on 1st May 1947 as they have lost confidence in their workers consequent on the misbehaviour of one of their workers and indiscipline inside the workshop.

Sri P. R. K. Sarma, M.I.C., President, Madras Kerosene Oil Workers' has issued a notice of

strike to the managements of the Burma Oil Company, Standard Vacuum Oil Company and Caltex (India), Limited, Madras, on 16th May 1947 intimating that the workers will go on strike after 14 days if their demands for bonus, festival holidays, house rent allowance, etc., are not conceded by the management. The Commissioner of Labour has recommended to Government that these disputes may be recommended to the Industrial Tribunal for adjudication.

In their Order Ms. No. 2227, Development, dated 2nd May 1947, the Government of Madras have referred the dispute between the workers and managements of Cinema Theatres in Madras City to Sri Diwan Bahadur K. S. Ramaswamy Sastry (Industrial Tribunal) for adjudication.

The Inspector of Factories, Guntur, has reported that the India Metal Works, Kurnool, has been closed on 25th April 1947 as the Kurnool Town Municipality has refused to issue a licence to the factory.

The workers of the Commonwealth Trust Tiles, Limited, Feroke, Malabar, who struck work from 12th May 1947, have not yet resumed work.

The action Committee of the Muslim Tobacco Labour Union, Palghat, has given a notice of strike to all the Tobacco Merchants on 17th May 1947 stating that the workers will go on strike if their demands for payment of wages, by the end of every month, fixation of the rate of loading a bundle of beedi at annas six and the rate for rebundling at annas twelve are not conceded. The Commissioner of Labour has instructed the Labour Officer, Calicut, to advise the Union to withdraw the strike notice and to await the result of the Court of Inquiry.

The Labour Officer, Vellore, has reported that the casual workers of the milk powder packing department of the East India Distilleries and Sugar Factory, Limited, Ranipet, wanted 15 days wages in lieu of notice. The management have made representations to the Government and the orders of the Government are awaited. The workers resumed work but subsequently the Milk Factory has been closed. Only 30 workers are engaged in despatching the remaining goods.

The workers of the Deccan Sugar and Abkari Company, Limited, Pugalur, Trichinopoly, struck work on 16th May 1947 demanding the reinstatement of temporary seasonal workers discharged by the management. They resumed work on 19th May 1947.

The management of the Pulliccar Mills, Tiruchengode, Salem district, have closed down their

(Continued on page 36.)

Food Situation in the Province

Report for the Second Fortnight of April

Season and Crops

There was little or no rainfall in the districts of West Godavari, Kistna, Guntur and Bellary. In the other districts the rainfall was generally light and occurred in scattered places.

The level of water in the Mettur Reservoir was 109.20 feet on 30th April 1947 as against 13.95 feet on 30th April 1946.

Sowing or transplantation of paddy was proceeding in the districts of Chittoor, Trichinopoly, Tanjore, Madurai, Ramnad, Malabar and South Kanara, and of dry crops in Coimbatore and Ramnad districts. The condition of the standing crops was reported to be generally fair except in parts of East Godavari, Chittoor, Trichinopoly, Ramnad and South Kanara districts.

Harvest of paddy was proceeding in the districts of South Arcot, Chittoor, Trichinopoly, Madurai, Ramnad, Tinnevely, and South Kanara, and of dry crops in the districts of Nellore, Vizagapatam and Cuddapah.

Prices

There was no perceptible change in the prices of cereals. As regards pulses, the only noticeable change was an increase of 2.4 per cent in the price of Bengalgram. The price of salt fell by 18 per cent. The position regarding the prices of oils, oilseeds, oilcakes, etc., was as follows:—

No change—Coconut oil and groundnut oil cake.

Rise—Copra (4.3 per cent).

Fall—Groundnut (shelled) (4.7 per cent); gingelly seed (3.7 per cent); gingelly oil (12.8 per cent); groundnut oil (7 per cent); gingelly oil cake (2.7 per cent); and cotton seed (1.2 per cent).

Procurement

The following statement shows the quantities of paddy, rice and millets locally procured and the quantities of cereals and pulses received from sources outside the Province:—

(a) Local procurement during the fortnight ending 15th April 1947—

	Tons.
Paddy and rice in terms of rice.	60,682
Millets	6,074

(b) Receipts from other Provinces and States during the fortnight ending 30th April 1947—

	TONS.
Rice	1,856
Millets	Nil.
Wheat	26
(Samba wheat from Hyderabad)	
Wheat products	Nil.
Pulses—	
Blackgram	74
Redgram	212
Greengram	112
Bengalgram	3,408
Total	3,806

(c) Imports from Overseas during fortnight ending 30th April 1947—Nil.

Stocks and Supply

Rice.—The stock of rice in the Province was 255,364 tons on 1st May 1947 as against 217,032 tons on 17th April 1947. Mainly as a result of the slowing-down of procurement of rice in the Circars, where Producers-Cum-Consumers Co-operative Societies have been the procuring agents, only about 107,000 tons of rice was procured in April. This is much less than the quantity of 179,000 tons procured in April 1946 and much less than the quantity expected in the month, which was about 200,000 tons. As the Producers-Cum-Consumers Co-operative Societies in the Circars were not able to procure the allotted quantities resulting in a serious set back in exports to the deficit districts, the Government have replaced those societies by millers as procuring agents. The stock on 1st May 1947 is 229,000 tons less than it was on the same date in 1946. Madras representatives at the recent Delhi conference have been informed that no substantial quota of rice will be allotted to this Province in addition to what has already been allotted under the Kharif plan.

During the fortnight stocks in Chittoor fell to so low a level that the rice ration in the rural areas in the district had to be reduced temporarily from 12 oz. to 10 oz. from 20th April. Arrangements have been made to rush supplies to Chittoor from surplus areas. In Malabar where the ration is being raised to 12 oz. on 4th May 1947, the stock

position is so bad that it is feared that the ration will shortly have to be lowered to 10 oz.

The stock position in Guntur and East Godavari was so unsatisfactory that no exports were allotted from East Godavari for May 1947 and all arrear quotas due from Guntur were cancelled.

Millets.—There is a slight increase in the stock of millets during the fortnight from 21,349 tons on 17th April 1947 to 21,464 tons on 1st May 1947. Procurement of millets during April was approximately 11,000 tons. A larger quantity was thus procured in April 1947 than in March 1947 but procurement was not so good as in April 1946, when 13,051 tons were procured. A shipload of 8,000 tons of millets is expected from Ceylon during May and will be distributed to the needy districts. Shortage of millets is greatest now in Guntur and Nellore.

Maize.—Maize stocks fell slightly during the fortnight from 6,287 tons to 6,186 tons.

Barley.—There has been a more appreciable fall in barley stocks which were 871 tons on the 1st May as compared with 1,236 tons in 17th April.

Wheat.—Stocks have decreased from 4,953 tons to 4,667 tons. No imports are expected before the end of July. In some districts it has become necessary to order sale to all cardholders without restriction to habitual consumers in order to dispose of stocks before they become unfit for human consumption.

Wheat products.—Stocks have fallen from 2,748 tons to 2,357 tons. Maida is becoming old in some places and in these places it is being disposed of in the same way as wheat, by allowing issues to all ration cardholders.

Pulses.—Import of the 1946-47 Rabi plan quotas of Bengalgram from North-west India continues at a rapid rate mostly by sea from Karachi. Three ships carrying a total quantity of about 4,400 tons are expected at Tuticorin, Madras and Cochin during the first week of May. Under the new 1947-48 plan, Bengalgram quotas totalling 33,000 tons have been allotted to this Province from Punjab, Sind and Rajput States and Dholpur. A quota of 570 tons of redgram from Rampur has also recently been allotted to

this Province. Movements of blackgram from Hyderabad in exchange for Bengalgram have not so far started. Substantial quantities of high priced pulses from overseas generally from East Africa have recently arrived at Madras Port.

Rationing

Orders were issued during the fortnight permitting the non-cultivating landholders to retain or import rice at the rate of 12 oz. per adult per day and the actual cultivators at the rate of 1 lb. as before. Subject to eligibility, wheat and wheat-products (including bread) were also allowed to them, provided they surrender an equal quantity of rice.

It was ordered that the meals hotels in the rural and statutorily rationed areas should continue to be COMPULSORILY issued 10 per cent of their quota in the shape of maize and 5 per cent in the shape of barley flour and non-meals hotels 25 per cent of their requirements in the shape of maize and 10 per cent in the shape of barley flour.

Subsidiary Food Stuffs

The Government have fixed ceiling prices for brown sugar in all the districts of the Province.

Coconuts and Products Thereof

The ban on the inter-district movement of coconuts, copra and coconut oil within the province was removed during the fortnight. Control over the prices of coconuts was also lifted. Export outside the Province will however continue to be controlled as hitherto by permits in respect of coconuts and copra alone. Export of coconut oil outside the Province will not be permitted.

Miscellaneous Commodities

Supply of firewood was reported to be inadequate in the towns of Coimbatore and Cuddapah and in parts of Ramnad, Guntur and Kistna districts. It was also reported that there was a shortage of salt in most parts of Tanjore district. Scarcity of matches was reported from the districts of Nellore, Vizagapatam, Chingleput and West Godavari.

In most of these cases the Collectors are taking necessary steps.

Report for the First Fortnight of May

Weather conditions and crop prospects.—There was no rainfall in the districts of West Godavari, East Godavari, Guntur, Kistna, Cuddapah, Nellore, Chingleput and Trichinopoly. In the rest of the Province, it was generally light.

The level of water in the Mettur Reservoir was 108.85 feet on 15th May 1947 as against 15.40 feet on 15th May 1946.

Sowing or transplantation of paddy was proceeding in the districts of Vizagapatam, Chittoor,

Trichinopoly, Tanjore, Madura, Ramnad, Coimbatore and Malabar and of dry crops in the districts of Vizagapatam, Nellore, Cuddapah, Chittoor, Tanjore, Coimbatore, Salem and the Nilgiris. The condition of the standing crops was reported to be generally fair except in parts of East Godavari, Chittoor, Trichinopoly and Ramnad districts.

Harvest of paddy was proceeding in the districts of East Godavari, Cuddapah, Chittoor, Trichinopoly, Tanjore, Madura, Tinnevely, Coimbatore, Malabar and South Kanara and of dry crops in the districts of Vizagapatam, Cuddapah, Chittoor and Nellore.

Market conditions and trend of prices.—There was no perceptible change in the prices of cereals and pulses. The position regarding the prices of oils, oil seeds, oil cakes, etc., was as follows:—

No change—Coconut oil, groundnut oil cake and cotton seed.

Rise—Groundnut (shelled) (2.6 per cent); copra (4.2 per cent) and groundnut oil (1.7 per cent).

Fall—Gingelly seed (3.5 per cent); gingelly oil (5.9 per cent) and gingelly oil cake (2.8 per cent).

Procurement.—The following statements show the quantities of foodgrains locally procured in the districts and those received from sources outside the Province:—

(a) *Local procurement during the fortnight ending 30th April 1947*—

	TONS.	
Paddy ..	41,842	} Together equivalent to 50,309 tons in terms of rice.
Rice ..	21,726	
Millets ..	5,942	

(b) *Receipts from other Provinces and States during the fortnight ending 15th May 1947*—

	TONS.
Rice ..	1,447
Millets ..	Nil.
Wheat ..	Nil.
Wheat and wheat products.	
Pulses—	
Blackgram ..	762
Redgram ..	98
Greengram ..	252
Bengalgram ..	6,149
Total ..	7,261

(c) *Imports from overseas during the fortnight ending 15th May 1947*—

	TONS.
Rice ..	2,500
Millets ..	1,100 (milo)
Wheat and wheat products.	Nil.

Stock and supply position in the Province—Rice.—The stock of rice in the Province on 15th May 1947 was 242,348 tons as against 255,364 tons on 1st May 1947.

Rice stocks in all the districts are generally low. Complaints of shortages are being received from several deficit districts which are dependent on the Circars for rice imports, owing to the fact that procurement in the Circars has not yet caught up after the millers took over. Latest reports indicate some improvement in the procurement, about 52,914 tons being procured in the first fortnight of May compared with 50,308 tons in the previous fortnight. There are very heavy arrear quotas still to be moved from the Circars. Instructions have been issued to all Supply Officers to intensify procurement by making use of their seizure powers analogous to requisition powers under the old arrangement. Among the deficit districts, the position in Malabar and Coimbatore continued to be critical. In Malabar, not only the rice ration but also the overall ration which had been raised to 12 oz. on 4th May 1947 had to be put back to 10 oz. in the urban areas and to 8 oz. in all the rural areas except in two taluks. In Coimbatore, the rice ration was reduced to 10 oz. in the urban and to 8 oz. in the rural areas. Special quotas from non-surplus districts in the central and southern parts of the Province are being sent to Coimbatore and Malabar to replenish stocks. In view of the overall rice shortage and poor prospects of substantial imports of rice from outside in the coming months the rice ration was reduced from 11th May 1947 to 10 oz. in the rural areas of all non-surplus districts in the Province. Subsequently orders have been issued for the reduction of the overall cereal ration from 12 oz. to 10 oz. throughout the Province with effect from 25th May 1947.

Millets.—Stock of millets increased from 21,464 tons to 21,683 tons. The off-take of millets was 8,647 tons in March but returns so far received indicate that it was about 10,000 tons in April. Procurement of millets was rather unsatisfactory being only 4,092 tons in the first fortnight of May, as compared with 12,016 tons in April. Despatches of ragi from Orissa against the quota of 674 tons allotted to this Province have commenced. The quota of 8,000 tons of overseas milo allotted to this Province for May 1947 is being shipped from Colombo to Madras Port and should be completely received by the middle of June. In addition, an allotment of 3,000 tons of

(Continued on page 33.)

How Khadi can be made Universal

[In the course of a statement in the Assembly on April 24, 1947, the Hon'ble Mr. M. Bhakthavatsalam said as follows:—“We propose to implement effectively the resolution passed by the All-India Spinners' Association at its meeting in Delhi on 9th October 1946 for the extensive development of Khadi.” The text of the resolution referred to is given below.]

The All-India Spinners' Association believes on the strength of its experience that the means of bringing about conditions in which there will be no scarcity of cloth as is now prevailing in India and other countries of the world such as Malaya, etc., lies in the popularization of the spinning wheel and the handloom. India is the only country where production of Khadi by hand-weaving out of hand-spun yarn has been going on from ancient times and where even to-day in spite of a large number of cotton mills existing in the country pure hand-spun and hand-woven Khadi is being produced through the All-India Spinners' Association. During the last about twenty years, the All-India Spinners' Association has been able, through its work, to distribute nearly seven crores of rupees in the form of wages to poor spinners and weavers.

It is essential for the Governments, which recognize the importance of the economic order based on village industries and want to do Khadi work as part thereof, to adopt the following measures:—

(a) Planning a five-year programme, spinning should be taught and introduced as an important activity in all the primary middle and normal schools in the Province or the State. There should be at least one handloom attached to every school for weaving hand-spun yarn. Basic education should be introduced early and on the widest scale possible.

(b) Multi-purpose co-operative societies should be established in villages and Khadi work should be carried on through them as part of village uplift work.

(c) Steps should be taken to encourage cotton cultivation in areas where it is not grown at present. Seed-cotton, cotton and implements of spinning with accessories should be made available to spinners on easy terms.

(d) Research in Khadi should be undertaken and experts should be trained for Khadi work.

(e) In programmes of village uplift, hand-spinning will have to be given place in some form or other. Therefore, all employees of the co-operative, education and agricultural departments of Governments and also those of the district boards, local boards, village panchayats, etc., should be made to pass the preliminary Khadi examination (“Khadi pravesh”) and no one should be freshly recruited in these departments unless he has passed this examination.

(f) There should be control on prices of handloom cloth woven out of mill yarn.

(g) Trade in uncertified Khadi should not be allowed to be carried on in the name of Khadi.

(h) Only hand-spun yarn should be used in the textile departments and weaving schools of the Governments. Hand-spinning and hand-weaving should be introduced in jails also.

Provincial Governments and Indian States are requested to adopt among others the above measures in order to universalize Khadi. The All-India Spinners' Association and its branches will fully co-operate with them in promoting this.

Governments and mill-owners should, in consultation with the Spinners' Association, so arrange that mill cloth and mill yarn will not go into the areas where it is possible to meet the cloth requirements of the people thereof through hand-spinning and hand-weaving. Further, they should see that no new mills are set up and no new spinning and weaving machinery are brought in the existing mills. Management of the cotton mills should be conducted according to the advice of the Government and the Spinners Association. There should be absolutely no import into the country from abroad of any kind of yarn or cloth.

Governments should enact the necessary laws and bring them into operation.

Mill-owners are requested to stand by the masses and help in this work which is meant for the good of millions of our people.

Britain Accepts World Food Plan

By GEORGE MARTIN

Although it may seem untimely at the present moment of an acute world food shortage to stress the problem of potential food surpluses, it is necessary in order to secure an increased food production now to give farmers in Britain and overseas a real assurance that their increased output will not lead again to a world-wide agricultural crisis as after World War I. To evolve a long-term plan for world agriculture was the task of the Preparatory Commission on World Food Problems, whose report has been published as a White Paper in London. The British Government fully accept it as a basis for the world planning in the future.

The two objectives aimed at are the raising of the standard of nutrition of the 1,000,000,000 people who before World War II did not get enough food, and secondly the introduction of a greater measure of stability into agriculture at levels fair to producers and consumers alike. The Commission rejected Sir John Orr's proposals for the establishment of a World Food Board as an executive trading body to promote these aims. Nevertheless, the Report is in agreement with his great conception and has evolved from it a practical scheme which will be workable.

The Report deals with three main problems—development programmes, price stabilization and commodity policy and the strengthening of the machinery of the Food and Agricultural Organization. Although no executive body is to be set up for the achievement of its aims, co-ordination between national programmes is to be made more effective. For this purpose, an Annual Programme Review should be an integral part of each regular session of the F.A.O. Conference. Each nation should submit details of all its plans for production and consumption, imports and exports of all important food and agricultural products. Thus it will be possible to link the individual programmes together. For instance, if one country wanted to expand dairy produce, involving heavy imports of feeding stuffs, it would be necessary to see that the countries producing those feeding stuffs would plan to make sufficient quantities available.

Management of Famine Reserves

Many problems requiring international co-operation, however, are too urgent to be dealt with only at annual reviews. This is especially true of

the management of world famine reserves and of any changes in programme which may be required within individual areas. The Report, therefore, proposes the establishment of a World Food Council, composed of representatives of 18 member-nations and delegates of inter-governmental agencies, as part of the F.A.O. machinery. The Council shall meet as required and at least twice between the annual sessions of the F.A.O. Conference.

The recommendations regarding price stabilization and commodity policy are of particular importance. Potential output when the war-devastated areas get back into production, will be much greater than before the war. The steps taken by Governments in food-producing countries all over the world to provide guaranteed prices and assured markets will create very serious problems which can only be solved by inter-Governmental planning especially as in the importing countries the prices paid by the consumers are equally shielded from world prices by subsidies and other measures.

In accordance with British suggestions, the Report proposes that any international agency for the supervision of commodity agreements should not be confined to agricultural products, but ultimately come under the supervision of the Commodity Authority to be established under I.T.O. (International Trade Organization).

Buffer stocks are an appropriate means of price stabilization for certain commodities where the problem is mainly one of seasonal and cyclical price fluctuations. Such buffer stocks are not to be held by an international authority as was suggested by Sir John Orr, since a number of nations would not be able to put up the substantial amounts of dollars required as initial capital, but a British suggestion was adopted that they should be nationally held, first to be accumulated by the exporting countries and only when these have reached the agreed level should importing countries be called upon to fill their reserves. This enables consideration for balance of payment difficulties.

Where buffer stock are to be provided, the agreements are to work as follows: A maximum and a minimum price is to be fixed for a period of years, and within this range the market price

will be free to move, but not outside it. If the price falls to or below the floor level, then the buffer stocks will be filled. Similarly when the price rises to the ceiling, further increases are prevented through sales from the buffer stock reserves.

May be surplus

Nevertheless, Government-subsidized production in many countries, especially the United States, may lead to a persistent surplus for some years when the present shortage ends. In this event, any producing country prepared to subsidize shipments to needy countries at special prices may be allowed to do so; but the exporting

country must bear the whole loss on such shipments and it must not be recovered from the price of commercial exports.

In addition to buffer stocks, the Report recommends the creation of a Famine Reserve of essential foodstuffs, particularly breadgrains and rice.

Quotas are essential for the international regulation of certain commodities, but should be accompanied by adequate safeguards.

The Report contains observations on the application of these principles to twelve agricultural commodities—wheat, sugar, rice, live stock products, oils and fats, fish, fruits and vegetables, tea, coconuts, cotton, wool, and timber.

The Problem of Rice

Although the outlook for the current crop of rice in India is quite favourable, the shortage of exportable rice will continue since pre-war production in the major exporting countries has not yet been restored. For the present marketing year (ending June 30, 1947) export supplies available for allocation amount to 2,800,000 tons. Although this represents an improvement on the total allocations of 1,700,000 tons for 1945-46, it is still only 40 per cent of the international trade in rice before the war. On the other hand, substantial increases in population have occurred in the rice-eating countries since the beginning of the war (e.g., China 15 per cent, India 6 per cent, Philippines 10 per cent, Hongkong 76 per cent).

May Take Thirty Years

Transportation and distribution difficulties continue in the areas which were under Japanese occupation. Thus it may take from 20 to 30 years to replace coastwise shipping destroyed during the occupation in areas like the Netherlands, East Indies and the Philippines, it is pointed out in a recent statement by the International Emergency Food Council. In other areas over 50 per cent of the work-animals and native carts were destroyed.

The actual holders of any rice supplies are often unable or unwilling to release stocks for commercial sale owing to lack of incentive goods especially textiles. Instances have been reported of workers being unable to tend their fields because of lack of clothing. The currency conditions in some parts of the Far East also impede normal trade.

International co-operation is necessary to bring about an improvement. This is the more important since the rice shortage in turn intensifies the shortage of other cereals, abnormal supplies of which have to be shipped to the Far East to make up part of the rice deficit. Short-term action is being taken by the International Emergency Food Council. As the first step in marshalling international support for the greatest possible production and collection effort this year, the I.E.F.C. Committee on Rice is collecting information on the production and mobilization of rice crops in each rice-producing country, especially the factors still in the way of maximum production (e.g., inadequate supplies of seed, fertilizers, implements, consumer goods, etc.) and mobilization (e.g., inadequate supplies of ancillary materials, consumer goods and transport facilities, foreign exchange, resources, etc.).

Although the Committee realizes the limitations of international action, it thinks that the Council might be of assistance to national Governments in supporting their claims for imports of commodities essential to rice production (e.g., gunny sacks, fertilizers, etc.) or by indication where these supplies could be best obtained.

Expanding Production

The object of this survey is to explore how the I.E.F.C. can be of assistance in dealing with the specific difficulties encountered by the rice-producing countries in their efforts to expand production and to mobilize supplies effectively in 1947 and 1948. The long-term problems of the world rice situation is being discussed in a Rice Study Group meeting, convened by the United

Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation at Trivandrum. The suggestion for this meeting was first made by the Preparatory Commission on World Food Proposals. India proposed the establishment of a Rice Board in south-east Asia designed to secure closer co-ordination between Governments in connection with the production, distribution and price of rice. No definite conclusions were reached on this proposal. The problems raised by it—improvement of marketing methods, measures for price stabilization, establishment of famine reserves and exchange of technical information—form the agenda of the Rice Study Group.

The severe shortage of animal proteins in European diets has brought an abnormal demand for pulses—beans and peas, lentils, etc. Although world output is slightly above the pre-war quantity, the disparity between the supplies and stated requirements for pulses is greater than for any other food under allocation recommendation

F.A.O. Rice Study Group

Sir C. P. Ramaswami Iyer on the Problems to be Examined

The following are extracts from a talk broadcast from the A.I.R., Madras, on 21st May 1947:—

The Conference that is meeting in Trivandrum is the first attempt to deal with the problem of rice on an international level. So far, commodities like wheat, tea, rubber and sugar have been dealt with on that basis. But rice being an Asiatic crop purely has not received the same attention up till now. A conference of the United Nations made it clear that international planning was absolutely essential in the case of rice. They further stated that there never has been enough food for the health of all people and therefore production of food must be greatly expanded.

The work of the Rice Study Group which has attracted the attention of delegates and which has obtained the co-operation of members of various countries including not only India but Japan, China, Korea, Burma, Italy, France, the United Kingdom and the United States may be divided into three phases; one is the short-term phase dealing with the determination of surpluses and deficits and the facilities for collection and transport. This is specially necessary so as to avoid such disappointment as we have experienced in the case of Burma and Indonesia.

India has the largest acreage under rice in the world. But its production is only equal to that

by I.E.F.C. In Europe as a whole, production in 1946 was about 13 per cent below the pre-war average, but the decline was steeper in some countries than in others; bad weather led to disappointing crops especially in Austria, Italy, Poland, Greece and Northern Europe. Severe shortages are also reported from the Far East. Only in Oceania and the western hemisphere has production increased substantially above the pre-war level. As Oceania's share in world production is relatively small, the major contribution to the solution of the world shortage must come from the western hemisphere, from which about 350,000 tons are provided out of the total exportable supply of 500,000 tons. Supplies for the second half of the crop year are only about one-eighth of stated requirements, and in these circumstances a deterioration in the protein consumption level of various countries appears almost inevitable. Recently the United States made an additional 14,000 tons of beans available for shipment to Europe.

of China with half of India's acreage. This disparity in yield has to be dealt with and remedied by better seeds and manure facilities. The general theory now is that the problem of India and indeed of the world is not over-population but under-development of resources. Those resources have to be conserved by proper processing and preparation. The question of avoidance of wastage during transit, proper transport systems and refrigeration have to be dealt with. With the need for introducing better seeds by selection the expansion of the track by transplanting has to be contemplated. Botanical research for increased yield in the production and the all-important variety is a *sine qua non*. The problem has also to be dealt with from the point of view of disease-resistance. There are many problems of this kind, both short-term problems and long-term problems. Both the problems will be dealt with by the Rice Study Group.

After they have collated the results they will prepare an agenda for an international rice conference. On the results and the wisely implemented results of this Conference depends the health, prosperity and progress of South-East Asia, and we therefore look forward with great anticipation and great hopes to the work of this Rice Study Group.

II

Modern Methods of Rice Production

The following is the text of a talk broadcast on 21st May, from the A.I.R., Madras, by Mr. William Henry Cummings, Leader of the United States Delegation to F. A. O. Rice Group, and Agricultural Economist, Office of the Foreign Agricultural Relations, United States Department of Agriculture.

Rice in the United States is a speciality crop. Last year a record of one and a half million acres was grown. The average yields vary from 50 bushels per acre in the Arkansas area to 80 bushels in California.

Rice is considered a speciality crop because it is produced only in areas where certain conditions prevail, and because specialized equipment is used. Briefly these conditions are, (1) level land which has an impervious subsoil layer to prevent the downward movement of water; (2) an abundant supply of fresh water readily available from rivers, shallow wells or irrigation channels; (3) high temperature and an abundance of sunlight hours during the growing seasons; and (4) general terrain slope and ground water levels such as to make it possible to quickly drain the rice fields so that mechanized equipment can be used for harvesting.

The California production area is the most progressive. New cultural practices, specialized equipment and new methods of weed and pest controls are continuously being evolved and put into practice. Last year field trials were made of the selective weed killer known as 2, 4-D. The chemical does not affect narrow-leaved grasses or rice. Broad-leaved plants, hedges and water plants such as duck-weed, are quickly killed by spraying with 2, 4-D. As you might expect, the weed killer was sprayed on the crop from an airplane. This method of weed control is effective. It is quicker and cheaper than previous methods. In another two seasons it is anticipated that airplane spraying of 2, 4-D will become the standard method of weed control.

The airplane first came to the aid of the rice farmer as a seeding implement. The control of barnyard grass in rice field was the problem which tapped the ingenuity of the rice farmer. Conditions which were ideal for the germination of rice were also superb for barnyard grass. The first method of control was dozed flooding of the machine-planted fields to a depth that would drown the grass but not quite drown the rice. This method was hard to follow under field conditions, where the land was not absolutely level

and uniform depth of flooding difficult to maintain. Flooding before seeding controlled the grass but it was expensive and difficult to broadcast rice seed by wheeled machines in flooded fields. The airplane flying over flooded fields scattering soaked seed which would sink was the final answer. Nearly 100 per cent of the Californian crop is now seeded by airplane.

The preparation of the field is carried out under dry conditions and consists of ploughing, burrowing and levelling. The field is flooded to a depth of 4 to 6 inches and the seed sown from the air. The water is kept on the field throughout the growing season. When the grain begins to fill out the fields are drained. By the time the grain is ready to cut the ground is sufficiently dry and is firm to support mechanised harvest. There were several problems connected with harvesting and threshing, and these were finally solved by the introduction of the rice combine. This is a machine which cuts and threshes the crop in one operation. Three men and a large combine can harvest and thresh one thousand acres a day. The cost of gunnies and the cost of bundling the crop in bags have become too great. Therefore, the rice is bulk-handled. The combine delivers the threshed and cleaned paddy into a truck which delivers it to the rice drier. This machine reduces the moisture content to 14 per cent water at which level it is safe to bulk-store paddy.

Milling in the United States is much the same as it is here in India as far as basic machinery and processes are concerned. The difference is chiefly in the number of labourers employed.

India has contributed to United States in culture. Rain during harvest time is a great handicap and often causes damage. The rains come after the usual growing season and harvest season. In order to shorten the harvesting period varieties with earlier maturity dates were needed. From among the many introduced varieties maintained at the experimental stations for breeding purposes, there was found an Indian variety which had the early maturity qualities needed. By combination and subsequent selection a long grained rice with stiff straw, having a

high yield and an early maturity date, was developed.

During the war period the rice acreage has doubled. The 1931-35 average was 800,000 acres. As mentioned at the beginning, rice is a specialty crop. The average farm is about 2,800 acres of which a third to a half is under rice in a single year. All producers own their own cultivation and irrigation equipment. Many own their harvesting machinery. Some harvesting is done by contracting with a man who owns his specialized equipment.

III

Rice Situation in Burma

Talk by U. KHIN, Deputy Director of Agriculture, Government of Burma, and Deputy Leader of the Burmese Delegation to the Rice Study Group of F.A.O., broadcast on 21st May 1947, from the A.I.R., Madras.

The war has left us with many problems of which that of food is one of the most important. I should like to say a few words to explain how Burma, as an important rice exporting country, is doing her mite towards solving the problem of world food shortage.

In Burma the first need is to restore rather than to expand rice production. In 1945-46 some 6 million acres out of a pre-war 12½ million acres had gone out of cultivation and the first task of the Government was to restore these lost acres. The "target" set for 1946-47 was 8½ million acres and this would have undoubtedly been reached but for adverse weather in the dry zone which caused a fall in area instead of a rise in Upper Burma. The actual sown area was 8.1 million acres. The measures taken to achieve this result were the grant of a subsidy of Rs. 12 per acre for every acre fallow in 1945-46 which was put under rice cultivation in 1946-47, the issue of some Rs. 3,00,00,000 as crop and cattle loans under the Agriculturists' Loans Act, the promise of a paddy price to the grower which would cover the cost of cultivation and leave him a reasonable profit, the setting up of a buying organization to ensure quick clearance from mills and to maintain reasonable price level, the organized distribution of consumer goods in rural areas, the issue of rice and seed free or at low prices in distressed areas and the provision of adequate supplies of implements and materials.

To ensure full availability of production, no special measures such as compulsory purchase schemes, have been found necessary to extract the maximum amount of rice from the grower. On the contrary the attractive price has

Airplane seeding and weed spraying is done by individuals or firms who work on a contract basis.

The American rice farmer is still faced with problems as yet unsolved. One of them is weather. Rain is his greatest enemy. Unlike his Indian counterpart who looks anxiously at the skies for signs of much-desired rains, the American farmer looks upward with a prayer on his lips for bright skies and no rains. He often wishes he could control the weather to his desires, but this is an achievement beyond the ingenuity of the present-day Californian.

undoubtedly caused overselling in some areas and great caution will be necessary in moving stocks from these areas. To guard against attempts by traders and others to hold stocks for speculative purposes and also to control the internal situation, compulsory declaration of stocks and movements is being enforced. The Government have full powers to requisition stock.

With regard to the 1947-48 crop, the subsidy has been abandoned as no longer necessary, but the other measures will remain in force. In addition fairly considerable sums have been issued as land improvement loans principally for the repair and reconstruction of sea-walls and embankments in maritime and estuarine areas and protective works in flooded areas.

Under reasonable conditions a further million acres may come under cultivation this year and perhaps a further million acres in the following year, bringing the sown area in 1948-49 up to some 10½ million acres. Beyond this, progress is likely to be slow unless the cattle position is restored, law and order is fully established in the producing areas and prices remain at a sufficiently attractive level. Experiments in mechanized cultivation of rice land have been proposed. It had been hoped that these experiments would have been begun this year, but this has proved impossible. The experiments proposed are of two kinds—technical experiments to discover the best types of tractors and tools for the purpose of the Agricultural department's own farms and practical experiments in mechanized cultivation on large collective or co-operative farms under expert management; with field embankments designed for contour ploughing and a fully equipped tractor

unit under skilled technical supervision. It is the opinion of some at least of Burma's experts that in the establishment of such large mechanized collective farms, using pure seed, adequate fertilizers and modern methods of cultivation, lies the best hope of a rapid increase in the production of rice per acre in Burma. Much therefore hangs on the success of those experiments.

(Continued from page 26)

Australian sorgum meal offered by the Government of India has been accepted by this Government.

Maize.—Maize stocks have fallen from 6,186 tons to 4,697 tons. Against the allotment of 1,281 tons of maize to Central Provinces a quantity of 893 tons has so far been despatched from this Province. The off-take of maize in April was about 2,200 tons.

Barley.—Barley stocks decreased from 871 tons to 751 tons. The monthly off-take during April was about 250 tons.

Wheat and wheat products.—Stocks of wheat have fallen from 4,667 tons to 4,042 tons during the fortnight and stocks of maida from 2,357 tons to 1,774 tons. The off-take of wheat and maida during April was about 1,800 tons and 700 tons respectively. No imports of wheat and wheat products are expected before the end of July.

Pulses.—During the fortnight, 7,261 tons of pulses were received in the Province. Out of this

quantity, the following quantities were received by the ships mentioned below:—

	TONS.	
S.s. Jalaviyaya	2,400	Bengalgram.
S.s. Jalajyothi	660	"
S.s. Jalamani	1,300	"

The s.s. Pentakota carrying 960 tons of Bengalgram from Karachi is expected at Cochin in the second fortnight of the month. Shortage of redgram has been reported from 11 districts and since only a small quota from Rampur remains to be imported, it is feared that there will be a great shortage of redgram in the Province later in the year. Small quantities of overseas pulses, mostly Bengalgram, continued to be imported at high prices.

Rationing.—Sugar rations have been extended to children of 2 years and below on the same scale as for adults with effect from 8th May 1947. The maximum limit of ration which was fixed at 8 visses for a family for a month has also been removed.

Miscellaneous commodities.—Supplies of ground-nut and coconut oil were reported to be insufficient in Nellore district.

Stock of firewood was reported to be inadequate in the towns of Ootacamund, Coimbatore and Tuticorin and in parts of Ramnad and Kistna districts.

Scarcity of matches was reported from the districts of Vizagapatam, Nellore, Cuddapah, Chingleput, West Godavari and South Kanara.

The Fight against Plague

In Pollachi

Plague is a disease primarily of rats caused by small germs which are carried from one rat to another by fleas which usually live on them. When a rat dies of plague these fleas run away from them and bite human beings who in turn are attacked by the disease. It is clear therefore that there will be no plague if there are no rats. This disease usually occurs in moderately cool places like Bangalore, places in Coimbatore and Salem districts and also Nilgiris. Pollachi is a cool and healthy place except for periodic epidemics of this disease. There was an epidemic during December 1945 which subsided in March 1946. A more serious epidemic broke out in June 1946 and lasted for six months in which there were 400 attacks and 153 deaths. Very vigorous steps were taken by the health authorities to arrest the spread of the disease. At the height of the epidemic the Director of Public Health,

Madras, the Assistant Director of Public Health, Madras, the District Health Officer, Coimbatore, and the District Medical Officer, Coimbatore, visited the area and gave necessary instructions to the authorities.

Fumigation

Rats and fleas were destroyed by blowing a poisonous gas (fumigation with cyanogas) into all rat-burrows. The Municipality employed a large contingent of menials, fumigation coolies, pens and Plague Inspectors who worked under the orders of the Municipal Health Officer. The fumigation coolies were allotted to the different parts of the town and they attended to the rat-burrows which were fumigated and closed. Fumigation was done block by block, streets or roads forming boundaries of the blocks. 4,07,225 burrows over the top of the walls and 13,84,653 over the ground were so treated during a period of eight months. Outposts were erected at all

entrances to the town and no articles of grains, cotton seeds, or gunny bags likely to carry fleas were allowed to be taken out unless they were properly fumigated. The articles were put under tarpaulins and the gas was pumped in. This was done to destroy rats and fleas and thus prevent the spread of the disease to other places. The public was not permitted to take out any baggage either by bus or train unless they produce a certificate to the effect that proper fumigation was done. On some days this work was very hard as hundreds of carts would come in with numerous bags.

Inoculation

42,674 persons were inoculated against plague. Ten plague inspectors were appointed specially for the purpose and all the local Medical practitioners helped in this work. New arrivals into the town were carefully watched for and were inoculated. To make it convenient for all people the inoculation was done in different parts of the town and special centres were fixed for women and children. Very many had the inoculations in their own houses by private doctors who were liberally supplied with vaccine.

Treatment

A big shed was erected in the compound of the Government Hospital, Pollachi, and those suffering from the disease were persuaded to get themselves admitted here for treatment. Special medicines, extra diet articles and bedding were supplied. A non-official relief Committee contributed towards the extra expenditure. An additional staff of menials was also appointed. The Municipal Health Officer made a round of all the infected localities every day for enquiries and persuaded the new cases to have proper treatment. The treatment of the patients was done by the Civil Assistant Surgeon who had made special arrangements for this work. The results of the treatment were very encouraging and patients started coming in voluntarily. Two hundred and eighteen cases were treated and only 51 died. Even out of this, 24 had no proper treatment and came in very late. So we can conclude that among those who had timely treatment the death rate was only 12 per cent.

Permanent Improvements

At the instance of the Health Department permanent rat proof godowns were constructed in four big factories in this town. Notices were issued to replace the country tiles in houses, shops and godowns with mangalore tiles as the former were found to harbour rats. One hundred

and sixteen replacements have so far been effected.

The following instructions will be useful for any one living in a place like Pollachi which is subject to such epidemics:—

(1) If any dead rat is found do not handle it and throw it away. Cover it with kerosene oil and report the matter to the Health Officer who will have it properly examined and arrange for the burning of dead rats and all sweepings collected from the house or godown. It is no matter of shame to state that there had been a rat-fall. Rats are likely to fall in a prince's house as well as a beggar's hut. If the dead rat is proved to be one of plague the house or the godown and the neighbourhood should be fumigated and the rat-burrows closed. See that even the burrows on the top of the walls are fumigated and never allow infected materials to be removed before being fumigated. It may also be advisable to leave the house for some time and reoccupy it after a second fumigation, disinfection and white washing.

(2) All the people should get themselves inoculated. This is done free of cost and gives protection for six months.

Some among the inoculated may if they are very careless and freely move in infected areas get an attack of plague but it is then very mild. The death among the inoculated (i.e., 10 days after inoculation) was only 13 per cent while the death among those uninoculated was 57 per cent. Again the death among the inoculated who had proper and timely treatment was only 8 per cent while the death among those uninoculated who had also treatment was 23 per cent. It is therefore very clear that inoculation is a very effective protective measure.

(3) If unfortunately there is an attack, it should be immediately reported to the Health Officer who will arrange for admission and treatment in the Hospital. Modern treatment has advanced and the results are very satisfactory.

(4) It is advisable to change the country tiled roofing in houses, shops and godowns either to a terraced one or at least to mangalore tiled roofing. Country tiles give ample room for rats to live in.

(5) All rumours and wild talks which lead to panic should be discouraged. The public should freely co-operate with the Health authorities in the matter of fumigation, inoculation and treatment. If all people bear the above in mind they need not fear the epidemic of plague at all. The Health authorities are ever keen to take all possible steps in eradicating an epidemic but it

is only with the willing and sympathetic co-operation of the public that such steps will lead to perfect success.

In Udamalpet

The Municipal Town of Udamalpet was infected with plague from the 1st week of November 1946. The virulence of infection steadily increased till about the 2nd week of January and the downward trend was noticed from about the end of 3rd week of January.

As soon as the first infection was detected all precautionary measures were taken to keep the spread of the disease under control. Additional staff was appointed and fumigation of houses was taken on hand. The occupied portion of the town was divided into blocks and systematic blockwork and thorough fumigation of houses and rat-burrows was attended to. To effectively control the spread of the disease outside the town barricades were erected at the exits of the town and careful watch was kept to see that no articles likely to carry infection were allowed to pass these gates without being properly fumigated and disinfected. Long before the town was infected when it was found that the adjacent villages were infected a strict watch was kept on all the incoming articles likely to bring in infection. A central fumigation depot was opened to enable quick and satisfactory disposal of fumigation work.

Inoculation of the people against plague was pushed through; the local medical officer of the Government Hospital and other private medical practitioners were requested to help the Public Health staff in this direction. All the relevant provisions of the Public Health Act and the pro-

visions of the Plague Regulations were availed of to control the disease.

Treatment of Plague Patients

Temporary sheds were erected within the hospital premises with about 24 beds and patients both from the town and surrounding villages were attended to by the Government Medical Officers in-charge of the hospital. In addition to this a shed with about 12 beds was erected for the treatment of cases by a few philanthropists of this place and the shed was placed in-charge of Dr. K. Sriramamurthi; medicines and diet were supplied by them free and Dr. K. Sriramamurthi attended to these patients free of charge. So far 347 cases have been treated of whom 368 were attended to in the Government Hospital and 39 in the Plague shed; 37 cases were either treated as out-patients mostly because of the fact that the infection was not severe or was beyond the medical help when noticed. The percentage of mortality on the whole is 25 as compared with 22.8 being the mortality rate among cases treated in hospitals. This low percentage may be attributed to the field work done by the Public Health Staff in the matter of getting infected patients admitted into the Hospital at the earliest sign, the enthusiasm and co-operation of the surgeons attached to the Government Hospital and other private practitioners particularly of Dr. K. Sriramamurthi in undertaking honorarily to attend on the patients admitted in the shed above referred to and above all the co-operation of the public in the matter of bringing to the notice of the executive information about the infection both among the rat population and the people which went a long way in the control and cure of the disease in the area.

B. & C. Mills Strike

Dr. Rajan Clarifies Government's Position

Clarifying the stand taken by the Government in the matter of the B. & C. Mills strike Dr. Rajan, Minister of Labour, told a group of pressmen on May 30 that the next move should come from the labour leaders. The Government in their communique had clearly stated the reasons why they could not agree to the setting up of a panel of arbitrators consisting of the Premier and the Ministers for Labour and Industries, for if once a panel of that type was constituted and the panel's award was not acceptable to the workers, it would be most improper to refer the award back to a Judge of the High Court. The personnel of

the panel who were themselves heads of departments in the Government would be faced with an embarrassing situation if their decision had to be contested judicially. Moreover, the Minister emphasised, the Government could make the management of the Mills accept the decision only if it was given by a Court of Enquiry. Under no other circumstances could the decision be enforced under the existing statutory provision. That was the reason why the Government were suggesting to the workers to call off the strike and accept the Court of Enquiry.

Asked about the cancellation of the externment order on Mr. Anthony Pillai which the workers were demanding as a condition precedent for the calling off of the strike, Dr. Rajan said that problems had to be resolved in the order of their sequence. The arrest and externment of Mr. Anthony Pillai followed the declaration of strike and it was but proper that the strike should be called off first and then endeavours made for the cancellation of the externment order.

In conclusion, the Labour Minister expressed the view that the Union leaders' contention that the Government supported the Management was a travesty of facts. The Government were only interested in the maintenance of peace and tranquillity in the City and in seeing that the textile production in the Province did not suffer. He expressed the hope that the strikers would consider the situation in its true perspective and return to work.

B. & C. Mills Dispute

In the absence of the Hon'ble Minister for Labour, who was not well, the Hon'ble the Prime Minister had protracted discussions last week with Sri S. Suryaprakasa Rao, acting President of the Madras Labour Union, and representatives of the management regarding the settlement of the strike in the B. & C. Mills. As a result, certain terms of settlement were drawn up which seemed to be acceptable to Sri S. Suryaprakasa Rao and were taken by him for formal ratification after consulting his colleagues.

The Government were surprised yesterday to receive from Sri Suryaprakasa Rao a resolution of the Executive Committee of the Madras Labour Union which treated the original terms of settlement as the only basis of negotiations and sought to wrest further concessions from the Government and the management.

Both in language and contents, the terms finalized between the Government and Sri Suryaprakasa Rao, underwent modifications to suit the latter's desires. But even suggestions which emanated from him have now been modified. For instance, he asked for a Court of Enquiry with a High Court Judge as member and the Government accepted this proposal. But the present proposal is to constitute an extra-legal court of arbitration with the Hon'ble the Prime Minister and two Hon'ble Ministers as arbitrators. The work will be too exacting and embarrassing for the Hon'ble Ministers, who would have to take it up in addition to their regular duties. Some legal issues are also involved in the dispute and the Government have always been of the

view that an impartial decision can be given only by a Judicial Officer. This was conceded by the workers, who only wanted a High Court Judge to form the Court. They now seek to evade it.

The strike notice and subsequent negotiations raised the question of the reinstatement of 52 workers dismissed in 1942. It was alleged that the dismissal was for participation in the disturbances of that year. The information available with the Government shows that these 52 workers were dismissed because they were among those dissatisfied with the special bonus declared by the management for workers who remained at their posts throughout the disturbance and struck work on that issue subsequently. The Government used their good offices with the management for agreement regarding their reinstatement, but are now asked to see that they are restored to their original posts and with their original service. These are additional demands which it is impossible to concede without further protracted negotiations.

On the question of Mr. Anthony Pillai's return to Madras, the Government have made it clear more than once to the Labour Union representatives that they are strongly opposed to it. The resolution of the committee suggests that only he can call off the strike. If this is correct, the Government are compelled to conclude that the negotiations they had with the Union representatives were only a mockery.

The Government are anxious that the workmen should not suffer any more. They have endeavoured patiently to secure a settlement. But the intransigence of the Union leaders and their lack of an accommodating spirit have resulted in a continuance of the stalemate.

(Continued from page 23)

mills from 7th May 1947 as some of their workmen refused to run the machines. The Labour Officer, Vellore, is trying to bring about a settlement.

In their Order Ms. No. 2224, Development dated 19th May 1947, the Government of Madras have referred the dispute between the boatmen and boat owners of Cuddalore Port to the District and Sessions Judge, South Arcot (Industrial Tribunal) for adjudication.

The District Magistrate, South Kanara, has reported that about 600 women workers in Messrs. Pierce Leslie's Cashew Factory at Jeppoo, Mangalore, struck work on 1st May 1947 as a protest against the management's directions regarding the use of wooden splinters, etc. The workers resumed work after a few days.